

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 10th May 2024

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Nurturing Our God-Given Talents

WEEK BEGINNING 13th MAY

Sunday 5th May

First Holy Communion at Christchurch. We wish all the children a very special day.

Monday 6th – Thursday 16th

Y6 SATs

Thursday 16th May

Y4 River Trip

Friday 10th May

Rosary – 8.30am. Gym Hall
Pyjamarama Day

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

I am impressed by the innovative ways that our students have embraced **Catholic Social Teaching** within St Mary's. Children are identifying areas in their school and local community that they would like to develop including collecting litter, planting new seeds or sourcing junk modelling for our Early Years provision. Their actions are not only enriching their own lives but enhancing our school community and highlighting the impact of faith in action from an early age.

The choir's performance at the **Singing Spectacular** at Blackheath this week was truly outstanding. Led by Mrs McGarry, the children brought energy, precision and passion, showcasing the dedication and hard work they have put into their craft.

Both of these examples demonstrate that children living out our mission of **'Nurturing our God-Given Talents'**. Their success is a reflection of our philosophy of encouraging each student to explore and develop their unique abilities in a supportive environment.

We wish all our Year 6 students the best of luck for their SATs papers next week. We know that they will do their very best as they have worked so hard with a determined spirit.

Kind regards

Mr Sims
Headteacher

ROSARY

Our Faith Friends would like to invite parents, with their children, to join them next Friday, 17th May, saying the Rosary at 8.30am in the gym hall. This morning for the parents and at lunchtime for the Infants, the children reflected on The Second Glorious Mystery – The Ascension of Jesus into Heaven. Many thanks to everyone who came along.

I am with you always, to the end of the age." Jesus assures his disciples and us. Strengthened by the promise of the Lord's enduring presence, we can joyfully accept his commission to share the good news.



PRAYER AND LITURGY

Nadia and Vavara led prayer and liturgy today reflecting on the story of Jesus' ascension into heaven. The children asked their friends - *How will you be a good friend this week, just like the disciples were good friends to Jesus.*



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

CHAMBER CHOIR

Well done to the Chamber Choir for such an uplifting performance at Blackheath Halls on Wednesday evening, at the Singing Spectacular. The children were just wonderful!

Many thanks to Mrs McGarry for preparing the choir so thoroughly, to the children for working so hard, and to all the parents and grandparents for supporting the children at the event.

Take a look at Twitter to see some short videos of the performance.

<https://twitter.com/StMarysEltham>

LITERACY



This week Mrs Thaxter recommends.....

Dragon Mountain Ages 9+

When 12-year-old Billy Chan finds out his parents are sending him to a summer camp in middle-of-nowhere China he doesn't know what to expect. There he meets fellow campers Dylan, Charlotte and Ling-Fei and together they stumble upon an age-old secret: four powerful warrior dragons, hidden deep within the mountain behind the camp. They have been trapped since an epic battle with the Dragon of Death and need the children's help to set them free before terrible evil is unleashed on the earth. Billy and his friends must set off on a dangerous adventure that will take them to the heart of the Dragon Realm. But can they save the dragon and human worlds from destruction?

CHILDREN'S CORNER

This week.....

Rose Aslaner, 3G, recently completed stage 8 in her synchronised swimming club.

A tremendous achievement...well done to Rose!



Y6 SATS

Y6 children will begin their SATs (Standard Assessment Tests) on Monday 13th May.

The children are well prepared so please support the school by ensuring your children have plenty of sleep and have a healthy breakfast in the morning. We know the children will do their best.

School will start at 8.30am for the Y6 children, from Monday 13th – Thursday 16th) so please make sure they are on time. This earlier time is to help them feel relaxed before beginning. We will also provide them with a small breakfast treat.

Maths booster classes will take place on Tuesday 14th May. This will be the last booster session.

Weather permitting, the children will have a celebratory picnic on Friday in Eltham Park South. We ask that all children bring a packed lunch on this day. Please inform the main office if you would like the school kitchen to make a lunch for your child.

Y5 LITTER PICKING

Today, Y5 children went to Eltham Park South to litter pick. This was an initiative driven by our school councillors to help us live out the Catholic Social Teaching of Stewardship – looking after God's Creation. We had lots of fun and children were thanked by many members of the public for their hard work.



PYJAMARAMA 2024

Next Friday, 17th May, is Pyjamarama Day! We invite all children to wear pyjamas or onesies to school on this day and make a voluntary donation of £1 for the charity, **The Book Trust**. St Mary's staff will be joining in too!

This donation is voluntary so only give what you and your family can afford.

The Book Trust is the UK's largest reading charity. They support millions of children each year with books, resources and support to help develop a love of reading.

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







UNIFORM

Please ensure each item of your child's uniform is named clearly. At this time of year, children tend to take their jumpers and cardigans off in the playground and unless there are names on them, we do not know who to return them to.

The lost property bin is full so if your child is missing anything, please check to see if it is there.

SCHOOL COUNCIL SUGGESTIONS

Recently the school council had a wonderful suggestion from two Y5 school councillors. They spoke about how they were worried about litter in our area and wanted to do something to help. We spoke about how this would be truly living out our Catholic Social Teaching. Each class spent some time deciding on what they would like to do and are going to do it over the next few weeks. Your teacher will let the children know when they are doing theirs. Here is a list of what each class would like to do:

Year group/ Class	What they have decided to do	What Catholic Social Teaching does this link to?
Year 1	Visit B&Q to buy seeds and plant something Save paper for a week	 Chikondi the Giraffe Thinking of everyone (The Common Good)
Year 2	Planting	 Patariki the Penguin Taking part (Participation)
Year 3	Collect junk modelling and donate to EYFS	 Patariki the Penguin Taking part (Participation)
Year 4	Find something at home and donate it to charity or the school fayre	 Poppy the Pāpokotea Putting people in most need first (Option for the Poor)
Year 5	Litter picking	 Chikondi the Giraffe Thinking of everyone (The Common Good)
Year 6	Tidy Our Lady's prayer garden	 Sofa the Sloth Caring for God's gifts (Stewardship)

PA NEWS

Summer Fayre (Saturday 8th June).

If you can volunteer, please contact the PA, as many helpers are needed on the day. The more volunteers there are, the easier the event will be to organise. Volunteers are needed to set up before the event, during the day and for cleaning duties afterward. If there are not enough people to help, the event will not be successful and the future of the event is in jeopardy. Please use this link to sign up:

<https://volunteersignup.org/WTPPK>

The PA have already started collecting bottles and teddy bears for the tombola at the Summer Fayre. If you wish to donate a bottle, please take it to the main office where it will be looked after until the day of the fayre. Bottles must be full and unused. They can have anything in them e.g., squash, wash up liquid, bubble bath, alcohol etc.

Mrs Jefferys from the main office will be running the plant stall this year so if you can donate any plants, please let her know. This used to be a very popular stall so we are trying to revive it! We are appealing to all the gardeners out there to start propagating plants, both indoor and outdoor, so we can sell them at the fayre. All donations will be gratefully received. We would also love if people could make up window boxes and hanging baskets. Contact Mrs Jefferys as she will give you an idea what sort of plants are needed.

Many thanks for all your support.

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