



**St Mary's Catholic Primary School**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

*Learning and loving on our journey with Jesus*

Autumn Term

**Our RE topic is Creation**

*"To the greater glory of God"*

[www.stmarys-maidenhead.org.uk](http://www.stmarys-maidenhead.org.uk)

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**Parish School of St Joseph's, Maidenhead**

[www.stjosephsparish.co.uk](http://www.stjosephsparish.co.uk)

Parish Priest Fr. John Lee

Parish Office 01628 783988

Diocese of Portsmouth

**Welcome back!**



Thank you to Shauna in the Lower Juniors  
for this lovely picture.

What a strange time this has been and we have all been affected one way or another. The return to school provides us with additional challenge as well as the normal start for the school year. The comfort is that the children are all so pleased to be back at school. It has been really lovely to see how much everyone has grown and how happy they are to be back.

The Government Guidance has not changed about staggered starts and finishes and the need to keep the 'bubbles' apart as far as we are able in school. I know this has been an issue for some but I am following Government Guidance. However, thank you for all the good humour we've shared whilst I've been on the gate with my sticks and signs. Look what we have all achieved this week but ...

**SOCIAL DISTANCING – Please keep 2 metres apart from other families!**

The change in government rules shows us all just how important social distancing still is for us all. Remember the staggered time slots are windows for opening and there is no need to queue to come in. If it is not your child's time slot and then stay in the car or move away from the school entrance. Please ask your child or ring the office if you are not sure which class your child is in as we do have some new staff.

Our local education authority has asked me to state to you all:

**Please can I also ask in your weekly news letters to parents to emphasise the importance of not sending children in who display symptoms and request a test**

**but more importantly do not send their children to school prior receiving a negative test result.**

**We all need to keep each other safe!**

We have decided that if children have PE at school then they should come to school in their PE kit for the day – you will see that staff will also be following this line. However, PE kit means school PE kit and not football kit and children should not be wearing school jumpers/cardigans for PE. As the year moves on all children will be needed to wear either St Mary's blue joggers or a pair of dark black or navy joggers as well as a sweatshirt or school hoodie.



Father John came in to bless our classrooms after the building work finished at the end of August. He visited each classroom and even the small rooms where so many interventions and groups take place. The photo shows Fr John and Miss Ilderton who has joined us to teach in Year 1 and 2.

**POOR Parking!** Sadly, we have a letter from a resident in Sandringham Road who is complaining about the poor parking by some parents and has threatened to call the police. I have no jurisdiction over the use of the surrounding roads but I would hope that everyone in our community would think of others' needs when parking their cars. So – please be warned that this resident will be calling the police and will take the matter further if the poor parking continues.

Kindly, some of the class TAQs have been busy naming some children's uniform. We have 305 identical either cardigans or jumpers and some are just so lovely and new! If you haven't already please name all your child's uniform so if things are lost they can soon be reunited with their owner.

If you are parents of a **past Year 6 pupil** please pass on our best wishes to your children as they start secondary school. Our children have moved on to over ten schools and we hope that they take their wonderful St Mary's attitude to learning and love for God's creation as they go. They are always in our prayers.

You might remember I sent the new Year 6 parents a message that transfer testing for grammar schools has been delayed until the end of October 2020 to allow time for the children to settle back into school. Admissions said: *As you may be aware, transfer testing for grammar schools has been delayed until the end of October 2020 to allow children time to settle back into school. The Department for Education has advised that there is no intention to change the national closing date for secondary applications beyond 31 October 2020 to accommodate this change. This means that parents will have to make their secondary school application before transfer test results are published at the end of November 2020.*

*It is important that parents of Year 6 children sitting the test understand that they must apply for their child's secondary school place before the results are received and no later than 31 October 2020. They must include both grammar schools and non-selective schools within the six preferences on their application, in the event that their child does not meet the required standard for entry into grammar school. The RBWM website has [information on how places were allocated at non-selective schools in previous years](#) (at the bottom of the returned webpage).*

*We encourage parents to look at this information so they can make informed decisions about the non-selective schools that they name as a preference, and the likelihood of their child being allocated a place at the school based on the oversubscription criteria.*

We will include information on how to decide preference order and equal preference processing in the Admission into Secondary School September 2021 guide as well as additional information on the website and in communications generally.

If parents have any additional questions about the application process they should send an email to [rbwm.admissions@achievingforchildren.org.uk](mailto:rbwm.admissions@achievingforchildren.org.uk). Any questions on the transfer testing process itself should be directed to the local authority where their child intends to sit the test.

### Important Message from Debbie

**We are excited to announce Little Tanks on \*\*Zoom\*\***

**Bookings are now open for the Autumn term 2020**

Due to the current situation we are temporarily moving our Little Tanks after school drama sessions to Zoom so your child can still develop their confidence through drama as well as improving their communication skills and well-being.

<http://www.littletanks.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Zoom-St-Marys-form.pdf>

Please see above the application form, payment details to secure your child's space starting on **Wednesday the 23rd of September**. Do note there are currently now **only 7 spaces available**. I have also attached a copy of our Zoom Code of Conduct; further online safety policies can be found on our website: <http://www.littletanks.co.uk/policies/>

For bank transfers please credit £60.00 into our Little Tanks Ltd bank account. Account number: 26204313 Sort Code: 23-05-80 and enter code 'ST' followed by your child's name as the reference. Once received I will send a confirmation email.

If you are interested in one of our **FREE** trials taking place after school on Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> & Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> of September, please get in touch to add your child's name to the list

We look forward to welcoming your child to Little Tanks on Zoom this term and having lots of drama fun each week. If you have any queries, please contact me at: [debi@littletanks.co.uk](mailto:debi@littletanks.co.uk)

A parent has shared about a school sports club that runs at the Thames Valley Athletics Club in Eton. The sessions are for children aged 5-10. See the image below for more details.

**KIDS OFF THE BLOCKS**

This club will be perfect for children to try out a different variety of sports to find out what they enjoy most!!!

For further enquiries or to sign up contact  
01753 770037 | [sukarja@deleisure.com](mailto:sukarja@deleisure.com)  
<https://datchetetonleisure.formstack.com/forms/kotbafterschool>

Ages: 5-7 Time: 4:30- 5:30 pm Every Wednesday during term times	Ages: 8-10 Time: 5:00-6:00 pm Every Monday during term times
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Are you experiencing difficulties with your child? Do you feel as if you would benefit from some help and support with your parenting? Our Parent Support Advisor is here to help.

To speak to her confidentially please call Lisa Mack on 07824 357988 or email her on [lisa.mack@stmarys-  
maidenhead.org.uk](mailto:lisa.mack@stmarys-<br/>maidenhead.org.uk)

It is never too early to be planning for half term. We have been sent information re a tech camp running in Marlow. Tech camp is here for **October Half-Term** with all **NEW** activities and a **Halloween Costume Contest!** We are running on **26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020** at **St Peter's RC Primary School SL7 2PJ** from **9 am to 4 pm** each day.

Our technology camps are your child's ticket to another world, with lots of exciting activities for curious coders, inventors and artists. Kids can learn how to program *artificial intelligence robots*, *modify madness with Minecraft* and even create their own *digital app!* The camps are designed to help children acquire in-demand skills from a young age, which will be needed for their future jobs market. Simply put, it is the perfect place for them to push their coding skills even further and provides an unforgettable learning experience.

For a full list of activities and more information **please see flyer attached. Spaces are limited due to social distancing** and work on a **first come first serve** basis. To check availability or to enrol simply visit:

<https://nextthing.shortcm.li/0zOGFA>

Covid-19 safety – please watch our video to see how we made our camps safe and secure this Summer, the same protocols will remain in place for our October Camps.

<https://nextthing.shortcm.li/nSn4wb>

**With the very best wishes for a great new academic year to you all,**

**Sandra Barry**

**Head teacher**

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