



Weekly Newsletter - Friday 29th November

Email: office@stmarysinfchool.org.uk or office@stmarysjunior.org.uk or email the Governors at either school
governors@stmarysinfchool.org.uk or governors@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 and Nursery & Infant School: Mrs. M Quinn.

Safeguarding Deputy: Mrs. S Hulme Safeguarding Governor: Mr. T Richmond

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we head into Advent, it is wonderful for us all to take in the messages of what the children are learning in their religion lessons, liturgies and assemblies. As adults, we are very busy and sometimes miss the basic teaching and do not take time to reflect.

In the coming weeks, please ask the children about their learning, about the more special times of prayer and thinking of others. You will get some very deep thoughts shared. As adults, take time to enjoy the simple messages too.

We thank Year 3 children for presenting a most endearing Penitential Service last night and for starting us on our Advent journey.

While we take more time for prayer and reflection, please keep the Dixon family in your thoughts. The eldest son of 4 sadly passed away last week. He was a boy with great spirit and flair, the school have many memories to enjoy of him. May he rest in peace.

We say good luck to Mrs Wastell (Elephant Class) as she starts her maternity leave this Friday 29th November. Best wishes to her and her family in the coming weeks.

Spirituality

Sunday 1st December - 1st Sunday of Advent

Morning reflection is issued every week by our Chaplain and is available on the school's website: <https://www.smcsc.org.uk/spirituality.php>

Over the past few weeks, the junior classes have been reflecting upon Pope Francis' Beatitudes for Young People and how they are our Christian 'identity card', identifying us as followers of Jesus and showing us the way when we fail.

In addition, we have a wonderful collection of backpacks ready for Mary's Meals to collect next week. More details coming soon.



Table Talk Topic for this week - Would you rather be able to fly or be super strong? Just a reminder, that we have a Prayer intention book in the Reception area of each school. Please feel free to write your intentions in as you wish. Thank you to those who have added to it. Please take the time to read it when visiting the school.

News for the week

Next week's upcoming dates

Infants - Weds 4th Dec - Year 2 Carol Concert at Holy Cross at 6pm
Infants - Thurs 5th Dec - Jack & the Beanstalk performance - Children only
Both Schools - Fri 6th Dec - Mufti Day
Both Schools - Sat 7th Dec - Infant Christmas Fayre 12 - 2.30pm

Tom Brake Annual Christmas Card Competition

Congratulations to Robert Wolanin in 3 Mulberry who was chosen as the overall winner of the Annual Christmas Card Competition. Tom Brake (our local MP) received a large number of entries from a wide range of schools. Robert will be switching on the Wallington Christmas lights as part of his prize and his design will be used in cards sent around the country. Thank you to all the children who completed Christmas card designs.

Use of School Grounds

We still have reports of parents using a short cut in the school grounds of St Philomena's High School. This is in breach of their safeguarding measures. Please do not allow children to play on their lawns either. The headteacher Ms Noone is very kind to us allowing the school to use the tennis courts and playing fields and access to the infant school. We need to be respectful and courteous in return. No St. Mary's family should be using the gate by the nursery school at the top of Shorts Road either, that access is prohibited to St Mary's. We have 3 routes of access, the main gate at Shorts Road, the pedestrian gate at Pound Street and the alleyway gate by the infant school. Please be respectful.

Used postage stamps

We now have collection boxes in each school collecting stamps for recycling. These will be sent off to support the RNIB charity. This is a great way to start this around Christmas when we enjoy receiving our special cards and letters.



Red Wednesday

Thank you for your support for Red Wednesday this week. Every item of red clothing, and every sticker worn, stood out on our usual blue uniforms. These reminded us of everyone suffering around the world because of their faith or belief. The whole school stopped at midday to join our prayers with others around the world. Aid to the Church in Need organise Red Wednesday and coordinated many thousands of people to pray the Angelus together. Y5 attended Mass at Holy Cross, offering this for those people unable to receive the Eucharist because of persecution. Many parishioners commented on the children's reverence and good behaviour. We are proud that our children see themselves as part of the world community.

Uniform

We continue to remind parents that full school uniform is expected including uniform coats, winter accessories- scarves, gloves and hats. Neither boots nor bootees are allowed to be worn in school, but can be worn for the journey and then changed. Thank you for the families who have responded positively to these requests especially school uniform haircuts. The children are proud of their school and comments made about their smart appearance.



Stars of the Week - Week ending 29th November 2019

**Reindeer Class - Leo R, Cheetah Class - Cesare S, Giraffe Class - Zara B,
Meerkat Class - Eve K, Horse Class - Saya S, Owl Class - Chinuo N**

Well done to all of the Stars of the week!