

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 2nd September 2022

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Glenure Road, Eltham. SE9 1UF

020 8850 7835

headteachers@stmary-rc.greenwich.sch.uk

governors@stmarys-catholic-primary.org

office@stmary-rc.greenwich.sch.uk

Twitter: @stmaryseltham

Visit us online at www.stmaryrc.org.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHERS

It has been great to see all our families and we wish those students who are starting our school the warmest welcome to St Mary's. All children have come into school with excitement and a passion for learning.

Over the summer, works have been completed around the school. I have written to parents previously about the following large infrastructural projects that have taken place:

Replacement of Boilers, Flat Roof Project, Fire and Electrical Rewire, Pitched Roof Project

The school has been able to apply for specific funding since becoming an academy – these works have totalled more than £1 million pounds.

Whilst these projects are fundamental to the long term future of the school, it would be fair that the children perhaps haven't noticed these benefits. However, they were very excited to see the first half of the renovation of the junior playground (second half to be completed over next two weeks). I am also pleased to show pictures of the new shade sail and sand pit that have been installed in the nursery area.

I am delighted to announce that we have some new members of staff joining the team at St Mary's who we have endeavoured to make feel very welcome today.

Mr Williams (Class K Teacher); Miss Kohl (Trainee Teacher from Germany); Mrs O'Shea (Teaching Assistant); Mrs Samuels (Midday Meals); Mrs Black (Midday Meals)

Also following their marriages last year, Miss Collins will now be known as Mrs Thaxter and Miss Dineen will be known as Mrs Pita (pronounced Peeta).

Lastly you will all be delighted to see Miss Phipps on the gate on Monday morning who will be returning for three days a week as co-Headteacher.

Have a great weekend.

Mr Sims



WEEK BEGINNING 05/09/2022

Monday 5th

Ten new children to start in each Reception class (8.55am – 12 noon)

Tuesday 6th

Another ten children in each Reception class will start (8.55am – 12 noon)

Wednesday 7th

The final ten children will join their Reception class (8.55am – 12 noon)

Thursday 8th

All 60 children will have joined their respective Reception class. Children should be dropped off at 8.55am and collected at 1.15 pm. The children will stay for lunch.

From Monday 12th September

Reception children will stay at school all day (8.55am – 3.15pm)

Nursery parents have already been notified about their child's start date.

UPDATED PICTURES



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

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We are very proud of our school uniform, as the children look so smart. The children can wear their summer uniform until October half term, as hopefully the weather will stay mild until then. School uniform can now be purchased from **JK Clothing, 148 Well Hall Road, London SE9 6SN**. It will no longer be available from the school office.

Uniform can be bought online or in store:

<https://www.jkclothing.net/>

Hairstyles should be neat and tidy, not severe and, for example, lines and steps are not permitted. Please do not use any product in your child's hair during school time. Save it for the weekend. Long hair should be tied back and please ensure that bows are small and navy blue. Children must not wear earrings to school.

PE - It is essential that every child has a PE outfit. This should be brought to school in the St Mary's PE bag. Do not forget that as it gets colder, children will need a warm tracksuit (plain navy blue) for outdoor use. Junior children may wear trainers but infants must have plimsolls.

We will keep parents informed of any preloved uniform sales that will take place. If you have any uniform that is no longer needed please leave it at the main office.

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 2022/2023**".

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.

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 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.)

SCHOOL DINNERS

The fee for children taking school dinners this half term is **£93.24**. Please make payment for your child via Wisepay.

Children are only allowed to change their lunch pattern at the beginning of each half term. Please do not change without informing the main office. Should your child have any concerns about lunchtimes, please do not hesitate to contact one of the office staff or speak to your child's teacher.

If your child brings a packed lunch to school, ensure that you do not include fizzy drinks, sweets or chocolate bars. We would encourage children to have a nutritious lunch that will sustain their energy for the second half of the school day.

Infant children are given a piece of fruit each day and junior children can bring their own piece of fruit to have mid-morning.

All infant children (**Reception – Y2**) can have a hot meal each day, free of charge. This scheme, Universal Free Meals, is not means tested. Of course, if you would prefer your child to bring their own packed lunch, that is fine but we encourage the children to have a hot meal if they can.

MUSIC NEWS

The music tutors will be on site from Monday 12th September. If your child was having lessons in school last year, they will continue to be given lessons. They will be given their new time before their lessons start.

Mrs McGarry is holding auditions for the Chamber Choir on **Wednesday lunchtime for children in Y3/4 and Thursday lunchtime for children in Y5/6. All children in these year groups are welcome to audition.**

The children need to prepare a short section (verse and chorus) of any song to sing. Chamber Choir takes place every Thursday from 3.15pm – 4.30pm for the children who are successful at their audition.

If your child is already a member of the Chamber Choir, and would like to carry on, please let us know. Alternatively, if they no longer wish to be part of the choir please inform us so the space can go to a child who wants to take part.

School orchestra will resume at lunchtime on **Wednesday 14th September.** This is open to children in Y4/5/6 who are having regular instrument lessons, either in school or outside school, on any instrument except piano.

There are spaces for all instrument lessons (flute, clarinet, brass, guitar, violin) open to all children from Y4 – Y6. Children in Y3 may be able to join if there are spaces – we will assess the situation before the end of this half term.

BOOK NEWS

We are asking children to search at home for any schoolbooks that may be lurking! The book corners in the classrooms are looking a bit bare so please ensure that any schoolbooks are returned. The school stamp will be on any book that originated in school.

We will also be resuming our bookshop this term. As soon as the times and dates have been confirmed we will inform parents.

WALKING TO/FROM SCHOOL

Please make the school aware if your Y5 or Y6 child is walking to/from school on their own. A letter or email is required so we can keep this information on file.

KEY DATES

Key Dates for the year are currently being compiled so look out for them. The calendar on the school website has already been updated with some dates. We endeavour to inform parents as soon as these dates are confirmed as working parents may need to book time off work for certain events.

GIVING MESSAGES TO THE MAIN OFFICE

If another adult is collecting your child, please inform the main office by phone call or email. The teachers will not let any child go unless it has been confirmed who is collecting them. Sometimes this may happen at the last minute but we will need a message before we hand your child over. Your child's safety is very important, so thank you for your co-operation on this matter.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

All after school clubs will resume week beginning Monday 12th September. Details about registering your child will be sent to parents next week.

Please note that some clubs are over subscribed so act quickly if your child is keen to join.

If your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium, please speak to the office staff about the after school clubs and how we can help you.

ESAFETY

Your children have returned to school a little bit more mature than they left! Please take a look at some safety advice to keep your children “*smart*” whilst online.

BE SMART ONLINE

- S SAFE** Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online don't give away things like your full name, password or home address. Remember personal information can be seen in images and videos you share too. Keep them safe to keep yourself safe.
- M MEET** Meeting up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, can be dangerous as this person is still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information or for photos/videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together on www.thinkuknow.co.uk.
- A ACCEPTING** Think carefully before you click on or open something online (e.g. links, adverts, friend requests, photos) as you never know where they may lead to or they may contain viruses. Do not accept something if you are unsure of who the person is or what they've sent you.
- R RELIABLE** You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true. To find reliable information compare at least three different websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you have found.
- T TELL** Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel upset, worried or confused. This could be if you or someone you know is being bullied online. There are lots of people who will be able to help you like your teachers, parents, carers or contact Childnet – 0800 11 11 or www.childnet.org.uk
- BE SMART WITH A HEART** Remember to always be smart with a heart by being kind and respectful to others online. Make the internet a better place by helping your friends if they are worried or upset by anything that happens online.

WWW.CHILDNET.COM