



# ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

---

Newsletter - Autumn 1 | 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I was delighted this week to take up the headship at St Mary Magdalen's. Due to a long-standing family commitment, I was not able to be in school until Thursday but it was a delight and a pleasure to meet the children as they arrived at school on Thursday and Friday morning AND to meet so many parents.

It was wonderful to see the children displaying such enthusiasm after their summer break and they seemed to have overcome the nervousness that comes with starting a new school year.

With the fine weather due to continue over the next few days, I do hope you will make the most of your family time over the weekend and I look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and raring to go next week!

## **Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)**

You will be aware of the debate that has been raging in relation to the use of RAAC as a building material in some schools and its possible deterioration and subsequent safety concerns.

Inspections of our school give no reason to believe that St Mary Magdalen's is in any way compromised by the use of this material and so we are able to carry on as normal.

## **Communication**

We will continue to use Google Classroom to share information with you and this will also enable you to easily access information and resources when you need them.

The Google classrooms for this year have been set up and you can access them using the links below if you have not done so already. Your child has been reminded of their login and password but, if they can't remember it, please contact the school office [admin@st-marymagdalens.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marymagdalens.richmond.sch.uk)

## **Reception – To be arranged shortly**

**Year 1** - <https://classroom.google.com/c/NjIwOTgzNjAwNTYz?cjc=7d5k2vr>

Class Code: 7d5k2vr

**Year 2** – <https://classroom.google.com/c/NjIxNTAwNDY2NDMw?cjc=uycrr5b>

Class Code: uycrr5b

**Year 3** – <https://classroom.google.com/c/NjIwOTYzMTIyNzM1?cjc=2vy7kqn>

Class Code: 2vy7kqn

**Year 4** – <https://classroom.google.com/c/NjlyMDAxMDI2MDg4?cjc=fzbsisk>

Class Code: fzbsisk

**Year 5** – <https://classroom.google.com/c/NjlxOTk5MDMwNjMy?cjc=cwlt2h7>

Class Code: cwlt2h7

**Year 6** – <https://classroom.google.com/c/NjE1NTczNTI3NzQ5?cjc=wr7lbjr>

Class Code: wr7lbjr

### **Parent Teacher Meetings**

At the start of every year, we look forward to meeting with parents to talk about the year ahead. This year, the meetings will be in person, **after drop off**, in the hall on the dates shown below. The presentations will also be put into Google Classroom for parents who are unable to attend.

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September - Year 6

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September - Year 3

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September – Year 4

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September – Year 5

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September - Year 1

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September – Year 2

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September – Reception

### **Recruitment**

#### **Learning Support Assistant/SMSA**

We are currently looking for an enthusiastic individual to join our dedicated staff team as a Learning Support Assistant/SMSA. The role involves working closely with class teachers to support the needs of individual pupils, running small group interventions and working within the classroom to help the children's learning and development.

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

The post is due to start as soon as possible and is a great chance to make a big difference.

The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Friday 15 September.

<https://www.eteach.com/schools/st-mary-magdalens-catholic-primary-school-18109>

#### **Clerk to Governors**

The Board of Governors is looking to appoint a highly organised individual with a professional manner and effective communication skills to support Governors with their work. The successful candidate will work closely with the Chair of Governors, the Headteacher and other members of the board. Central to the role is preparing for, taking notes at and producing minutes for meetings as well as advising on procedural issues of governance, statutory duties and dealing with administrative matters. Integrity and the ability to maintain confidentiality are also essential.

The post is due to start as soon as possible.

The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Monday 18 September.

<https://www.eteach.com/job/clerk-to-governors-1367387>

### **Term Dates**

Below is a reminder of the term dates this year:

#### **Autumn Term 2023**

Monday 30 October: Inset Day – school closed (Locality schools tbc)

Thursday 21 December: school closes for Christmas holidays (1pm)

Half Term: Monday 23 October to Friday 27 October

#### **Spring Term 2024**

Monday 8 January: spring term begins

Thursday 28 March: school closes for Easter holidays (1pm)

Half Term: Monday 12 February to Friday 16 February

#### **Summer term 2024**

Monday 15 April: summer term begins

Friday 3 May: Catholic Inset Day – school closed (tbc)

Monday 6 May: May Day Bank Holiday

Friday 24 May: Inset Day – school closed (report writing)

Monday 3 June: Inset Day – school closed (SDP)

Wednesday 24 July: school closes for summer holidays (1pm)

Half term: Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May

### **Clubs**

Clubs will start the week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> September. You have been sent all the information about the clubs and how to book them, this information is also on our website.

***FUNDamental** is a brand new drama club aimed at building confidence and communication skills through fun and games.*

*Children will learn techniques and strategies to help them form healthy friendships, enhance their skills in social play and have an opportunity to 'let off steam' with upbeat drama games that will allow them to return to their classrooms feeling refreshed and ready to learn.*

*Classes will be run by Mrs Gordon on Tuesday lunchtimes starting 12th September. Each session lasts 30mins.*

**Cost per child:** *First session free then £50 thereafter for remaining 10 sessions this term.*

*Please email **Fundamental.artsuk@gmail.com** to register your child's interest.*

*Mrs. Gordon has over 15 years' experience teaching for companies such Stagecoach, Perform and Make Believe and has loved her time working as a TA at St Mary Magdalen's. Having seen firsthand some of the challenge's children face today, she is excited to merge her skills and knowledge to create this bespoke drama club to help support the happiness and well-being of St Mary Magdalen's pupils.*

### **Head and Deputy Head Boys and Girls and House Captains**

We were very pleased to announce our Head and Deputy Head Boys and Girls and House Captains for 2023/24 in our School Assembly this afternoon.

**Head Boy :** Tomas Whitmore

**Head Girl :** Harriet Fox

**Deputy Head Boy:** Morgan Coughlan

**Deputy Head Girl:** Ellie Tusiime

#### **House Captains:**

**Fisher:** Mya Birrell King

**Mayne:** Raffi Boghossian

**More:** Elias Carter

**Campion:** Angelica Perry Pecikoza

Many congratulations to Tomas, Harriet, Morgan, Ellie, Mya, Raffi, Elias and Angelica. I am sure they will represent the school superbly and be great role models for all the boys and girls at St Mary Magdalen's.

We look forward to announcing further positions of responsibility shortly.

### **The Equality Act and Diocesan Schools**

As we commence a new academic year, there will be some changes and additions to our staff. Also, in the event of staff absence, it is necessary to engage employees from teaching and other agencies. When such appointments are made, either full-time or temporary, the school follows the necessary Safer Recruitment procedures. All schools must adhere to the Equality Act of 2010. This is completely in line with Diocesan policy. All staff are evaluated in respect of their ability to carry out the role to which they are appointed and their commitment to upholding the mission and values of our Catholic school. We ask that parents appreciate that this is the case and continue to support all appointments made by the school.

## PTA Announcements

Welcome back to another exciting school year!

We wanted to extend a warm welcome to all of you, both familiar faces and new additions to our school community.

The Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) plays a vital role in enhancing the educational experience for our students. The mission of supporting the school can't be done without your support.

You can contribute by giving your time or donate to support.

Stay tuned for updates on our upcoming events and fundraising opportunities.

Already, you can support school by joining and buying via easyfundraising, search for the cause: St Mary Magdalen's.

You can also consider signing up to monthly contribution or make a donation to PTA account.

Account details below:

St Mary Magdalen's RC School PTA

Sort Code 20-72-33

Account Number 20322822

Even a small monthly contribution can have a big impact on the programme and events we can organize for our children.

Together, we can make this school year a memorable and enriching one for our children.

We are also looking for new members to join our PTA team this year to help organise vital fundraising events for the school. Soon the date of the AGM will be announced. Everyone is welcomed to come, learn about our plans, and get involved.

Your PTA

### **Uniform**

Our uniform is a great source of pride for us. Please see the table below with information regarding our 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 red/white, hair ribbons/bands.	white open necked short sleeved school (optional) 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

	school sunhat red/white hair ribbons/bands.
PE	<p>navy and red polo shirt navy shorts or navy tracksuit bottoms red sweat shirt socks trainers or plimsolls Optional item: red fleece. PE bag</p> <p>PE Uniform should be worn to school on the days when children have PE lessons. Your class teacher will share these days with parents at your information meeting.</p>

### Pupil of the Week Award

**Reception**– The Whole Class – Making a great start on the school journey

**Year 1** – Raina Nguyen – Setting a wonderful example to her classmates

**Year 2** – Mona Lara Kooros – For trying her best during every lesson

**Year 3** - The Whole Class – Settling really well into routines and making a great start

**Year 4** – Willow Barros – For doing a wonderful job, persisting with tasks

**Year 5** - Antonio Stephenson – For exceptional effort

**Year 6** - The Whole Class – For a great start to the new school year

**Thank you for setting such an excellent example!**

I hope you have a wonderful weekend with your children and I look forward to seeing you on Monday.

John Conway  
Headteacher