



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Wednesday 7th February 2018



Learning and loving on our journey with Jesus

Spring Term

Our RE topic is Revelation

"To the greater glory of God"

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Now here's a challenge! What did you say to your child or children when you picked them up from school? Was it a positive greeting with interest about their day or was it a negative grunt because you're stressed or overworked? How we speak to our children – that includes the school staff as well, makes a massive impact on their engagement with education and learning as they grow up. If you are always being told 'no' or being told to be quiet then are you going to offer any questions or opinions about the world? If you are always told that you are naughty are you going to be good? If you, as parents, spend more time on your phone than talking to your children – are you going to be surprised if they don't talk to you? This is a tough lesson for all of us – so let's talk – let's talk to our children about everyday life; what they've done in school and what's coming up in the next half term; what's the latest all of Year x are talking about. Let's talk to each other! Have a great half term!

Knights of St Columba Christmas Card Competition - John Lynn from the Knights Of St Columba visited the Merit Assembly on Thursday afternoon. St Mary's had a clean sweep in the Infants Competition winning 1st – Gracie Hennessy, 2nd – Kayleigh Lewington and 3rd - Alishba Majid. In the Junior section Miguel Hope was the runner up. All these children received a book token and their pictures will go on to the regional and then the national competition. Mr Lynn also shared some of the excellent work submitted by our school that the judges felt worthy of comment. He also gave some super hints for next year's competition so St Mary's will be trying for a clean sweep!

Merit Assembly - In the Merit Assembly the children share a scripture story which has a message for their attitudes to life and learning. There is an atmosphere of suspense when the teachers announce their stars of the week and yet more excitement when the merits are announced and the Golden merits where children have received 6 merits. The Light of St Mary's is announced at the beginning and on 1st February week it was Elizabeth Irvin-Fynn – well done!

So this week's stars are: Olivia Farina, Ellis Rance, Leonardo Lee, Niamh Hosey, Lucien Piazza, Romilly Moore, Terry Creffield, Tiago Silva, Eric Gordon, Adam Luberda and Amber Wilson. Golden Merits went to Milosz Li Gobbi, Ruby Richards and Reece James. Thank you to all the children for such a great attitude and hard work!

Parents Evening – Once again, thank you to all the parents who came to both of the Parent's Evenings last week. It was lovely to catch up with so many of you and share your delight in your child's progress. I try to be out 'on the gate' to talk to everyone when I can.

Benchball - Last Friday 8 children from Year 5 travelled to Altwood Secondary School to participate in a benchball tournament. Bailey Hayward, Aden Hayward, Ethan Mosdell, William Hodgson, Ella Jones, Demara Gumbs and Gabrielle Bulley pulled together as a team and won 5 out of 5 matches. They came in 2nd place and all received a silver medal. Demara and William were awarded certificates one for great defending and one for great attacking. Fantastic team effort we are all very proud of you!

Medical Appointments - Please make sure your child's teacher knows in advance if your child is to be collected early for medical appointments. Please keep the school informed about your child's health as we all want to make sure your child has a happy and healthy time at school.

Requests for term time leave –It must be half term – no term time leave will be authorised unless there is a very good reason. If you think you have sufficient reason such as medical appointments then you need to discuss this with me including sharing any paperwork. Your children should be in school and not taking extra days either side of the holiday – all educational research shows the value of regular school attendance and the damage caused by regular absences. Value your child's education!

PE Kit – Please make sure your child has their PE kit in school Monday to Friday. There have been a number of children who have not had their kit at school and have ended up using lost property for their lesson – not ideal. PE is part of the curriculum - as much as Maths or English and we need all children to be able to take part. Whilst the weather is cold your child also needs a top and joggers to wear outside. It is not acceptable to wear tights or the school jumper especially as they will be wearing these clothes for the rest of the day.

Mobile Phones – Thank you to those children who so regularly bring their mobile phones for safe-keeping in the office. Just to confirm mobile phones are not allowed in school during the day so once your child is in school they need to bring the mobile phone to the office where it will be locked away safely and it then can be collected at the end of school. No primary school child needs access to a phone during the day and any phone found will be confiscated.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS - If you think your child is eligible for free school meals please contact the school office even if they are in Reception or Infants as we can claim as a school which goes towards the children's education.

Hair Policy – I know some will say that everyone expresses themselves through their hair style. However, we have had a few extreme haircuts recently and before the razor comes out please consider whether your choice of hair cut for your child might appear aggressive or contrary to the ethos of our school. As always, long hair must be tied back but not with large hair bows or other fancy adornments. We will be producing a school hair policy but I would ask you to use your common sense.

Advance Notice – Change of menu for first day back after half-term, Tuesday 20th February will be Sausage and Mash.

Parent Support Advisor - Are you experiencing difficulties with your child? Do you feel that you might benefit from some help and support with your parenting? Our Parent Support Advisor is here to help. To speak to her confidentially or to book a visit, please call Lisa Mack on 07824 357988 or email on lisa.mack@stmarys-maidenhead.org.uk.

DIARY DATES (so far) – *please be patient – dates do change for circumstances beyond our control*

Thursday 8th February – Dance festival – Mrs Martin's and Mrs Hurrell's class

HALF TERM – 12th February to 16th February - **Remember Ash Wednesday is 14th February.**

INSET Day Monday 19th February

Wednesday 28th February – Lent Reconciliation Service

Thursday 8th March – a.m. Lower Juniors Parents' into school

Friday 9th March 2.30 pm Mothers' Day Liturgy EY & KS1

Sunday 11th March – Mothering Sunday

Friday 16th March – Juniors to Mass at St. Joseph's 10.00 am for St. Joseph's Day

Sunday 17th March – St Patrick's Day

Tuesday 20th March – a.m. Upper Juniors Parents' into school

Friday 23rd March – pm – Bring and Buy sale

Sunday 25th March – Palm Sunday

Wednesday 28th March – End of term Mass 2.20pm

Thursday 29th March 9.00 am Passion Play – Last day of term! Finish at 1:30pm.

If there is anything in the newsletter that you require further clarification of please call and we will be happy to answer your questions

Mrs Barry
Head teacher

Please ensure you advise us if you change your mobile phone number or email address. All money sent into School must be in a named envelope or named purse.