



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 2020 Issue 1

Dates for your diary

Sadly, there are fewer dates for our diaries than usual! However, we are looking at alternative ways to share the events that take place on the school site and will let you know about our plans as soon as possible.

Saturday 3rd October - First Holy Communions

Wednesday 7th October 7pm - Secondary Transfer Meeting Online for Year 6 Parents

Thursday 8th October – Nasal Flu Vaccinations

Tuesday 20th October – Parents' Evening 4 – 6pm (by phone)

Thursday 22nd October – Parents' Evening 5 – 7pm (by phone)

Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October Half-term

Monday 2nd November - INSET Day
School Closed

Wednesday 16th November – Individual Photographs tbc.

Friday 18th December – Last Day of Term

Monday 22nd December – Friday 1st January Christmas Holidays

School Governor

Currently, we have a vacancy for a school governor at St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School. This position involves you volunteering some of your time in the service of the school community. It is very rewarding and you would be one of an experienced 12 member governing body. All governors are required to have a DBS check as part of our commitment to Safeguarding. For more information, please contact Chair of Governors: Anna Brown at

annabrown@hotmail.com [07950021042](tel:07950021042)

Friday 25th September 2020

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to be able to move away from letters about logistics and risk assessments and share with you some of the news from school this week.

Thank you for your continued support with the measures we have put in place to help keep the children safe, happy and healthy in school.

As part of this effort, the Local Authority has suggested that all visitors wear masks on the school site even if they are outside. Whilst wearing face masks on site is not compulsory, it is another way that we can minimise the risk of spreading the virus and it acts as a good reminder to us all not to linger on the school site – despite the great temptation we might have to stay and chat.

Thank you also for continuing to follow our staggered entry times and one way system. Unfortunately, we have received several complaints from our neighbours since the start of term regarding increased traffic on Worple Street. Please park and walk wherever possible rather than driving down the road to drop off.

Reception

It is always such a privilege to welcome the youngest pupils and their families into our school community.

A huge congratulations to Seahorse Class who have just finished their first full week at St Mary Magdalen's. There have definitely been some tired children leaving school at the end of the day, but it is no surprise when you see the smiles and laughter that fill our Reception class. A huge thank you to all the parents, Miss Everingham and Mrs Lally, who together have made this transition so successful.



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Seahorses, we are so proud of you and how well you have settled into school life!

School Leaders

This week, we held elections for different roles within our school; School Councillors, Prayer Monitors, Librarians and Eco Committee members. This is a great way for our children to begin to understand democracy and to have opportunities to take on positions of responsibility that help their community. We rely tremendously on our Year 6 pupils to be ambassadors both within and outside our school and they are doing a fantastic job. I am thrilled to share with you that we have appointed the our Head Boys and Girls for the year, their able Deputies and our House Captains, and they are all hard at work on projects within the school.

House Captains

Campion: Victoria and Edward

Fisher: Devora and Julia

Mayne: Brendan and Evan

More: Rudy and Oscar

Head Girls: Stephanie and Eimear

Head Boys: Louis and Daragh

Deputy Head Girls: Ariyana and Sophia

Deputy Head Boys: Jonathan and Tom
McCarthy

Outside Space

As you will know, we are using our outdoor space more than ever. This began last year with outstanding support from the parents in Year 1, who cleared the outdoor area to create a "wild and free" learning space.

Now, more than ever, it is vital that we continue to develop and utilise this space to support our pupils' health and well-being.

We are incredibly grateful to Sophie Harrison, who has worked tirelessly last year and in these first few weeks of term to continue this transformation. I hope you will all get a chance to view her handiwork as you leave the school past our arbor, which has been replanted to create a wonderful sensory bed that will flourish over the next year.

First Holy Communions

One of the great sadnesses of lockdown and this continued period of relative isolation is the fact we cannot come together as a community to celebrate Mass.

We were particularly sorry that last year, the children in Year 3 were unable to receive their First Holy Communion.

Despite all the obstacles in their way, I am delighted that the children will be able to receive this blessed sacrament at Masses on Saturday 3rd October. I know you will join with me in thinking of them in your prayers.

I am sure all those involved would like to extend their thanks to Father Adrian, Mrs ElKhoury, Sophie Saunderson and Veronica Carey for all they have done in preparation for this very special celebration.

PTA Welcome

A very warm welcome back from the PTA Committee! We are excited to be back and really look forward to working with you, albeit in slightly different ways while the current restrictions remain in place.

The PTA has always played a large role in reinforcing our sense of community, and we feel that this is more important than ever at the moment. We will also continue to fundraise - events in school may not be possible at this time, but it will be exciting to explore new ways of coming together and raising money. We



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

are particularly keen to gather your thoughts on this, so any ideas you might have for fundraising remotely would be greatly appreciated.

As parents and carers, you are all automatically members of the PTA. However, we are always looking for new people to join our Committee - we meet twice a month to discuss PTA matters, and you can commit as much or as little time as you like. If you would like more information, or have any general questions or comments, please drop us an email at claireviolin@gmail.com or gabriela_dhir@hotmail.com.

We will be in touch soon with more information about the term ahead. In the meantime, we have a date for your diaries! Our first PTA meeting of the school year will take place online from 8 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday 13th October. This is always open to all parents, carers and staff, and we would love to see you there!

Best wishes, Gabriela Dhir (Chair - Y6F, Y4 and Y2), Claire Grindal (Secretary - Y4), Liz Dixon (Treasurer - Y6F), Sophia Arcari (Y2 and Y1), Michelle McCarthy (Y6D), Gemma O'Reilly (Y2) and Rob Stanger (Y4)

Easyfundraising and Amazon Smile

Our school is registered for Easyfundraising and Amazon Smile, which means you can raise money for our PTA when you shop online at no extra cost to you!

Here's a reminder of how it works: Visit <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> (or download the app), register your details and select 'St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School, Mortlake' as your cause.

Every time you shop or book online, check whether you can do it via Easyfundraising - there are over 3,700

companies registered with the site, including big names such as Expedia, John Lewis and Sainsbury's. For Amazon, visit <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/> and log in using your usual details (or activate Amazon Smile within the app). When asked to select a charity, search for 'St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School, Mortlake' and choose it as your organisation. You only need to do this once - any eligible online purchases you make will then result in a donation being made to our school.

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



Seahorses – Lily Pepper	
Turtles – Elena Ogura	
Starfish – James Dolan	
Angel Fish – Julio Araujo Filardi	
Seals – Elias Carter	
Dolphins – Marcel Schab	
Manta Rays – Chelsea Silva	
Blue Whales – Aaron William	
Orcas – Minnie Wyatt	

Head Teacher'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 6D – Blue Whales

Jenna Carlton
Minnie Wyatt

Year 2T – Angel Fish

Antonio Stephenson
Emilia O'Reilly
Joshi Szymala
Louis Parletti
Magda Wood

Reception - Turtles

Celina Gorny

I hope you have a wonderful weekend with your children.

Mrs Hughes, Headteacher