



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS TRUST

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ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Newsletter 8

Friday 3rd November 2023

Dear Parents,

The change of weather and return to GMT always seems to mark a distinct change at the start of the second part of the Autumn Term. Now that the month of November has arrived, there are special observances that we will share with the children.

Foodbank Collection

One of the projects from our School Council has been to respond to the needs of local charities. This term, when we were contacted by Brixton and Lambeth Food Bank, the councillors decided to invite a representative in to talk in assembly. On Tuesday we welcomed Ms Rachel Clark, who explained to the children about the inequalities in London and the needs of people. The children have already responded really well with donations. Please try to support this initiative if you can by bringing in a donation. The list of items remains at the foot of this newsletter.

November – The Month of Remembrance

This week in assembly the children have been thinking about the importance of remembering. On Wednesday Mrs Vincent highlighted the lives of some important saints on All Saints' Day. On Thursday I spoke to the children about All Souls' Day, and the importance of keeping our dear departed family and friends in our prayers. We have now placed our Book of Remembrance on the altar in the hall. Children are invited to bring names to the office that can be added to the book.

Our School Council children will be selling poppies from the Royal British Legion as part of national remembrance.

Scholastic Book Fair

From 13th November until 20th November, the book stands will be open in the school hall after school for all parents to visit with children. This is an excellent opportunity to view and talk about books that are appropriate to your child's age. Supporting the Book Fair also raises important funds for our library.

Pasta King – Tuesday 14th November

A representative from Pasta King is coming in to school to give the children a sample pot of some of their dishes. This will be served along with their lunches and will not go through the till. The lunchtime comment box will be out for all children to comment on whether they liked what they had, and if they would like to see this on future menus and theme days.

Catholic Schools' Cross-Country Competition – Thursday 2nd November

Unfortunately, the competition has been postponed this term. Storm Ciaran meant that the John Fisher playing fields were very waterlogged. We hope that the event will be rescheduled for the Spring Term.

Assemblies and Liturgies

The forthcoming dates after the half term holiday are as follows:

9th November – All Year 3

16th November – Class 6P

23rd November – Class 6G

Year 2 Parents' and Carers' Transition Meeting – 2nd November at 3.45pm

Thank-you to all the parents who attended on Thursday afternoon. Application forms for entry to Year 3 in September 2024 are now available. Parents who were unable to attend are asked to collect application packs from the Infant School.

Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark – Annual Headteachers' Conference

Please note that I will not be in school on Thursday 9th and Friday 10th November. I will be attending the annual conference in Ashford, hosted by Bishop Philip Moger.

Achievement Certificates

The achievement certificates this week are awarded to Antonio in 3A, Ezinna in 3E, Jayden in 4D, Serah in 4T, Adya in 5B, Matthew in 5C, Kofi in 6G and Gabriel in 6P. The Head of School's award goes to Andrea in 3A and the swimmer of the week award goes to Zoey in 6P. The Kindness Award this week goes to Mrs Francis.

Have a restful weekend.

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>

FOOD BANK ITEMS

If you can donate any of the following items, please bring them *in bags* to the collection point at the School Office:

FOOD & DRINKS

Tea, coffee, hot chocolate, squash, fruit juice (UHT), milk (UHT)

Sugar, Instant porridge oats, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Tomatoes, packet pulses, Baked Beans, Tinned Spaghetti, Tinned Soup, Instant soup, Pasta sauce, Tinned Meat, Tinned Fish, Dried Pasta, Rice, Microwave rice pouches, Instant pasta meals, Instant noodles, Puddings like jelly, whips, sponge pudding (Must be longer life), tinned / instant custard, Tinned rice pudding, Tinned fruit

Biscuits, Packs chocolate/small bags sweets, Savoury biscuits, Multipacks crisps

HOUSEHOLD

Laundry pods, Washing up liquid, Toilet rolls, Soap, Toothpaste, Shampoo, Baby toiletries, Nappies size 5,6,7,8