



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 2020 Issue 10

Dates for your diary

Friday 11th December MUFTI - Christmas Jumper

Friday 11th December – In school Christmas Fair Activities for children

Monday 14th – Friday 18th December – Gratitude Week

Wednesday 16th December – Nativity online

Wednesday 16th December – Christmas Movie Afternoon

Thursday 17th December – Christmas Carol Concert online

Friday 18th December MUFTI - It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas – Christmas Fancy Dress

Friday 18th December – Last day of term

Monday 22nd December – Friday 1st

January Christmas Holidays

Monday 4th January – Start of Spring Term

Friday 15th January – Deadline for Primary School Admissions

Tuesday 9th February – Parents' Evening

Tuesday 9th February – Safer Internet Day

Wednesday 10th February – Holy Communion Meeting – details circulated via the Parish

Thursday 11th February – Parents' Evening

Monday 15th – 19th February – Half Term

Change to May INSET day

Please note that there has been a slight change to our term dates for this year. Our May INSET day will now be on **FRIDAY 28TH MAY** (the Friday before the half term) rather than Friday 21st of May. I hope that this will actually be more convenient for families and that this is sufficient notice for it not to be disruptive.

Christmas Carol Concert

Next week we will be filming the grande final Feliz Navidad of our Christmas Carol Concert on Friday 11th December. The children will hopefully look very festive in their Christmas jumpers but feel free to add any extra Christmassy touches the more antlers, Santa hats and jingle bells we have the better!

Friday 4th December 2020

Dear Parents,

I can hardly believe that it is December already but the sights and sounds of Christmas are certainly filling the school.

The children are hard at work rehearsing for our Nativity and Carol Concert and it is wonderful to see their enthusiasm. Like all of you, I am sad that we won't be able to welcome families to the school and the church to celebrate with us in person. It is always such a magical time of year, made all the more special by us sharing in it together.

However, I am thrilled to tell you that both the Nativity and the Carol Concert will be online in the final week of term to help get you in the Christmas spirit. A huge thank you to all the staff who are working so hard to prepare the children, the stage and record and edit the performances. It is another wonderful reminder of the Mary Mag's team spirit.

Gratitude Week

I am always incredibly grateful for the team work and sense of community that our school has and I looking forward to the chance to celebrate during Gratitude Week which will take place during the last week of the autumn term.

Whilst we face many challenges this year it is wonderful to share some of the things we are grateful for and a fantastic way to lift our spirits.

If you would like to say thank you to someone in our community then you can add to our community kudoboard on the link below:

<https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/1cMay7Vi>

I know that time is short, particularly at this time of year but a little thank you goes a long way and I am sure that reading these contributions will really lift all our spirits.



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Christmas Card Competition Winner

A huge congratulations to Gabriella Grech who was chosen as one of the winners of the Council Leader's Christmas card competition. This competition is open to all Richmond schools so it is a real achievement to have won a prize. Well done Gabriella!

Christmas Fair

Just a reminder that our Virtual Christmas Fair is online:

<https://patchworkit.com/35735/Gr>

with lots of festive fun for you to take part in. Next Friday, 11th December, the children will have a chance to take part in some of the competition activities in school and you can then pay online to enter them into the competitions for a chance to win some fantastic prizes.

Virtual Walk to Lapland

It's 1,851 miles from our school to Lapland, and our challenge this December is to cover this as a community!

In the place of our usual Santa Fun Run, the PTA is encouraging everybody to pledge money (or ask a friend or relative to pledge on your behalf), and cover a distance of your choosing to help us reach our target. You can complete your distance in one go, or break it down and complete it gradually between now and Christmas Eve. Take part as a family, or challenge the kids - it's a great excuse to keep active and spend time outdoors, plus help the environment by choosing to leave the car at home.

To help us reach Santa by Christmas Eve:

1. Choose your distance – no distance is too small, and you can walk, run, scoot or cycle.
2. Pledge money (or ask a friend or relative to sponsor you) via our Virtual Fair website, and let us know your distance in the message section at check out.
3. Enjoy completing your challenge, and look out for our progress updates!

Thank you to everybody who has participated so far - we've covered just over 60 miles, so have almost reached Dover!

Tea Towels

If you are still looking for a Christmas gift that is stylish, useful and unique? Then look no further than St Magdalen's tea towels. These have been flying off the shelves since their arrival last week but I am delighted to say that a few are still available via SCOPay at the very reasonable price of £5 for one of 2 for £8.

Drying up has never looked so good so grab one (or two) whilst stocks last!

Food Bank Donations

Thank you for the kindness you have shown already with the amazingly generous donations to the local foodbank. We have already taken ten boxes of food and other essential items to the foodbank – quite an achievement. We will be collecting until the end of term so it's not too late and remember every little counts.

Changes to Statutory Assessments

Many of you will have seen that due to the ongoing disruption caused by COVID-19 the approach to the 2021 national curriculum assessments have changed. For your children this will mean:

No tests in Year 2 although formative and summative assessments will still take place and teacher assessments will be made.

No English grammar, punctuation and spelling test for Year 6 although this will still be assessed by the school and the children will still sit English and Mathematics papers.

Year 4 will still participate in the times table check although this is no longer statutory and Year 1, and some pupils in Year 2, will take the phonic screening test at the end of the year.

The results from these assessments, and teacher assessments in all subjects, will still



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be reported to you at parents' evenings and in the end of year reports.

If you wish to find out more about the changes and the rationale behind them more information can be found at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-measures-to-support-students-ahead-of-next-summexams>

Term Dates 2021-2022

For those of you already thinking ahead to next year and perhaps even planning a holiday. These are the term dates for next academic year:

AUTUMN TERM 2021

Wed 1st Sept INSET Day – School closed
Thurs 2nd Sept Autumn Term Begins
Mon 1st Nov INSET Day – School Closed
Fri 17th Dec - School closes for Christmas Holidays
Half Term: Mon 25th – Fri 29th Oct

SPRING TERM 2021

Tues 4th Jan Spring Term Begins
Mon 21st Feb INSET Day – School Closed
Fri 1st Apr School closes for Easter Holidays
Half Term: Mon 14th – Fri 18th Feb

SUMMER TERM 2021

Tues 19th Apr Summer Term Begins
Fri 29th Apr Catholic INSET Day - School closed tbc.
Mon 2nd May Bank Holiday
Fri 27th May INSET Day - School closed
Fri 22nd July School closed for Summer Holidays
Half Term: Mon 30th May – Fri 3rd June

Headteacher's Awards for Exceptional Work

All the children in our school are stars but those listed below shone a little brighter over the last week:

Year 1 – Turtles – Arthur Heyland

Year 3 – Seals – Beatrice Heyland,
Georgie Murray, Tomas Whitmore,
Vanessa Luscevka, Zoe Mangion

Year 6 – Orcas - Gabriella Grech

Year 6 – Blue Whales - Jenna Carlton,
Oscar Woolfenden

Well done to the children listed below who were Diving Deep this week:

Seahorses – Henryk Likasik

Turtles – Cara Weldon

Starfish – Finlay Black

Angel Fish – Amelia Wilkes

Seals – Eva Hughes

Dolphins – Jacob Szymczak

Manta Rays – Nuala Harrington

Blue Whales – James Clop

Orcas – Giovanni Braga

Certificates will be given out in
Monday's Assembly

Please do take a look at our calendars of kindness on the next page. I hope you have a wonderful weekend with your children.

Mrs Hughes, Headteacher



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Calendars of Kindness

Thank you to all the children who brought in calendars of kindness this week. They were not only beautiful on the outside but they were also full of wonderful ideas on the inside. I am sure that they will be an excellent addition to your Advent preparations.

All the calendars were amazing and prizes were awarded to these fantastic examples.