

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 13th October 2023

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Nurturing Our God-Given Talents

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

In addition to the Ofsted schedule of inspections, St Mary's will also receive an inspection on behalf of the Archbishop to ensure we are witness to our Catholic values. This is called our Catholic Schools Inspection (CSI).

<https://catholicschoolsinspectorate.org.uk/about-us>

As part of our drive to continually improve the provision at St Mary's, this week we were visited by Stephen Beck, who is employed across our trust as an advisor for Catholic Life and Mission. He spoke to RE subject leaders, walked round the school, looked at books and spoke to our Faith Friends. He was very impressed with the Catholic Life and Mission of the school and gave us some advice on how we can improve further.

Thank you to Mrs Williams who invited me and a governor to participate in Year Six collective worship this morning, where Bethany and Olivia were leading. We were impressed with how confident they were and how well they planned and evaluated the prayerful session.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

J Sims
Headteacher

HARVEST DONATIONS – MESSAGE FROM THE SISTERS OF MERCY

*On behalf of the charities we work with, **Greenwich Night Shelter** and **Grace** we thank you for the very welcome donations of food this Harvest. The many people helped by these charities will benefit greatly from your wonderful generosity.*

A special thank you to the teachers and Faith Friends for their involvement in organising and delivering the donations.

Wishing each of you every blessing,

The Sisters

WEEK BEGINNING 16th OCTOBER

Monday 16th

Book Week begins

Wednesday 18th

Y6 Class Mass – Convent – 10am
Y3/4 Tag Rugby Tournament.
Blackheath Rugby

Thursday 19th

Book Week Parade – 9.05am
Y5/6 Tag Rugby Tournament.
Blackheath Rugby
Half Term begins – 3.15pm

Friday 20th

Inset day for staff training. Children should not attend school on this day.

FAITH FRIENDS

Many thanks to the parents who joined the Faith Friends for Rosary this morning. Parents are invited again on Friday 3rd November at 8.30am in the gym hall to say the Rosary.



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

BOOK WEEK

Monday 16th – Thursday 19th
October

The details of our upcoming book week are attached once again. Please read them so you know what is happening next week. We are all looking forward to celebrating this special week with the children.

The Travelling Book Fair will be open all week (gym hall). Children will be able to look at the books at lunch times and parents will be able to come to the hall after school to take a look at the books. Children will be able to purchase the books; the more books that are sold, the more money we will be able to spend on books for the school. All the children will benefit from this.

On Monday:

- **Cara Matheson** (author) will be signing during her afternoon visit
- **Maria Hennings Hunt** (author) will be selling and signing books in the gym hall after school

On Tuesday:

- **James Allen** (author) will be selling and signing in the gym hall after school

On Wednesday:

- **Dan Freedman** (author) will be signing during his afternoon visit.

On **Thursday 19th October**, the children can come to school dressed up as a character from their favourite book. Please do not go to great expense; see what you can make at home.

Weather permitting, parents will be able to see the children parade around the Infant playground in their costumes (9.05 am). The parade will last approx. 30 minutes.

LITERACY



This week Mrs Thaxter recommends.....

The Ship of Doom
Ages 10 and up

Luna thinks that an evening at her aunt's butterfly club sounds deathly boring. But it turns out that the meeting, held in the Butterfly Room at the Greenwich Observatory, is not at all as Luna expects. The Butterfly Club is a society with an unusual secret . . . they use time travel to plunder the future for wonders. Together with her friends, Konstantin and Aidan, and a clockwork cuckoo, Luna boards the Time Train. The gang travel to 1912 and find themselves aboard a great ship travelling from Southampton to New York. They locate a man called Guglielmo Marconi and his new invention: the wireless radio. But as the ship heads into icy waters, they discover its name: The RMS TITANIC Can Luna and the boys save Marconi and his invention from the doomed ship? Can they get the radio back home to the Butterfly Club? And how will their actions change the rest of time?

POETRY COMPETITION

In celebration of National Poetry Day on October 5th, Royal Borough Greenwich are inviting all students from Greenwich borough schools to enter their **poetry competition**. This year's theme is **REFUGE**. Children can write any type of poem that they like, inspired by the theme of refuge and feeling safe. The maximum number of lines is 20.

There will be a winner and a runner up for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Children can hand their entries to Mrs Thaxter (with their full name and class) by Friday 17th November.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

This week.....

Oscar Cope, 2E, completed his swimming stage 3 and is now aiming to complete stage 4.



Tilly Lark, 1C, achieved gold level 2 in her gymnastics group. She demonstrated her ability to complete all ten skills.



Well done to the children for their achievements!

ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance is essential for children to make good progress in school. Put simply, if children are not in school, then they are not learning. School attendance is monitored very closely by the local authority and we have a robust system in place to ensure that our students' attendance remains high.

One part of this strategy is that parents are written to, on a half-termly basis, when their child's attendance falls below 95%. Mrs Jeffrey in the office oversees this process and we ask that parents are supportive and understand the rationale behind.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

During the month of October, the UK celebrates Black History Month. There are many events taking place this month across the country, celebrating key figures who have made substantial contributions to this country.

Please have a look to see what exhibitions are taking place in the museums in London, such as The Horniman Museum. They have a schedule of very interesting events taking place throughout the month.

<https://www.horniman.ac.uk/series/black-history-month/>

The children at St Mary's will focus on black people in sport. Please encourage the children to research lots of interesting facts to share with their class.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Classes 1C, 2F and RA held Collective Worship today. Well done to the children for leading their class with their special message. Class A shared the story of *Jonah and the Whale* and class C read *David and Goliath*.



Y6 SECONDARY TRANSITION

Applications for secondary school must be submitted by **Tuesday 31st October**. If any parent would like help with the application forms, please speak to the office staff. The ladies can organise a meeting to help with the application process.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

At the school council meeting this week the children discussed the new sharing book box in the parent area. Evan Loynton brought a 3D model he made with ideas on what it should be called and how it should be painted. The school council went back to their classes to vote.



PA NEWS

There are still some tickets available for fireworks night so if you would like to purchase some please click on the link below. The display this year is taking place on Saturday 4th November at The Oaks (Eltham Town Football Club). It is a fantastic night to enjoy with family and friends.

<https://buytickets.at/stmaryspa/1012846>

Volunteers are needed to help with the stalls. All the PA ask for is 30 minutes of your time between 6pm and 7pm on the day (Saturday 4th November). All volunteers will get free entry to the event.

<https://volunteersignup.org/HERWW>

Please click on the link above to volunteer.

MESSAGE FROM CHRISTCHURCH

Form Signing for Primary and Secondary School

If you attend Christchurch and would like Fr John to sign your school form (nursery, reception or secondary school) see times below. Please ensure you have the correct time in your diary. Booking is not essential.

Date	Time
6 October	14.30pm – 16.00pm
7 October	10.00am – 11.30am
13 October	15.30pm – 17.00pm
14 October	10.00am – 11.30am
20 October	15.30pm – 17.00pm
21 October	10.00am – 11.30am
28 October	10.00am – 11.30am
10 November	15.30pm – 17.00pm
17 November	15.30pm – 17.00pm

Date for your diary:

Sunday 26th November – Christchurch Christmas Fayre

10am – 1pm. More details will follow after half term.

Donations of toys, bottles and unused gifts needed for the stalls. Donation bins are situated at the back of Christchurch.

VACANCY FOR SENCO

We would like to appoint a new member of staff as a SENCO teacher at St Mary's. Please click on the link to read the full details about this role.

Closing date for applications is Friday 20th October 2023 at 10am.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

<https://www.stmaryrc.org.uk/School-Vacancies/>

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