



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 17

Friday 19th January 2024

Dear Parents,

Thank-you for all your efforts this week to make sure that the children arrive at school on time for our start at 9am. The cold weather this week, coupled with transport problems, have made travel difficult. The extra ten minutes setting off makes all the difference to the children when they are not late arriving to their classrooms.

Young Voices at the O2

The highlight of the week was our St Mary's Choir taking part in the Young Voices concert at the O2 on Tuesday evening. They sang with a choir of nine thousand children. The parents who attended were universal in their praise for a memorable evening. The amount of preparation that went into this event by Miss Attwell and her team was significant, including an 11pm end to their working day. Many thanks to the staff who worked hard to make a great memory for the children.

Thanks also to parents who have shared video clips with us in school. These are shared with the children in school on our classroom screens.

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

School uniform

We have noticed several children not wearing the school uniform properly recently. Please check the school website uniform list to avoid doubt. In particular, please check that your child has the correct colour for hats, gloves, scarves and coats (navy blue or black); and that he or she is not wearing coloured lip gloss. We appreciate that lip *balm* is needed by some for the cold weather, but this should be plain and unscented.

A small number of parents have expressed concern that children have been reprimanded for wearing outdoor clothing indoors at the wrong time. This is not the case. We do encourage children to remove coats and hats in the heated classrooms, and children are asked to remove headwear when eating at the table at lunchtime.

Staff Vacancy

The closing date for the cleaner role advertised on our website is today. There is still time to make an application. Please alert any family members or friends who you think might benefit from this information.

The details can be found in the 'Trust Information' tab and the page 'Staff Vacancies'.

Hythe Annual Conference

On Thursday 25th January and Friday 26th January I will be off site as I am attending the annual Catholic Headteachers' Conference in Hythe. In my absence, please make enquiries to the School Office team who will direct them to me or the appropriate colleague. Along with headteacher colleagues we will be welcoming Daniel Colman from the Archdiocese to share ideas about Catholic formation.

Clothing collection

Please note that next Friday, 26th January, is the last date for parents to bring in clothes for collection. We need time to sort donations before collection on Monday 29th January.

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

Assemblies and Liturgies

It was a pleasure to listen to the children of Class 4T present to us yesterday morning on the themes of the Epiphany and Candlemas. Their research was impressive and there were several facts that the adults did not know.

Please note the following dates for forthcoming assemblies:

Thursday 25th January – Class 4D

Thursday 1st February – no assembly

Thursday 22nd February – Year 3 Liturgy (both classes)

Achievement Certificates

The achievement certificates this week are awarded to Daisy in 3A, Giulia in 3E, Papa in 4D, Denis in 4T, Jordan in 5B, Isaac in 5C, Zac in 6G and Omogbolahan in 6P. The Head of School's award goes to Tristan in 6P and the swimmer of the week is Divine in 5B. The Kindness Award this week goes to Shivam in 6G. There is a special music award for our School Choir this week for their amazing singing at the O2.

I wish you a restful weekend. Stay warm.

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>