



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS TRUST

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

www.stmaryscatholicprimaryschoolstrust.co.uk



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Newsletter 16

Friday 12th January 2024

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you all. The new calendar year is a reminder to all of us about making a fresh start, setting goals and trying to make the world a better place by our actions. This was the theme of our first assembly of the new term. Each child has been challenged to make a small change to make the world a better place.

New colleagues

At the start of the new term we have welcomed three colleagues to the St Mary's family.

Mr Pinnock will be teaching in Class 5C. As previously explained, he has worked in the school in a variety of roles for a number of years. It is a pleasure to welcome him to a full-time role.

Mrs Davies is our new Administrative Assistant in the School Office with responsibility for attendance and punctuality. We wish her a smooth start to her time with us.

Ms Kentfield is a BA1 primary education student at Roehampton University who will be working alongside our team in Year 4 for the first part of the Spring Term. We wish her success in her studies.

Staff Vacancy

The Junior School is seeking to employ a school cleaner. The role is for 10 hours per week, 3.30pm – 5.30pm, Monday to Friday. If you would like to find out more, please collect a pack from the School Office or visit the Trust website under 'Trust Information' and the page 'Staff vacancies'.

Free School Meals

The Mayor of London contacted all school this week to inform that free school meals for all primary school age children will be extended until July 2025. This is excellent news for all our families. A letter explaining this was sent to all families via email on Wednesday. Find out more here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-mayor-does/priorities-london/free-school-meals>

School Choir at 'Young Voices', O2

Our Choir's preparations for their performance at the O2 are nearly complete. They have worked really hard learning lyrics and honing their skills, and we are sure that they will make us proud. Miss Attwell has been in touch with parents as there are still some digital tickets to transfer.

<https://www.youngvoices.co.uk/>

Travelling safely

At the start of the new term, concerns have been raised around safe travel, particularly around tram stops and mostly involving children with valuable items such as mobile phones and designer coats. Advice from the Metropolitan Police was shared with all families via email on Wednesday.

Key contact information

If you have changed any contact numbers or email addresses over the holiday, please make sure that you tell us at the School Office. It is important that we have more than one contact for each child in case of emergency.

Clothing collection

For all of January, we will be making a clothing collection to raise money for the school. There are notices at the front of the school which explain the kind of items that can be brought in. This initiative is from Rags 2 Riches, and the school receives a fee for the weight of items collected. Collection date is 29th January. Please look through your old clothes, bag them, and bring them to school.

<https://rags2riches4schools.co.uk/>

Assemblies and Liturgies

Assemblies and liturgies will restart next week **and will revert to 9.30am**. This is in response to requests from parents who have found it difficult to take time off to attend assemblies at 10.25.

Please note these dates:

Thursday 18th January – Class 4T

Thursday 25th January – Class 4D

Thursday 1st February – Class 3E

Signing in and out system

We have begun asking children arriving late to sign in using our electronic system, Invenry. Children collected early will be asked to sign out in the same manner.

Achievement Certificates

The achievement certificates this week are awarded to Eliza in 3A, Mark in 3E, Emma in 4D, Yusuf in 4T, Chiamaka and Ariela in 5B, Chika-Achi in 5C, Ivyy in 6G and Akua in 6P. The Head of School's award goes to Eva in 4D and the swimmer of the week is Leonardo in 5B. The Kindness Award this week goes to Jonathan in 6G.

I wish you a peaceful 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>