



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 2020 Issue 5

Dates for your diary

Apologies for the errors in the dates in previous newsletters. Please see the dates below which have been double and triple checked!

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

Monday 2nd November - INSET Day school closed

Thursday 5th November – MUFTI for the winning House - Mayne

Wednesday 18th November – Individual Photographs tbc.

Thursday 19th October – Year 2 Scooter Training (2T)

Thursday 26th November – Year 2 Scooter Training (2D)

Friday 27th November - INSET Day school closed

Friday 18th December – Last Day of Term

Monday 22nd December – Friday 1st January Christmas Holidays

Reporting Absence in Half Term

As our first half term comes to an end, I hope you will all have a happy and healthy break. However, if your child does become ill during the half term break and subsequently receives a positive COVID test, it is important that you inform the school.

As the office will be shut, we would ask you to inform us of this via email. A dedicated email address has been set up:

absence@st-marymagdalens.richmond.sch.uk

This will be monitored daily and will enable us to act promptly and keep parents and pupils informed. Please do include a contact number in your email if you need us to contact you to provide you with any additional advice or support.

Friday 23rd October 2020

Dear Parents,

I am so thrilled to finish the half term with all the year groups back in school. It meant that today has been a true Autumn Celebration.

It has been an eventful few weeks and I am so proud of the children and how they have risen to the challenges of being back at school. I have learnt so much from their resilience and enthusiasm.

I am also very grateful to our parents who have been so supportive and insightful. You have recognised the difficulties of opening a school during this extraordinary time and have continued to support your children and our community in true Mary Mags style.

Finally, I am deeply indebted to all the staff at the school. Despite all the challenges and uncertainty they have faced, they have continued to work tirelessly to make our school a safe, happy and exciting place to be.

Half Term House Champions

At St Mary Magdalen's, every child belongs to one of four houses, Champion, More, Fisher and Mayne. These houses are named after saints who provide the children with an example of how to live their lives.

The houses are also a great way for children to work together across the school and a wonderful opportunity to build a sense of unity even when we can't be together physically. They are ably run by our eight house captains who are full of great ideas for the year ahead.

During our transition back to school, we have had a whole school focus on behaviour and expectations. Our rewards system also allows us to give the children House Points and this half term the winning team, which achieved an impressive points total of 393, was Mayne.



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Children in **Mayne** will be allowed to come to school in **mufti on Thursday 5th November** as a reward. We will send an email to all the parents of the children in Mayne to remind you. Good luck to all the other teams for next half term!

Parents' Evenings

Thank you to everyone for their participation in this week's Parents' Evenings. It was great to hear your feedback on your children's return to school.

The teachers have worked hard to put in place individual targets for pupils to help ensure they make the best possible progress. We are blessed to have such supportive parents and our strong home school partnership is key to our pupils' success.

If you have not returned your child's books to school, they **MUST** come back after half term as they enable us to carefully monitor your child's progress and the Maths and English provision across the school.

School Council

Our pupils are our greatest asset at St Mary Magdalen's and I am delighted that our Head Boys and Girls and their able Deputies recently created an assembly for the whole school about our School Council.

The children did a fantastic job explaining what the school council does and some of the ideas they would like to discuss. These included wearing costumes to school to allow children to enjoy some Halloween festivities, new equipment, class plants and an art auction to name but a few.

We are looking forward to holding our first meeting after half term and gathering some more great ideas from around the school to put into action as we continue to "dive deep".

Half Term Homework

I am sure many of you have noticed that the children are very tired at the end of a long half term. It has taken a lot of energy for them to adjust to being back at school full time and to the expectations and behaviour this entails.

We will not be setting any homework this half term. Well-being remains at the forefront of our minds and we feel that it is important for the children, parents and staff to have a restful and relaxing break.

If you would like to do an activity to support your child's well-being please explore www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/parents-and-carers/coronavirus-wellbeing-activity-ideas-for-families/ This link is also available on the stream in your child's Google Classroom.

Christmas Cards

We have organised an exciting Christmas Design Project for this Autumn term. This week, your child will have brought home an A4 sheet of paper on which to create a Christmas design, along with an order form to order a range of products.

The Christmas designs can be professionally printed and purchased on a range of products including cards, tags, wrapping paper and gift mugs.

Please read the artwork guidelines printed on your child's order form. Most art materials can be used, but colour pencils, white or silver attached to a white background and photographs are not recommended. Bold and bright designs that fill the paper produce the best effect. Large areas of white background are less effective. Important details must not be



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placed within 5mm of the edge of the paper.

You can find some ideas for your designs here: <https://www.cauliflowercards.co.uk/christmas-gallery> Artwork must be attached to the order form with the arrow on the form circled indicating the top of the work. Please keep designs flat and damage free, as marks will show on the final print.

Orders and payment must be made online using the unique code located at the top of the pupil order form. Please refer to your order form for further instructions.

Each order form must be unique so please do not photocopy the form for other members of your family - you can get extra copies from the school. All artwork where orders have been placed must be **returned to school by 6th November**. Cards will be delivered by the beginning of December.

Autumn Celebration

Despite the restrictions we face, it is still very important that we give the children opportunities to have fun and make memories.

I am incredibly grateful to the PTA Committee, and to the fantastic team of parents who helped to transform our school hall for our Autumn Celebration and provided snacks and prizes.

Pupils had a wonderful time at our school disco. Thank you to the staff for their help with each of the bubbles and the logistics this involved, and a big shout out to Miss Nugent and Mrs Barrett for manning the wheels of steel. An afternoon of dancing, fun and laughter was a wonderful end to our first half term back at school.



The children loved being able to wear fancy dress to school and there were some incredibly beautiful and terrifying outfits on display! Our costume competition winners were delighted. Well done to Ariyana (Y6), Leon (Y6), Georgina (Y5), Livia (Y4), Mia (Y3), Nyah (Y2), Max (Y2), Alexia (Y1) and Emily (Reception).

Headteacher's Awards for Exceptional Work

All the children in our school are stars. Those listed below shone very brightly this week:

Year 5 - Oliver Maza, Tallulah Desouza, Rosie O'Connell

Year 4 - Angus Aitchison

Year 3 - Beatrice Hayland, Bertie Grech, Grayson Oliver-Harrocks, Harriet Fox, Marianna Goncalves, Raffi Borghossian

Year 2 - Nyah Christopher



St. Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School



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



Seahorses – Cristiano Gorges
Turtles – The Whole Class!
Starfish – Gabby Whiteway
Angel Fish – Matilda Harrison
Seals – Ellie Tusiime
and Tomas Whimore
Dolphins – Bennie Smithson
Manta Rays – Ivy Akpabio-
Klementowska
Blue Whales – Emma Jean Williams
Orcas – Isabella Peska

I hope you have a wonderful half term with your children and I look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Tuesday 3rd November.

Mrs Hughes, Headteacher