



Weekly Newsletter - Friday 13th November 2020 - Autumn Term

Email: office@stmarysinfschool.org.uk or office@stmarysjunior.org.uk

Executive Headteacher, Mrs S Hulme. Chair of Governors, Mr B Tomkins

Safeguarding Statement: This school takes notice of and adheres to all the national and local policies and guidance in regard to Safeguarding Children and Young People.

Lead Safeguarding Person Junior School: Mrs. S Hulme Nursery & Infant School: Mrs. M Quinn.

Safeguarding Deputies: Mrs. S Hulme, Mrs H Nicholls, Miss F Sullivan & Miss E Bryant Safeguarding Governor: Mr. T Richmond

Dear Parent or Carer,

Firstly, we hope that you are all being cautious at the moment, looking after each other and keeping to your family bubbles. St Mary's has been most fortunate having had no class closures up until October half term compared to neighbouring schools. As you have been notified today, we have had to close two classes to date; Squirrel Class in the infant school and Mulberry Class in the junior school, each of which relate to single COVID positive tests. The school continues to remain diligent in the cleaning and distancing measures that are in place that also include restrictive contact with each bubble.

Although we have had these unfortunate closures, the children continue to be happy and settled in school and are enjoying a curriculum that is broad with varied activities. We will of course be looking at the run up to Christmas but having to isolate staff may impact on some activities. Thank you for your patience and understanding of the current challenges that school is faced with. We will endeavour to include some Christmas fun as we move closer to December; the season of love and hope.

Thank you to the PTA for donating funds this week to supplement our range of reading books at each school- this is really appreciated and down to parental generosity in the fundraising.

Well done to those children who completed the half term challenges earning money for the jobs that they completed at home. Let's hope that they continue to help at home without the financial rewards in the future!

Friday comes around so very quickly - we don't currently have lots of options for having fun but hope you enjoy your weekend together. Take care.

Spirituality

Sunday 15th November - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Over the last few weeks, all children in the Junior School have been finding out about our Jewish brothers and sisters. They have shown a real interest in how Jewish people live and what they believe. Your child may have been finding out about the synagogue, the importance of the Torah, Pesach, Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement), all the time finding out that God cares for his people. Engaging with these themes and the questions they have about them, has been fascinating for all of us in school.

This Saturday, our Hindu brothers and sisters will celebrate Diwali. There may be more fireworks above Carshalton as part of the celebrations. We will share an assembly in school on Friday.

We cannot believe that next week, most classes will start their Advent unit of work in RE. Often overlooked as we rush towards Christmas, perhaps this year we all have the chance to take things more slowly as we prepare for Christ's birth at Christmas

News for the week

Junior Parent Governor Ballot Replies

To return your Junior Parent Governor Ballot replies, please be advised you will be able to return them as one of the following by Monday 16th November:

- Put into a sealed envelope for the attention of the School Office and put into your child's book bag.
- Into the box outside the main school office (front of school)
- Via email with the ballot reply attached.

Infant School - Remembrance Day Display

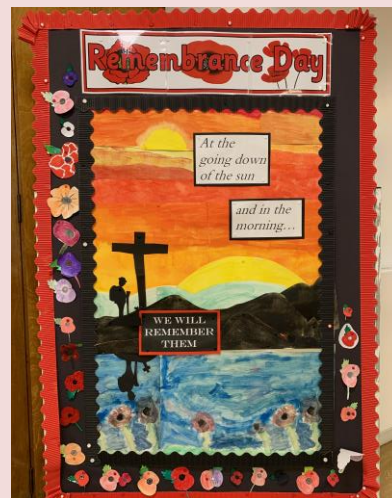
This week the children have made beautiful poppies for remembrance day. It is wonderful to see the whole school's work displayed on our board for us all to enjoy and to look back to remember the special day. Nursery created poppy paintings, Reception made felt poppies and a class wreath, Year 1 painted poppies using cupcake holders and Year 2 drew a field full of poppies with their own written prayer. The display shows different coloured poppies to remember not only the soldiers but also the animals who died at war. It was a lovely day visiting our Mary Garden to lay down our poppies and to pray to God.



Governors Fund

Thank you to those people who have made a contribution so far this year - this amounts to 51% of our families. Can we politely remind you to complete the Gift Aid Form too as this brings in the valuable extra funding from HMRC.

Junior School - Remembrance Display



#RedWednesday – 25th November 2020

At St Mary's we believe that each person is a child of God, so each person should have the things they need to live a good, happy, and free life. There are some parts of the world where people cannot live in this way.

We want to help them by joining with a charity called Aid to the Church in Need. They stand up for people who are forgotten, and they make a stand for the things that everyone should have: justice, peace and freedom to be whatever religion you want to be. This year we are joining in their most important day of the year which is **#RedWednesday** and it's on November 25th. We will join our prayers to those of millions of Christians across the world in asking Jesus, through the prayers of Our Lady, to help every person who suffers and to bring peace and unity to our world. We will show our support by wearing one item of red clothing to school on **Wednesday 25th November**.