



ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter - Autumn 9 | 5th November 2021

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back this week after the half term break. On Monday, the school was closed for staff training and all staff received additional safeguarding training and information about the online record system (CPOMs) which we are using to log and monitor safeguarding concerns. We are so fortunate that we have such a strong school community but we will never allow this to make us complacent. The time we invested in this training reflects the fact that keeping children safe will always be our first priority. We are always looking at ways we can improve our children's understanding of how they can stay safe and well as well as who can help them if they are worried. Similarly, if parents or carers have safeguarding concerns you can contact the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Wendy Burns or the Deputy DSLs Catherine Hughes and Melissa Farrell-Cotton via the school office. Alternatively, you can speak directly to the Single Point of Access (SPA) from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday on 020 8547 5008, or by calling 020 8770 5000 after hours or at the weekend.

Dates for your diary

Monday 8th November – Mufti Day for the child in MORE!

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

Tuesday 9th November – Y2/3 Boys' Football Tournament – 8 students

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 - Crazy Hair Day - Gifts (help required from Reception and Y1)

Wednesday 17th November – School Photographs

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)

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

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

COVID Update

Unfortunately, this week we were informed of the first positive case of COVID within our school. Whilst a number of our community have had positive test results during the summer and half term holidays this is the first time there is a risk of in school transmission. This reflects the trend locally where we are seeing more cases in primary schools and some schools having to reintroduce additional measures such as “bubbles” and one-way systems.

In light of this I am sure we will all continue to be vigilant in order to keep our community safe and well and to avoid disruption to our children’s education as much as possible.

Remembrance Service

On Thursday 11th November, our Year 6 pupils will be leading our Remembrance Service. This is always a very moving tribute to those who have and continue to make great sacrifices. We are always tremendously proud of our Year 6 pupils and the maturity and reverence they display.

We are keen for Year 6 parents to be able to join us for the service. In light of the rise in cases of COVID-19 we will not have the whole school present and will only have Years 4 and 5 in the service. The younger children will have an opportunity to reflect and remember in their classrooms and as part of the whole school’s 2-minute silence at 11am.

Parents who wish to come to the service should enter via the school office. The service will begin at 9.30am and will last about half an hour.

Christmas Fair

I am sure you will have seen the email from the PTA regarding our Christmas Fair which will be held on the school grounds on Saturday 4th December, 11am-3pm.

To help prepare for the Christmas Fair we have “Mufti” (Non-uniform) days every Friday before the main event. As you will see these are themed to help get us all into the Christmas spirit. Please don’t worry the theme is not mandatory! If you are able to help please contact your class rep. Dates and themes are as follows:

12th November: Crazy Hair Day - Gifts (help required from Reception and Y1)

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)

Many thanks in advance for your support

The PTA

School Photographs

On Wednesday 17th November, we will be having school photographs taken. All children should wear their winter uniform so that they look lovely and smart in their individual and sibling photographs. They should bring their PE Kit to school if they need to change for a club after school. Alternatively, if they are in a club in the morning they should bring their uniform to change into after their training session.

Birthday Treats

Last year, we allowed children to bring birthday treats to school to celebrate with their friends as they were unable to have birthday parties as a result of the pandemic. Previously, we had asked children to donate a book to the school rather than bring in a sweet treat as we felt this reflected our status as a "Healthy School". As rates continue to rise nationally, locally and within our school I understand that some families, particularly those with additional vulnerabilities, may still wish to celebrate in school rather than have large gatherings of children and adults. Consequently, children are allowed to bring in birthday treats this half term and we will review the situation in the spring term. As we have pupils and staff with serious allergies please make sure you take this into account. Thank you to all the children who have brought books in so far this year we have received some lovely texts about the environment from Harry in Reception and I am currently brushing up on my French using the wonderful Monsieur Roscoe on Holiday donated by Joe in Year 1. Merci!

House Competitions

This week, Mrs Farrell- Cotton announced the winners of the half termly house point competition. The House which managed to amass the most house points – an incredible 338 – was More (Blue). As a reward for all their hard work the children in this house have been awarded an additional Mufti (non-uniform) day on Monday 8th November. The teachers will remind the children tomorrow and parents of these children will receive an SCOPay message to inform them – just in case your child has forgotten what house they are in. Please remember some classes have PE on Monday. Congratulations More!

School Council and Shop ‘til You Drop

The school council took part in a unique version of “Dragons’ Den” this week as they listened to the “Shop ‘til You Drop” proposals from our Year 6 class. Our Year 6 pupils were very professional and did a great job presenting their fantastic money-making ideas. These included eco-friendly notebooks made from recycling the schools’ waste paper, Bubble Tea, “Dashaway Doughnuts”, a Nerf Blaster target competition, a tombola, stress balls, bracelets and much, much more. The children provided detailed information about the costs and anticipated profits as well as explaining that the money they make will be used to buy a present for the school which will be their leaving gift.

After careful consideration, the school council members voted on each proposal and decided that they all sounded like excellent money-making ventures. Well done to all our Year 6 class and thank you in advance to the Year 6 parents for all your 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>

PTA

As our newsletter suggests our PTA are an invaluable part of our school community. Following a meeting before half term I am delighted to announce that a new committee has been elected. The PTA Committee now includes Allan Aitchison as Chair, Gemma O'Reilly as Secretary and Clare McCalvey as Treasurer. Badral Khaidav and Justin Black have also joined the Committee. A huge thank you to these parents and of course to our wonderful departing committee members Gabriela Dhir, Claire Grindal and Liz Dixon - you have given us endless enthusiasm and tireless energy and we are incredibly grateful.

Pupils of the Week

Reception – Paddling Class – James Maalouf
Year 1 – Circus Class – Theia De Serra
Year 2 – Tribe Class – Hailie Doci
Year 3D – Leap Class – Benjamin De Serra
Year 3FC – Zeal Class – Emilia O'Reilly
Year 4 – Journey Class – Harriet Fox
Year 5 – Aurora Class – Angus Aitchison
Year 6 – Parade Class – Aitana De La Camara

I hope you have a lovely weekend with your children.

Catherine Hughes,
Headteacher

Headteacher's Award for Exceptional Work

Felix Young for excellent writing

Marcelo Borges and Andrew Lee for fantastic independent writing based on the book The Wolf, The Duck and The Mouse

Oriana Chamula and Hailie Doci persevering and completing some difficult work adding two digit numbers.

Rosa Amechi and Chloe Te Brake for tackling tricky calculations involving exchanging!

Charlotte Doherty for excellent problem solving including working on a "Barvember" challenge.

Bertie Grech, Elias Carter, Raffi Boghossian, Tomas Whitmore, for problem-solving, perseverance and team work.

Georgina Grech for writing some very moving poetry.