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HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

We returned to school after an active half term break packed with Jubilee celebrations. I hope you all enjoyed the holiday.

It has been a busy week.

The Book Club had their penultimate meeting of the year. The children met the author of the book they had just finished, *The Ship of Doom by Marina Bennet*. The story was all about The Butterfly Club, a society who time travel to plunder the future for wonders. Except this time, Luna, Konstantin and Aidan ended up on the RMS Titanic, not realising what was in store for them! Marina, the author, talked lots about how she had grown up interested in history and this is what inspired her to write about the Titanic. She also revealed there were several books in the series to come! We collected our new book, *Like a Charm*, which the children will read before the final meeting in July.

The Y6 children are busy rehearsing for their performances in July. Encourage your children to practice their songs and lines so they will perform their best for the live performances. Details of getting tickets has been sent to the Y5 and Y6 parents so please ensure you request your quota.

Many of the year groups are going out on educational visits before the end of the school year. Parents should have received information about their child's specific trip so if you have any concerns please contact the school office.

Mrs McGarry is looking forward to singing with the Chamber Choir at the 11.30am Mass on Sunday at Christchurch.

We will be welcoming our new cohort of parents and children on site on Wednesday 15th June. These children will be starting in our Nursery and Reception classes in September 2022.

The weather is looking beautiful for the weekend so I hope you all enjoy the sunshine.

Kind regards
Mr J Sims
Headteacher

WEEK BEGINNING 13th JUNE

Monday 13th June

Y5 Education Trip to the Globe Theatre

Wednesday 15th June

Nursery closed on this day for the current Nursery children. Nursery children starting in September 2022 will visit and meet the Nursery staff.

9.30am and 11am

Meeting for the new parents of children who will join St Mary's in September 2022.

Thursday 16th June

Skipathon in aid of British Heart Foundation

Friday 17th June

Y3 Educational Trip to the British Museum

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 25th June

PA Event – Summer Fayre

Tuesday 28th June

Y4 Educational River Trip

Wednesday 29th June

Feast of St Peter & St Paul

Reception classes visit Greenwich Observatory

Friday 1st July

French Day

Friday 8th July

Sports Day

Wednesday 13th/Thursday 14th July

Y6 Production

Thursday 21st July

Last day of term

SPONSORED SKIPATHON IN AID OF THE BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION

The school council have organised a Sponsored Skipping Challenge on Wednesday 15th June, in aid of The British Heart Foundation. This skipping challenge will allow our children to take part in a physical activity that is fun, rewarding and healthy for the heart.

As well as skipping, we hope to raise money for the British Heart Foundation. Our school has been given new skipping ropes, worth £100, which the children can use at playtimes after the event.

Children are not obliged to raise sponsorship money to take part. All donations are voluntary so please only give what your family can afford.

It states on the form that money can be donated online, but we would prefer to collect the money raised so we are aware of the total amount collected.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION/ RECONCILIATION 2022-2023 AT CHRISTCHURCH

There is a meeting on Monday 27th June at 7pm in Christchurch to discuss the First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation 2022-2023 programme.

If your child is currently in Y2 (starting Y3 in September), or in Y4 and above and you would like them to participate on this course, please ensure you attend this meeting.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office at Christchurch Eltham elthamcommunion@rcaos.org.uk

Should any parents need to contact Fr John over the coming weeks please note that he is on holiday until Thursday 23rd June.

MATHS WEEK

All children took part in maths-based activities this week to celebrate St Mary's Maths Week. A visiting company came on site on Tuesday to run workshops for all the classes.

Our visitor set the children an exciting task, Major Tom, which required each class to solve mathematical challenges to decide which astronaut should be sent on the *Race into Space*.

Each class also had a workshop with Major Tom throughout the day. We shared the results of our investigations and found the winning astronaut, Stacey!

Throughout the rest of the week, children's maths lessons focussed on investigative and problem solving maths, using collaborative approaches to draw together the skills they have been learning all year. It was a fun week and the children enjoyed the challenges they were presented with.



CHILDREN'S CORNER

This week.....

Anne Casey, RB, received a badge and certificate for swimming 5 metres on her own! A brilliant achievement for a 4 year old!

Well done Anne.



CHILD SAFETY WEEK

This week (6 June – 12 June) is **Child Safety Week**, an annual campaign run by the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT).

According to CAPT, every day around 40 children, under-5, are rushed to hospital after choking or swallowing something dangerous. It can happen quickly and it can happen to anyone.

With this in mind, we would like to share with you some useful resources regarding food safety and choking prevention. Please click on the link below to read more information about keeping your children safe.

<https://www.capt.org.uk/pages/category/child-safety-week>

Y6 PRODUCTION

The Y6 children are busy practicing for their performance, ***The Heart of St Mary's***, which will take place on Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th July.

Please ensure that your Y6 child has their costume ready and brought to school by Friday 17th June.

ESAFETY – SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

What Parents Need to Know about Virtual Reality

Virtual reality (VR for short) has existed for decades, but it is only in the last 10 years that the technology has really become publicly available. With VR's rapid rise as a gaming and educational medium, there are plenty of unknowns regarding its use – for adults and children alike.

Is it safe? How long should someone use VR for? How expensive is it?

What is clear is that VR is becoming ubiquitous in everyday life: from companies using it for training to at-home fitness. Knowing what the technology is capable of is more useful than ever

Bringing new technology into the home requires thought about the balance between safety and healthy enjoyment. Ensure the children using the equipment are within the correct age limit. Younger children whose eyes are still developing should limit their time on the devices. Breaks must be taken regularly and parents must be aware of content.

PA NEWS

The PA are busy planning for the forthcoming events so they would like parents to save the following dates:

Friday 17th June – Father's Day gift sale. Gifts from 50p - £3.

Saturday 25th June – Annual Summer Fayre. Many thanks for all your donations so far to the Summer Fayre. We have quite a selection of soft toys but more **bottles** are needed for the bottle stall. It does not matter what the contents are but the more we have for the stall, the better your chance is of winning something special.

The **Money Tree Envelopes** were sent home in the children's bookbags today. Encourage your children to decorate the envelope and send it back to the main office with three coins of your choice inside. This is voluntary so only participate if you are able.

The **Cake Stall** will welcome all types of cake donations. The homemade cakes and buns go down a treat with a cup of tea but shop cakes are also needed. Please state if your cake is gluten free or contains nuts, as it is important that the customer is aware. Shop cakes can be left at the main office any time next week but anything homemade will have to wait until the day before the Fayre (Friday 24th June) or can be handed straight to the stall on the Saturday morning.

The **Annual School Magazine** will be on sale prior to the event so look out for more information.

Many volunteers are needed to help set up before the event and clear up afterwards as well as helping out during the day. Please give your name to the PA to let them know you can give up your time. It is a very worthwhile thing to do.

stmaryspaeltham@gmail.com

Wednesday 6th July – The PA are holding a meeting with food and drinks to say goodbye to the Y6 parents who have been part of the PA for many years. Everyone is welcome and if you have not been to a meeting before, this is a good time to introduce yourself. As one lot of parents leave, we need the new parents to take their places.

DINNER MONEY

Please ensure your child's dinner money balance is paid up to date. Payments can be made through Wisepay. If you have any queries please contact Mrs Jeffrey in the main office.

CAREERS DAY

We are planning to have a Careers Day for the children in years 5 & 6 before the end of the year. If you or you know someone who would like to come to the school to talk to the children, please let the office staff know.

We would like people from different career backgrounds to show case their jobs so please contact us for more information

SCHOOL VALUES: FAITH, MERCY, TRUTH, RESPECT, RESILIENCE, LOVE