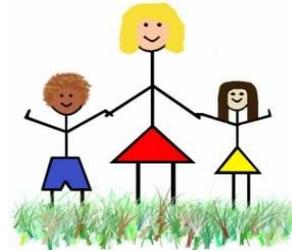




**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC FEDERATION,  
CARSHALTON NEWSLETTER  
MAY 2017**



Sunday 28th May - The Ascension of the Lord



*This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Designated safeguarding officer in the Nursery & Infants' School is Mrs M Quinn and in the Junior School is Mrs. G Owens, Deputy Safeguarding Officer for both schools is Mrs Hulme and the Governor Safeguarding Officer is Mr. A. Scully. The schools have safeguarding & protection policies which can be viewed at the school office.*

**Although the sharing of photographs with family and friends is a great thing to do, please be reminded of the schools safeguarding procedures and refrain from taking pictures at school events. Thank you for your support regarding this as we all need to work together to look after our pupils.**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are blessed with the beautiful weather , waking up to blue skies and warm sunshine. Hopefully you will all be able to enjoy some of it outside with your family.

As a community, we share our faith in God and appreciate the gifts bestowed on us but sadly this week, we have seen images in Manchester of destructive action by others. I am sure we are, as one voice in offering thoughts and prayers to the victims and their families as we all consider each situation that may at any time affect each one of us. This event has been dealt with sensitively in school and we have received offers of additional support through the education network should anyone need this. We need to stay strong in our faith and use prayer to ask for guidance and support.

May God be with us all.

Wishing you all a happy and sunny half term break .

#### **Parent Forum**

Thank you to the parents who give their time to attend these meetings, we have useful discussions with positive outcomes. We are looking to add a section on the websites to address frequently asked questions which was suggested by a parent some time back. Hopefully this will be another step in the right direction for greater communication.

### **SMIF and FSMs**

A huge thank you to the helpers who give their time to support the fundraising and community events throughout the year. We are fortunate to have core groups who soldier on and manage to always be in the right place at the right time. We also have many parents who support when they can manage and we appreciate these times too. We have our biggest joint event coming up in July. Please would you all try to offer some time on the day or prior to the event in preparation, as every child benefits from this continuous hard work. Dads, we are looking for help to set up from 8am and especially for packing away at the end of the day. If you don't have the committee numbers then please contact Mrs Hulme through the school office and leave your name and contact details.

### **Safeguarding**

Although there have been many requests asking adults not to use phones in the school grounds, we still have parents/carers, child minders and extended family members who continue to compromise our pupils' safety by using their phones. There has been an improvement - thank you to those who have responded positively to the request.

### **Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development**

#### **Nursery & Infant School**

The month of May is a time when we think especially of our Mother Mary. Following our liturgies, the children join in with a decade of the Rosary using beads donated by Mission Together. We were delighted to welcome Bishop Paul Hendricks to say Mass for the Crowning of Mary. Thank you for your generosity in donating flowers to decorate the school hall, to the children who sang beautifully and those who read clearly. Following the Mass, children from each class processed into the Infant garden to crown our statue of Mary. We also placed flowers around her statue. There are some photos of this on Google Drive. Thank you very much to the children and staff from Junior Breakfast Club for their beautiful decoration for our prayer table in the foyer also dedicated to Our Lady.

Throughout May many children have taken the opportunity to pray the Rosary with Mrs Norbury in Mary's Grotto area at breaktimes and lunchtimes. Also this half term there have been Chaplaincy sessions with Year 2 classes. The children thought about how they could share Christ's love with those around them. You can see their reflections on the flowers hanging on the prayer tree outside the hall.

#### **Junior School**

Year 3 classes have also had Chaplaincy sessions this half term. In them we reflected upon Jesus' invitation and promise to his followers to "Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations...know that I am with you always" (Matt 16:19-20). We hope Year 3 children have had an opportunity to use their filter papers and felt tips to share their reflections with their family at home.

May is a special month for our school as it is a time when we think very especially about our patron, Mary and ask her to intercede for us. On 2nd May we had a whole school reflection at the end of which our Head Boy and Head Girl crowned Mary's statue. Many thanks indeed for your generous donations of flowers on this day. Many children have taken the time to pray the Rosary in the Chapel during Thursday lunchtimes.

On the Feast of SS Philip & James, 3rd May, there were prayer stations in different areas both inside and outside the school for children and staff to stop and listen to what God might be asking of us. Lots of children took the time to reflect and respond either in word, in writing, by moving objects or by simply praying quietly.

Before Easter, Liturgy Group collaborated with two Ursuline High School girls to write a school

hymn. They have now taught it to the Junior School where it's become a firm favourite. Use a QR scanner to have a listen. We hope you enjoy it.



Table Talk returns to the newsletter this week with a suggested topic of conversation for your family to discuss at a meal time together. Some of these topics might take even longer... **Where is halfway around the world?**

#### **Health & Safety**

Please be reminded that, the roadways within the school grounds are still used by cars and can be a potential risk to your child. Scooters are still being used by children on the roads that pose a potential risk. Please remember that dogs are not permitted in the school grounds at any time.

#### **Governors**

Thank you to all parents who have returned the gift aid forms. This makes a big difference as we are able to claim £7.05 for every £25 donated. Please remember to send these in if you have not done so. This is a reminder to parents who have not yet contributed to the Governors fund, that payment can be made on Parentpay at [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com)

#### **School Office**

Please remember that any absence from school must be reported to the school office on the morning by telephone (**not by email**) followed up in writing. Also, please advise the school office if someone other than your normal contacts is going to collect your child by phoning before 2pm. If later than this we can not guarantee getting the message to your child when calling late in the school day.

Mr Mancuso, the piano teacher at the Infant school is now enrolling children for piano lessons for year 1 and year 2 from September 2017. If you are interested, these lessons take place during school time and you should contact him on [info@zinomancuso.com](mailto:info@zinomancuso.com)

Please be reminded that if your child has sickness or diarrhoea they should remain off school for 48hrs from the last episode. Please also remember to check your child's hair for head lice at least once a week. This applies to both girls and boys. We need to be vigilant and considerate to each other. Hair that is shoulder length should be fully tied up and held in place.

#### **School Dinners**

Please remember to keep up to date with payments on Parentpay ensuring you pay enough money on to your child's account in advance. If you receive an email reminder from the school please ensure

you act promptly should a debt have incurred.

### **Internet Safety**

**How safe is your child online? Do you know what they do online? Do you know what your privacy settings are?**

E-Safety talk by Stephen Welding Education E Safety Advisor to all Nursery, Infant and Junior parents on Friday 23rd June 2:30- 3pm at the Junior School.

Please find links to useful websites including

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk) - The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre has set up its own website which has been designed and written specifically for children, young people, teachers, parents and carers.

[www.kidsmart.org.uk/](http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/) - Kidsmart is an award winning internet safety website for parents and those working with children. It has been developed by the children's internet charity Childnet International and has excellent information on many of the technologies used by children, with guidance on how to 'stay safe' online.

[www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk) - Here you will find e-safety tips, advice and resources to help children and young people stay safe on the internet.

## **NURSERY & INFANT SCHOOL**

### **News from Nursery**

Our topic this term in the Nursery has been "Why do spiders eat flies?" We explored this through lots of spider craft, using our hands to make spiders and wool to thread onto plates to make spiders webs. The children showed great interest in the topic and we discussed what we know about spiders during many circle times. The children have been mark making spiders as well as copying words, such as spider, fly, bee, snail. The topic was also naturally extended by the children, through discussion of other various mini beasts, which culminated in us finding a beetle in our garden (after much searching with magnifying glasses!) The children really enjoyed looking at the mini beasts, and exploring them. We were very excited for the Bug Ball and loved to sing 'the ants go marching' and 'creepy crawlies'! Thankyou to everyone who bought in flowers for Mary Mass. Each class were taken round to see the crowned statue of Mary in the school grounds and given a flower to give her. Finally, have lots of fun over the half term, rest and relax and we look forward to seeing you for some amazing learning next half term!!

### **News from Reception**

This term Reception have thoroughly enjoyed the topic "Why do spiders eat flies?" The children have been able to show their creativity by making a variety of models and collages. We carried out a clay bug project where the children worked in stages. First they painted and designed their leaf. Next they made their bug using clay and finally they painted and added their own detail to their bug. All children were really proud of their work! Another highlight was the bug ball. All the children looked fantastic and thank you for making an effort with costumes and props. Thank you to everyone who bought in a flower for the Mary Mass. It made it very special for the children and memorable. We hope you all have a fun and safe half term and we look forward to the last term in reception.

### **News from Year 1**

This term in our topic of Paws, Claws and Whiskers, we have enjoyed learning about animals. Our trip to Chessington zoo has been a great success since children were able to meet real life animals with paws, claws and whiskers as well as learning some key facts about each animal. In class, we have particularly enjoyed reading and roleplaying the stories of the 'Gruffalo' and 'The Tiger who came to Tea'. In Geography, the children were eager to investigate the human and physical features of their local park.

### News from Year 2

We are coming to the end of our topic on the Scented Garden. The children have enjoyed learning about plants and flowers. We have used the book *The Green Ship* by Quentin Blake to help write stories and poems based around the text. We will continue to take care of our vegetable patch in the school garden; the children have been weeding the flower beds and also keeping a close eye on our plants that are growing well.

**Star of the Week - week ending 19th May** - Elephants - Filip Andrzejewski & Charlton Ngitngit, Penguins - Ksenia McCrae & Thep Salmen, Bees- David thorley & Maya Ryba, Reindeer - Jenson Moret, Giraffes - Konstanty Arcisz, Cheetahs - Jacob Boardman, Meerkats - Cian Quinn, Horses - Xavier Le Floch-Sui, Owls - Savanagh henry

### Choir - Infants and Juniors

On Saturday 8th July the Choir will be performing at the **Summer Fete** at the infants at 12:15 pm. Please meet at 12pm at the front of St. Mary's Infants near the office to warm up. We hope you can come along and support us.

## JUNIOR SCHOOL

### News from Year 3

May has been a very busy and exciting month for year 3! We were lucky enough to go on a school trip and be Celts for the day. We learnt what it would be like to live in a round house and compared it to our own homelife. I don't think we'll be swapping any time soon!

We got soggy feet on our trip to the River Wandle and we had a great time searching for minibeasts in the water. We exceptionally lucky with the weather and we would like to say a big THANK YOU to the Wandle Trust who prepared a very informative assembly for us and organised activities throughout the day.

In the theme of getting mucky, we thoroughly enjoyed the school's outdoor learning day, where we wrote instructions for making mud pies and took part in activities purely resourced by nature.

To round off our month, we took part in a Hinduism day where we learnt about the special places that Hindus worship in and learnt stories relating to their religion.

### News from Year 4

In year 4, over the past half-term, Year 4 have certainly learnt the art of persuasion! Exploring advertising, they wrote scripts and performed their adverts for their own drinks campaign. They also debated the issue of Physical Education on the school timetable.

Tied in with our Tudor history topic, we thoroughly enjoyed Terry Deary's book, 'The Prince, the

Cook and the Cunning King' in English. Following on from the amusing historical tale, our trip to Hampton court was fully enjoyed by everyone, as we explored Henry VIII's palace inside and out. The day proved fruitful in filling our minds with ideas for our very own Tudor stories, which we look forward to writing on our return to school.

Our Science Topic of Living Things and their Habitats is well under way with the children using inspiration from sculptor Nick Mackman to model life-like creatures. We can't wait to start hunting down real-life mini-beasts and delving more into diverse habitats after the half-term break.

### News from Year 5

This month was jammed packed, blogging about our flag design in preparation for Under Canvas. It was pretty impressive flying in the wind (so much wind), at the centre of our camp. With so many activities it was fun to do something so different from usual class work. However we have also written a fable, based on a traditional tale; reviewed our learning of water treatment with a Bough Beech quiz and topped off the month with a science healthy living leaflet after a fact filled and encouraging visit from Chase with Crystal Palace FC and Healthy Eagles. Ask us about the eatwell plate or activity pyramid - we're practically experts!

### News from Year 6

"Yaaaayyy!!!!" cried out Year 6 (and their teachers) as the clock alerted us to the end of their final SATS exam this month. After all the work that went into revision and cramming in those last bits of grammar knowledge, often at lunchtime sessions, the students should be congratulated on all their efforts. It was a draining week but ended with a fun filled SATS party. Thank you to all the parents for supplying the enormous amount of cakes, crisps and drinks (the leftover pile is still staggering and being carefully hidden from the rest of the teachers).

After the amount of work that went in we felt just one party was not good enough to celebrate Year 6's achievements so we also took a day off to for some outdoor activities. The children overcame some challenges involving zip wires, climbing walls and we had a few soaked children after their first attempt at kayaking.

When we return next term we will be going full-swing into our Joseph rehearsals and eagerly counting down the days to our trip to Isle of Wight!

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### Choir - Junior

On Wednesday 19th July some of the Junior Choir will be performing at the Sutton Music Service present a 'Summer Celebration' Royal Festival Hall at 7pm. The concert will feature a massed choir of around 600 KS2 children from local primary schools and academies, our new choir, Sutton Young Singers, and input from hub partners Inspire Works (world music) and Arts One Rocks (rock and pop). In addition to our singers, the first half of the concert will feature a joint orchestra made up of members of Young Musicians Orchestra (YMO) and Sutton Youth Symphony Orchestra (SYSO), conducted by Phil Aslangul and David Cox, while the second half will feature a joint wind band made

up members of Sutton Youth Symphonic Band (SYSB) and Sutton Youth Wind Orchestra (SYWO), conducted by Roger Willey.

Tickets are now available via the Royal Festival Hall ticket office (0207 960 4200) and are priced at £15 adults and £7.50 concessions. They can also be purchased via this link: <https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/117165-sutton-music-service-summer-celebration-2017>

### **Junior Travel Advisors / School travel plan**



The Junior Travel Advisors have been meeting this term and discussing how they are going to deliver a travelling questionnaire about the different modes of transport that we use to get to St Mary's. The staff will also be included in this questionnaire! We hope to see an increase in scooting as a mode of transport; thanks to the installation of our new scooter park. Look out for the travelling questionnaire that will take place at the beginning of next term. Walk to School data is being counted and collated and we will have the results of winning classes displayed in next month's newsletter!

### **Awards**

#### **St Mary's Award Summer**

3 Hawthorn - Baily Boyd	3 Mulberry - Joshua Black
3 Willow - Bobby Bolton	4 Ash - Warren D'Costa
4 Rowan - Darcy Murphy	4 Poplar - Zofia Binięcka
5 Birch - Amelia Ellis	5 Elm - Olivia Gierak
6 Chestnut - Zofia Maliszewska	6 Oak - Christin Connolly

#### **Friends of St Mary's**

Thank you to all who supported the summer BBQ. The weather was good to us making it a really successful event. Thank you to the helpers who committed so much time especially Ms Baresa in year 6 who took on the majority of the organisation. The winners of the raffle were:

1st prize - Patrick in Owls class  
2nd prize - Leanne 6 Chestnut  
3rd prize - Amelie 6 Chestnut