



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS TRUST

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ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Newsletter 18

Friday 26th January 2024

Dear Parents,

Following the cold weather, we experienced the 'stormy blast' this week. Thankfully the London area did not experience the worst of the weather, and there was only limited clearing up needed around the school building. It is a timely reminder to all of us about the unpredictability of the weather in winter and the importance of making sure all the children have warm clothing.

Public Health concerns

Many of you will have read and will be concerned about reporting in the media surrounding a range of infections that are potentially worrying for our children. There has been reporting of new cases of measles in the London area. We have noticed an increase in seasonal cold and coughs, some covid cases and flu. The flu cases are particularly unpleasant and have made some people extremely ill.

As always, vigilance is what is required from parents to spot symptoms and react accordingly. Quite a few illnesses have similar symptoms and are difficult to distinguish between. If in doubt, ring your GP surgery and request a phone consultation. *Please try to avoid A&E unless your child is in immediate danger.* Please follow the link to find out more:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/keep-warm-keep-well/>

Parent / Teacher interviews

By now all families have received notifications for booking an interview with a class teacher. These face to face interviews will take place from 3.45pm – 8.15pm on Wednesday 7th February in the school hall. Unfortunately, this is the only date that class teachers are available for consultations. Parents of children in Class 5C have received separate instructions.

Hythe Annual Conference

I have prepared this newsletter remotely this week as I am in Hythe today with the other Catholic Headteachers from the Deanery for our annual conference. We will be spending time with an office from the Education Commission, with the purpose of reflecting on Catholic Mission.

Please contact the school office staff with enquiries, which they will direct to me.

Clothing collection

Today is the last day for bringing in donations of unwanted clothes. Please do not bring in donations next week.

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

Assemblies and Liturgies

Unfortunately, it was necessary to postpone the assembly for children and parents of Class 4D this week owing to unforeseen circumstances.

Please note the following dates for forthcoming assemblies:

Thursday 1st February – no assembly

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

Achievement Certificates

The achievement certificates this week are awarded to Asenay in 3A, Zara in 3E, Kaja in 4D, Jessita in 4T, Shevon in 5B, Kendall in 5C, Nana in 6G and Shemaya in 6P. The Head of School's award goes to Kali-Annah in 3E and Kindness Award this week goes to Joel in 4T.

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>