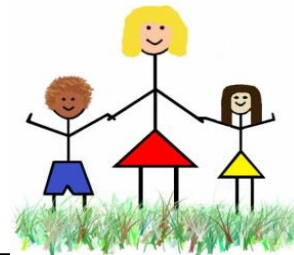


ST MARY'S CATHOLIC NURSERY, INFANT & JUNIOR SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2016



Sunday 13TH November - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



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

First of all, may we thank you all for the great turn out for parent consultations, this is a true reflection of the support and co educating of the children in our care. Another big thank you for completing the parent surveys and updating the contact information- a real help to us when updating our systems.

We have worked through the first half term with good weather and not too many disruptions to learning. We have enjoyed the Lord's gift of the season of autumn in full splendour and now look forward to more autumnal activities that lead us towards Advent.

Thank you to those parents who support the school in not taking children out of school during term time, every day is of value. We look forward to a range of new learning opportunities next half term as time will run quickly in the lead up to Christmas . Both SMIF and FSMs have much planned for you to enjoy.

As the weather turns colder please be reminded that children need to wear a coat every day to school and need PE kit to include jogging bottoms and a sweat top. All of these items are detailed on the uniform list, all accessories plain dark blue or black and hair cuts also need to conform to school uniform requirements.

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 devices whilst attending school. Thank you for your co operation in this matter.

Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development

Nursery & Infant School

Thank you for your generosity in donating to the Harvest collection. We celebrated Mass with Father Jim from the parish of Our Lady of the Rosary in Sutton and well done to the children who sang so beautifully and read so clearly. The Rotary Club of Carshalton Beeches collected all the food and dried goods that will be shipped off to Romania for families in need. Also thank you to the children and staff from Breakfast and After School Club and Mrs Pugh in the kitchen, who provided the wonderful Harvest Festival displays for our Mass.

Junior School

The chapel is now being used regularly for one to one meetings with the chaplain as well as weekly morning reflection and Chaplaincy Team meetings. In addition, as October is the month of the Holy Rosary, we have also prayed the Rosary during Thursday lunchtimes. Thank you to Chaplaincy Team members who have helped to lead this valuable time of prayer. The children have also learnt about St. Thérèse of Lisieux whose feast day was on 1st October. The chaplain led an assembly about her life and asked the children to think about how they could follow her Little Way: doing little things for God and for others. We hope you may have noticed some of these 'little' things at home.



Table Talk

Life seems so busy sometimes! We will be talking in school about the importance of talking and listening to each other. We know families have clubs to get to, homework to complete and shopping to buy, but we wonder if you and your family would like to join us and commit to sitting and sharing a meal together, without any screens, for one extra meal each week? This will help us prepare for a future date when we hope the whole school will go 'screen-free' for a whole day!

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. All payments for Governors fund 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.

Parentpay

Please be advised that there is a useful help page for any issues you may encounter with your Parentpay account. Please refer to the help pages on this link before calling the school office.

<https://www.parentpay.com/parents/using-parentpay/faqs#paypoint>

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 & INFANTS' SCHOOL

News from Nursery

We have a very exciting half term ahead; we will be looking at the topic "What is a shadow?", talk about: Bonfire Night, Christmas.... Later in the term there will be much excitement as glitter is sprinkled in abundance and tinsel is adorned whilst we prepare for Christmas, which really isn't too far away.

Reception

Last term the children settled well in Reception and have already made many memories and friends. We had a lot of fun exploring with colour in our topic "how many colours in a rainbow?" The children had a messy day where they mixed, explored and played with different materials and colours. They had great fun painting their friends toes and printing! The children had a surprise visit from reptile animals. They learnt different facts and loved petting and holding them, especially the snakes. Thank you to all the parents who came to the Elmer Parade. The children were proud to show you their work and sing our topic song. The children also had a Parade to Key Stage 1 who was impressed with their instruments that they made. Reception children are getting ready for the next topic of "Can we explore it?" They have started to make and build their role play Bear Cave.

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

Last half term we were treated to a display from Amazing Animal World. Some very brave children and adults stroked, petted and held an array of creatures from snakes and bearded dragons to chinchillas. We came to an end of a very busy topic; reading and writing our own Rascally Cakes, exploring Art and DT projects in the style of various artists, to many messy science experiments and investigations. We are now looking forward to our new topic of Towers, Tunnels and Turrets. Get researching Year 2!

JUNIOR SCHOOL

News from Year 3

Well done to all of Year 3 for starting the year with their fantastic class assemblies! It was wonderful to see what a talented year group we have, and it gave us some good ideas for this year's nativity! We are looking forward to writing the nativity and becoming play-script writers ourselves! Thank you to parents who attended to assemblies and for making them so special. We have been working hard in DT designing our Egyptian cushions and using our creativity on the computers to make our own animation.

News from Year 4

The children felt extremely proud of their first year group Mass and leading the school in a celebration and thanksgiving of the Harvest. It was particularly exciting because Father Patrick celebrated with St Mary's. Thank you to all parents who attended and those who supported families in Romania with food donations, purchasing bread and raffle tickets. In RE and English we have all enjoyed learning about Black History month's inspirational figures such as Nelson Mandela and Mary Seacole as well as learning more about the history of slavery and why Black History month is an important reminder that everyone is equal and we are all God's people.

News from Year 5

It has been a busy month in Year 5 with our trip to Pizza express and the recounts we wrote about it (as you'll know from the half term homework!). We also enjoyed investigating heroes from black history month, which tied in well with the class assemblies we've been seeing too. We have been looking at Electricity in Science, and planned an experiment to test the brightness of a bulb - ask us what our independent variable was.

It was lovely to see you all at parents evening and the children were thrilled to receive your compliments that we passed on, especially about how neat their presentation was in their books and the quality of our work. We look forward to seeing you again for our class assemblies in November.

News from Year 6

Well done to all of Year 6 for finishing their first half-term of school for the LAST time at St Mary's. Over the term we have been looking at a variety of forces in our universe, how mountains and rivers are formed and developing our writing styles with persuasive and descriptive writing. We had a fantastic time at Preston Manor, where we stepped back into history and found ourselves as Victorians applying for jobs as servants for an old-fashioned manor house. Once we were appropriately dressed we began our training with the stern and strict Mrs. Storey, the head maid. She showed us how to lay the table, prepare the meals and how to give a thorough cleaning of the whole house. Hopefully it's given the students some lessons on cleaning their bedrooms in the future.....

Music

Choir

Thank you to all those who participated in the St. Elphege's Year of Mercy Concert on Thursday 6th October. The power of so many voices from the 8 schools that performed was a moving experience. Thank you for the parental support and all the hard work by the children. In choir we have been working hard on learning the songs for the **Scratch Youth Messiah at the Royal Albert Hall on Sunday 27th November at 2pm**. More details will follow about times, what to wear and bring to the concert in the next few weeks. **All 90 children who handed in a form saying they wanted to participate in the performance have been accepted. Choir starts back on Friday 4th November.**



Every child has the right to clean water (article 24). On the 16th November there will be a cake sale to help raise money for WaterAid. This is a chance for St Mary's to work together as a community in order to help those around the world without access to clean water. St Mary's will be performing at the Scratch Youth Messiah event which has named WaterAid as its charity. The school would like to present a gift of money to the event in order to help the communities in the Oromia region of Ethiopia have access to clean water, safe sanitation and hygiene. Thank you in advance for your help with cakes and fundraising.

The UNICEF working group has begun work to improve our status as a rights respecting school. They are currently working on making pupils feel welcome (look out for their display) and the playground (a safe and happy environment). Congratulations to Masie, Isabella, Airanna, Leyla and Kornelia (year 3); Bella, Lia and Nicky (year 4) and Aoife, Michael, Beatrice, Antonio, Maddi, Tyra and Chloe (year 5). Look out for their UNICEF badges (the new rectangular ones). Here is their motto, they'd love to hear from you: *We listen to each other, we like to make things better, you can come and talk to us, there's no need for a letter!* UNICEF.

Achievements

St Mary's Awards Autumn 1

3 Mulberry - Nicolas Soares

3 Willow - Natalia Casanova

4 Rowan - Nicky Grigorov

5 Birch - Amy Piper

6 Chestnut - Fenton Locke

3 Hawthorn - India Rogers

4 Ash - Nina Allen

4 Poplar - Wilmina Amponsah

5 Elm - Joel George

6 Oak - Barney Hennessy

Friends of St Mary's

How lucky are we! Thank you to FSM's team who have used the money raised to provide us with our very own outdoor performance area together with outdoor musical instruments. The children are so excited. Thank you all for volunteering to help and those who contribute.



Miss Mayanja and the newly elected junior travel advisers will be overseeing the School travel plan for this year. This very important task and document involves organising a range of events and campaigning to improve safety on the journey to school by reducing car use and other methods. Look out for the promotion of travel issues affecting our school and local community through the year!