



ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter - Autumn 5 | 1st October 2021

It has been a busy week at school and our new timetable including our 8.40am start are now well and truly up and running. Thank you to everyone for making sure that the children arrive promptly despite the challenges of the traffic and the extreme weather that we have encountered this week.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 5th October – Parent Teacher Association Annual General Meeting 8pm

Friday 15th October – Harvest Mass

Tuesday 19th October – Parents' Evening

Thursday 21st October – Flu Immunisation – Reception – Year 6

Thursday 21st October – Parents' Evening

Friday 22nd October – Autumn Celebration - Mufti Day

Monday 25th – Friday 29th October – Half Term

Monday 1st November – INSET Day (School closed)

Thursday 11th November – Remembrance Service – Led by Year 6

Wednesday 24th November – R & Y6 National Child Measurement Programme

Thursday 2nd December – Advent Liturgy

Wednesday 8th December – Nativity Play Dress Rehearsal – Led by Year 2 – 10am

Thursday 9th December – Nativity Play – Led by Year 2 – 10am

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

Friday 17th December – Last Day of Term

Tuesday 4th January – Start of Spring Term

Safety

Cases of COVID continue to rise and whilst we are relieved that we have yet to have a child or member of staff test positive it is becoming ever more likely. Please do keep us informed so that we can support you and your child and help keep our community safe and well. A big thank you to everyone for all they are doing to keep our school fully open for all of our children.

Free School Meals

This week we sent out a letter regarding free school meal funding. This is also known as the pupil premium grant and is different from the universal free school meals that all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to. If your child is eligible the school receives additional funding which can be used to provide practical support such as uniforms, extra-curricular clubs, trips and academic, social and emotional support. You will also receive vouchers for food during the school holidays and access to free holiday club places.

Your child might be eligible if you access:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance

admin@st-marymagdalens.richmond.sch.uk | 0208 876 6679 | <https://www.st-marymagdalens.richmond.sch.uk/>

- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)

To register, please take a few minutes to click the link below and enter your post code and your National Insurance number to see if your child is entitled to this additional funding <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Food and Hygiene Bank

Many of you will know that we have been working with our local food and hygiene banks to support members of our community. As we prepare for our Harvest Mass we will be collecting food in school again and this is a great opportunity for our children to learn about the challenges different families face and how they can support those who are less fortunate than themselves. We will have a box in the playground for donations until half term and the foodbank has identified tinned meat, tinned fish, long life milk, long life juices, chocolate, crisps, deodorant, shower gel, shampoo, household cleaners and toilet paper as items they urgently need. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Black History Month

Since 1987 October has been Black History Month. Historically, this month often focused on Black American history but over time there has been more attention on Black British history. Now it is a month dedicated to honoring Black people's diverse contributions to this country. Its UK mission statement is: "Dig deeper, look closer, think bigger" and throughout October we will be encouraging all our pupils to do just this. However, we are aware that Black History is in fact integral to all history and that representation across the curriculum is vital every day – not just for one month a year. This will be a focus for us as we continue to adapt our bespoke curriculum to reflect our context and support our pupils to develop as global citizens.

PTA – Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Just a reminder that 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. 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.

PTA Lottery

Don't forget our weekly School Lottery! 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>

Dad's Football

Any Dads keen to play football should know there is a weekly game at Richmond Park Academy at 21.00 each Wednesday, and regular 11-a-side matches against other schools. Anyone interested should contact Chris Grindal on 07711-142009 or chris_grindal@hotmail.com

Inclusive Play

All Aboard Club runs play sessions for autistic & ADHD children, where they can play with our giant train sets in a safe, understanding and inclusive environment. Their sessions are run by staff with lived experience of autism/ADHD — see their website/social media for details of venues and dates.

Web: www.allaboardclub.com

Email: info@allaboardclub.com

Phone/text: 07948 407343

Secondary Transfer

Thank you to everyone who attended the secondary transfer information meeting last night. I am very grateful to Richard Burke, the Headteacher of St Richard Reynolds Catholic College, for his support and advice. Please do not worry if you were unable to attend. All our Year 6 parents have been sent the PowerPoint which contains all the important information you will need.

Just to emphasise that the **deadline for applications is 31st October** and 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**.

PLEASE NOTE SOME CATHOLIC SCHOOLS HAVE A DEADLINE BEFORE 31 OCTOBER SO YOU MUST CHECK EACH SCHOOLS WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.

Pupils of the Week

Reception – Paddling Class – Ruy Borges

Year 1 – Circus Class – Oliver Cowley

Year 2 – Tribe Class – Marcelo Borges

Year 3D – Leap Class – Max Coleman

Year 3F – Zeal Class – Rose Maza

Year 4 – Journey Class – Morgan Coughlan

Year 5 – Aurora Class – Jack Pepper

Year 6 – Parade Class – Anabella Nemeth

Headteacher's Award for Exceptional Work

Aidan Kettler, Elina Whitmore, Henryk Lukasik, James Neilson, Naia Kettler, Nawal Dali, Olly Brooker and Tilly Couch for exceptionally hard work on their writing this week.

I hope you have a lovely weekend with your children.

Catherine Hughes,
Headteacher