



# ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Newsletter - Autumn 4 | 24th September 2021

I hope you will find the autumn information letters useful in terms of what your child will be learning this term. They have been put into your child's Google Classroom, along with their timetable, so that you can refer to them as and when you need to. Thank you to the teachers for preparing these.

## Dates for your diary

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September - Secondary School Information Meeting 7pm - <https://meet.google.com/yob-kujs-jeg>

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October – Parent Teacher Association Annual General Meeting 8pm

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Mass

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October – Parents' Evening

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Flu Immunisation – Reception – Year 6

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Parents' Evening

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

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November – INSET Day (School closed)

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Service – Led by Year 6

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Advent Liturgy

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Nativity Play Dress Rehearsal – Led by Year 2 – 10am

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Nativity Play – Led by Year 2 – 10am

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Key Stage 2 Carol Service – Led by Year 4 – 7pm

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Last Day of Term

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Start of Spring Term

## Safety

As many of you will be aware, cases of COVID are rising within the locality and within local schools. In secondary schools, this has resulted in additional testing and even whole year groups being sent home to isolate. In local primary schools, it has resulted in the reintroduction of additional measures such as staggered timetables - this can happen on the advice of Public Health England if it is deemed necessary in order to stop the spread.

Reports from other local schools suggest that Track and Trace is not contacting close contacts promptly and so we will write to you if there is a case within the school or if it is possible that your child is a close contact. We would ask you to continue to be vigilant and keep your child at home if they have COVID symptoms, making sure they have a negative PCR before they return to school.

Other schools are asking children identified as close contacts to remain at home until they have a negative PCR. However, government guidance says that children can come to school whilst they are awaiting the result of a PCR if they do not have symptoms. We would simply ask you to continue to closely monitor your children for any symptoms.

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If your child is at home with COVID but is not unwell, please inform the school office and we will make sure that they have access to the lesson slides and work that will be taking place in class. Obviously, if they are unwell we will not set any work as they need to rest and recuperate. We will also address gaps in learning on their return to school. We continue to look at ways that we can address the impact of COVID through a tailored curriculum and targeted interventions that aim to address children's academic progress and also support their mental health and well-being.

Thank you in advance for all you are doing to help stop the spread within our community. Currently, we have not been informed of any cases within the school which is incredible but we wish to err on the side of caution in light of the national and local rise in cases. Consequently, we are holding off inviting volunteers into school this half term but we hope to be able to welcome parents for some events as the dates above suggest. As a small school, moving back to bubbles will be very disruptive for the children as it impacts immensely on our timetable and staffing. We are therefore doing all that we can to avoid this and we appreciate your ongoing support. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and will keep you informed.

### **PTA – Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

The PTA look forward to welcoming you to their AGM at 8 p.m. on Tuesday 5th October. The meeting will be in the school hall, with drinks and nibbles provided, and will only last one hour. At least one Rep from each class is expected to attend, but it would be great to see as many people there as possible - you'll get to learn more about their fundraising, meet new parents and hear about (and suggest) future events. It's also a great opportunity to find out more about the PTA Committee, who are looking to welcome new people to their lovely team.

The PTA is an invaluable part of our school not only in terms of fundraising but also because it is vital in building our strong sense of community, from the amazing communication of our Class Reps to the range of events they run throughout the year. It's wonderful to be able to hold an in-person meeting for the first time in over 18 months, and we really look forward to seeing you there.

### **PTA Lottery**

Don't forget our weekly School Lottery! For those new to the school, there is a guaranteed winner in our weekly school draw, with an added chance of winning up to £25,000 as part of a national draw. The lottery also helps to raise much-needed funds. Parents, wider family and the local community can all take part by buying tickets from as little as £1 each. <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/st-mary-magdalens-roman-catholic-primary-school>

### **Parents' Evening**

Later this half term (Tuesday 19th and Thursday 21st October) we will be having our parents' evenings. These are an opportunity for you to meet with your child's teacher and discuss how they are settling into their new year. Last year we could not welcome parents to site and whilst this was a shame, I know for many families, a call to your home was actually more convenient. In light of the cases rising we will be offering these evenings remotely again this year. However, if you feel that you need to see your child's teacher in person, please contact the school office to arrange a parents' evening appointment. We hope that in February we will be able to welcome you to school and share your child's work with you.

### **Secondary Transfer**

Next week, we will be holding our secondary transfer information meeting to give you a little more information about the process. Richard Burke, the Headteacher of St Richard Reynolds Catholic College, will also be attending to speak to you about the school and answer questions.

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However, as the **deadline for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> October**, I wanted to include the following information for those of you considering applying to Catholic Schools. Catholic Schools in Southwark require a Priest's reference with the Supplementary Information Form (SIF). Some schools require you to seek this from your Parish Priest to return with the form, others will write to the Priest after you have sent in your SIF. Catholic Schools in Westminster require a Priest's reference with the SIF in the form of the Catholic Certificate of Practice. If you are applying for another Faith School, such as Christ's, then be aware of the priority given to different denominations

The Priest's reference must be sought from the Parish where you regularly attend. If you require a Priest's reference from Fr Adrian, please remember to return the Parish Request form. As in previous years, this has to be collected from Fr Adrian after Mass (it cannot be sent digitally like last year). Fr Adrian requires a minimum of 7-10 days to complete paper references so **17 October** is the last day to hand in forms to be returned on **24 October** to give families time to return them to schools by **31 October**.

### **Pupils of the Week**

Reception – Paddling Class – Harlow Stewart  
Year 1 – Circus Class – Charlie Farrant & Lily Pepper  
Year 2 – Tribe Class – Elena Ogura  
Year 3D – Leap Class – Sofia Farrant  
Year 3F – Zeal Class – Louis Parletti  
Year 4 – Journey Class – Mateos Kodra  
Year 5 – Aurora Class – Ghassian Assi  
Year 6 – Parade Class – Eden Grabski-Bruce

### **Headteacher's Award for Exceptional Work**

Luke Booth, Lily Pepper and Naia Kettler for fantastic writing.

Freddie Ennis, Isobel Hart, Marcello for thoughtful work in response to their book The Storm Whale.

Alessio Arcari and Nyah Christopher for excellent independent work in mathematics.

### **Year Six**

Our Year Six pupils have made an excellent start to the new school year. It has been wonderful to see them acting as class monitors throughout the school and buddies to our Reception children. They are setting such a fantastic example to our younger pupils. This has made the task of choosing our Head Pupils, House Captains and School Council Leaders even more challenging this year. Having thought long and hard we are proud to announce:

Head Girl – Erin Terry  
Deputy Head Girl – Alice Rafferty  
Head Boy – Max Magalhaes  
Deputy Head Boy – Ben Wiggins  
House Captain: Champion – Caleb Mcrae  
House Captain: Fisher – Thalia Wadie  
House Captain: More – Kidus Gebre  
House Captain: Mayne – Matilda Barton  
School Council Leaders – Chelsea Silva and Zac Carter

I hope you have a lovely weekend with your children.

Catherine Hughes, Headteacher

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