



# ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter - Spring | 7th January 2022

Happy New Year! It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school and for us to have so few absences at the start of the new year. We continue to be vigilant and follow government guidance to try and stop the spread of COVID 19. Thank you in advance for your continued support with this, whilst I am aware that regularly testing young children is challenging continuing to do so when your child is a close contact will be vital in helping us minimize disruption. We will do everything we can to ensure that the children can continue to receive face to face teaching on site this may include employing supply staff, utilizing our amazing non-teaching and support staff and, when necessary, combining classes. As always, our aim is to ensure the highest quality teaching and learning for your children whilst providing them with as much continuity as possible so that they continue to thrive, socially, emotionally and academically.

## **Dates for your diary**

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January – PC Mick – Personal Safety Talk Year 6

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January – Mass for the start of the year, 10am – led by Year 6

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January – School Photographs

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January – Mufti (Non-uniform) day for More House

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January - Reception and Year 6 - National Child Measurement

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January – Individual Support Plan Meetings

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February – Individual Support Plan Meetings

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Individual Support Plan Meetings

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February – Parents' Evening

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February – Parents' Evening

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February – Half Term

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February – INSET – School Closed

Week Commencing Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February – Online Safety Week

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March – Ash Wednesday – Distribution of the Ashes – Years 3-6

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March – Lent Reconciliation Services in school

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March - Cyber Use and Cyber Crime Talk for Parents 5-6.30pm

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Way of the Cross led by Year 6

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March – School Closes for Easter Holidays at 1pm

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Holidays

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Start of Summer Term

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

## Attendance and Punctuality

As a school we strive to have excellent attendance as we know that this helps ensure our children are happy and making good progress. Good attendance and punctuality are more important than ever following the prolonged period of time which children have not been able to be in school. Like all Richmond schools our aim is for our pupils to have at least 97% attendance. Last term we sent out letters to inform parents if their child's attendance was below 90% as this means that they are missing a significant amount of time in school. This term we will continue to monitor attendance and punctuality. We are aware that many families face challenges that can make it hard for them to ensure good attendance and/or punctuality so please do feel free to contact the school and arrange an appointment to discuss this as there are lots of measures we can put in place to help and support you. If your child is unwell please ensure you email or phone the school by 9.30am each day they are away.

## Uniform

A huge thank you as always to Mrs Parletti and Mrs Devine who continue to run our uniform shop. It is now well-stocked with almost all items and sizes so please make sure that your child is wearing the correct uniform. This also includes wearing school shoes, not trainers on the days when they are not in their PE Kit and making sure that earrings are small studs which minimize the risk of any accidental injury. Below is a table with the correct school uniform:

Winter (autumn 2 and spring term)	Summer (autumn 1 and summer term)
white shirt school tie short/long light grey trousers or light grey skirt or pinafore dress red school v neck jumper or cardigan white or grey socks or tights sensible black shoes – not trainers red/navy, hair ribbons/bands.	white open necked short sleeved school polo shirt (no tie) short/long grey trousers or light grey skirt or pinafore dress red/white candy stripe dress (not checked) red school v neck jumper or cardigan (if needed) white or grey socks sensible black, red or white shoes – closed toes and heels, not trainers school sunhat red/navy hair ribbons/bands.
PE	navy and red polo shirt navy and red shorts or navy and red tracksuit bottoms red sweat shirt socks trainers or plimsolls Optional item: red fleece. PE bag  PE Uniform should be worn to school on the days when children have PE lessons. Your class teacher has shared these days with parents at the parent information meeting.

## **Clubs**

Clubs will be starting again this term and we hope they will run uninterrupted as long as we do not have to introduce additional restrictions. As our clubs are run by external providers please contact them directly regarding refunds.

## **Winning House**

Our houses help us build a sense of community and team work throughout the school as our children work hard to earn house points for their hard work and behaviour as well as through house competitions. Last half term the winning house was More and as a reward they will have their own mufti (non-uniform) day on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January. If your child is in More House you will also receive an email regarding this.

## **Advent Appeal**

As you know before Christmas we were raising money to provide Christmas gifts for refugees. This week our Prayer Monitors met with Mrs O’Gorman and selected the gifts using the money raised. They decided to purchase 2 baby boxes, a Christmas bare box, 2 lots of winter clothing, 4 night lights and a box of toys. It was wonderful to see the children talk so thoughtfully about the needs of others and make such careful selections. We are sure they will be gratefully received.

## **Kickstart**

St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary school is participating in the Kickstart Scheme which provides funding to employers to create jobs for 16 to 24-year olds on Universal Credit. This term we have been fortunate to have joined by Miss Mayer who is already a great addition to our staff team. 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. A Teaching Assistant role is 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>

## **Cracking Christmas Carolers!**

I wanted to end the newsletter this week with a big thank you to some of our children. I feel so blessed to work at a school where our pupils continue to surprise and delight me with their ingenuity and generosity. Inspired by a trip to the Albert Hall 7 of our pupils and former pupils decided to go caroling in the local area to raise money for the school. Not only did they provide local residents with some much-needed Christmas cheer but they also raised an incredible £255 for the school. A huge thank you to Thalia and Luke Wadie,

Ellie and Ria Tusiime, and Gabriella, Georgina and Bertie Grech for their hard work and kindness they are an example to us all!

### **Pupils of the Week**

Reception – Paddling Class – Milan Kamath

Year 1 – Circus Class – Zion Udobang

Year 2 – Tribe Class – Levi Mushi

Year 3D – Leap Class – The Whole Class

Year 3FC – Zeal Class – Amelia Wilkes

Year 4 – Journey Class – Ellie Tusiime

Year 5 – Aurora Class – Marcel Schab

Year 6 – Parade Class – Zoe Adamson

### **Headteacher's Award for Exceptional Work**

Thalia and Luke Wadie, Ellie and Ria Tusiime,  
Georgina and Bertie Grech  
What superstars!

I hope you have a lovely weekend with your children,

Catherine Hughes  
Headteacher