

**Weekly Newsletter**  
**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**St Mary's Catholic Primary School**

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**WEEK BEGINNING 16<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup>**

Guitar lessons resume

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>**

Y6 secondary transition/Kingswood meeting 6pm

Y6 Class N Mass in Convent

### MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

Our Reception children have completed their first full week at school. The children have all settled in nicely, getting used to their new routine. Well done to all the children and to the parents for their support.

This is just a reminder that the register is taken at 8.55am every day, in both the Nursery and the main school. However, we have a 'soft start' system; Nursery children can arrive from 8.30am and the children in the main school are allowed into class from 8.45am. It is important that the children are in class for registration and morning prayers (8.55am) to ensure a calm and mindful start to their day.

#### **Blackheath Rugby**

The school have partnered with Blackheath Rugby Club again this year to provide coaching sessions in school with our Y3-Y6 children. This will culminate in a rugby festival where children will get the opportunity to compete against other schools. This is a fantastic opportunity for our children to play competitive sport and engage with our local community.

We look forward to warmer temperatures next week!

Enjoy the weekend!

Kind regards

Mrs Hansen

Head of School

### PRAYER AND LITURGY

Hugo Landais and Jacob Rameriz, 5K, led a wonderful prayer and Liturgy session in Class K today, sharing the story of the Creation and asking the other children some really insightful questions.



### FAITH FRIENDS

Our Blessed Virgin Mary celebrated her birthday on 8<sup>th</sup> September. The Faith Friends led the rosary in the prayer garden today to celebrate this special birthday, helping the younger children to use their rosaries.



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

## HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our annual Harvest Festival is taking place on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

As part of Harvest Festival every year, St Mary's collects food/toiletry items for a charity and this year we are supporting a charity supported by the Sisters of Mercy.

Please try to donate, even just one item. Food must be non-perishable, sealed and in date e.g., tinned foods, rice, pasta tea, coffee, herbs and spices.

These items can be dropped to the main office from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September or brought straight to class.

## LITERACY



*This week Mrs Thaxter recommends a poem.....*

**Roger McGough, Mrs Moon**

*Mrs Moon  
Sitting up in the sky  
Little old lady  
Rock-a-bye  
With a ball of fading light  
And silvery needles  
Knitting the night*

This poem will follow the poem taught in Infant story time today.

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

This week....

Ania Zajac, 4I, completed her Grade One ballet exam recently and received a certificate.

Very well done Ania!



## MATHS AND PHONICS WORKSHOPS

Mrs Thaxter and Miss Brophy are holding a phonics workshop on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 9am for parents of children in Reception. This will take place in the gym hall. The teachers will talk through the phonics system that is used at school. Please come along if you can.

Details of the workshop can be viewed on our website:

<https://www.stmaryrc.org.uk/Reading-at-home/>

Mrs Green will be holding a maths workshop on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 9am in the gym hall. This is open to all parents/carers from Reception – Y6. The workshop will be an overview on the way children are taught maths at St Marys'.

Details of this workshop can be viewed on the website:

<https://www.stmaryrc.org.uk/Maths-at-St-Mary-s/>

## Y6 SECONDARY TRANSITION EVENING

Y6 parents are invited to a meeting on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm** to hear all about the application process for secondary school and the residential journey to Kingswood in January 2025.

The meeting will take place in the **gym hall at 6pm**. It is important that you attend to ask any questions you may have about this important process. Mr Sharp, the Headteacher of St Thomas More Comprehensive, will be in attendance to answer any questions you may have about their application process.

If you are interested in a place for your child in St Thomas More Comprehensive, please visit their website to book a place.

<https://www.stmcomprehensive.org/83/announcements/announcement/5/open-daysevenings>

Please note that applications for secondary school must be submitted by Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October.

## CLAIMING FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you feel your child is entitled to Free School Meals, please ensure you complete the necessary paperwork. Ask the office staff to guide you. **Enquiries will be treated confidentially so please do not hesitate to ask any questions.** It is very important that parents enquire about pupil premium as families can really benefit. Many families may be experiencing financial hardship as the cost of living is increasing, so please do not hesitate to speak to the office staff (Mrs Jefferys or Mrs Jeffrey).

Although Infants and Juniors are entitled to free meals, they too can apply for pupil premium if parents' financial situation is below a certain threshold. Every school receives extra funding if parents make successful claims. Parents are encouraged to look into this as children can benefit in so many ways (help with music tuition, subsidising after school clubs/educational visits etc.)

## MUSIC

We have had an overwhelming response to instrumental lessons for children in Y3 – Y6. The music tutors try and offer children what they have requested. Children will be informed as soon as the lists have been compiled.

Payment for lessons should be given directly to the tutors. Look out for details in your child's bag. Tutors require half terms notice if your child decides they want to quit. Please ensure this is put in writing to the tutor.

Instruments can be hired from school. The fee is £15 per year. Payment can be made on Wisepay.

Orchestra practice takes place every Wednesday in the gym hall from 12.15pm – 12.45pm. Please make sure you bring your instruments to school as it is important to attend every week. If you would like to join the orchestra please speak to Mrs McGarry. The children must be having lessons inside or outside school on their chosen instruments.

Church Choir: Mrs McGarry also runs a church choir in Christchurch. This children's choir leads the singing at the 11.30am Mass on Sunday at Christchurch twice a month. It is open to children from Y3 – Y6. There is no need to audition for this. Please let Mrs McGarry know if you would like to be part of this choir.

## MESSAGE FROM CHRISTCHURCH

### First Holy Communion Preparation

If your child is in year 3 or above and you want them to receive the sacrament of First Communion, please note that the First Holy Communion course commences on Saturday 21st September at Christchurch.

To enrol your child in this meaningful program, please complete the online application by **Monday 16th September**.

[https://www.christchurcheltham.org.uk/First-Holy-Communion-Course-2023\\_2024/](https://www.christchurcheltham.org.uk/First-Holy-Communion-Course-2023_2024/)

## VACANCY

### CLASS TEACHER- FULL-TIME, FIXED TERM MATERNITY COVER

Please view the details of this position on our website. If you have any questions, please speak to Mrs Pampling, Business Manager.

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

## PA NEWS

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, the PA will be holding a meeting at 6pm in the dining hall to discuss the upcoming events for this year. All parents and carers are welcome to attend.

At the same time, we will be holding the Annual General Meeting of the Parents' Association where all members of the committee must step down and be re-elected. This year, Marta Inkin (the Secretary) and Iryna Shkilna (co-Treasurer) are stepping down from their roles. We are, therefore, looking to fill these positions. Being a registered charity, we must fill the roles.

**Secretary** - this can be a role shared by 2 individuals. The secretary is in charge of daily communication between the PA and school/parents, as well as various administrative duties such as taking notes during PA meetings, renewing licences and keeping volunteer lists for various events.

**Co-Treasurer** - this role will be shared with Ania McGinnes (current co-treasurer). Treasurers are jointly responsible for control and management of PA funds and bank accounts, completing end of year reports, ordering cash floats for events and paying suppliers.

The remaining nominations are as follows:

1. Co- Chair - Helen Marchant and Laura Brewster
2. Co-Treasurer - Ania McGinnes and TBC
3. Secretary or Co-secretary - TBC
4. Voices of the PA:

- Claire Maskell Gibson
- Michelle Prove
- Marta Inkin
- Shelley Ross-Harding

If you would like more information or to put yourself forward for any of these roles, please let us know at [stmaryspaeltham@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryspaeltham@gmail.com) and come along to the meeting. St Mary's Catholic School Parents Association (PA) contributes significantly to the school. Whether it's providing tools to aid children's learning in the classroom or purchasing equipment for the playground, we are an important resource to the school.

The St Mary's PA Committee organises various events at our school with the aim of building a community and raising funds for the children - all proceeds of our events go directly to the school so that the students benefit from new items and maintenance of safe play and sporting areas.