



ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter - Autumn 10 | 12th November 2021

Sadly, this week we have had several positive cases of COVID-19 within the school community. We have introduced additional restrictions within the school to help stop the spread. In the year group where there have been several cases we are asking pupils to take a daily lateral flow test in order to try to ensure that we stop asymptomatic cases from coming into the school. We are also asking all siblings of positive cases to do daily lateral flow tests if they are coming to school whilst their brother or sister is isolating. Hopefully, the cases will reduce and the restrictions can be eased at the end of next week. In order for this to happen I would ask you to remain vigilant. As I wrote in my letter this week whilst government guidance only notes three official symptoms for COVID-19 parents are reporting the upset stomachs, sore throats and runny noses are also being seen as symptoms by track and trace. If you think that your child may have COVID-19 please do not send them to school and make sure they take a test. I am very grateful to parents for being so conscientious in terms of getting PCR tests for children who have been close contacts as well as to those at home who are helping their children access learning online. Thank you also to all our families for recognizing the importance of remaining alert in order to keep our community safe and our children in school.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 17th November – School Photographs

Thursday 18th November – Year 1 Workshop - Weather & Seasons

Friday 19th November – Christmas Fair Mufti - Pyjama Day - Toys/teddies (help required from Y2 and Y3F)

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

Friday 26th November – Christmas Fair Mufti - Christmas Jumper Day - Chocolate (help required from Y3D and Y4)

Wednesday 1st December – Y3 Workshop - Forces & Motion

Thursday 2nd December – Advent Liturgy

Friday 3rd December – Christmas Fair Mufti - Christmas Fancy Dress Day - Home produce (help required from Y5 and Y6)

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

Please note that the above events can only take place if we reduce the number of cases within the school so that restrictions can be lifted.

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

Remembrance Service

On Thursday 11th November, our Year 6 pupils led our Remembrance Service. Sadly, the school could not attend but the children did an incredible job leading this moving tribute with great maturity and confidence. I know that the children have enjoyed learning about the First World War and their insight was evident. They have produced some fantastic work and I have included a beautiful poem written by Georgina Grech at the end of the newsletter as a fitting reflection to mark Remembrance Sunday.

Thank you to Mrs O’Gorman, Mrs Brennan and all the staff in Year 6 for all their hard work helping the children to prepare and well done Year 6.

Year 5 London Eye

Year 5 was selected to represent Richmond Upon Thames in an activity at the London Eye called Fall in Love with London: Take Flight and Be Inspired. One class was selected from each of the 32 London Boroughs.

We took a 30 minute flight on the London Eye over the skyline. Back at school, we will complete a series of lessons to create a design that showcases how the students are inspired by London and especially our Borough. These designs will then be included in a campaign to encourage other schools to participate and discover what they love about London.

The children also enjoyed writing about their trip. Here is what Lottie Watson thought: London Eye is a sight-seeing event! It goes slow so you can catch the landscape in the sky! At first you might feel weird or dizzy, but then it starts getting beautiful because you can see London off the ground and all in one go!

I was really excited when I got on London Eye. I was amazed when I looked out of the window when we were at the top - it was so high! We saw Big Ben just beside us and also the Shard. I can’t wait to go back!

School Photographs

On Wednesday 17th November, we will be having school photographs taken. The photographer will take a lateral flow test before coming to the school and will wear a mask. All children should wear their winter uniform so that they look lovely and smart in their individual and sibling photographs. Please remember to bring in PE Kit if they need it for a lesson.

Christmas Fair

Just a reminder of the upcoming “Mufti” (non-uniform) days every Friday before the Christmas Fair. Please don’t worry the theme is not mandatory! Dates and themes are as follows:

19th November: Pyjama Day - Toys/teddies (help required from Y2 and Y3F)

26th November: Christmas Jumper Day - Chocolate (help required from Y3D and Y4)

3rd December: Christmas Fancy Dress Day - Home produce (help required from Y5 and Y6)

Thank you in advance for your support and donations.

Christmas Tree Sale

Also, on 4th December you will be able to purchase a Christmas Tree from the car park outside the church from 10.30am to 12.30pm. All proceeds will go to our Parish Charity. You can pre-order with a small deposit to ensure you get a tree which you can select on the day so you can get the exact shape and size you want. The size and price details are below:

Size	4-5ft	5-6ft	6-7ft	7-8ft	8ft+
Price	£45.00	£52.50	£60.00	£67.50	£75.00

Parish Advent Candles will also be on sale at £4 after our Masses on 21 November to help countdown to Christmas.

Parish Volunteers

Please help our Parish to return to our pre-Pandemic level of all three of our Sunday Masses we are restoring the 9.30am and 6.30pm Masses, in addition to the existing 11am Mass. 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 hope to welcome you to our existing Teams. For information please email MortlakeAdmin@RCAOS.org.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 – Florence Thorp
Year 1 – Circus Class – James Neilson & Felix Young
Year 2 – Tribe Class – Whole class
Year 3D – Leap Class – Rosa Amechi
Year 3FC – Zeal Class – Evelyn Dolan
Year 4 – Journey Class – Caio Franco Dorneles
Year 5 – Aurora Class – Sophie Gardiner
Year 6 – Parade Class – George Hubbard

Headteacher's Award for Exceptional Work

James Neilson, Rosie Harrington and Theia De Serra for marvellous maths.

Hugo Sharman Gerard, Chloe Grindal, Matilda Pellegrini, Sophie Gardiner, Livia Woolfenden, Eliana Legesse, Frieda Amechi, Julie Blaskova, Daniel Hart, Silvia Blake-Maillo who wrote thoughtful letters of thanks in RE which I am sure will be treasured forever.

Vakariss Narkevicius who completed some challenging maths work independently this week.

I hope you have a lovely weekend with your children.

Catherine Hughes, Headteacher

In Fields of Poppies

By Georgina Grech

In fields of poppies, seas of red
Larks still fly, overhead
Bravely flying, we hear them cry
For the brave men, who lost their lives

In fields of battle, seas of red
No birds fly overhead
Gunshots echo, men cower in fear
Deafening explosions, shock the ear

In fields of poppies, in countrysides
We smell the air, clear as the skies
We pray for the men, who lost their lives
And fought for us, side by side

In fields of battle and trenches deep
Brave men try to fall asleep
Gunshots echo, young men cry
Loved ones mourn as they cower and die

In fields of poppies, worlds of love
Brave men lie, silent as doves
Loved ones cry and silently mourn
Mourning the deaths of loved ones fallen

