



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS TRUST

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

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ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Newsletter 19

Friday 2nd February 2024

Dear Parents,

As I highlighted in the newsletter last week, the start of the year is often a time when children and staff suffer most from a variety of illnesses. Please take time to look at the health advice for your children shared last week

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

and if you have any doubts, please ask us in the School Office.

We have had quite a lot of staff absence in the last two weeks, and we are very grateful to other colleagues who have provided cover and support. It is the value of having a strong and supportive team.

Parent / Teacher interviews

These will take place in the School Hall on Wednesday afternoon and evening. Parents of children who are meeting Mr Pinnock of 5C, Mrs Chappell of 3A and Mr Chappell of 4D have already been informed about alternative arrangements.

Children's Mental Health Week – 5th to 11th February 2024

Next week is **Mental Health Week**. Whilst making sure we feel OK is a priority all of the time, this week is a chance to reflect and share ideas. In classes we will be talking to the children about happiness and how importance it is to be brave and to share how we feel. The theme of this year is '*My Voice Matters*'.

A fun and visible way of celebrating Mental Health Week will take place on Thursday 8th February. We are asking children to '**Wear something that makes you happy**'. This can be a favourite jumper, t-shirt, pair of trousers, skirt, hat, gloves or anything else. Please make sure that your child can take part in normal lessons in what he or she chooses to wear, and that your child won't be too cold in the playground.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

Swimming success continues

We are delighted to report that our Swimming Squad has had even more success, this time in the Croydon Borough Championship heats at Trinity School last Friday. St Mary's children were placed second overall, with thirteen children qualifying for the finals. Many congratulations to all the children who competed so well. and to Miss Aherne for her dedication in preparing the children.

Clothing collection

Thank-you for all your donations. All your unwanted clothes were weighed and we received a cheque for £182.75 Our teaching assistants are going to use this money to buy new equipment for the playground for the children.

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

Ancient Egypt in our school

On Wednesday our school hall was turned into a corner of Ancient Egypt for the Year 3 children, who learned lots more about this fascinating time in history. Many thanks to Past Productions for leading the day.

<https://pastproductions.co.uk/schools/workshops/egyptian/>

INSET – Friday 9th February

Please make sure that you add this date to your diary. The school will be closed to children and our staff will be attending training at St James the Great Catholic Primary School in Thornton Heath. It means, of course, that the last day before the half term holiday will be Thursday 8th February.

Assemblies and Liturgies

The next assemblies and liturgies after the half term holiday are as follows:

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

Thursday 29th February – Class 6P

Thursday 7th March – Class 6G

Achievement Certificates

The achievement certificates this week are awarded to Riley in 3A, Hosanna in 3E, Zachary in 4D, Joshua in 4T, Victoria in 5B, Heloisa in 5C, Daniel in 6G and Ardra in 6P. The Head of School's award goes to Jaime in 5C and the swimmer of the week for all the children in our amazing swimming squad. The Kindness Award this week goes to Emily in 4D.

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>