



**JOINT NEWSLETTER**  
**OCTOBER HALF TERM - 2020/2021**  
**SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER - 30<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

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

Although the sharing of photographs with family and friends is a great thing to do, please be reminded of the schools safeguarding procedures and refrain from taking pictures at school events. Thank you for your support regarding this as we all need to work together to look after our pupils.

Dear Parents and Carers,

This term feels that it is only just starting but already we are approaching half term. The staff have done an amazing job of trying to make up for the children's lost time in school. Year group progress meetings have been held this week supporting the planning for next half term. Thank you for the support over the last weeks, the staff really appreciate this as they have put in extra hours in addressing the many gaps of learning and possible anxieties.

As we follow the news, it is clear that the restrictions and measures will remain in place after half term due to COVID 19 infection. The shorter day on a Wednesday will continue and the earlier start of a morning as currently running. Although we do have music teachers and external agencies visiting the school, we keep to our school safety code. Staff work in a year group bubble with distancing measures and children with their own class.

It is disappointing that Parent Consultations will not be held in the same way this year but this is necessary and many conversations have already taken place with parents. You will be receiving a letter today to explain the reporting process this term.

This last day of the half term will be a fun day mixed with work as everyone enjoys "Mufti Day". The money raised will be going to Haemophilia Society, this is a special choice for us this year due to one of our pupils receiving treatment for this condition.

As a community we need to remember daily that God is always with us.

May you all feel him in your heart and be mindful of his many blessings.

We wish everyone in our community a restful half term with a reminder to keep your distance and be safe. Enjoy next week and have fun.

## Spirituality

"I was hungry and you fed me" Matthew 25:35

Thank you for your generosity in donating items for our Harvest Festival. We were overwhelmed with the food items that you sent in during these very difficult times.

It took two car loads to deliver everything to the food bank at St Philomena's School. Deacon Errol helped us to unload and store the items ready for delivery to families in need.

Thank you to Mrs Mason, Miss Brookman, Mr Taylor, Mr Denman and Mr Lewis for packing, delivering and unloading the bags and boxes from the Nursery & Infant School.



A message from Deacon Errol at St. Philomena's High School for Girls

*This is to say A BIG THANK YOU to everyone at St Mary's Infants and Juniors.*

*We appreciate the generosity of the pupils, their families and staff for the massive amount of food donation to the Foodbank.*

*Your donations mean we can help more families in our two communities that are in difficulties.*

*Thank you.*

*With every good wish,*

*Deacon Errol*

Saturday 10th October, in Assisi Italy, saw the beatification of Carlo Acutis, a London born Italian teenager who died in 2006. Blessed Carlo Acutis is now one step away from being made a Saint of the Church. His inspirational story is very relevant for our young people. Click here to find out more via a short animation: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZOp\\_3o-uMc&list=UUgp-lsGe61-vOMKAZk6910](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZOp_3o-uMc&list=UUgp-lsGe61-vOMKAZk6910)



Blessed Carlo had a great devotion to the Blessed Sacrament saying, "If we get in front of the sun we get a suntan, but when we get in front of the Eucharist we become saints." Please take some time over the half-term break to go church and spend a little time with the Lord who is truly present in the tabernacle.

October is the month of the Rosary, please try to take some time over the half term break to pray this simple but powerful prayer with your children.

We started the school year by following Pope Francis' call to prayer for the Season of Creation (1/9/20 - 4/10/20), asking that we learn to respect the planet's resources. We are blessed with wonderful school grounds so it is not difficult for us to heed that call. Here are some of the Year 1 pupils' responses



As the Season of Creation ended, we moved into Little Way Week inspired by St. Thérèse of Lisieux whose Feast Day is 6th October. Sometimes referred to as 'the little flower', St. Thérèse gave us an example of doing little things with great love. No-one is too young to serve the Lord in these little ways which can make such a big difference to others.

Year 6 responded by writing little ways of loving others on flowers which became part of their RE display.

Our Year 6 Chaplaincy Team was commissioned as part of the Junior School Harvest Liturgy and each pupil is now proudly wearing their Chaplaincy Team badge, which was previously blessed by Fr. Paul. The team has been busy promoting the Harvest and the Rosary via posters and Google Slides which are shown in the dining area. They introduced themselves via video to both the junior and infant pupils and are very much looking forward to finding new ways to share the love of Jesus within their year group bubble and beyond.



Thank you for your most generous response to the requests for Harvest food donations. Deacon Errol at St. Philomena's High School for Girls was overwhelmed by the amount of food delivered to him. It will go to families of both school communities who are in particular need. Email Deacon Errol in confidence for more details: [foodbank@stphils.org.uk](mailto:foodbank@stphils.org.uk)

## NURSERY & INFANT SCHOOL

### News from Nursery

We feel so proud of the start the children new to Saint Mary's in both the morning and afternoon Froglet classes have made and are sure that their families are too. Their confidence coming in and the enjoyment they display engaging in new activities has been wonderful to witness.

In their topic 'Magical me' the children have thoroughly enjoyed making their own hand prints for displays and they were keen to talk about their likes and dislikes. They were particularly good at suggesting the things that make each and every one of them special. In the last few weeks they have started their virtual music lessons with Mrs Roberts and from the sound of their singing we have a new choir in the making. Each day the children have been learning our daily school prayers and practicing making the sign of the cross. The parents will probably know this already but it must be noted that the activity most loved of all has been cooking in the outdoor mud kitchen!!!

### News from Reception

Well done to all the Reception children for a great start to the year. The children have settled in well and are beginning to adjust to new school routines. We began the term by reading our first two key texts; 'Polar Bear Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?' And 'Brown Bear Brown Bear, What Do You Hear?' The children enjoyed creating their own listening ears and going on a listening walking, detecting for sounds in the environment. 'Brown Bear Brown Bear, What Do You See?' linked into our topic of 'What's your favourite colour.' We also had our 'Messy Day' where the children dressed up in bright colour's and enjoyed getting VERY messy! We finished off the half term by creating our own Elmer masks after reading another key text; 'Elmer' which led to us re-creating our own Elmer parade on the last day where the children performed two songs with signs and actions. We have enjoyed our RE topic of 'Myself.' Throughout the topic we discussed that prayer is a way of talking to God and that he knows us all by our name. We finished the topic by having a class service to reflect upon our learning throughout the topic. We have also begun our 'Welcome' topic where the children have been learning all about how they are welcomed and that they were welcomed into God's family when they were Baptised.

### News from Year 1

We have had a very busy and enjoyable half term in year 1. We have looked at lots of trees in our surrounding areas and know how to identify them. In particular, we know what a horse chestnut tree and an oak tree look like. In English we have enjoyed retelling the stories of Little Red Riding Hood along with Goldilocks and the Three bears. We also created our own stories changing Goldilocks and the Three bears to have different characters. In RE we learned about the love and care we get from our family. We have also begun our topic on Baptism. We have shared photos of our baptism and described how we belong to our Christian family through baptism. We have also been learning how to pray the rosary and our special prayer The Hail Mary. We have finished off our topic with a Woodland day where we

completed lots of exciting activities outside. Thank you for your continued support this half term. Have a restful break and see you next half term. Year 1 team.

### News from Year 2

Muck, Mess and Mixtures was definitely the way term started in Year 2! In our first week back, the children thoroughly enjoyed getting 'messy' and experimenting with a variety of mixtures that included pasta, flour, water and oil. Our English learning this half term has been driven by the text 'The Rascally Cake' where we explored the world of Mr Rufus Skumskins O'Parsley and his nasty, ghastly creations. Unfortunately for Rufus, his wonderful cake came alive, chased him around the house, and then bit him. This experience ensured that Rufus never made anything nasty again! We have investigated the topic of Materials in our Science lessons, naming the properties of different materials and thinking about their suitability for different objects. We answered questions such as 'Would you want a pillow made of bricks?' or 'Is cardboard a suitable material for a boat?' Our learning in Geography this term has allowed us to explore the countries and capitals of the United Kingdom. Then we used our Atlases to discover the 7 continents and 5 major oceans. Our first topic in RE was 'Beginnings' where we explored one of the Psalms that tells us about God's wonderful creations. We discussed the importance of our morning prayers and wrote our very own prayer to thank God for each new day. Then we thought about ways in which God Our Father shows us that he is always close to us. We have now started our topic of Signs and Symbols by thinking about Baptism; we enjoyed recreating a Baptism through role play and using some of the words, signs and symbols that are used. Well done Year 2, what a busy half term! We look forward to more exciting learning after the holiday. Thank you for all your support from the Year 2 Team.

**Congratulations to these pupils:**

**Stars of the week - for the Autumn 1 Term.**

**Reception - Star of the Week starts from January 2021.**

**1 Robin Class** - Joseph C, Ruby J, Ashton K, Matthew O, Tyrell L & Alicia V, **1 Sparrow Class** - Lorenzo A, Patrycja O, Jan B, Maria C, Kara M & Franzy M, **1 Wren Class** - Ava L, Oliver S, Olaf S, Josephine R, Leon K & Farrah N, **2 Heron Class** - Matylida S, Scarlett Q, Zachary P, Harry G, Joshua M & William B, **2 Jay Class** - Franciszek K, Mary grace D, Giulia O, Aariel A & Lucas G **2 Woodpecker Class** - Daniel G, Daisy D, Hugo P, Jeremiah B, Nylah S & Santiago F. **Well done!**

## JUNIOR SCHOOL

### News from Year 3

WOW! we have made it through our first half term in Year 3. Well done for getting back into the swing of school life. You should all be very proud of how you have managed to return to school and how you started Year 3. This half term the children have been using the core text of "The Real Story of the Three Little Pigs" to drive their writing and they have written a recount of the story as well as a newspaper article about the unfortunate events of the

story. In maths we have flown through place value and have entered the world of addition and subtraction, beginning to exchange in our calculations.

In history we have learnt about the Stone Age and have looked in detail at the ruins of Skara Brae in the far north of the United Kingdom and Stonehenge in the south. The children have also looked at cave paintings and recreated their own through the medium of printing.

Next half term sees us dive into an amazing text written by a much loved children's author. Keep an eye on google classroom to see what this text is and how you can prepare yourselves for this journey. Have a fantastic half term holiday and stay safe. Thank you parents and carers for your continued support from the Year 3 Team

#### **News from Year 4**

Munch, crunch, squelch! Year 4 have centered their learning around the science topic of the human digestive systems. We have been looking at the types of teeth we have and how they work, as well as how to keep them healthy. This is the first step of the digestive system. Our DT topic looks at the healthy choice we can make when making a couscous salad, to have a balanced diet is essential for a healthy digestive system, and eventually a healthy body. We then wrote us the recipe for our salad in English using imperative verbs and adverbs of time.

One of our focus texts; Fortunately, the Milk took us on a time travelling adventure, so we used the story arch to write our own stories using fantastic descriptions and developing our use of punctuation, especially for speech - Fortunately the Milk was saved in every story. Perhaps you could look for speech punctuation as you read at home too.

We also made an artificial digestive stipend using a sandwich bag, tights and a bowl - to show the full journey of food, I'm sure the children know the stages by heart now!

#### **News from Year 5**

'The Butterfly Lion' has been one of our driver texts for the autumn term and has hooked us as readers to find out more about different settings and characters. The text has enabled us to learn more about lions living in Africa and understanding what it might be like to grow up as a young boy within the savannah. Through our learning of our science topic of 'forces', the children have been putting their investigation skills to the test! Predicting, testing, collecting results and evaluating their investigations have enabled them to think about the improvements they would make next time. Some of the investigations have included: making the most streamlined boat, finding the most suitable material to transport eggs down a chute linking to friction and testing whether the size of a parachute affects the rate at which it falls. This has linked well to the mechanisms children have created group pop-up books in the style of Anthony Browne's 'Voices in the Park', the children have collaborated well together in groups to make their own 'Voices in the \_\_\_\_\_. Through their creativity, they have fused their writing skills and design ideas to create a pop-up book they should all be proud of! The children have proved their creative skills even more when using Sketch Up in Computing lessons to be architects and create their own 3D art gallery. We definitely have future engineers and designers at St. Mary's.

## News from Year 6

The children in Year 6 are not only thinking and learning from the Y6 curriculum, but they now look like Y6 too! Our Privilege Tie assembly was a wonderful occasion. Although we felt sad we were unable to share it with our families, we were able to welcome Mrs Hulme, Mr Tomkins and the other Y6 classes to this lovely assembly where we were awarded the special Y6 privilege ties. We met virtually and were inspired by the speech of our special guest: past pupil Dr Christianne Fernee. Once we had established that she is not the person to visit with a sore throat (as a Doctor of archaeology, she knows much more about the bones and teeth of the dead!), we heard her thoughts on the privileges we all enjoy. This must have encouraged us, because the children have been working very hard since on their own history topic of the Maya. This has led to work in Geography on South America, into English and a debate on deforestation and to amazing clay work after looking at Maya masks. Perhaps, one day, one of these children will be visiting St Mary's to talk to future Y6 pupils? We do hope so!

## Awards & Achievements

### **St Mary's Awards - Autumn 1**

**3 Mulberry - Elodie C 3 Willow - Sean H 3 Hawthorn - Gabriel D**

**4 Ash - Aoife C 4 Poplar - Sophia S 4 Rowan - Noah V**

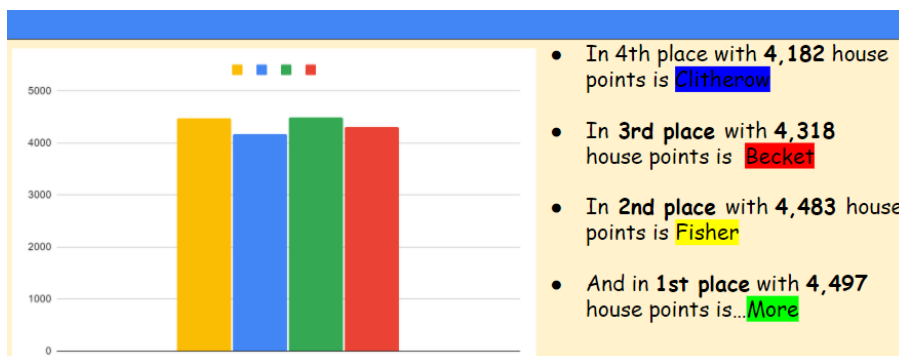
**5 Birch - Tia T 5 Elm - Cristian F 5 Sycamore - Sebastian B**

**6 Chestnut - Xavier L 6 Copper Beech - Ollie M 6 Oak - Eamonn R**

**Congratulations and well done to all!**

## House points

We have had an exciting term with Year 3 being sorted into their houses (Moore, Becket, Fisher and Clitheroe) and some Year 6 children becoming house captains. Each week on a Friday we have an assembly led by the 4 Year group leaders who are house leaders (Mrs Nicholls - Moore, Miss Sullivan- Clitheroe, Mrs Richardson - Becket and Mr Pratsis - Fisher) and we give the headlines and announce who has won the house points for the week.



Today we announced who had won the house points for the half term. It has been a close run contest over the past eight weeks where two houses drew one week and on another week

there was one point between the first and second. Very exciting!! The children have been working so hard to collect house points for their learning and behaviour and it has been amazing to see how the totals have increased as the term has gone on. Congratulations to all houses for HUGE amount of house points collected this term. Special congratulations to all the children in More who by a narrow margin of 14 house points have won this half term.

### **Music**

Infants -

PIANO                      Mr Z Mancuso                      [zino\\_music@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:zino_music@yahoo.co.uk)

Juniors -

PIANO                      Mr P Aslangul                      [philaslangul@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:philaslangul@yahoo.co.uk)

VIOLIN/VIOLA              Miss A McDade                      [amcdviolin@me.com](mailto:amcdviolin@me.com)

CELLO                      Mrs D McGregor                      [debbiecelloteacher@gmail.com](mailto:debbiecelloteacher@gmail.com)

GUITAR                      Mr J Freedman                      [jules.freedman@outlook.com](mailto:jules.freedman@outlook.com)

BRASS (trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone) Mr P  
Martin [paulmartin37@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paulmartin37@hotmail.co.uk)

Mrs Roberts

### **E-Safety -**



**ParentZone -**

Has a new newsletter that you can sign up for - [ParentZone - Join the community](#)  
Need some more support in keeping your child safe online? Have a look at ParentZone which is designed to help parents facing challenges in this digital age.  
<https://parentzone.org.uk/parents>



### **Tik Tok**

Use privacy settings

You can safeguard your account by making it private. Within the settings of the app, ensure this setting is ticked. This keeps the account secure from strangers.



- Enable Restrictions in the digital wellbeing section there is a restricted mode that you can enable, using a PIN system. This filters out any age appropriate content. This setting isn't 100% fool proof, so care and vigilance is still needed in monitoring any usage of TikTok.
- Reporting inappropriate content If you do come across any inappropriate content, TikTok has a feature that allows you to flag and report it. You are also able to block any users you do not wish to see content from.
- Moderate screen time Under the screen time management option, you can limit the daily allotted time allowed on the app. This can be locked behind a PIN so when the time expires the app will no longer open.

Children's Commissioner and NHS - 5 Steps to mental wellbeing Digital 5 a day useful guide giving parents and children easy to follow and practical steps to achieve a healthy and balanced digital diet. <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/ourwork/digital/5-a-day/>

Here are some other great E-Safety links -

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/>

<http://www.childnet.com/>

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/>

# PSHE Association

## PSHE

In PSHE at the Juniors this term, the children have begun the year by looking at the theme of 'Belonging to a Community' - an important topic, allowing children to consider their own identity and their place in the wider world while settling into new surroundings and their new year group. As part of the unit, children have been given the opportunity to explore their rights and responsibilities as members of a diverse community and guardians of a shared environment. Discussions, debates and activities during lessons have helped them to think about how to live with compassion and empathy and how to contribute positively to their communities with mutual respect and tolerance.

During October, National Mental Health Day's theme of 'mental health for all' prompted each class to discuss how we are all unique individuals with different needs. Even though we all have feelings and emotions, we may express them at different times and in different ways. This led to some creative and reflective responses in each class's floor books.

PSHE continues to be a vital subject in the classroom during these uncertain times. It provides a chance for children to consider global issues, while considering their own role in society alongside their mental and physical well-being. Every child gets a weekly PSHE lesson at St Mary's, but do you and your child know what every letter stands for?

Next half-term there are a number of events to inspire and educate children. Why don't you ask your child to share what they've learnt?

**Remembrance Day** 11 November

**Anti-bullying week** 16th - 20th November

**Road Safety Week** 16th - 22nd November

### School Travel Plan

It has been a busy start to the new year and it has been great to see so many children cycling and scooting to school while we have still had the dry mornings. May I remind all adults and children not to use their bicycles and scooters down the hill in the playground so that we can keep each other safe from injuries please. As we approach the next term with the darker mornings and evenings, please make sure that you are wearing something that is reflective on your coat to and from school.



We also have Road Safety Week taking place between the 16-22 November and coordinated by road safety charity Brake with the theme of 'No need to speed.' The aim is to raise awareness on how the safety of our roads impacts all our daily lives. Speed plays a part in every crash and just 1mph can mean the difference between life and death on the roads.

Thank you to Parents and Carers who continue to choose methods of active travel to come to school including walking, scooting, cycling, park and stride and public transport.

#### Mufti Day to raise funds for Haemophilia Society

Thank you also to everyone who donated £1 or more on Mufti Day, we raised a generous amount to be donated to the Haemophilia Society, which is a charity close to our hearts here at St. Mary's Catholic Federation, Carshalton.

#### Nursery & Infant School - Parent Governor

##### Nominations

Thank you to those who have voted in the Nursery and Infant School Parent Governor nominations, results will be announced on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.

#### Smarties Fundraiser

The PTA would like to give our children a yummy treat,

so we're sending home some colourful Smarties to eat!

Keep the tube, don't throw it away,

they'll do tasks and good deeds to earn their pay.

Be a "smartie" and fill your tube with 20p's

And return to school after half-term, please!

(online payment will also be available)

Thanks for participating and have a yummy half-term!

St Mary's PTA

#### Harvest Collections / Celebrations

Thank you to everyone who have donated items to our Harvest Collections / Celebrations. These will be taken to St. Philomena's Food Appeal during the holidays. We raised an impressive amount of donations and these will benefit a good number of families that are currently in hardship.