

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 6th October 2023

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Nurturing Our God-Given Talents

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

This week I was so pleased to welcome prospective parents around the school. Firstly, the Chamber Choir impressed them with a performance of 'Only you'. It made me so proud of our wonderful singers and I could see that parents were moved in the audience. After a short presentation by me, our school ambassadors stepped in to show them round the school.

In an effort to keep improving our school, I asked parents to provide feedback and received the following comments:

'I was totally blown away by the amazing choir - they were absolutely incredible, you are right to be very very proud of them, and the rest of the pupils at the school.'

'Thank you so much, both teachers and children were incredibly friendly, helpful and responsive. It was really clear that faith was at the centre of this school.'

St Mary's is a very friendly school I got that impression right away. It is proud of its achievements but not boastful. I noted that children were studying well in class and really engaged in their studies. Even the younger children walking to assembly in line were so well behaved.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

J Sims
Headteacher

OCTOBER – THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY

October 7th is the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Many thanks to the parents who joined the Faith Friends for Rosary this morning. Parents are invited on Friday 13th October and Friday 3rd November at 8.30am in the gym hall to say the Rosary.



WEEK BEGINNING 9th OCTOBER

Tuesday 10th

Y6 Tag Rugby Tournament in Colfe's School 10am – 2pm

World Mental Health Day. The theme this year is 'Mental Health is a Universal Human Right'

Reception Class B Parent's Evening (3.30pm – 6pm)

Wednesday 11th

Y4 Class Mass – Convent – 10am

Parent's Evening 3.30pm – 6pm

Thursday 12th

Parent's Evening 3.30pm – 6pm

FAITH FRIENDS

Thank you for all your donations for our Harvest Festival this year. This week, our Faith Friends delivered all donations to the Sisters of Mercy so they can distribute the items to their chosen charities; Greenwich Winter Night Shelter and GRACE (Greenwich Refugee Aid and Community Enterprise).



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

BOOK WEEK

Monday 16th – Thursday 19th October

Please see attached the details of our upcoming book 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 have to spend on books for the school.

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
- **Emer Jefferys** (illustrator) will be selling some of her illustrating work 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 a 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 (9.15am). The parade will last approx. 30 minutes.

LITERACY



This week Mrs Thaxter recommends.....

Young, Gifted and Black
Ages 7 – 10

In this book, you will meet 52 icons of colour from the past and present in this celebration of inspirational achievement. Strong, courageous, talented and diverse, these extraordinary men and women's achievements will inspire a new generation to chase their dream... whatever it may be.

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**.

Last year, we had some fantastic entries on the theme of **The Environment**. Brendan Behan wrote an amazing poem and won a book voucher. Fionn Doyle and Valentina Robles Miranda got special mentions too!

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.....

Archie Clark, 41, won the conker competition at his Cubs meeting this week. He was very happy with his achievement!



PARENTS EVENINGS 11TH/12TH OCTOBER

Parents (Nursery – Y6) can book their timeslot for parent's evening on Wisepay until Monday 9th October at 11am. Please ensure you have taken a note of the times you have booked. The appointments will run from 3.30pm – 6pm on both days. Each appointment is 10 minutes long. When booking timeslots for more than one child, please allow time in between appointments.

Miss Brophy (RB) is unable to see parents on Thursday 12th so has scheduled her meetings on Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th October.

Mrs Green, our SENCO, will see parents on Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th October.

The children will finish at the slightly earlier time of 3pm on Wednesday and Thursday. Please ensure your child is collected promptly. After school clubs **will not take place** on either day. The wraparound care, Allkidscan, will take place as normal.

Children who normally walk home on their own cannot leave unaccompanied by an adult before 3.15pm.

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 display. Please use this link <https://volunteersignup.org/HERWW> to sign up.

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>

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.

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/>

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) please take a look at the times he will be available. Booking is not essential.

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

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 Museum of London. They have a schedule of very interesting events taking place throughout the month.

<https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/museum-london/london-black-history>

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.