



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS TRUST

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ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Newsletter 20

Thursday 8th February 2024

Dear Parents,

This is a short half term and it has been a challenge to make sure that everything has fitted into a crowded curriculum. Congratulations to the children who have concentrated on their learning and made the most of the exciting events since Christmas.

Parent / Teacher interviews

Thank-you for your patience with regard to Parent / Teacher interviews yesterday. Whilst the majority of parents met with teachers, the parents and carers of children in classes 3A and 4D will have an opportunity to meet teachers on Tuesday 20th February, after the half term holiday. Please make sure that you keep to the originally booked appointment time which was transferred to the new date.

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

It has been a useful week for the children in which we shared messages regarding mental health. The theme of this week is 'My Voice Matters'. We launched the events on Monday in assembly and they concluded today with our special 'Wear What Makes You Happy' day.

TFL – Planned Tram closures and reduction of service

The TFL website makes it clear that there will be no tram services between Reeves Corner and Sandilands for **10th – 23rd February**. The first part of this closure takes place in the half term holiday. *However, it also covers the whole of the first week back in school.* If you use the trams to bring your child to school, please make sure over the holiday period that you have alternative arrangements. The lack of tram service will also mean that buses will be busier.

<https://content.tfl.gov.uk/planned-track-closures.pdf>

Head Girl

We are delighted to announce that our next Head Girl, to begin her duties after the Half Term holiday, is Chloe from Class 6P.

The Year 6 team decided at the start of the year to allow more than two children in a year to take up this responsibility, and that children could vote for two worthy children, instead of specifically a girl and a boy as was traditional.

As a result of this, our Head Prefect team is now Chloe and Lily. They will hold these responsibilities until the end of the year.

Parking

We frequently appeal to parents with regard to responsible and safe parking when collecting and dropping off children. Please remember not to park by the school's car park gate. This blocks sightlines and is dangerous. Additionally, the neighbouring TA Centre has a clear zone for security.

INSET – Friday 9th February

As you are aware, tomorrow is an INSET day and the school will be closed to children. Our colleagues from around the borough will be meeting at St James the Great Catholic Primary School in Thornton Heath. The keynote speaker will be Aisha Thomas.

Football Club – Fridays

SSA are offering After-school football practice from Friday 23rd February to Friday 2nd March from 3.30 pm to 4.30pm for children of all year groups. This is now live on ParentPay – please book early to avoid disappointment.

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 Ava in 3A, Josiah in 3E, Somto in 4D, Leon and Micah in 4T, Mokshitha in 5B, Windsor in 5C, Luciana in 6G and Kashmiria in 6P. The Head of School's award goes to Zachary in 4D and the swimmer of the week is awarded to Osanna in 5C. The Kindness Award this week also goes to Osanna. Congratulations for this rare double achievement.

I wish you a restful time with your children. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Monday 19th February**, by which time it will be Lent.

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>