



# ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS TRUST

CEO: Miss L. O'Callaghan

[www.stmaryscatholicprimaryschoolstrust.co.uk](http://www.stmaryscatholicprimaryschoolstrust.co.uk)

## ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Newsletter 17

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents,

In our assembly on Monday, we spent some time reflecting on the Second Reading from the Acts of the Apostles in which St Peter addressed Cornelius and his household. His words are a reminder to all of us in this Jubilee Year that nobody should be excluded, and nobody denied our kindness. 'God does not have favourites, but anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

The children will be working hard in school to include everyone, and to be generous with their friendship.

### Soundsteps Music

On Tuesday the children received a visit from Matthew Williams of Soundsteps. Soundsteps provide keyboard tuition for children in the Croydon area. Parents received a flyer. For more information please visit:

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

### Chinese New Year – Special Menu

In advance of the celebrations for Chinese New Year, which will take place this year on 29<sup>th</sup> January, our friends from Nourish served a themed menu yesterday. The children had fun trying new flavours. We are supporting the initiative from Nourish to educate children with a range of dishes and cuisine from around the world at different times during the year.

### Tim Davies, School Artist

We were fortunate this week to be able to welcome Tim Davies into school for a really stimulating two days creating art. We will be sharing the art work in school at Parents' Evening, and posting examples to our Instagram page. <https://theschoolartist.com/>

### School Council

One of the results of the School Council meeting our MP Sarah Jones last week was that they shared their concerns about illegal parking near the school that made it dangerous for children. The Head Girl and Head Boy have asked me to pass on to all adults the importance of parking safely. When possible, we will be leaving parking signs out as a reminder.

### Use of Mobile Phones

We have made a request on several occasions to parents and carers to inform the School Office if there is a change of plan for how your child is to be collected at the end of the school day. Unfortunately, some parents are ignoring this and contacting their children on mobile phones whilst the children are still on the school site. This compromises the children as they are not allowed to take phones out whilst on the school premises, and means that the School Office is not informed about changes to arrangements. Please do not do this as a convenience,

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Another reason to choose us.



but continue to communicate through the office. **If this situation continues, I will advise the Governors to impose a blanket ban on all mobile phones for children in school.**

### **PE: change of days for next week**

Please note that owing to other activities, children in **Year 3** will have their PE lesson on **Wednesday** next week. Children from **Year 4** will have their PE lesson on **Tuesday**. Please make sure that children come to school in their kit on this different day for *next week only*.

### **Young Voices**

Called 'The Biggest Youth Choir in the World', our School Choir will be taking part in the Young Voices Concert this coming Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> January. We are proud of their efforts and I am sure that they will represent us very well. Parents of the children involved have received full instructions for the evening. In the event of any doubt, please contact Miss Attwell via the School Office.

### **Kinship Roadshow Croydon**

A kinship carer is someone who steps in to raise a child when their parents cannot. They are usually grandparents or aunts and uncles. There is a special roadshow hosted by Croydon Council at Hilton London Croydon, 101 Waddon Way, Purley Way CR9 4HH on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025 from 9.30am to 2.30pm. For more information, please visit: <https://kinship.org.uk/support-and-advice/training-and-events/kinship-roadshow-croydon/>

### **Swimming provision**

Unfortunately, the problems that we have been addressing with the pipe work in the swimming pool are ongoing, so there is no swimming for the time being, and no after-school swimming clubs. Parents were informed on Wednesday morning as soon as the issue became clearer. Many thanks to Miss Aherne who has worked tirelessly on this issue. We are confident that the issues will soon be resolved and everyone can enjoy getting back into the water for lessons.

### **rags2riches4schools**

We are having another clothing collection to raise funds for the school. Please bring (in bags) clean, used clothes, paired shoes, bedding and towels. The collection will take place on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February and the school will be paid by weight. <https://rags2riches4schools.co.uk/>

### **Achievement Certificates**

The achievement certificates this week are awarded to Antonia in 3A, Valiah in 3E, Rudraanee in 4D, Sofiia in 4T, Alix in 5B, Manvik in 5C, Heloisa in 6G and Annalisa in 6P. The Head of School's award goes to Mmachukwu in 4D. The kindness award goes to Anthony in 3E.

Have a restful weekend.

Yours faithfully,

Andrew McDonald  
Headteacher

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**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.***

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