



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS TRUST

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ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Newsletter 11

Friday 24th November 2023

Dear Parents,

The Church's year is nearly complete, and with the solemnity of Our Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (formerly 'Christ the King') this Sunday we leave what is called Ordinary Time and look towards Advent. This is an important time for the children, and over the coming weeks everyone in school will be focussed on prayer and preparation. Often the importance of Advent is overlooked in the race towards Christmas.

Preparing for winter weather

We have been lucky so far that apart from a few autumn rain storms, we have not had any extreme weather this term. A brief look at other areas of the world shows us how violent weather changes can be. The first frosty weather is forecast for the end of the week. Please use this weekend to prepare your child by making sure his or her winter coat is ready, and that hats and gloves are labelled. Remember that hats and gloves should be navy blue. It is important that all clothing items are named.

Foodbank Collection

The collection will end next Friday. Thank-you to everyone who has been able to make a contribution. I would like to highlight the amazing generosity of one of our Year 3 students who donated his pocket money to the foodbank charity. We are sometimes given great examples from our children of what true charity can mean. The School Council spent some of their meeting today sorting the donations out ready for delivery.

What time should I collect my child?

This week I sent home a separate newsletter making clear the end times of each different activity that takes place after school. There is not one fixed time because of the nature of each sport or activity, so it is important that end times are carefully noted. We have noticed a steep rise in children not being collected on time. Please make sure that you are prompt.

DAY	ACTIVITY	START	END
Monday	Choir	3.30pm	4.45pm
Tuesday	Netball	3.30pm	4.30pm
Tuesday	Cookery Club	3.30pm	5.00pm
Wednesday	Swimming Lessons	3.30pm	4.30pm
Thursday	Swim Squad	3.30pm	4.30pm
Friday	Football	3.30pm	4.30pm
Every Day	Homework Club	3.30pm	5.00pm

Mobile telephone use

Please **do not** use your child's mobile phone as a means of changing plans with him or her at the end of the school day. Children are not allowed to use phones at all whilst on the school site to protect everyone from potential safeguarding issues. If you have a change of plans and wish to inform your child, this **MUST** be done by ringing the school office. The message will then be relayed.

*It cannot be stressed enough that if parents continue to call children on their mobile phones as they are leaving school, compelling them to take phones out to respond, all phones for children will be **completely banned from the school site.***

Please do not choose convenience over the safety of everyone in our community.

Assemblies and Liturgies

Well done to the children of Class 6G, who presented the assembly yesterday. Their thoughts on heroes were inspirational. The teachers have not been as moved by an assembly in a long time.

There are only a few class assemblies remaining in the term, as there is a brief pause to create time for children to plan and rehearse the Christmas Nativity production.

Here are the upcoming classes for Thursday liturgies and assemblies:

30th November – Class 5C

7th December – Class 5B

All assemblies start at 10.25am this term and the start time is being reviewed.

Achievement Certificates

The achievement certificates this week are awarded to Nicole in 3A, Hulda in 3E, Michael in 4D, Joaquin in 4T, Chiamaka in 5B, Ifunanyachukwu in 5C, Joseph in 6G and Chidimma in 6P. The Head of School's award goes to Lael in 3A and the swimmer of the week award goes to Beatriz in 3A. The Kindness Award this week goes to Ysamae in 6G.

Have a good 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>