



# ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS TRUST

C.E.O.: Miss L. O'Callaghan

[www.stmaryscatholicprimaryschoolstrust.co.uk](http://www.stmaryscatholicprimaryschoolstrust.co.uk)



## ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Newsletter 6

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents,

The unseasonably warm and sunny weather that we have been experiencing seems finally to be at an end. Later than usual, this weekend is a good opportunity to make sure your child is equipped for rain and the icy blast.

### Tempest Photographs

On Wednesday all the children who were in school had their photograph taken. A proof of each photo will be sent home to families soon – all ordering is done directly through Tempest. It was a pleasure to see how smart all of the children looked.

### Seasonal illness

With the change in the weather we always see an increase in illness, and consequent absence from school. It is important that if your child is physically sick (vomit), he or she remains away from school for **48 hours** after the last incidence of illness. This is to guard against the spread of Norovirus ('Winter vomiting Disease', WVD). We have a shared responsibility for this to limit the spread of this virus. *If you receive this advice from the School Office, please be receptive to the guidance.*

### School Council

In their weekly School Council meeting this morning, the members of our Council read an e-mail that they have received from Rachel Clark at Norwood and Brixton Foodbank. They have decided to support this charity this term and will be inviting Ms Clark in to school to talk to all the children in assembly. If you are able to do so, please start collecting food item essentials if you feel that you could spare them. We have been asked particularly for **soap, baked beans, tinned soup, microwave rice pouches and long-life fruit juice**. Items can be brought to the School Office for storage in the School Hall for now.

### Swimming and Health

We have had several enquiries recently alleging the link between the children's weekly swimming sessions and colds and sneezes afterwards. This is sadly a myth that persists, and there is *no medical link* between swimming and susceptibility to colds. Swimming increases the metabolic rate, and may boost the immune system. If you are concerned about your child feeling cold after the swimming session, pack an extra small towel to dry hair more carefully, and talk to your child about how to dry thoroughly on leaving the pool.

### RE and Catholic Life

We were fortunate today to welcome Mr Patrick Harrison to both schools. Mr Harrison is an Education Officer from the Archdiocese, and has great knowledge and experience of Catholic Education and RE teaching in schools. It was a pleasure to show him the great learning that is going on in the Junior School and the prayerful, kind nature of our children.

### **Meet The Teacher Evening**

All parents are warmly invited into school next Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> October. We will be hosting a 'Meet The Teacher' Evening. This is a chance to say hello to your child's class teacher and to watch a presentation about expectations and curriculum from the two teachers in the Year Group. There will be a talk from me at 3.45pm in the School Hall, followed by the presentations by class teachers at 4.00pm and again at 5.30pm. The 5.30pm presentation is a repeat of that at 4.00pm to give parents with work responsibilities an opportunity to attend – do not attend both!

There is no booking needed for this event, and no formal appointments will be made with teachers.

### **Assemblies and Liturgies**

Thank-you to the children from Class 4T who shared a beautiful class liturgy yesterday morning.

The final class assembly of the half term will be next Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> October, for the children of Class 4D. This will begin at 10.25am.

### **Head of School blog**

There is a new reflection in the blog, which can be found on the website under the tab 'Junior School Information'.

### **Achievement Certificates**

The achievement certificates this week are awarded to Keziah in 3A, Ethan in 3E, Zachary in 4D, Joshua in 4T, Jeremiah in 5B, Esther in 5C, Maya in 6G and Vanessa in 6P. The Head of School's award goes to Franchesca in 4T and the swimmer of the week award goes to Williams in 4T. The Kindness Award this week goes to Joseph in 6G.

I wish you a restful weekend. Please remember the people of Israel and Palestine in your prayers.

Yours faithfully,

Andrew McDonald

Head of School

### **Health Advice for parents**

#### **Coronavirus**

*The World Health Organisation now considers the covid pandemic to not be a global health emergency. For advice and support if you suspect someone has covid, please visit:*

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/covid-19/covid-19-symptoms-and-what-to-do/>

***When using a test, check that it is a recent one that is set up to detect new strains of the virus.***

#### **Group A Strep (streptococci)**

Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, but it is highly infectious. Look out for symptoms in your child, which include a sore throat, headache, and fever, along with a fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel. On darker skin the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel. Children with these symptoms should not attend school.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-safely-with-respiratory-infections-including-covid-19>