

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 20th September 2024

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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WEEK BEGINNING 23rd
SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 24th

Harvest Mass in Christchurch – 10am

Thursday 26th

Beginning of the Year Mass at St George's Cathedral – 10.30am

Phonics Workshop for Reception Parents – 9am

Friday 27th

Y2 Great Fire of London Workshop

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

The election for our new Head Boy/Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy/Head Girl took place this week, reminding children of how they are represented in the democratic process. We were very proud of all the children who put themselves forward for the role.

After final nominations the school elected:

Head Girl – Maja Harding
Head Boy – Nicholas Dunne

Deputy Head Girl – Betsy White
Deputy Head Boy – Alex Brzozowski

These children will accompany me to the "Beginning of the Year" Mass in St George's Cathedral on Thursday 26th September.



Have a restful weekend!

Kind regards

Mrs Hansen

Head of School

FAITH FRIENDS

The Faith Friends shared the story of Creation with the infant children. They made posters to show how God created the world.

We thanked God for our beautiful world and we all sung "He's Got the Whole World in his Hands".



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

PRAYER AND LITURGY

Bryony and Raphael, 1D, led the prayer and liturgy session this week. They prepared and decorated the altar with lots of things that God made, to remind us of the story of Creation.



Enrico and Coco, RA, shared the Creation story in their class. The children explained how we should take care of the world that God has given us.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our annual Harvest Festival is taking place on Tuesday 24th September.

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 16th September or brought straight to class.

One of the charities the Sisters support are in desperate need of school shoes. If you have any shoes, in good condition, that you no longer require please bring them to the main office and we will pass them on. Many thanks.

LITERACY



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

Fair Play Benjamin Zephaniah

*Mirror mirror on the wall
Could you please return our ball?
Our football went through your
crack
You have two now
Give one back*

MATHS AND PHONICS WORKSHOPS

Mrs Thaxter and Miss Brophy are holding a phonics workshop on **Thursday 26th 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 2nd 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 Mary's.

Details of this workshop can be viewed on the website:

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

CHILDREN'S CORNER

This week....

Sophie Saunders, RB, has progressed and moved up into the next level of her swimming lessons! A brilliant achievement for Sophie!



Lily Maskell Gibson, 3H, recently achieved 1st and 2nd places at her first ever swimming gala!

Very well done Lily!



PA NEWS

On Wednesday 2nd 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 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.

APPLYING TO ST MARY'S

If you, or if you know someone who is applying to St Mary's for a place in Reception or Nursery 2025, please refer to the website for application details. Parents are required to complete a Certificate of Catholic Practice and an information form, and return them to the main office with your child's baptism cert and a proof of your address by Wednesday 15th January 2025. You must also apply to your local authority.

<https://www.stmaryrc.org.uk/Admissions-04122019150956/>

We have three open mornings for parents and carers to come and visit – Tuesday 1st October, Tuesday 12th November and Tuesday 7th January. Please phone the main office to book onto the tour.

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/>