



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS TRUST

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ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Newsletter 25

Friday 22nd March 2024

Dear Parents,

This week we have been reflecting on our responsibilities relating to Catholic Social Teaching. We are very lucky that Pope Francis writes so well for all of us on what we need to do to make the world a fairer, safer and more peaceful place. As part of our call to action, we have appointed new Faith Leaders for each class. This is a great honour for the children and a reflection of their commitment to learning in RE lessons and of their prayerful nature.

Our Faith Leaders, who were announced this morning in assembly, are:

Class	Patron	Faith Leaders	
3A	St Andrew	Daisy	Anushik
3E	St Elizabeth	Giulia	Josh
4D	St David	Afia	Jayden
4T	St Theresa	Jessita	Micah
5B	St Brigid	Raphael	Anthony
5C	St Catherine	Chika-Achi	Ivy
6G	St George	Joseph	Damilola
6P	St Patrick	Chidimma	Vanessa
Head Prefects		Chloe	Lily

Congratulations to these children. Their first responsibility will be to share a prayer related to their Social Teaching topic with their class colleagues.

What can we do as parents?

Pope Francis has written two important encyclicals (letters) on the subject of social justice. These are **Laudato Si'** (On care of our common home) from 2015 and **Fratelli Tutti** (On fraternity and social friendship) from 2020. These two long documents can be read via the Vatican website:

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html

CAFOD have a range of interesting reading for families that you can use to support your children:

<https://cafod.org.uk/education/for-families>

If you would like a more in-depth explanation of this important area, please visit the Head of School Blog on the school's website. It can be found under the 'Junior School Information' blog.

Mufti Day – fundraiser for the Catholic Children's Society

On Wednesday, children will be able to wear their own clothes to show their support for the Catholic Children's Society and the important work that they undertake. Please make donations if you can: the suggested amount is £2, which can be brought as cash or donated using ParentPay.

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

Safety: glass objects

Please check the containers that you use for children's packed lunches and snacks. Last week one child had a snack pot with a plastic lid but glass container. This was dropped and smashed. Another thing to watch is the rigid nature of some water bottles.

Assemblies and Liturgies

Yesterday the children from Class 5C presented a brilliant assembly which concluded our assemblies and liturgies for the term. Next week will be our opportunity to have a Stations of the Cross service before the children leave school for the Easter Holiday.

The class assemblies for the next term will begin as follows:

Thursday 18th April at 9.30am – Class 4D

Thursday 25th April at 9.30am – Class 4T

Achievement Certificates

The achievement certificates this week are awarded to Aarav in 3A, Rudranee in 3E, Emma in 4D, Julen in 4T, Diwana in 5B, All the children in 5C, Chinua in 6G and Roseanne in 6P. The Head of School's award goes to Ryster in 5A. The swimmers of the week are Chidiuto in 5C and Anushik in 3A. The Kindness Award this week goes to Eliora in 4T.

Conclusion of the Spring Term

Please remember that next week is the last week of the Spring Term, as well as the observances for Holy Week. School closes on **Thursday 28th March at 2pm**. Please make sure that you note the time that school closes carefully. *There will be no After-School Homework Club on this day.*

Have a good 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>