



ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter - Autumn 8 | 22nd October 2021

What a busy half term it has been. It has been wonderful for our school community to come together to enjoy special celebrations such as Mass but also just to see children, parents and staff enjoying spending time together whether it is at lunch time, in clubs, at choir, in assembly, at PTA meetings or just at pick up time in the playground. We have been very fortunate that we have not had to introduce any additional restrictions yet so a big thank you to everyone for their continued vigilance.

Dates for your diary

Monday 25th – Friday 29th October – Half Term

Monday 1st November – INSET Day (School closed)

Friday 5th November – Christmas Fair Mufti

Monday 8th November - House Point Winners' Mufti Day – Winners to be announced after half term

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

Friday 12th November – Christmas Fair Mufti

Wednesday 17th November – School Photographs

Friday 19th November – Christmas Fair Mufti

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

Friday 26th November – Christmas Fair Mufti

Thursday 2nd December – Advent Liturgy

Friday 3rd December – Christmas Fair Mufti

Saturday 4th December – Christmas Fair

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

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

Thursday 9th December – Shop 'til You Drop Market

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

Thank you to the teachers for all their hard work in preparation for parents' evening and a big thank you to everyone for your patience as I know that there have been some issues regarding the school cloud system that we have been using. We will be reviewing how we provide parent consultation meetings before the February meetings so please let us know if you have any feedback.

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COVID Update

We feel so fortunate that we have reached the end of the half term without any positive cases within our school. All being well, we look forward to celebrating special events such as our Remembrance Service, Nativity Play and Carol Service with the wider school community. However, with cases rising both nationally and locally we will need to continue to be cautious and it may be necessary to reintroduce some preventative measures such as masks and our one system after half term if we have a spike in cases. Thank you in advance for all you continue to do to keep our community safe, well and in school!

School Uniform

We are very fortunate that our wonderful parent volunteers, Mrs Parletti and Mrs Devine run our on-site uniform shop. Having some of our uniform on site is convenient and our volunteers' hard work also helps make it as affordable as possible. However, after several years of prices remaining the same, we have become aware that some of the items are now priced below their cost to the school. Whilst we do not aim to make a profit, selling the uniform is in fact costing the school money. Consequently, we have decided to put prices up so that we can cover our costs and are able to provide uniform free of charge to any pupil who cannot afford it.

Young Scientists

On Thursday, Year 1 participated in a workshop entitled- The Science Machine, Animals, Habitats and Lifecycles. An eccentric scientist gave the children lots of challenging tasks including outwitting a disgruntled monster and saving the professor's science machine. The children used their scientific knowledge and enthusiasm to complete all these challenges. They learned more about animals, their habitats, and the differences between animals and humans and they had lots of fun. Everyone received a certificate of Scientific achievement for their hard work which has ensured that scientific research will grow and thrive!

Autumn Celebration

There were lots of colourful costumes on display today and the children enjoyed the games, snacks and disco. A huge thank you to the PTA for decorating the hall and providing the snacks and drinks and to Miss Nugent who was DJ for the afternoon. It was wonderful to be able to celebrate the end of a busy half term and all the children's hard work so far this year.

Open Morning

Whilst the school looked a little different today, I was still very proud to show some prospective parents around Mary Mag's. The children and teachers were hard at work and the enthusiasm and warmth that is so characteristic of our school were very much on show. We have one more event after half term at 2-3pm on the 10th November, so please do let anyone who might be interested in our school know. It is always exciting to think about welcoming new children and families to our school and this is a great chance for people to get a flavor of our school, ask questions and see what a special community we are.

Tag Rugby

On Wednesday, some of our Year 6 pupils went to a Tag Rugby tournament. The whole team had a great experience and enjoyed their time at the tournament. We won a number of matches and scored some impressive tries making it into the cup competition. The team got used to playing on a field and played to the best of their abilities. Although we didn't win we learned a lot about being supportive teammates and our teachers were proud of our mature behaviour. (Rosie O'Connell and Zac Carter)

Well done to Eden, Erin, Laura, Max M, Max C, Nuala, Olly, Rosie, Tallulah and Zac you were wonderful ambassadors for our school and we are very proud of you. Thank you to Hassan Davis and Mrs Thomas for supervising the children. As a small school, it is often hard to attend these competitions as they require at least two adults to supervise the children. If you would be interested in volunteering to help out at tournaments and competitions, we would be very grateful for your support. Please do contact the school office so that they can talk to you about upcoming events and we can begin the process of applying for your DBS.



House Competitions

All children in our school are part of one of four Houses – Champion (Red), Fisher (Green), Mayne (Yellow) or More (Blue). As part of our behaviour policy, pupils' hard work and exemplary behaviour earns them points for their House and each half term, the House with the most points wins a reward, for example an additional mufti (non-uniform) day. The winners of his half term will be announced in Mrs Farrell-Cotton's assembly on Wednesday 4th November and will have their own mufti (non-uniform) day on Monday 8th November.

As well as rewarding our pupils for their attitude and effort on a daily basis, house points can also be earned in House competitions. These competitions help us to strengthen our school community by providing opportunities for children to work collaboratively with pupils outside their class towards a common goal. Our first competition began this week, as our Year 6 class took part in a dodgeball tournament. All our classes will take part in this competition over the next half term and we look forward to having a range of House competitions throughout the year that allow all our pupils to try different activities and explore their talents, whether they are a budding musician, a brilliant baker or a future Olympian.

Shop 'til You Drop

As part of preparing our children for life outside school our Year 6 pupils take part in "Shop 'til You Drop". This is an exciting initiative where the children work together to devise a money-making enterprise. They bid for funding, work out the costs, run events, stalls and activities, hopefully make a lot of money and most of all have a lot of fun along the way. This year, the children will be presenting their ideas to our School Council to get their initial investment. They will be running events throughout the autumn term and will have an in-school Christmas Market on Thursday 9th December, which is great fun for the whole school. Thank you to Mrs O'Gorman for all her hard work organizing this scheme.

Kickstart

Our school is participating in the Kickstart Scheme which provides funding to employers to create jobs for 16 to 24 year olds on Universal Credit. It is a great opportunity to give members of our wider community the chance to get some work experience and to hopefully spark a passion for teaching. There are two Teaching Assistant roles currently being advertised at St Mary Magdalen's Primary School. Click the link below if you would like more information or contact your work coach at the job centre.

<https://findajob.dwp.gov.uk/details/7092996>

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-magdalen-roman-catholic-primary-school>

Pupils of the Week

Reception – Paddling Class - Digby Heyland

Year 1 – Circus Class – Luke Te Brake

Year 2 – Tribe Class – Alexia Mummery

Year 3D – Leap Class – Riley Monk

Year 3F – Zeal Class – Vitto Estacio

Year 4 – Journey Class – Eva Hughes

Year 5 – Aurora Class – Emilia Newbold

Year 6 – Parade Class – Caleb Mcrae

Headteacher's Award for Exceptional Work

Ollie Brooker and Felix Young
for fantastic reading

Year 4 for fantastic role plays in French
Tres Bien!

I hope you have a happy and healthy half term with your children.

Catherine Hughes,
Headteacher