



# ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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**4<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we welcomed Year 6 back into school, after their residential visit to The Isle of Wight. They came off the coach with new stories to tell and lots of laundry! Many thanks to Mrs Derby, Ms Gallagher & Ms Nugent for looking after the children so well.

Year 5 really rose to the challenge of being the oldest children in the school last week and were fantastic role models.

As I mentioned last week, we joined 130 other Southwark schools at St George's Cathedral. Around 1200 people were at the Mass. Our School Chaplains met the Archbishop and had their photos taken with him. Many thanks to all the School Chaplains who do so much and regularly help in prayer and liturgy sessions and assemblies. Thanks also to Mrs El Khoury for organising the visit.

Our first Mass of the new school year took place on Wednesday. Thank you to year 5 for leading it.

Starting this term, I will be holding a Headteacher's Tea Party. Two children from each class will be selected by their class teacher to attend. The theme, this term will be based on one of our Catholic School Teaching Values, 'The Common Good' and 'Thinking of others'. The party will be held in December and those selected will also receive a certificate.

Many thanks to the PTA for organising another really successful International Food Fair.

Have a peaceful weekend.

Mr M Brannigan

## Prayer of the Week

A Prayer for Peace

Lord Jesus Christ,  
You are the true King of peace.  
In You alone is found freedom.  
Please free our world from conflict.  
Bring unity to troubled nations.  
Let Your glorious peace reign in every heart.

Amen



## **Pupil of the Week**

Reception – Marie Benedicta Bernitz – For making excellent progress in phonics.

Year 1 – Ivana Zuri – For impressive phonics and English work.

Year 2 – Ada Lynch – For setting a superb example in her attitude to learning and her behaviour

Year 3 – Benjamin Miller – For an outstanding performance this week!

Year 4 – Lily Pepper – For being an excellent role model for the rest of the class.

Year 5 – The Whole Class – For thoughtfully leading the first Mass of the new school year.

Year 6 – Rose Maza – For her positivity and enthusiasm across the curriculum

## **School Diary Dates**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October – Parents’ Open Afternoon 2025-2026 – 2.00-3.00p.m.

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October – Y3/4 Boys’ Football Tournament (10 students)

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October - Nasal Flu Immunisation R-Year 6

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October – Y2 Trip to Florence Nightingale Museum

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October – Reception visit by London Fire Brigade

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Parents’ Evening 3.40-5.40p.m.

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October - Parents’ Evening 5.00-7.00p.m.

Half Term – 28<sup>th</sup> October – 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024

## **PTA Diary Dates**

Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> October – Second-hand uniform sale -3.20pm

Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup> - Mufti day, Second-hand Costumes and Christmas jumpers can be brought into school

Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> - Second-hand sale for costumes and Christmas jumpers

Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 5 pm to 7 pm - Mufti Day - Autumn disco KS1 5-6pm & KS2 6.15-7.15pm

Autumn trail will be held in the week before half-term.

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November - Mufti day

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November – Mufti Day

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – Mufti Day

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November – Mufti Day

Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> 2-4pm - Christmas Fair

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> - Carol Singing

Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> - Santa run

Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> - Christmas movie night

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December - Mufti day

## **CAFOD Assembly**

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024, KS1 and KS2 attended an assembly led by CAFOD. This assembly was a wonderful way of demonstrating how schools are putting Catholic Social Teaching into action. Children learned how medical vans are used to treat communities with little resources. These vans have special paintings on them to draw a smile on children’s faces. Some of the paintings were even stories that happened due to different natural disasters. This made children think of two Catholic Social Teaching Principles: Human Dignity and Preferential Option for The Poor.

Here are some thoughts from the children:

*"CAFOD helps people after there has been a man-made natural disaster."* Lucia-Y6

*"The painters were thoughtful- they wanted to bring joy."* Rose – Y6

*"They are a Catholic Charity but they help everyone, no matter their religion."* – Max – Y6

*"At our CAFOD assembly, we learnt about floods in Pakistan and how climate change is behind it. We also learnt about how a van was bringing medicine and doctors to people who couldn't get to hospital because of floods."* Abigail – Y5

*"I really liked the CAFOD assembly. We learnt about Catholic Social Teaching but I also learnt that they draw stuffs on vans to brighten up people's days."* – Elena – Y5

### **Mass for our New School Year**

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024, we had our first whole school mass of the new academic year led by Year 5. The children read thoughtfully and did a great job. During this Mass, all the pupil chaplains as well as Mr Brannigan were blessed by Father Adrian.



### **October: Black History Month**

This year's theme is "Reclaiming Narratives," and marks a significant shift towards recognising and correcting the narratives of Black history and culture. This theme underscores a commitment to correcting historical inaccuracies and showcasing the untold success stories and the full complexity of Black heritage. It's about taking control of stories and honouring heroes while challenging the narratives that have often overlooked the contributions and achievements of Black individuals both in the UK and globally.

<https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/>

### **Open Morning/Days – School Admission 2025-2026**

We are pleased to announce a series of open morning/days for parents and carers to visit the school. They will consist of a tour of the school, followed by a talk by the Headteacher and a member of the senior leadership team. Our scheduled open days are as follows. Please click [here](#) to book a place.

Tuesday 8th October 2024 – 2.00-3.00pm

Friday 15th November 2024 – 9.30-10.30am

Tuesday 3rd December 2024 – 2.00-3.00pm

Tuesday 7th January 2025 – 9.30-10.30am

## **Share and Care Foodbank Donations for Harvest Hampers**

We will be collecting donations to enable us to prepare Harvest hampers to pass to the Parish 'Share and Care' foodbank. If you have any donations for the hampers, please bring them to school and leave them in the labelled crate in the playground by the main gate. We suggest donations of dried pasta, rice, tinned tuna, tinned tomatoes, tinned soup or tinned vegetables. Also needed are washing powder, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, tea, coffee, jam and biscuits. Closing date for donations is Monday morning 7th October, please place your items in the crate provided in the playground.

## **Pupil Premium**

If your financial circumstances have changed your child might now be entitled to the pupil premium grant. This applies if you receive any of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)

How to Apply – Pupil Premium

For queries and to apply for free school meals, please contact our school office [admin@st-marymagdalens.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marymagdalens.richmond.sch.uk) More information about free school meals can be found at: [https://www.richmond.gov.uk/free\\_school\\_meals](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/free_school_meals)

## **Volunteers**

At St Mary Magdalen's Primary we recognise that volunteers can make a significant contribution to the children and wider work of the school. If you have some spare time during which you can read with the children or help in the library. We can always make the best use of all talents, skills, experience and interests! Please speak to the school office or one of the senior leadership team if you are interested in volunteering.

## **Road Safety - Be Safe Be Seen**

As Autumn arrives it not only gets darker but more vital that children are seen. Please make sure that your child has a coat or bag that has reflective strips to allow them to be seen in the headlights of cars especially if they scooter or cycle to school.



## **School Uniform**

Our school uniform is run by our wonderful PTA, they have managed to find a new company to provide us with our red and blue striped P.E. kit. For many years we have been without our striped shorts. Please click the link to view our school uniform [UNIFORM](#) and then go to SCOPay to make your purchase <https://www.scopay.com/login> An automated receipt will be sent to you and orders will be packed and distributed to your child within a week.

The cheerful colours of St Mary Magdalen's red and grey uniform are instantly recognisable and reinforces our children's sense of belonging. Our pupils wear their uniform with pride, and we ask all parents to label everything with their child's name to avoid loss.

## **Message from NS Sport**

The NS Sport website and emails will not be available on Tuesday 8th October from 22:00-23:45pm due to some essential maintenance. During this time, the website will be offline which means you will not be able to login to place bookings for any of their services. They suggest you make all essential bookings prior to this time.

## **Richmond parent/carer forum**

Richmond and Hounslow Parent Carer Forum's (PCF) are an independent group run by parents for parents or carers of children/young people (aged 0 – 25 years) who have any form of special educational need or disability. Your child does not need an official diagnosis for you to become a member and we support families of children with any type of additional need including learning difficulties like dyslexia.

Richmond

<https://kr.afcinfo.org.uk/pages/local-offer/information-and-advice/participation-and-involvement-activities/richmond-parent-carer-forum>

Hounslow

<https://hounslowpcf.co.uk/>

## **Parent Workshops**

At Richmond Parent Carer Forum, we're working with our neighbouring Parent Carer Forum in Wandsworth to offer a workshop discussing online safety for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND.) We will be joined by a Hate Crime and Prevent Co-ordinator from Wandsworth and Richmond Councils, who will be discussing online dangers and what we can do as parent carers to protect our children and young people against grooming (brain washing), extremism, radicalisation and influence on social media.

Parent carers will have an increased understanding of online radicalisation, including awareness (signs/behaviours of the changes due to radicalisation) and effective interventions/diversionary approaches for someone who is vulnerable to radicalisation. We will have a presentation followed by a Q and A session.

## **Online Safety Workshop – Protecting Children and Young People with SEND from online grooming and extremism**

**10.30am-12pm Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October. Online**

**Book your place here:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-safety-for-parent-carers-tickets-1020556089737?aff=oddtcreator>

### **Community Information**

#### **Kingston's Family Friendly Bike Ride**

Join Kingston Cycling Campaign and friends on Sunday 6 October 2024 for the final fun-packed family-friendly ride of the year! Designed with all ages and cycling abilities in mind, this easy-paced 6.5-mile ride will take us from Surbiton to North Kingston, and back via the river. The event will start from Claremont Gardens, a stone's throw from Surbiton station, gathering by 10.45am just inside the gardens at the junction of The Crescent and Grove Road for the ride briefing before we set off at 11am - Register for your free place [here](#).

#### **Half term at the Museum of Richmond**

Family workshop: Spooky stained glass

Tuesday 29 October to Friday 1 November, 10am to 12noon

Discover the stories of the Ghosts that haunt the remains of Richmond Palace. Join us on a ghost walk around the Palace's remains, then head back to the Museum to create spooky stained glass, inspired by the Tudor stained glass we have from the Palace! £6 per child - adults are free. To book [click here](#).

Free crafts: Spooky Pumpkins

Need to get the kids out of the house for a few hours? Pop into the Museum for our FREE crafts and get creative as a family! Available from 1pm each weekday and Saturday the Museum is open. No need to book, just drop in.

[Click here](#) to view the flyer.

### **News from the PTA**

A massive well done to Lucy and Amy on organizing a fantastic international food fair and raising an impressive £3013.88. Thank you to all the families who participated and even to the teachers who came to support us on the day.

Great job to year 4 for raising £246 at their cake sale! Excellent effort!

Tickets will be on sale next week for the first Mary Mags Silent Disco. Don't miss out! The event will take place on Friday, October 25th. The KS1 session will be from 5-6 pm, and the KS2 session will be from 6:15-7:15 pm.

Second-hand Costumes and Christmas jumpers can be brought into school by Friday, October 11th. Please have a clean-out over the weekend, and if possible, donate whatever you can