



# ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Newsletter - Autumn 1 | 3rd September 2021

Welcome back to the start of a new school year; I hope you and your children have had a happy and healthy holiday. It was wonderful to see the children returning to school with such enthusiasm after the summer break yesterday. I am always particularly proud of the children who feel a little wobbly on these occasions. They are so brave and have settled really well with the help of their new teachers and teaching assistants. Thank you to everyone for arriving so promptly to enable us to start lessons at 8.40am. This new start time is enabling us to fit in additional lessons and to make sure that all our children are taught by our specialist Art, French, Music and PE teachers.

## **Return to School - Staying Safe**

As you know, the children are no longer in bubbles. However, we continue to put in place a number of measures to help reduce the spread of the infection. These include staff testing, ventilation, enhanced cleaning, scheduled handwashing and a continued emphasis on the need to catch it, bin it and kill it.

We will have a range of equipment in school but we would ask that where possible, children bring in their own named pencil case, pens, pencils, glue sticks, scissors and rulers. This will reduce the amount of cleaning and hand washing we will need to do and also helps prepare our older children for secondary school.

Obviously, we hope that these measures will help prevent spread within the school and the wider community. Cases within the locality last week did fall. However, evidence from Scotland suggests that pupils returning to school has caused a significant spike in infections and we have to be mindful that we may have to reintroduce restrictions at any time.

Whilst primary school children are not being asked to test regularly, we would appreciate it if you could inform us if your child tests positive for COVID and has to isolate. This will ensure we can provide remote learning on Google classroom if they are well enough to complete work. It will also enable us to monitor the spread and change the measures we have in place if required. If someone in your child's class tests positive we would ask you to take them to get a PCR test in line with the guidance from Track and Trace. It is vital that we all play our part to keep our children in school and the most vulnerable members of our community safe.

Although we have all been focused on measures relating to the pandemic, it is also important to remember our more general safeguarding measures. We want to make sure our school is always a safe place and to ensure this, please make sure you sign in at the office if you need to go into the school building. Parents and carers should only enter the school via the main reception. This will ensure our school site is safe and secure.

## **Volunteers**

We have really missed having volunteers in school, particularly those who helped regularly hearing the children read. We are hopeful that we will soon be able to welcome volunteers back into school and once we can see that

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measures in place are preventing spread within our community we will look into how volunteers, events and celebrations can take place without risking children and families getting sick or having to isolate.

### **Parent Teacher Meetings**

At the start of every year, we look forward to meeting with parents to talk about the year ahead. Last year, these meetings took place online and were recorded for those parents who could not attend. This year, we will also have online information meetings whilst we continue to monitor the spread within the school at the start of the year. You will be able to access the meeting via a link in your child's Google Classroom. In order to answer all your questions, it is helpful if these can be sent to us in advance. You can send questions via this Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/yAf43xA8CzHhu1Fr8>

Year group specific questions should be placed under the year group heading.

The meetings can be accessed via your child's Google Classroom login by clicking the link in the banner at the top of the page. The meetings will start at 5.30pm on the following dates:

Monday 13th September - Year 5 and 6

Tuesday 14th September – Year 3 and 4

Wednesday 15th September – Year 1 and 2

Thursday 16th September - Reception

### **Contact**

We are so fortunate to have such engaged and supportive parents and good home school communication is vital to this. If you would like to make an appointment to speak to your child's teacher or if you have a message for them, please contact them via the school office [admin@st-marymagdalens.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marymagdalens.richmond.sch.uk). Please do not email teachers directly or via Google Classroom. We will always try to respond to you promptly and will answer urgent issues as quickly as possible. However, please do be mindful of the fact that teachers are in class all day with the children.

### **Uniform**

Our uniform is a great source of pride for us both within school and when our children are out in the local area – they act as wonderfully smart ambassadors for our school. I know there have been problems with our school uniform suppliers and with stock in shops. However, it is really important that all children wear the correct uniform as it really helps us to come together as a school community.

Last year, our school council suggested that all children should be able to wear shorts and trousers and our pupils voted in favour of this. As a result, we have changed our uniform and the new uniform is below. As you will see, now both boys and girls can wear grey school trousers or shorts and all children can wear polo shirts with their choice of bottoms (not just Year 6). This second decision has been made as many girls in key stage two could not find striped dresses that made them feel comfortable and confident in school.

If you are having problems finding any of our uniform, we will be putting secondhand uniform out in the playground on rails next week and the week after for you to take. There will be buckets available for you to make a donation of your choosing depending on what you need. We will not be able to take online payments.

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Winter (autumn 2 and spring term)	Summer (autumn 1 and summer term)
white shirt school tie short/long light grey trousers or light grey skirt or pinafore dress red school v neck jumper or cardigan white or grey socks or tights sensible black shoes red/white, hair ribbons/bands.	white open necked short sleeved school polo shirt (no tie) short/long grey trousers or light grey skirt or pinafore dress red/white candy stripe dress (not checked) red school v neck jumper or cardigan (if needed) white or grey socks sensible black, red or white shoes – closed toes and heels school sunhat red/white hair ribbons/bands.
PE	navy and red polo shirt navy and red shorts or navy and red tracksuit bottoms red sweat shirt socks trainers or plimsolls Optional item: red fleece. PE bag  PE Uniform should be worn to school on the days when children have PE lessons. Your class teacher will share these days with parents at your information meeting.

### Clubs

Clubs will start the week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> September. You will be sent all the information about the clubs and how to book next week.

### Term Dates

We look forward to sharing some more dates with you in the next few weeks. Just a reminder of the term dates this year with a change to the end of the summer term:

#### Autumn Term

Thursday 2nd September – Autumn Term Begins

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September – Reception children in until 11.45am

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September – Reception children in until 1pm

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September – Reception children in full time

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October – Half Term

Monday 1st November – INSET Day (School closed)

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December – School closes for Christmas Holidays

#### Spring Term

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Spring Term Begins

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February – Half Term

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February – INSET Day (School closed)

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April – School closes for Easter Holidays

#### Summer Term

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Summer Term Begins

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April – Catholic INSET Day (School closed)

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Monday 2nd May – Bank Holiday

Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June – Half Term

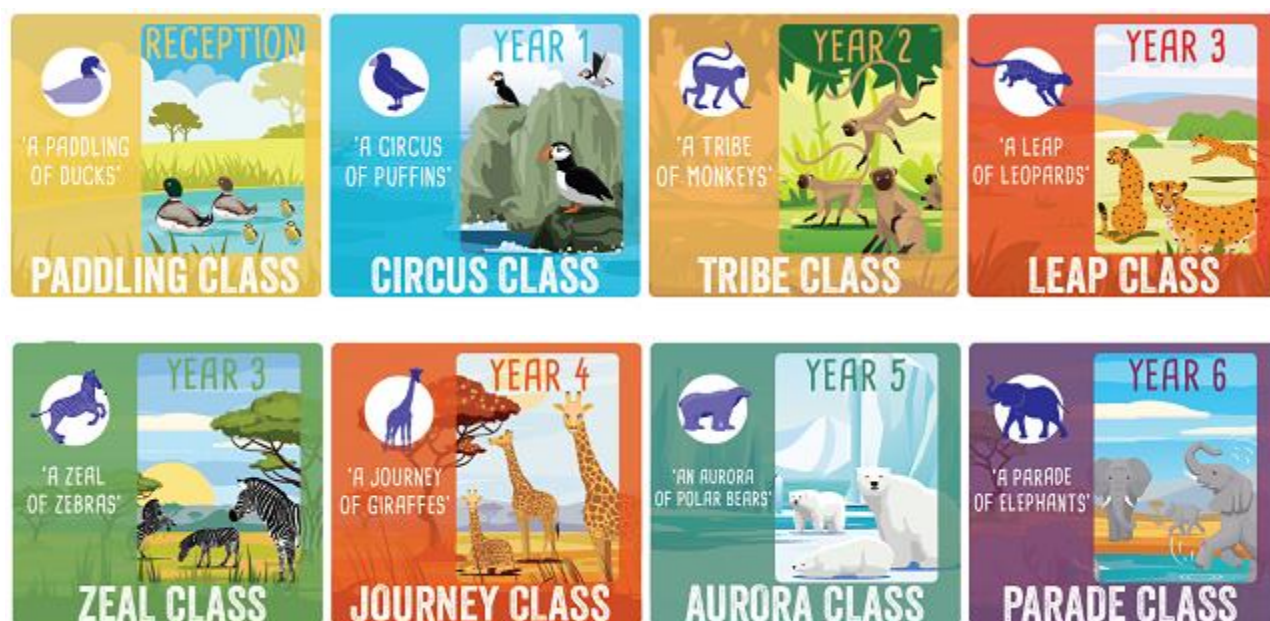
Friday 27th May – INSET Day (School closed)

Thursday 21st July – School closes for Summer Holidays

## Theme

As many of you know, every year we have a new theme based on our priorities for the year and each of our classes has a name based on this theme. Last year we had so few opportunities to come together, yet our sense of community was still so strong. This year we are hoping to have lots of opportunities to come together and celebrate our school family, so this year will be the year of the Family and we will be celebrating and exploring how we are “Stronger, Wiser, Kinder: Together.”

We hope to be able to run a range of activities for the children across the school and have lots of opportunities for us to come together and contribute to our wider community. As we will be thinking about what family means to us all and the different families we are part of, the class names are the collective nouns for a range of different animals. They are:



Part of being a family is celebrating our successes but as you know it is equally important that we help each other when times are hard. Whilst many of you will have had a wonderful holiday, I am aware that this time and the transition back to school can be very challenging for some of us. Please remember that we are here to help. We have a range of resources that we can provide, or support you to access, which can help you, your child and your family. Please don't hesitate to contact us.

Thank you in advance for your continued kindness and support. We are looking forward to a wonderful year together,

Catherine Hughes,  
Headteacher

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