



ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter - Autumn 12 | 26th November 2021

This week the number of active COVID-19 cases (people isolating) within the school has fallen. However, local case rates have continued to rise over the last week, particularly for primary-aged pupils and the numbers currently stand at 523 per 100,000 in Richmond, which is higher than the London average. This means it is really important that we continue to be vigilant and isolate if we have any symptoms. Daily lateral flow testing amongst staff and pupils has also helped reduce the spread. Thank you to all those who are doing this daily in order to prevent disruption to our pupils and to protect our wider community.

We have seen cases spread within year groups but very few cases of spread between years and we are keen to prevent this. Consequently, we will not be resuming clubs next week as this is one of the only times when children from different year groups mix together. Hopefully, this will also mean we can go ahead with Christmas events such as the Fair, the Nativity and the Carol Concert.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 1st December – Prospective Parents' Online Open Morning (10am) and Afternoon (2pm)

Wednesday 1st December - Boys' Football v Kew Riverside

Thursday 2nd December - Netball v Queen's School

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

Tuesday 7th December – Girls' Football V Queen's School

Wednesday 8th December – Tag Rugby V Kew Riverside

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

Thursday 9th December – Nativity Play – Led by Year 2 – 10.30am

Thursday 9th December – Shop 'til You Drop Market

Wednesday 15th of December Receptions Annual Polar Express Day

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

Friday 17th December – Last Day of Term – 1pm Finish

Tuesday 4th January – Start of Spring Term

Open Morning and Afternoon

Please do tell any prospective parents you know that we will be having two online meetings on Wednesday 1st December. There will be a short presentation about the school and the opportunity to ask questions. The meetings will be at 10am and 2pm and are via Google Meet <https://meet.google.com/mfx-jumr-zhk>

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The Year of the Family | Stronger, Kinder, Wiser Together

End of Term

You will see that we will now be finishing school at 1pm on the last day of term (17th December). Going forward, we will have a half day at the end of every full term (not every half term) in line with other local schools.

Christmas Fair

The decision has been made to move the Fair outside following advice from Public Health England and the Local Authority. By holding the event outside, it is very unlikely that we will have to cancel the Fair even if we see a slight rise in cases. As we will still have a few weeks until the end of term following the Fair, I would ask that you take every precaution possible when you attend including taking a lateral flow test. You may also wish to wear a mask on the school site in order to protect yourself and others.

What this means is that we now need as many volunteers as possible to man stalls on the day and to help with the set up and clearing away. If you are able to help please contact your class rep so that they can start putting together a timetable for your class' stall on the day of the fair. Thank you in advance for your support making this wonderful festive event a success.

Christmas Fair Poster Competition

We had some fantastic entries to our Christmas Fair poster competition which made it incredibly difficult to judge. After much deliberation, the winners and runners up were:

Winner – Sofia Tilio Year 3
Runners Up – Harriet Fox Year 4, Livia Woolfenden Year 5

Thank you to everyone who took part and do keep your eyes out for the winning design!

Christmas Candles

This year we are asking the children to decorate a Christmas candle, which they will be able to buy back at the Christmas Fair. We understand that this can take time and effort and so teachers have set this instead of homework this weekend.

Please ensure that the candles are handed into school during the week of **29th November** and remember to stick your child's name and class year on the bottom of the candle. Children and parents will be able to buy their own Christmas candle on the day of the fair up until 2pm. After this time, they will be sold on the open market!

Church Christmas Trees

Christmas trees will be available to purchase from the Church car park on the day of the fair 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

If you don't fancy taking your tree with you to the Fair, Father Adrian is happy to keep it to one side for collection at the end of the day. All trees should be collected by 3.30pm at the latest.

Scooters and Bikes

Yesterday there was almost a serious accident involving a child and their scooter. Children must get off and push, not ride, scooters and bikes through the playground at the start and end of the day. Hopefully, this will help us avoid any serious injuries.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

We continue to dedicate time every day to nurture our children's mental health and well-being. However, we are aware that many families continue to face challenges. We would always encourage you to contact us if you need any additional support. We are currently working with different agencies to enhance our offer and can provide support in school or direct you to other services. Please see the leaflet with this newsletter providing information about other agencies that offer further support.

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 – Zoe Wallis-Jones

Year 1 – Circus Class – Pearse Freeman

Year 2 – Tribe Class – Dominik Blasko

Year 3D – Leap Class – Lorenzo Bonna

Year 3FC – Zeal Class – Matilda Harrison

Year 4 – Journey Class – Mia Turner

Year 5 – Aurora Class – Livia Woolfenden

Year 6 – Parade Class – Oliver Maza

Headteacher's Award for Exceptional Work

Charlie Farrant, Henryk Lukasik, Lily Pepper,
Oliver Cowley and Zion Udobang for
persevering with a long writing task

Abigail Sponsler, Alexia Mummery, Freddie
Ennis, Hailie Doci, J-P Dowell, Nico Arcari for
wonderful wanted posters for,
“a ferocious hunter with a beard like snow”

Alessio Arcari, Julio Araujo Filardi, Magda
Wood, Sienna Campbell and Vitto Estacio who
independently and accurately completed their
maths work

Matilda Harrison who produced an
entertaining newspaper report

I hope you have a lovely weekend with your children.

Catherine Hughes

Headteacher

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