

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 8th September 2023

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Welcome back everyone in this hot weather.

We are so pleased to welcome all our new students this week to St Mary's. They have settled in so well and are ready for the year ahead.

When walking around the school, I have been so impressed about how well our children have started the year. They are eager to learn, well behaved and working hard.

On the staff Inset day I spoke to staff about the Catholic identity of the school. Starting with its origins from Sr Catherine McAuley in Dublin, moving to our former school site on Eltham High Street and finishing in our wonderful building on Glenure Road; it is an inspiring story that helps us understand who we are.

Our faith underpins everything we do at St Mary's and I look forward to achieving many things this year, with our school values guiding us.

Enjoy the weekend!

Kind regards

Mr Sims

Headteacher

WEEK BEGINNING 11th SEPTEMBER

Monday 11th

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

Children who attend all day Nursery will stay for lunch

Wednesday 13th

Class N Mass - Convent

Thursday 14th

Class I Swimming – Eltham Centre

Friday 15th

Blackheath Rugby Club on site – KS2

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.

To enrol your child in this meaningful program, please complete the online application by **Friday 15th September**.

www.christchurcheltham.org.uk/First-Holy-Communion-Course-2023-2024/

Many thanks.

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 be purchased from **JK Clothing, 148 Well Hall Road, London SE9 6SN**. 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 wear 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.

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.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

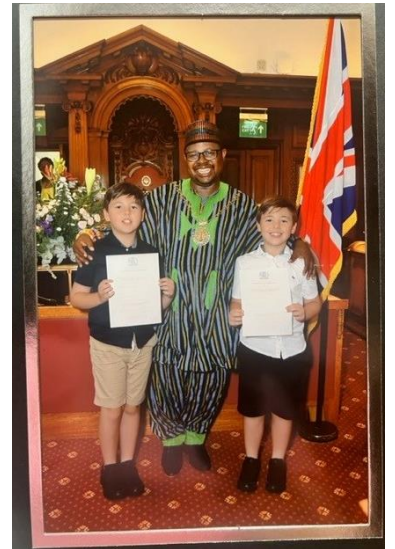
Well done to Jack Birtchnell-Winter (1D), Anna Chiosso (3G) and Verity and Grace Masterson (2F and 6N) who completed the Summer Reading Challenge at Eltham Library. All the children received certificates and Anna received a medal!



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Well done to Julian and Jake Labuschagne (4I and 6N) who successfully completed their British Citizenship application and were awarded the honour at a special ceremony this week.

Well done to the boys!



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

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.)

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

All after school clubs will resume week beginning Monday 11th September. Details about registering children in clubs have already been sent. Many of the clubs are now full so please contact Mrs Jeffrey in the main office if you have questions.

Y6 football for boys and girls will resume but the date has not yet been confirmed. Please look out for information.

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.

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.

MUSIC NEWS

The music tutors will be on site from Monday 11th September. If your child was having lessons in school last year, they will continue to have lessons. There are spaces for all instrument lessons (flute, clarinet, brass, guitar, violin) open to all children from Y3 – Y6. Children will be notified once the new timetable has been confirmed.

Mrs McGarry is holding auditions for the Chamber Choir on **Tuesday lunchtime for children in Y3/4 and Wednesday 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 13th September.** This is open to children from Y3-Y6 who are having regular instrument lessons, either in school or outside school.

PA NEWS

On our first day back at school, many of you will have seen members of the PA giving out details of their new website to parents. Please take a look; <https://stmaryspaeltham.wixsite.com/1234>.

The PA work very hard to benefit our school so many thanks to them. If you wish to sign up and become a member please contact them on stmaryspaeltham@gmail.com.

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