

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter 24 October 2019

Headteacher: Miss Patricia Pickering

Newsletter

Dear Parents

The start to our new academic year has been positive and happy with much to look forward to before Christmas.

It has been a pleasure to meet and welcome the many new families to St Mary's and I hope that you are now settled and feel a part of our community.



Extraordinary Month of Mission

During October, which Pope Francis declared as an Extraordinary Month of Mission, we as a school have taken time to deepen our relationship with Jesus through prayer. Our Upper Key Stage Two children took part in 'live stream' prayer with Archbishop Bernard Longley, praying the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary for people living on different continents. Together we have all come to a greater understanding of how, no matter where we are, our faith connects us with millions of Catholics throughout the world.

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.

Parents' Evenings

Thank you for your attendance at Parents' Evenings and at the Pupil Profile meetings organised by Mrs Driver, our SENCo. 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. In response to your feedback, we provided parents with a printed copy of what was discussed - we hope you found this useful.

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.

Fresh Start Lunches

Just a reminder that our children are able to enjoy a variety of healthy meals cooked on site by our wonderful Fresh Start cooks. Staff eat with pupils on a daily basis in the dining hall and feedback from both adults and children is always glowing. Some of the choices available this term are Red Pepper and Basil Pasta, Roast Dinner, Vegetable Chilli, Sausage Plait and Vegetable Biryani. There are also Jacket Potatoes and Deli Options available each day.

If you haven't already, do consider this alternative for your child - for Early Years and Key Stage One meals are free and for Key Stage Two £2.30 each. To register, please make enquiries at the school office and to order meals if you have your log in details go onto the website www.freshstartcatering.uk



Operation Christmas Child

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

If you do not have shoe boxes readily available, the charity have provided us with 'Go Boxes' which may be purchased at 50p each. Last year we collected 100 boxes - let's see if we can collect many more this year!

Open Morning

We will be holding our Open Morning for prospective EYFS parents and pupils on Wednesday, 13th November from 10.00 - 11.30am. If your child was born on or between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016, you need to apply for a primary school place after 1st November. Deadline for applications is 15th January 2020. You can apply online www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

Upcoming Events

Fri 8th Nov 7.00 - 9.00pm
PTFA Quiz Night

Wed 13th Nov 10.00-11.30am
Open Morning for Prospective Parents

Sun 24th Nov 9.30am
First Holy Communion
Enrolment Mass

Sat 30th Nov 12.00pm
Christmas Fayre JPll Centre

Wed 27th Nov 2.30pm
EYFS Nativity

Tues 10th Dec 2.15pm
KS1 Christmas Play

Wed 11th Dec 7.00pm
UKS2 Carol Service (Church)

Tues 17th Dec 2.30pm
LKS2 Christmas Songs

#Hello Yellow

On 10th October the whole school took part in a fund raising event for Young Minds - a Children's Mental Health Charity. All children came to school wearing a yellow accessory and donated £1 towards this good cause. The event gave the children an opportunity to reflect on their own mental health and to learn some mindfulness strategies. We raised a total amount of £130.

Sporting Events

It has been a busy term at St Mary's, with many sporting successes! In early October, we entered two teams of UKS2 pupils in a Tag Rugby competition against other Bicester Schools. Later in the month, we competed against Brookside School taking along three Tag Rugby teams and winning!

On Thursday, 17th October we took two mixed teams to the Bicester Year 3 & 4 Football Tournament where over 300 children competed in 4 different leagues. After playing 8 games each, 2 of our players received commendations of Fair Play as voted by other Sports Leaders. Great fun was had by all and the weather held out until the last game!



St Mary's have now been awarded the School Games Gold Mark through our affiliation with North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership. This award is in recognition of our commitment to and the development of competition, school sport and physical education across our school and into the community. Thank you to Mr Rory Mawn, our School Sport Co-ordinator for his guidance and support in helping us with this achievement.

After School Clubs

We currently have 15 After School and Lunchtime clubs running for our pupils in Years 1 through to Year 6. Activities range from Netball and Football to Art and Science. It is great to see the children enjoying being able to learn new skills and building on talents they already have. Thank you to teachers and teaching assistants who are voluntarily giving of their time.

PTFA

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

Chairperson- Nina Henderson-Andrade
Vice Chair - Lawrence Gain
Secretary - Melissa Knowles
Treasurer - Elena Sozzi
Social Media - Darren Collins
Website - Darren Collins
Eco Co-ordinator - Lisa Varndell
Newsletter - Chris West

The dedication and hard work of our PTFA committee last academic year means that we have a very healthy balance of nearly £10,000. At the AGM we discussed how the PTFA would like to support the school both financially and through sharing expertise and how we can encourage more parents to become involved in different capacities. The PTFA have produced a questionnaire that was available on Parents' Evenings, a copy of which you can pick up from the school office. Please do take the time to fill this in so we can gauge interest and capacity for future events.



Lower Key Stage Two Football Team

Just to remind you that tomorrow, Friday 25th October is an Inset Day when school is closed for pupils. I do hope you all enjoy a restful week with your families and look forward to our return on Monday, 4th November.

P M Pickering

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Headteacher