



ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter – Summer 11 | 7th July 2023

Thank you to everyone who came to the fair last Saturday. I am sure that we would all agree it was a fantastic day not only in terms of the money raised but also the opportunity for us to come together with the wider Mortlake community. The music, food and stalls were exceptional and the children are busily preparing thank you cards for all of those who contributed. We are incredibly grateful to all the parents and staff who came to help on the day or in preparation for the main event and a particular thanks has to go to our incredible PTA committee Alison, Astrid, Clare, Gabi, Fran M and Fran S – you are super stars!

Dates for your diaries

- Tuesday 11th July** - Reception Hearing Test
- Tuesday 11th July** – Year 5 Cricket Tournament (16 students)
- Wednesday 12th July** – Year 6 Production 7pm
- Thursday 13th July** – Year 6 Production 7pm
- Friday 14th July** – Year 1 & 2 Zog at the Rose Theatre
- Friday 14th July** – Year 3 & 4 Gymnastics (6 students)
- Friday 21st July** – Year 6 Leavers' Mass 9.30am
- Friday 21st July** - Last Day of Term – School Finishes at 1pm

Punctuality

As we head into the last two weeks of term I would just like to remind you of the importance of pupils being dropped off and collected punctually. At a time of transition, it is unsettling and disruptive for children to arrive or be picked up late. Also, as a small school, supervising children who have not been collected on time at the end of each day is putting a significant strain on school staff. It is impacting meetings, training and the ability of staff to complete their vital work. Consequently, moving forward a member of the senior leadership team will be supervising these children at the end of each day and if pupils are regularly being collected late we will arrange to meet with their parents to discuss how we can ensure punctuality moving forward.

Universal Free School Meals

In September 2023 all pupils in key stage 2 attending a state funded primary school in London will be entitled to a free school meal, under the Mayor of London's scheme to support families during the cost of living crisis. Funding for this scheme is currently only for the academic year 2023/24 starting in September. To prepare for this increase in school meal uptake from September 2023, we would like to know if your child would like to move to or continue to have hot school lunches.

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Please complete the Google Survey below (thank you if you already have):

<https://forms.gle/GPeAEunf5kHp2xuA7>

If your child has a dietary requirement please inform the school office.

St Paul's World Cup Tournament

On Tuesday 16 of our Year 5 pupils took part in a tournament at St Paul's school. It encompassed music, history, art and football - although sadly rain cancelled the main event. The children had a fantastic time and were excellent ambassadors for the school. This tournament is part of our ongoing association with St Paul's which provides us with additional opportunities to enrich our pupil's educational experience through access to their resources and expertise.



Photography Competition

It was wonderful to see how artistic our children are in the medium of photography. All of their entries were fantastic a special well done to:

Shanice, Joe, Marjorie, Theia and Alexia!

And the winners of the competition. Well done to all those who entered and congratulations to:

First Prize – Felix

Second Prize – Henryk

Third Prize – Benjamin

Fourth Prize – Elina



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Reports

As key stage 2 SATs results have been delayed this year we will be sending our reports out on Tuesday 11th July so that all the information, for all year groups, can be included with your child's report.

Academic Year 2023 2024

As we come to the end of this academic year, our thoughts have turned to the forthcoming academic year. As you may know, we are saying goodbye to a number of valued members of staff and I am sure you will join with me in thanking them for their outstanding service to our school.

Mrs O'Gorman is taking a step back from full time teaching to spend more time with her family. She has contributed so much to our school over her time as both a parent and a teacher, ensuring excellent results for our pupils from Reception to Year 6, nurturing individual pupil's talents and of course contributing her wonderful musical talents to the Catholic life of our school. Mrs Farrell-Cotton has also made the decision not to return from her maternity leave to enable her to spend more time with her young family. After ten years of dedicated service to our school, we are incredibly grateful to her and wish her all the best for this next chapter in her life. Mrs Delap will be leaving at the end of the year to take time out and receive treatment following a bad accident earlier this year. We are grateful that she has soldiered on this year, a reflection of her dedication to the children. Mrs Walder is also leaving to take up a full-time post at Holy Trinity and we wish her every success at her new school.

A number of our support staff are also leaving. Mrs Thomas is looking forward to moving on to a new challenge after many years of invaluable support throughout our school and particularly in Year 6 where she has ensured our children are secondary ready in every sense. After many years of dedicated service, working with pupils with additional needs, Mrs Brun has decided to retire. She has enriched the lives of so many of our pupils and we wish her every happiness in the years ahead. Mrs Gordon is also taking a step back from her current role to spend more time with her young son and husband but we look forward to continuing to work with her as a club leader as we know her many talents are invaluable. Finally, Mr Cinque is returning to his studies. We are sure that he will stay in touch with the school and we wish him every success in the future.

As we say goodbye to these valued members of our team, we are delighted to welcome new staff to our school. Miss Macfarlane, Miss Smyth and Mrs Philips will be joining our teaching staff and we look forward to working with them and you to ensure that next year is happy and productive for all our pupils. Below you will find information regarding your child's class teacher for next year and they will have a chance to meet with them over the next few weeks including our "Meet the Teacher" morning on Wednesday 19th July when they will spend the morning with their new teacher in their new classroom. We are aware that some children find these transitions particularly challenging and plans are in place to support these pupils. However, if you have any particular concerns about your child please speak to their current teacher and we can put an appropriate plan in place.

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Reception – Ms Anderson

Year 1 – Mrs El Khoury

Year 2 – Miss Smyth

Year 3 – Mrs Hopkins

Year 4 – Ms Vunaki

Year 5 – Miss MacFarlane

Year 6 – Mrs Derby

Job Opportunity

We are currently looking for an enthusiastic individual to join our dedicated staff team as a Learning Support Assistant and SMSA. The role involves working closely with class teachers to support the needs of individual pupils, including running 1:1 and small group interventions, as well as working within the classroom to help the children's learning and development. The post is due to start in September 2023 and is a great chance to make a big difference.

The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Monday 10th July 2023.

If you would like to apply, or have family or friends who may be interested, please see our Recruitment page on Eteach [here](#) for more information, an application form and the Job Description. Alternatively, please contact the office directly.

Safeguarding

Several of our classes have been looking at how to stay safe online and the impact that sharing images and videos can have on us. We have also considered what apps, games and sites are appropriate and why and talked about what they should do if they encounter something or someone that makes them feel uncomfortable. In Year 4 we learnt the handy rhyme, "Report but don't delete, reply or meet".

There are lots of online resources for children and parents that are useful and the NSPCC has not only a wealth of resources but you can also sign up for a newsletter that will help you stay informed. [NSPCC Online Safety Information](#)

PTA Announcements

Dear Parents,

We would like to thank to all of you for making our summer fair such a success!

We couldn't have done it without your incredible support, generous donations, and the fantastic work of our awesome volunteers, your presence at the Fair and all support from local businesses.

Thanks to all of you we raised £7500 for our school!

We really hope you had lots of fun! From the games and activities to the delicious treats and awesome prizes, it was a day filled with laughter and joy. Seeing the smiles on the kids' faces made it all worth it.

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We're so grateful for each and every one of you who contributed in any way, big or small. Your enthusiasm, time, and resources helped create a memorable experience for everyone involved.

Thank you for being an essential part of our community!

With heartfelt gratitude,

Your PTA

You can still support us with monthly contribution or one-time payment to the PTA account. If you are eligible for gift aid, please drop off your gift aid forms to the school office.

Account details below:

St Mary Magdalen's RC School PTA

Sort Code 20-72-33

Account Number 20322822

With all our thanks,
Alison, Astrid, Clare, Gabi, Fran M and Fran S

Pupils of the Week

Reception Antarctica – Georgina Lelliott
Year 1 Australia – Zoey Wallis-Jones
Year 2 Africa – Olivia Davis and Leia Khoudier
Year 3 North America – Isobel Hart
Year 4 South America – Rosa Amechi,
Mergen Badral and Morena Kodra
Year 5 Europe – Elias Carter
Year 6 Asia – Gabriel Jordano
and Caitlin Smith

Headteacher's Award for Exceptional Work

Mila for wonderful writing about her Eid celebrations
Leo, Pia, Charlotte and Amber
Olive, Evie and Zoey for exceptional handwriting
Dominic for fabulous phonics
Zoey for an amazingly crafted puppet
Benecio and Lily for their work on Mortlake history
Amelia and Charlie for their work on life cycles
Theia for her hard work on handwriting
Zoe for her work in science
Elias, Matteos and Charlotte for drawings, pastels and prints inspired by an artist's visit

I hope you have a restful weekend with your children,

Catherine Hughes
Headteacher

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