



ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter - Autumn 7 | 15th October 2021

Thank you to Year 5, Mrs Derby and Father Adrian for our wonderful Harvest Mass this morning. It was wonderful to be able to welcome parents and carers to the Mass as well as coming together as a school community. Similarly, the Cake Sale was a source of great excitement and joy as well as a good fundraiser. After such a long time being unable to come together we now appreciate these moments more than ever and we can cautiously look forward to many more.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 19th October – Parents' Evening

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

Thursday 21st October – Parents' Evening

Friday 22nd October – Autumn Celebration – Own clothes or an appropriate costume

Friday 22nd October – Open Morning - 10-11am (Please book a place via the school office)

Friday 22nd October – Cake Sale – Year 5

Monday 25th – Friday 29th October – Half Term

Monday 1st November – INSET Day (School closed)

Monday 8th, Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th November – Richmond Safe Walking Scheme – Year 3

Wednesday 10th November – Open Afternoon 2-3pm (Please book a place via the school office)

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

Wednesday 24th November – Reception and Year 6 National Child Measurement Programme

Thursday 2nd December – Advent Liturgy

Saturday 4th December – Christmas Fair – TBC

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

Parents' Evenings

Just a reminder that parents' evenings are next week. If you have not made an appointment please visit <https://stmarymagdalensmortlake.schoolcloud.co.uk> to book your appointments and follow the instructions sent to you earlier this week. If you are unable to log on or wish to change your appointment please contact the school office. Thank you to those of you who have given us feedback on the new system. I am pleased that for the majority it has been a quick and easy process. Thank you to Mrs Derby for all her hard work setting it up.

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

Attendance

At St Mary Magdalen's we have always been incredibly proud of our children's excellent attendance. Historically, attendance has been 97% or above which is the aspirational target set by Richmond upon Thames primary schools as we are aware of the importance of regular attendance for pupils' education, wellbeing, and long-term development. However, we are aware that all families face challenges and that we do have some pupils who are persistently absent. We have been looking closely at attendance this half term and will continue to do so in November. We will then arrange to meet with the parent or carer of pupils who have low attendance to see what we can do to help and support them going forward. In the meantime, please feel free to contact us if there is anything we can do to support your child and your family.

Wonderful Workshops

It is fantastic to begin to enrich our curriculum further by having workshops in school, something we did so often before the pandemic. This week both Year 4 and Year 3 enjoyed workshops from visiting experts.

On Thursday, Year 1 Circus participated in a Seaside workshop. The children visited different holiday destinations through the ages, meeting Punch and Judy in 1910, learning what holidays meant during wartime in 1940, exploring seaside activities in 1950, and taking a trip to Butlins summer camps in 1970. They compared this all to a modern-day seaside holiday. The children learned a lot of songs about the seaside. They did role play activities and even got to dress up. It was great to see all Year 1 children so enthusiastic and engaged in the workshop. It was a great end to our seaside topic. Year 1 can't wait for their second workshop next week.

On Tuesday, Year 4 had a fantastic interactive morning learning all about the Romans. They learnt about the types of clothing men and women wore, and how clothing was used to show wealth. The children acted out a burial and identified items that civilians might have needed for the afterlife, and considered why these were important. They also played with some fun roman toys and had a go at writing their name in Roman using a stylus and wax tablet. It was wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm throughout the morning and their eagerness to learn more!

Parish Announcements

We are blessed to be able to visit our church so easily and so often and to have such a supportive priest in Father Adrian who visits school regularly. Wherever possible, we aim to work together and so we have two notices from the Parish office:

If you attend St. Mary Magdalen Parish, please help our church to return to all three of our Sunday Masses. From Sunday the 7th November, we will be restoring the 9.30am and 6.30pm Masses, in addition to the existing 11am Mass at St. Mary Magdalen's. In order to do this, we need your help please. If you would like to volunteer as a Welcomer, Cleaner, Reader or Extraordinary Minister, we would love to receive an application from you to consider helping with our existing Teams. For more information and an application

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

form, please email: MortlakeAdmin@RCAOS.org.uk thank you. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated.

Half Term Activities

The Museum of Richmond wanted to make our families aware that they will be running workshops throughout October Half Term. They are also able to offer FREE places to local children who receive pupil premium so these families should contact our office who will be able to provide them with the discount code or call the Museum on 020 8332 1141 to book. Bookings can also be made online.

The workshops are:

Ghosts of Richmond Palace – workshops at the Museum

Tuesday 26 October to Friday 29 October, 10am to 12noon

Discover the ghostly goings on in the remains of Richmond Palace. Make your own haunted palaces to help decorate your home this Halloween!

Ghosts of Richmond Palace – online workshops

Tuesday 26 October to Friday 29 October, 1pm to 3pm

English Heritage Competition

English Heritage are delighted to offer an opportunity for young people to capture and submit images from their local landscape on the theme of 'nature photography' as part of a Marble Hill exhibition. It is free to enter and there are two age categories - under 12 and 13-18 years. The top two images from each age category will be displayed in the grounds of Marble Hill House in Twickenham until the end of 2021. The **closing date is 1 November 2021**. All the instructions and entry rules can be found

at <https://londonphotofestival.submittable.com/submit/6add32e0-fc3d-4cb1-b75b-9cc822e6261e/young-photographer-competition-nature>

Autumn Celebration

We are looking forward to having an Autumn Celebration in school with the children on the last day of the half term. It will be a mufti day which means children can wear their own clothes or a costume. If your child decides to wear a costume, please remember that some children, particularly our youngest pupils, will find certain costumes frightening when you are making your selection. There will be a disco, fun activities, a drink and a snack. There is a suggested donation of £2 cash on the day. Unfortunately, we are unable to take payment online for such small amounts.

Christmas Fair

Just a reminder that we would love your views regarding the Christmas Fair. If you could let us know if you are likely to attend and how you might help, it will give us a good idea about whether we have enough support to make it happen. Please spare a few minutes to complete this questionnaire:

<https://forms.gle/WByM8p13zwb8SsQP8>

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

PTA Lottery

Don't forget our weekly School Lottery! Everyone can join and you can buy tickets from as little as £1 each at: <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/st-mary-magdalens-roman-catholic-primary-school>

Pupils of the Week

Reception – Paddling Class

Veronica Blionski Garcia

Year 1 – Circus Class – Isaac Luzieto

Year 2 – Tribe Class – Arthur Heyland

Year 3D – Leap Class – Veronica Luzieto

Year 3F – Zeal Class – Nyah Christopher

Year 4 – Journey Class – Elodie Myburgh

Year 5 – Aurora Class – Matilda Pellegrini

Year 6 – Parade Class – Tallulah Desouza

Headteacher's Award for Exceptional Work

Chelsea Silva, Ivy Akpabio-Klementowska and Ria Tusiime for exceptional work thinking of different ways that we can celebrate the many talents children at our school have and writing an excellent proposal.

Zac Carter and Chelsea Silva for wonderful work on our school development plan.

Both inspiring examples of leadership!

I hope you have a lovely weekend with your children.

Catherine Hughes,
Headteacher