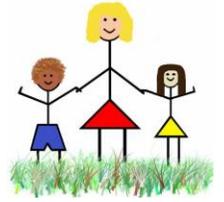




**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC FEDERATION,  
CARSHALTON NEWSLETTER  
OCTOBER 2017**



Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 29<sup>th</sup> 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 Parents and Carers**

We come to the end of another half term, the first and one of the busiest in the year. Thank you for the support in attending parent meetings this week, it is really important that we work together building the future of our children.

Following the half term break we have lots more to look forward to as you will see in each curriculum forecast.

We will continue to support external charities to include the British Legion poppy appeal. Poppies will be available in both schools.

Work has started in the junior school to extend the dining room, this will be ongoing until after the Christmas break. We meet with contractors weekly to ensure full safety measures are adhered to, however we ask parents to supervise their young children at all times whilst on site please.



Plans are afoot to develop the railway side of the infant field by installing new play equipment, thank you to SMIF for offering a generous donation towards this. See a photo of the newly installed outdoor gym equipment at the juniors to which we hope to add to in the future.

A request to parents, that any items of dressing up clothes such as hats, wigs, cloaks etc. that you no longer need, could we please have these for the children at the Junior school to use at playtime.

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

### **Nursery & Infant School**

We returned to the new academic year with a celebration Mass for the Feast of Our Lady, many thanks to those of you who joined us for the picnic which was held inside due to the rain. We would like to remind you to read and share the Wednesday Word with your child, this is a valuable resource to use at home and at Mass with your whole family. Thank you for your continued support at our Thursday morning liturgies. Look out for dates of our "End of RE Topic Service" which we hope you will come and share with the children.

During October many children have prayed the Rosary with Mrs Norbury in the library. If you would like us to pray for anyone in particular, please remember to write their details in the intention book located in the school entrance area.

Thank you very much for your generous donations to our Harvest Collection, these will be taken by Carshalton Beeches Rotary Club for distribution to a Romanian Charity that helps the poor and needy.



### **Junior School**

We started the year with a whole school Feast Day Mass which was celebrated by Bishop Paul. At this Mass the new Chaplaincy Team were commissioned and received their badges.

This year we are blessed with a large team made up of Y6 boys and girls. They have lots of ideas to support the spirituality of our school so look out for chaplaincy updates in the coming weeks and months. Some of them have already led a whole school assembly about Little Way Week, inspired by St. Therese of Lisieux, and have encouraged us all to think about how we do little things in love for Jesus.

Class Chaplaincy sessions have started with Year 5 reflecting on John 15:1-5 - Jesus is the vine, we are the branches and the fruit which God can produce through us. We took some time to think about how we can each try to stay connected with Jesus in our daily lives.

Our Harvest Mass, celebrated by Father Paul was a lovely, prayerful occasion. Your generous donations have been given to the food bank at St. Philomena's School for redistribution in our local area.

Each Thursday lunchtime during October children and staff have gathered together to pray the Rosary in the Chapel. We are very fortunate to have these times of stillness and prayer. If you would like us to pray for anyone in particular, please remember to write in the intention book located in the school entrance area.

## **NURSERY & INFANT SCHOOL**

### **News from Nursery**

We are so proud of all of the Nursery children, they have had a fantastic start to their first term in Nursery. The children have had lots of fun singing songs, listening to new stories and exploring their new setting. In RE we have learnt our school prayers, how to make the sign of the cross and through our topic 'Myself' have discussed how God knows and loves us. After half term we will be starting our new topic 'Wonderful Winter', the children will be exploring seasons, weather and many exciting stories on the run up to Christmas. Thank you to all parents and carers for your support during the start of your child's Nursery year.

### **News from Reception**

What an amazing start to the year! The Reception team are so proud of the way the children have settled into their school life at St Mary's. They have learnt many new routines including lunchtime, snack, running the daily mile, going to 'sing and praise' assembly and attending music with Mrs Roberts. We have had so much fun this half term using our topic 'How many colours in a rainbow?' The children took part in a messy day, have learnt colour songs and are excited to be finishing our half term with an Elmer Parade of our own. In RE we have learnt our school prayers, how to make the sign of the cross and through our topic 'Myself' have discussed how God knows and loves us. Next half term the fun continues as we begin our topic 'Can we explore it?' Thank you to all parents and carers for your support during the start of your child's Reception year.



### News from Year 1

We have had a fantastic start to Year 1. We have been busy with our first topic "Enchanted Woodland". We went on enchanted walks through the school, looking for fairies and elves. We wrote sentences using adjectives based on the fairy tale of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We have investigated maths problems and in Science looked at the trees in our school, trying to identify them by their leaves. In RE we looked at the topic of Families and

especially enjoyed sharing photos of our family and learning about being part of a school and parish family.

### News from Year 2

In Year 2, we had a 'messy' start to the topic with a 'Messy Morning'. The children had a lot of fun exploring with a range of materials like porridge, shaving foam and spaghetti. When it comes to Maths, we have been very busy learning about partitioning 2 digit numbers into tens and ones as well as practising our number bonds to 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. In English, we have been learning different genres like poetry, instruction writing and narratives. We also covered various techniques like expanded noun phrases, joining words and sentence openers to improve our writing. Children thoroughly enjoyed learning about our 'Signs and Symbols' topic in RE where they had the opportunity to role-play a Baptism ceremony.

**Star of the week - week ending 13th October Reindeer Class - Laura Palosz, Giraffe Class - Hazel Kikoyo, Cheetah Class - Gabriella Van Vreden, Meerkat Class - Alana Lesourd, Horse Class - James Martin, Owl Class - Louis Clancy**

## JUNIOR SCHOOL

### News from Year 3

We are so proud of the way year 3 have started their academic year. They are right into the swing of new routines they've had to learn, they've all presented an assembly with their class and we've noticed a distinct maturity over the last month in their learning behaviour.

From thinking hats to thinking maps, the children have taken on the challenge of the year 3 curriculum with gusto! We've explored traditional tales through texts and retelling stories and have persevered with quarter to and five-minute-intervals when learning about time.

Our RE topic of belonging has reinforced to each child their membership to their class and the junior school and how important they are and how lucky we are to have them.

### **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. Thank you to all parents who attended and those who supported us with food donations and through purchasing bread. In RE and English we have all enjoyed learning about Black History month's inspirational figures such as Nelson Mandela and Rosa Parks 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. Our Science topic of the Digestive System has been popular, with lots of fun practical tasks. Our favourite was recreating our food's journey with bread, juice, bags and tights!

### **News from Year 5**

Year 5 have had a busy half term! In English, they have been journeying with Lila to Mount Merapi; becoming firework makers and creating maps of her journey. In Maths, children have studied place value and started looking at the four operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. In DT, children have been transported to Italy and have the opportunity to work together as a year group on a carousel. This involved researching, designing, tasting and creating pizzas (with the added bonus of music!). During our Science day, the children were able to carry out experiments investigating dissolving, mixing, heating and burning. Our focus in Geography has been Europe and the children have enjoyed looking at Google Earth and identifying where our school is in relation to Europe.

### **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 rivers are formed and developing our writing styles with persuasive and descriptive writing. This term we have also begun a new text 'The Arrival', which looks at the difficulties refugees face when arriving to a new country that is proving to be a very interesting topic for all. 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.....

### **Sports**

Juniors: It's been a busy start to the term for sports at St. Mary's Juniors. All class teachers are making the effort to do the Daily Mile with their classes at least 3 times a week. This is part of our commitment to providing more opportunities for children to complete their 60 active minutes a day as recommended by the department of health. You can read more about the Daily Mile at [thedailymile.co.uk/](http://thedailymile.co.uk/)

Some year 6 children have put themselves forward to be Junior Sports Leaders and are working together with me to develop their role in promoting and supporting sports and physical activity at St.Mary's.

Finally, we are preparing to install two more pieces of dual use fitness equipment for the juniors to use. We hope that this encourages their enjoyment and motivation of fitness and activity that will stay with them as they get older.

### **Music**

Choir club have started with a chorus of singing nightingales all getting up early to start at 8am! With over 100 children taking part this year it has been a fabulous start to Friday mornings.

### **E-Safety**

Thank you to all the parents who came to our E-Safety meeting with Steve Welding - Education E-Safety Advisor Sutton Education Services on Thursday 28th September. If you have not already filled in our evaluation form please go to the Junior Parent and Carers' classroom on Google Drive to fill it in.

Here are some great E-Safety links -

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

<http://www.thinkyouknow.co.uk/>

<http://www.internetmatters.org/>

<http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/>

<http://www.childnet.com/>

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/>

**PSHE**  
Association

### **PSHE**

In this first term the children have been looking at the theme of 'Healthy Relationships'. All year groups have explored the aspects of healthy relationships including boundaries, working together; resolving conflict; recognising and responding to others' feelings; understanding and much more!



We have also explored a number of British values through a number of events this term. On the 26th September as a school we celebrated European Languages day which takes place every year around the same time; each class picked a language that they researched and presented information that contributed to a whole school display!

During the month of October; each year group has focussed on an aspect of Black History Month which is in its 30th year in the UK. 3 Willow class presented the whole school with a class assembly on key figures in Black History. Also all children have learnt and discovered interesting facts about key Black icons and their contributions to History such as Rosa Parks and Nelson Mandela as well as looking at key texts in Upper KS2 based on migration and identity.



On Friday 13th October, the children were treated to a visit from the local Police and Dogs department as part of our promotion of the British values law and democracy. The children were able to enjoy learning about the role of Police Dogs whilst having the opportunity to watch an enactment of a dog search!

Next term will include a range of events and themed weeks including Road Safety Week and Anti Bullying Week. The key theme of lessons next term will be Health and Wellbeing whereby children will look at the impact of making informed choices with their lifestyle and the importance of a balanced diet and hygiene. Look out for events next term in each year group!



### Junior Travel Advisors/ School Travel Plan

This year at St Mary's Juniors we will be working towards our Gold award status! A new working group of Junior Travel Advisor will be selected in the next term as we get started with our preparations for:

Road Safety Week  
Walk on Wednesday  
A new golden padlock competition  
Walking Surveys

Thank you to Parents and Carers for always choosing different modes of active travel to school. Lastly, thank you for helping to improve the air quality in our local area whilst helping to avoid congestion on our local streets. .

**St Mary's Awards Autumn 1**

3 Mulberry -Caitlin Friel

3 Hawthorn - Dominic Channing

3 Willow - Eamonn Richmond

4 Ash - Kornelia Maliszewska

4 Poplar - Joshua Pinto

4 Rowan - Masie Camilleri

5 Birch - Isla Prendergast

5 Elm - Joseph Dixon

5 Sycamore - Benjamin Callis

6 Chestnut - Eva Lesourd

6 Oak - Isla Dagleish

**Well done to all!**