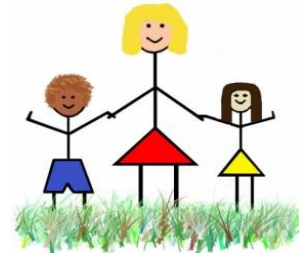




ST MARY'S CATHOLIC FEDERATION, CARSHALTON NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2016



Sunday 11th December - 3rd Sunday of Advent



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 Parent/ Carers

It is hard to believe that we are already in the second week of Advent, enjoying crisp frosts and clear blue skies. Our run up to Christmas runs tightly up to the holidays, allowing us maximum time to celebrate the birthday of Jesus in school, informally or in our concerts and services. These are starting to happen from this coming week.

Thank you for your support already, attending the Christmas Fayre at the Nursery and Infant School and by sending in contributions for the junior one too. In addition to our SMIF and FSMs fundraising for the schools ,we continue to also support many local and worldwide charities . What a splendid way to say "Happy Birthday" to Christ.

Thank you to those parents who are have made the effort to send children to school with warm accessories of hats and scarves that conform to school uniform policy. This is essential as it means that children walk into school with confidence knowing that they are following school policy.

Attendance - many families have taken time out of school that has not been authorised. Letters of concern will be sent to parents at the end of term addressing absence issues.

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 . This also happened during parent consultations too with the addition of electronic tablets. We are asking again, please refrain from using any electronic devises whilst attending school. Thank you for your co operation.

Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development

Nursery & Infant School

We celebrated the Feast of All Saints with a Mass at the junior school, thank you to Father Jim from the parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, Sutton. Well done to the Infant children for their beautiful singing during Mass. We gathered together in the school hall on the 11th November for 2 minutes silence in remembrance of all who died fighting for their country. Representatives from the School Council went with Mrs Quinn to the War Memorial in Carshalton to lay wreaths made by the Infant children from Breakfast and After School Club. We also had a visitor from Sutton Schools Work who came in to present an assembly on The Good Samaritan. Thank you Sarah and we look forward to welcoming her again next term.

Junior School

Before telling you what *has* happened this month, a short announcement about what *will be* happening during Advent. Last year the children were introduced to Lectio Divina; a way of praying the scriptures. It's a time of quiet reflection which is so often needed during the busyness of Christmas preparations. This year parents/carers are also invited to Advent prayer sessions which will be based on Lectio Divina. The first one was held on Thursday 1st December at 2.45pm in the Chapel. Please sign in at the school office in the usual way. Hopefully more parents will find the time to join us.

On 1st November the Infant and Junior children came together at the Junior School to celebrate the Feast of All Saints. Many thanks to Father Jim for being our celebrant for this Mass.

We are blessed with our Chaplaincy Team which continues to grow in membership - and ideas! This month they wrote and presented an assembly to the Junior School in which they introduced themselves, explained what the Chaplaincy Team does and gave the important message that Jesus is our super-hero. If we allow Him to work through us, amazing things can happen.

Sunday 20th November, the Feast of Christ the King, marked the end of the Year of Mercy. In acknowledgement of this, and in response to Pope Francis's call to reach out to refugees, we took the opportunity to discover a little more about the plight of refugees around the world & to pray for them. The chapel was open throughout the day for pupils and staff to go on a short 'pilgrimage' of hope; a time of prayer and an opportunity to write message of hope. These will be sent to CAFOD for them to be distributed to refugees around the world.

You may have noticed that many of us wore red items on Wednesday 23rd November - Red Wednesday. This was to show solidarity with, and a reminder to pray for, people around the world who are being persecuted for their religion. Many landmarks around the world were lit up red on this day; some notable ones are the Trevi Fountain in Rome; Westminster Abbey & Westminster Cathedral in London, Holy Cross Church in Carshalton.

Advent is here and so are the travelling cribs which will be going home to each family for an evening during the remaining weeks of this term. Please take some time to reflect with your child on the coming of Jesus and use the crib as a focal point for prayer.



Table Talk How is it going? This month, as the cribs are travelling round our homes, why not talk about your favourite places to travel to?

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. 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

School Office

Please be reminded that only prescribed medicines can be given in school by school staff (if prescribed four times a day). All other medicine will need to be administered by a parent or nominated person. For those with asthma, we have been advised that all children should have a small spacer in school and your child should know how to use the inhaler and spacer. This should be in a sealed clear plastic bag with your child's name on and you are responsible for taking this home half termly to clean.

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.

Spare clothing

This is a reminder that if your child is given any spare items of clothing from the school office or classroom can you please ensure they are washed and returned so that we have them to use for other children who may need them in the future. Thank you.

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

Please find links to useful websites including

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/ - 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 - 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

We have been very creative this month and acted out "We are going on the bear hunt" and "The Gruffalo". We continue to prepare for our Christmas Nativity with lots of singing and actions. We are enjoying learning new sounds and looking at different animals which hibernate over the autumn and winter. We have gone on our nature walk around our garden and spotted lots of different Autumnal objects.

Reception

We have been travelling far and wide during our topic from the bear cave to space and now into the arctic as we prepare for Christmas. The children had such fun going on a bear hunt with their rucksacks full of everything an explorer could want for. We took our poppies to the cenotaph in Carshalton and said a prayer as we quietly thought about the soldiers who lost their lives at war. As we prepare for Christmas we will be learning about Advent and the birth of baby Jesus. The children have been singing and saying their lines beautifully as we practice for Nativity concerts. We visited the post box to deliver our letters to Santa, we hope we will get a reply before we break up for the holidays!

News from Year 1

Our topic this term is all about 'The Enchanted Woodland'. The children had a fantastic time dressing up as their favourite fairy tale character for our fairy tale dress up day. The children have enjoyed reading various fairy tales which they have retold in their writing and role played. In Science, the children have been researching and identifying different types of common plants and trees. Alongside this they have also examined the different types of leaves and trees found in our school grounds.

News from Year 2

This half term our topic is "Towers, Tunnels and Turrets" children have been learning about castles; focusing on castle life in medieval times. We have looked at different types of bridges and built and tested bridges in our science and DT lessons. Thank you to all the parents who joined us for the building workshop. We all had great fun designing and building towers out of spaghetti and marshmallows. The children have also looked at timelines; creating our own timeline and one with major historical events in British history.

Daily Mile - Last week saw the launch of 'The Daily Mile' across the Infant school. We are currently doing this twice a week but as the year goes on and we begin to see the benefits this may increase. The Daily Mile was started in February 2012 by Elaine Wyllie who was head teacher of a large Scottish Primary school. She was concerned by the children's lack of fitness and, a few years after it starting it, she had shown it to be both sustainable and effective. The Daily Mile is very simple to start in a school. Without wasting time to change into kit, every child in the school goes out in the fresh air to run, jog or walk for 15 minutes. It is not competitive and most children average a mile, with some doing more and some doing less. It is not PE, sport or cross-country but a physical activity which is aimed at improving the children's physical, social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing. It can help children to focus and concentrate in the classroom and raise their attainment. As a school we are really excited about this new initiative and we are looking forward to the benefits it will bring to your child/children.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

News from Year 3

Year 3 have been working hard on making their cushions and they finally finished! The children had a great time putting together their designs and seeing the final product. They have been embracing the autumnal weather by using our senses to create our own shape poems. Watch out for candyfloss clouds and skyscraper trees! Year 3 have been busy rehearsing for a number of things; our Penitential Service which is on Monday 5th of December in the school hall at 7pm and our Christmas Nativity on Tuesday 13th of December at 2pm and 7pm. To enhance their drama skills, they recently visited St. Philomena's to watch the Year 10 GCSE drama performances. The children picked up lots of tips and enjoyed speaking to the girls at the end!

A reminder to all parents that our hamper for the Christmas Fair will contain items for the kitchen including utensils, measuring cups, cook books, tea-towels etc.



News from Year 4



Head in the clouds? Year 4 had so much fun creating their playground cloud information display which marked the end of their unit on weather information texts. Why not see if you can spot a cumulus or even a cirrus cloud!

Learning about London from the view of the River Thames was an extraordinary experience for pupils and staff alike. The travel by train was equally exciting, especially when landmarks such as the London Eye and the Shard popped up between the grey buildings that bordered the train tracks. Pupils even had the chance to chat to a London police officer about his duties and life working on the streets of London.

4 Rowan finished the block of year 4 assemblies by helping all pupils understand the different types of bullying and where to find them. They were fantastic!

News from Year 5

This month has already been very busy with both Year Five classes delivering their assemblies on different themes: Universal Children's Day and St Andrews Day and Macbeth. Our Creativity day at the beginning of November focussed on the Year of Mercy Laudato Si document delivered by Pope Francis. All children throughout the school and in Year Five has an opportunity to practice and learn different skills in Art and DT. We would like to thank families for their ongoing support. In addition, children in Year Five have been looking at sketching techniques alongside still life images. They have focussed on drawing still life images from Macbeth. In English the children have been taking part in drama activities. Year Five have impressed their teachers with their acting skills and confident in studying Macbeth. In PE we have been developing our dance skills by creating a dance of the three witches and key scenes in Macbeth. We are looking forward to Advent and our exciting events leading up to Christmas.

News from Year 6

As November winds down Year 6 have been getting ready for a busy December with a lot of Christmas cheer! To begin our Christmas festivities, Year 6 have spent their DT lessons learning about how to make the perfect Christmas puddings. The children surprised Mr Joice and Mrs Owens with fantastic smelling puddings (and barely any mess!!). We would also like to send out a huge thank you to all the parents who gave up their time to assist the children preparing and cooking their puddings.

The Christmas theme didn't stop at food though. We have been developing our storytelling skills to write up our own Christmas stories (the best part of this was getting to read lots and lots and lots of Christmas stories for inspiration).

In Religion we have been looking at how people act during Advent but also considered how people from other faiths spend this time of the year. As we have spent some time studying the Jewish faith we went to the Sutton Synagogue to learn about how Jewish people praise God and were fascinated by some of their customs and traditions.

We are now busy preparing for the final few weeks of the year and looking forward to sharing our Christmas stories with our buddies!

Music

From December you will have the opportunity to see the Choir and Year 4 Wider Opportunities Group performing at the following events and parents and family are welcome to attend;

1. **Choir** - Years 4, 5 and 6 have been asked to take part in the Year 3 Christmas Production will take place on Tuesday 13th December at 7pm - finishing time to be advised.
2. **Choir and 4 Poplar/4 Ash Wider Opportunities - Advent Assembly** on Monday 19th December 9am at school.
3. **Choir and 4 Rowan Wider Opportunities - Christmas Celebration** on Tuesday 20th December at 6:30 for mulled wine and being serenaded 4 Rowan Wider Opportunities Group from 6:30 - 6:50 pm. Then followed by the choir and some joint carol singing by the audience. Finishing time 8pm approximately.

Choir - 'The Scratch Youth Messiah' at the Royal Albert Hall



Congratulations to all choristers who performed 'The Scratch Youth Messiah' at the Royal Albert Hall on Sunday 27th November. Over 1, 500 choristers from over 40 schools were performing with the orchestra and Ben Parry conducting with St. Mary's sitting centre stage! Thank you to Mrs McGunniess, Mr Clayton, Miss Roberts and Miss Piper for also taking part in the performance. Thank you also to Mrs Hulme, Mr Tomkins, Mrs Quinn, Mrs Nicholls, Ms McDade, Mrs Folen and Mrs Norbury for helping make the trip possible.

Junior Travel Advisors / School travel plan

Road Safety Week took place on 21st- 27th November! Children throughout the school took part in a poster competition that focused on making an important pledge to be safe on the roads following 5 key promises from the Road Safety charity - Brake. The Junior Travel Advisors decided on this competition to raise awareness and produce posters that will be displayed around school. The posters had to be informative and as eye catching possible with a slogan including the pledges: slow, seatbelt, silent, see and save our planet!

Thank you for all your poster entries. The JTA's have chosen three of the best posters and runner ups. The winners were:

1st place - Baoyi Long -4 Rowan

2nd place- Ella Serrano - 4 Rowan

3rd place - Maia Morgan - 4 Ash

Well done to everybody that entered and the runners up who were mentioned in whole school assembly (29/11/16). The winners received a special prize related to road safety. The Junior Travel Advisors are now working on their next target for the term! Look here for details in the next newsletter.

Sport update from Mrs Brich PE Subject Leader

Clubs are up and running, matches are being played and our Junior Supremo Sports Leaders supporting all the efforts that go into offering so many sports and physical activity opportunities that are offered at St. Mary's.

One of our Junior Supremo Team is Barney:

Being a Junior Supremo is a great fun job to do. To get selected you have to show effort in every PE lesson. During training you have to do activities with year two's and practice playing games like the jelly bean game and the pirate game.

There are plenty of responsibilities you have such as tidying the PE cupboard, preparing equipment and teaching others new skills. The reason you need to show skill is because you will be teaching younger people new, fun skills. Imagine if you were bored at break and no one would cheer you up. Well luckily sports leaders can do that job!

On Creativity Day Mrs Roberts and I ran the dance workshop. As PE coordinator it was great to see children in all the year groups enjoying this activity but also to see the amount of effort they put it and quality outcomes they produced! Very impressive! Dance is a strand we assess this term and Positive Attitude one we assess next term so I have already passed on my observations to class teachers for this to be reflected.

Finally, please be reminded children **MUST HAVE SOCKS** to wear with their trainers for PE. Many girls wear tights to school but these are not suitable to wear during PE so please ensure socks are in their PE bag for them to change into.



PSHE

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the cake sale to raise money for the WaterAid appeal that will support communities in the Oromia region of Ethiopia. Thanks to your efforts with cakes and money, families will now have improved access to clean water, safe sanitation and hygiene.



UNICEF working group have been busy putting together a welcome display in the many different languages the pupils of St Mary's can speak. Their next task is to introduce unique fruit and to begin measuring the amount of food waste generated at lunch time.



Anti-bullying week - Every year group helped all of the children understand what bullying is, how it can happen, where and why through the delivery of their fantastic daily assemblies. The graffiti wall was a great success and children reflected and assisted with messages of hope, statements and green hat ideas.

