

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 22nd September 2023

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Glenure Road, Eltham. SE9 1UF
020 8850 7835

governors@stmarys-catholic-primary.org
office@stmary-rc.greenwich.sch.uk

Twitter: @stmaryseltham

Visit us online at www.stmaryrc.org.uk



Nurturing Our God-Given Talents

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Thank you to everyone who attended our celebration Mass this afternoon including students, parents and the Sisters of Mercy. This weekend is the 'International Sisters of Mercy Day'; this is the day that Catherine McAuley first opened the House of Mercy in Ireland.

We were honoured to be visited by six Sisters who joined us in the hall afterwards for a gathering.

I spoke about our new mission which the school has been developing over the last six months. It is inspired by the Bible and puts God right at the heart of everything we do.

Please talk to your children about how we all are 'Nurturing Our God-Given Talents'.

Have a great weekend.

Mr Sims

WEEK BEGINNING 25th
SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 27th
Class G Mass - Convent

Friday 29th
Y2 Great Fire of London Workshop

Own Clothes Day in aid of the British Red Cross to aid the people in Morocco and Libya after their disasters.

OWN CLOTHES DAY
FRIDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER

The school council have asked for the school to have an own clothes day to raise funds for the people in Morocco and Libya after the disasters that recently engulfed their countries. Children are encouraged to come dressed in the colours of either flag. It is not necessary to purchase new clothes for this day, just use what you have at home. A voluntary contribution, to be donated to the British Red Cross, is recommended.

We must always remember these people in our prayers.

Morocco – red and green
Libya – red, green, black, white.

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

LITERACY



This week Mrs Thaxter recommends.....

This is a new feature in the newsletter each week. Mrs Thaxter will recommend a book to encourage the children to get reading.

The Book of Stolen Dreams by David Farr Ages 9-11

When Rachel and Robert are passed a stolen book by their librarian father, they have to go on the run and protect it at all costs. With their father captured and everyone hunting for the Book, they must uncover its secrets and track down the final, missing page. But the cruel and calculating Charles Malstain is on their trail. When the children discover the astonishing, magical truth about the Book, they resolve to do everything in their power to stop it falling into his hands. For if it does, he could rule forever.

BOOK WEEK

Monday 16th – Thursday 19th October

Please see attached details of book week. We are all looking forward to this exciting week when the children will immerse themselves in books!

The children can dress up as a character from a book on Thursday 19th October. Please do not go to great expense but see what creations you can put together from items you have at home. Get creative and involve your children in the process. It's more fun that way!

Weather permitting, parents will be able to see the child parade around the Infant playground in their costumes.

FAITH FRIENDS

Our Faith Friends have been very busy sorting the harvest donations. They gave time at lunchtime today to help out.

Many thanks to parents for the generous donations. These items will be given to the Sisters of Mercy, who will distribute them to the chosen charities; Greenwich Winter Night Shelter and GRACE (Greenwich Refugee Aid and Community Enterprise). Always keep in mind those less fortunate.



CHILDREN'S CORNER

This week....

Hettie Martinez, 6M, has been selected to train weekly at London Junior Ballet at Arts Ed School in Chiswick. Hettie will undertake lessons in ballet, pilates and performance.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

Emelia Marnham, 4I, made this wonderful suggestion box for her class. The children will be encouraged to put forward suggestions for the school council to consider.



CAR FREE DAY

Friday 22nd September is worldwide car free day. This initiative is aimed at encouraging people to leave the car at home, just for one day every so often.

Taking part will help to improve the air quality around our school, reduce the congestion around Glenure Road and help keep everyone healthy by travelling to school actively.

PA NEWS

The PA would like to invite parents to their first meeting of the new school year on 2nd October. This is a great opportunity for parents to meet the PA, meet other parents and discuss current school and PA affairs. More details will follow next week.

They are in the process of organising the annual Fireworks Night! The display this year is taking place on Saturday 4th November at The Oaks (poster attached). Tickets will go on sale online on Friday 29th September. There are a limited number of tickets so watch this space and grab yours quickly!

Volunteers are needed to help with the stalls. All they 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 display. Please use this link <https://volunteersignup.org/HERWW> to sign up.

There will be a costume sale on 6th October, time tbc. If you have any costume which you would like to donate, please drop it off at the main office by the end of September. Examples of what the PA are looking for are:

- Christmas Jumpers
- World Book Day costumes (which can be used for the World Book Day in October)
- Ugly Bugs (Nursery children)
- Superhero Day (Reception)
- Victorian Day (Y2 children),
- Stone Age Day (Y3 children),
- Mayan Day (Y4 children),
- Roman Day (Y4 children),
- Greek Day (Y5 children)

Many thanks for your support.

SCHOOL FUND

Each year we ask parents for a voluntary contribution (£10 per family) to subsidise extra events. If you would like to contribute, please log onto your child's Wisepay account where you will see "**School Fund 2023/2024**".

This fund helps to subsidise visiting theatre companies, merit awards etc. All children in the school benefit from these special events.

Many thanks for your support.

Y6 SECONDARY TRANSITION

If you are interested in a place for your child in St Thomas More Comprehensive, please note their open evenings take place on **10th, 11th and 12th October**. Please visit their website to see the different timeslots to book a place. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/st-thomas-more-catholic-comprehensive-school-71507663123>

St Thomas More has specified that only one parents attends from each family. If you have any questions, please speak to their main office (020 8850 6700).

Please note that 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.

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 23rd September at Christchurch.

Please ensure you arrive on time for the lesson.

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 rapidly 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 their 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.)