

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter 20 October 2017

Headteacher: Miss Patricia Pickering

Newsletter

Dear Parents

We have been blessed with a positive and happy start to this academic year with much to look forward to before Christmas.

I have very much enjoyed meeting and welcoming the many new families to St Mary's and hope that you are now settled and feel a part of our community. Our new teachers, Mrs Cruddas in Y3/4, Miss Mzizi in Year 2 and Miss Turczak in Year 1/2 are welcome additions to our team, as are our new Teaching Assistants, Mrs Wilding, Miss Daulton and Miss Hicks - they have all very much appreciated your warm welcome.

Upcoming Events

Tues 7th Nov 3.15 – 5.15pm
PTFA Cinema Evening
(Despicable Me 3)

Wed 15th Nov 10.00-11.30am
Open Morning for
prospective parents

Sun 19th Nov 9.00am
First Holy Communion
Enrolment Mass

Fri 10th Nov 7.00pm
PTFA Bingo Night

Sat 2nd Dec 11.00am – 2.00pm
School/Parish Christmas
Bazaar

Parents' Evening

Thank you for your attendance at Parents' Evenings (95%). It is so important that teachers are able to talk to you about your child's achievements and progress in order that you can support and encourage them in their learning. If you were not able to make an appointment this week, please contact the school office or speak to your child's teacher to arrange a time convenient to both parties.

If you have found it difficult to use our on-line system, do please come to the office for the next parents' evening in March to ensure you have access to the system.

Month of the Holy Souls

During the month of November we pray especially for members of our families and friends who have died. If you would like the staff and children of St Mary's School to remember your loved ones in our prayers and at Mass, then please place their names in an envelope and send them to your child's class teacher. All names will then be placed in our basket on the prayer table in the school hall.



Operation Christmas Child

Once again this year we are supporting 'Operation Christmas Child'. This is a project organised by Samaritan's Purse, an International Relief Charity, which sends shoe boxes full of gifts to children around the world for Christmas. Leaflets have been sent home to remind you what can be put in the boxes. You can log on to the website for further information www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk

If you do not have shoe boxes readily available, this year the charity have provided us with 'Go Boxes' which may be purchased at 50p each. Last year we collected a staggering 136 boxes - let's see if we can match that, or even exceed it, this year!

Open Morning

We will be holding our Open Morning for prospective EYFS parents and pupils on Wednesday, 15th November from 10.00 - 11.30am. If your child was born on or between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014, you need to apply for a primary school place now. Deadline for applications is 15th January 2018. You can apply online www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

Big Write

Last week we held our first BIG write of this academic year. The teachers very much enjoyed getting into role as story book characters and the children produced some fantastic writing. Our focus was on vocabulary and we were very impressed with the words and phrases the children managed to get into their stories.

The Big Write



Sporting Events

The main sporting event this term has been the Bicester Area Cross Country. St Mary's was well represented in each race with all our competitors showing great determination, even when the going got tough!

The results were good - with the following pupils from St Mary's being placed in the top 20 in their races and earning a place in the finals:

Henry Oakley
Daniel Holden-White
Kate O'Malley
Ali O'Neill
Scarlett Flack
Charlotte Gore
Mia Medley

Well done to everyone who took part.

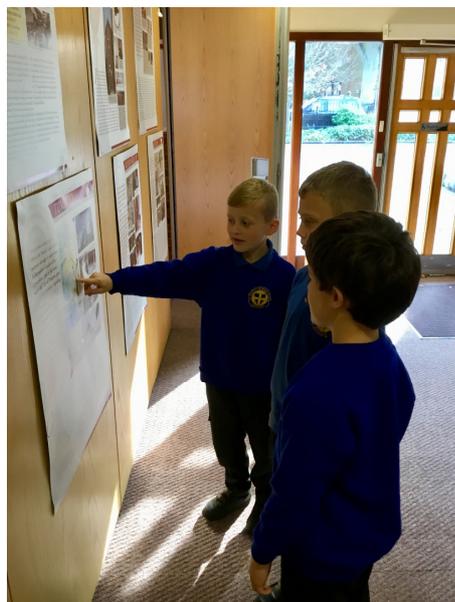
After half term we can look forward to the Year 5/6 Rugby Competition.

Eucharistic Miracles Visit

During the month of October, Key Stage Two pupils visited the Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition at St Joseph's Church in Thame. As part of this, we learnt about the life of Carlo Acutis who led a spiritual life and one day might become a saint. We learnt about the Eucharist and some of the Eucharistic Miracles that have taken place all over the world. At the end of each morning, we took part in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to spend some quiet time in prayer with Jesus.

We also did a treasure hunt where each sticker was on a piece of important information about a Eucharistic Miracle or on a statue in the Church - and we learnt a song of praise!

Eucharistic Miracles Visit



PTFA

Our Parents, Teachers and Friends Association held their Annual General Meeting last week and elections were conducted to form a new committee:

Chairperson - Nina Henderson-Andrade
Vice Chair - Lawrence Gain
Secretary (with PR & Marketing) - Melissa Knowles & Lesley Chipperfield
Treasurer - Elena Sozzi
Social Media - Darren Collins
Website - Darren Collins & Tim Moore
Newsletter - Chris West

The dedication and hard work of our new and expanded PTFA committee last year means that we have a very healthy balance of nearly £20,000. At the AGM we discussed ideas on how the PTFA will be providing new playground markings and equipment, as well as furniture for the new playgrounds.

I do hope that you will make every effort to support the upcoming PTFA events.

After the visit from Richard Blackmore, our Ofsted Inspector, yesterday, I would like to thank you for your positive support, good wishes and for making the effort to complete the Parent Questionnaire.

I also very much appreciate the generosity of time given by Canon John and the many governors who came to speak to the Inspector and give encouragement to us all.

An official decision has not yet been made, as soon as we receive this letter, I will of course send it to parents.

Thank you for your co-operation at drop off and pick up times while the playground work has been going on. We look forward to having two resurfaced playgrounds on our return after half-term.

Monday, 30th October is an Inset Day when school is closed for pupils. I hope you all enjoy a restful week with your families and look forward to our return on Tuesday, 31st October.

Ampticing