



Weekly Newsletter - Friday 20th 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 & Carer,

The count down to the best season in the year, when we celebrate the birth of Christ has started; the Christmas music can be heard in the corridors and crib images seen on the photocopier machine.

One week from now will bring the 1st Sunday of Advent. Life in school at this time of the year has taken on a very different form from times as we knew it. Due to the many restrictions; keeping to bubbles, being kept apart and singing limits, the nativities will take on a different look. We do still hope to have many times to enjoy though. Each class will still be including the usual preparation within their curriculum and the year groups who would normally perform; Nursery, Reception and Year 3 are planning a variation this year. We are looking to see how we can note the occasion for the children and their families but no whole year group performances will be taking place. This is sad for our community but hopefully the children will still have the memories of these experiences to take forward.

Although we have been most fortunate as a school up until now, we have now had a class in Reception, one in Year 3 and one in Year 5 having to isolate due to single COVID 19 cases. The home learning has been well planned by the school staff providing both online and hard copy learning. By doing this, we are responding to comments from parents as to what is useful whilst still fulfilling a mirror curriculum where ever possible to lessons in school. Can we please encourage parents to work with their children and send in responses to their teachers to confirm learning is being addressed at home. The school has a duty to safeguarding and therefore we are obliged to follow up on the cases that have made no contact. We appreciate that this may be difficult for all, especially parents who are working from home but the principle remains that it is still school time for the children and therefore educational provision needs to continue for a number of hours each day.

It is hoped that the Autumn Interim Reports for the pupils will be ready to be uploaded to Google on Monday evening and these will also include reply slips, giving you an opportunity to respond. Thank you for your patience in waiting for these but meantime please be reminded that if you have a more urgent query to email the school office.

Please also look out for messages from the PTA who have been very creative in thinking about alternative events to replace our usual community Christmas celebrations. We hope that many will contribute and enjoy the Christmas Trail.

Stanger Danger

We were informed of a possible incident in the park when two pupils were walking to school yesterday. We ask for parents to walk the journey with their children before this happens independently and then safe routes can be explored and also what to do if an occurrence happens. It is right to encourage independence as this is part of transition to high school but we do need to train our young people. Further discussion will happen in class.

We will be informing year 6 parents next week of how we can manage bringing phones into school over the winter months as currently phones are not allowed to be brought into school.

Spirituality

Sunday 22nd November - 34th Sunday in Ordinary Time



"In a very real way, the poor are our teachers. They show us that people's value is not measured by their possessions or how much money they have in the bank. A poor person, a person lacking material possessions, always maintains his or her dignity. The poor can teach us much about humility and trust in God."

(Pope Francis)

On last Sunday's World Day of the Poor 2020 Pope Francis asked us all to think about those less fortunate than ourselves. We are called to be people who recognise the needs of our world, discern what we are able to offer and to share what we have with love. Even in the smallest offering can bring joy to others since it shows that someone, somewhere, cares. In school preparations are afoot for our Reverse Advent Calendar (donations of food, toiletries and new socks received from 30/11/20 to 14/12/20) and a CAFOD fundraising day on 10/12/20 to coincide with the CAFOD Advent National Assembly "Light of the World". Click here to find out more about CAFOD's work. <https://cafod.org.uk/>

News for the week

Stranger Danger - Awareness

It helps to go over some rules with your child, if they are walking to or from school alone, below we have offered some helpful points as follows: -

- Remind them never to accept a lift from someone they don't know, or let a stranger into the house. They should never give personal information away - in real life or online.
- Remind them that if they feel unsafe or uncomfortable at any time, they need to tell you or a trusted adult.
- If they ever feel like they're in immediate danger, they should call the police straight away on 999.

Christmas Messages (Junior School) - CAFOD

Each year the children have enjoyed sending in a short Christmas message to be put on to the TV screen in the dining hall. This is intended as a replacement for sending Christmas cards. We are asking for a 50p donation for these Christmas messages, which will be sent to this year's Christmas charity of CAFOD. Please send all money and messages in an envelope with the child's full name and class.

Christmas Card - Post boxes

Christmas cards will be running again this year for the children, due to COVID changes as we would need all Christmas cards to be handed in between 1st December - 11th December 2020, where they will then be isolated for a week to conform with guidelines. The cards will then be given out a week later to ensure COVID 19 safety for everyone.

Healthy Pack lunches

As part of our 'Healthy School' initiative, we encourage children to bring a healthy packed lunch avoiding food with a high sugar or salt content. We ask the parents to ensure that the packed lunch is healthy and that no sweets, confectionaries or chocolate are included. **Bottles and cans of fizzy drink are not permitted**

Junior School - Lost Property

Has your child lost any of the following; glasses, sunglasses, watches, headphones, please email the main school office with a description of the item as we have accrued quite a lot of items, which need to be reunited with their owner. Thank you

Water Tower - Works

The Water Tower are currently having works completed to their roof, please remind children to remain cautious at all times when walking near to the works.

Miss Marlow & Miss Flannery Maternity Leave

We would like to wish them both many best wishes on their maternity leave in early December and look forward to hearing their good news soon.

Congratulations to Miss

Atkinson as we are delighted to announce the birth of Oliver Frederick back on Tuesday 17th November. We wish her and her family many happy times to come.

#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**.