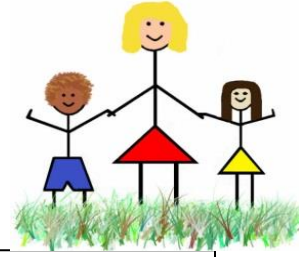




# ST MARY'S CATHOLIC NURSERY, INFANT & JUNIOR SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

## JUNE 2016



Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July - 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time



*This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Designated safeguarding officer in the Nursery & Infants' School is Mrs M Quinn and in the Junior School is Mrs. G Owens, Deputy Safeguarding Officer for both schools is Mrs Hulme and the Governor Safeguarding Officer is Mr. A. Scully. The schools have safeguarding & protection policies which can be viewed at the school office.*

**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/ Carers

We are one newsletter away from the end of term, how does that happen every year? So much to plan for in September and then it goes in a flash!

This month has been no exception to the others. Every year group has been very busy , making good things happen. We have held two meetings for new parents to Reception and Nursery, welcoming new families into our special community. Year 2 have been familiarising themselves with the junior site- they look like Year 3 children already .

Unfortunately, the chosen day for year 3 and 4 sports day ended up as one of the worst for many years, hitting national news with the floods in Wallington- a day to remember. Gladly the infant sports day was more successful.

The celebrations for the Year of Mercy have been very inspirational , the children have taken part with reverence and the singing has raised the roof with enthusiasm. We are so fortunate to be part of these experiences. Hopefully you have had the opportunity to enter through the Holy Doors in each of the schools.

Many of you have already seen the new buildings that have been signed over as part of the expansion programme at the junior school. The staff and pupils were so excited about the new provision and explored with joy. We have lots more to still unfold but hope to be back to normal in September. The building contractors have been really considerate. We have had to use some corridors for storage but have the promise of a wonderful new school.

Thank you to those parents who have adhered to our request about parking . However there are still a number of parents who have been spotted using the pub car parks and a green Citroen with number plate ending in SOA regularly drops outside the main gates in Pound Street. We ask once again for parents to be considerate to others and our neighbours. Those families who have girls attending St Philomena's High School will have received a request to support a no parking zone around the surrounding area, we are considering follow their example to implement the same.

As we come to the end of another school year we are to be saying farewell to Mr Murphy ( Year 5) and Miss Mihaly ( Reception). We thank them for their loyal service and wish them both good luck in the future.

The governors have appointed two new members to add to the teaching staff ; Miss Hamlin and Mrs Kwasniewska ( both to be based at the infant school) and Mrs Birch will be returning from maternity leave in the juniors. We are delighted to inform you of the news of Mrs Sofronio, she has a new addition to her family of baby Nancy. Both are doing well and Nancy has already made a visit to the school.

The school summer fayre is nearly upon us. We look forward to seeing you and your families next week at "GlastonMary". The committees have worked incredibly hard to prepare a programme for you to enjoy, we just need to keep hoping that we have fine weather.

**Safeguarding** Further to our previous requests we remind all parents and carers that taking photographs in school is not permitted without prior permission. To ensure this is being observed and to avoid any misunderstanding we ask that **smart phones and other devices should not be used within the school grounds**. For data protection reasons we also request that lists of children's names from school must not be held on any personal devises. If you do have any such list we ask you to delete these with immediate effect. Thank you for your understanding.

### **Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development**

#### **Nursery & Infant School**

As part of our celebrations for the Year of Mercy, Infants went to the junior school to celebrate with whole school Mass. We all walked through the Holy Door and we handed over the special Year of Mercy candle to the juniors. In return we received a small candle to keep on our hall prayer table. Thank you to all the children for singing so beautifully and well done to all the children who read and took part in the offertory procession. We were lucky to have Rick and Nick from Sutton Schoolswork to lead one of our assemblies; they retold the Parable of the Lost Son to us with some help from the children.

## **Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development**

### **Junior School**

You may have seen the lovely banners in our school hall. Every child in the school contributed to creating these illustrations of the Acts of Mercy. In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis calls us to be the face of Jesus in our world and these banners remind us how to do this. They took centre stage when we celebrated our whole school Year of Mercy Mass. We thank you for the family homework. The children's prayers and artwork now adorn our very own Holy Door.

On 28<sup>th</sup> June, 30 children from Years 5 and 6 took part in the diocesan Picnic and Praise celebration held at St. Philomena's. Together with 14 other schools from across the diocese, they took part in a variety of activities: reflection on the Stations of the Cross, singing with gusto during hymn practice, team sports and circus skills. We were blessed with good weather so were able to enjoy an alfresco picnic before Mass in the Marie Therese Hall. The next day we came together once again to welcome Fr. Patrick to our school when he celebrated Mass for us on the Solemnity of SS Peter and Paul.

### **Health & Safety**

Please be reminded that, the roadways within the school grounds are still used by cars and can be a potential risk to your child. Please remember that dogs are not permitted in the school grounds at any time.

### **Uniform**

Please be reminded that all school wear needs to conform to school uniform colours and this includes coats, summer hats and all other accessories. Hairstyles also need to conform to school policy. Thank you to those families who always comply with school uniform as requested.

### **Governors**

Thank you to all parents who have returned the gift aid forms. This makes a big difference as we are able to claim £7.05 for every £25 donated. Please remember to send these in if you have not done so. All payments for Governors fund can be made on Parentpay at [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com)

### **School Office**

Please be reminded that only prescribed medicines can be given in school by school staff (if prescribed four times a day). All other medicine will need to be administered by a parent or nominated person. For those with asthma, we have been advised that all children should have a small spacer in school and your child should know how to use the inhaler and spacer. This should be in a sealed clear plastic bag with your child's name on and you are responsible for taking this home half termly to clean.

Please remember that any absence from school must be reported to the school office on the morning by telephone (**not by email**) followed up in writing. Also, please advise the school office if someone other than your normal contacts is going to collect your child by phoning before 2pm. If later than this we can not guarantee getting the message to your child when calling late in the school day.

**Active Kids Vouchers & Woodcote Vouchers** Please remember to send in your vouchers as these are used to purchase equipment in each school.

### **Parentpay**

Please be advised that there is a useful help page for any issues you may encounter with your Parentpay account. Please refer to the help pages on this link before calling the school office.

<https://www.parentpay.com/parents/using-parentpay/faqs#paypoint>

### **Piano Lessons**

The Piano Teacher at the Infant School has some places and if you are interested in your child learning the piano, please contact Mr Mancuso directly at [info@zinomancuso.com](mailto:info@zinomancuso.com)

### **School Dinners**

Please remember to keep up to date with payments on Parentpay ensuring you pay enough money on to your child's account in advance. If you receive an email reminder from the school please ensure you act promptly should a debt have incurred.

### **Internet Safety**

Please find information as suggested by the Parent Forum at the recent meeting Useful websites include -

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk) - The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre has set up its own website which has been designed and written specifically for children, young people, teachers, parents and carers.

[www.kidsmart.org.uk/](http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/) - Kidsmart is an award winning internet safety website for parents and those working with children. It has been developed by the children's internet charity Childnet International and has excellent information on many of the technologies used by children, with guidance on how to 'stay safe' online.

[www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk) - Here you will find e-safety tips, advice and resources to help children and young people stay safe on the internet.

# NURSERY & INFANTS' SCHOOL

## News from Nursery

As part of our Cornerstones topic 'Why is water wet?' the children have really enjoyed making their own sea themed collages in the art area and exploring the pirate ship and ice cream shop role play areas outside. During our class music sessions the children have explored movement with scarfs and they have learnt a very jolly Pirate song. Our Nursery Sports day with Sutton School Sports Partnership was also a success and presented the children with some fun and difficult challenges Well Done Ladybirds.

## Reception

Our new topic 'Am I the fastest?' has given the children lots of opportunities to try new sports and enjoy creating their own obstacle courses. Coaches from Crystal Palace FC ran a football workshop for the children which they thoroughly enjoyed. They helped to create a tennis court in the outdoor area and a variety of obstacle courses. The children represented the Infant school beautifully in two masses at the Juniors, we were very proud of them.

## News from Year 1

This term we have taken a lot of time to explore the topic 'Rio de Vida' where we learnt about Brazil and its culture. The children have particularly focused on the fantastic carnival and the making of instruments and headdresses. In conjunction with the 2016 Euros in France, the children had the opportunity to randomly pick a team which they have been supporting throughout the tournament.

## News from Year 2

We have been very busy with lots of visits to the juniors in preparation for our move next term. The children have also been visited by the Year 3 teachers to give them a taste of some of the lessons they will have. We have also been enjoying our topic Land Ahoy! We have been learning about famous explorers for example Christopher Columbus, Sir Francis Drake and Captain Cook.

## JUNIOR SCHOOL

### News from Year 3

Year 3 have finally made their First Holy Communion. We think they looked so smart all dressed up in their communion outfits for their First Holy Communion mass. It was the perfect way to end this special time of year.

We welcomed year 2 to the juniors and acted as tour guides, proudly showing off our school. We gave the future year 3s some hints and tips about life in the juniors and we hope they will find them useful come September!

In English we have been learning about Rama and Sita in conjunction with our Hinduism topic in RE. We have really enjoyed acting out this religious story and learning about a different religion to our own. Year 3 now understand we must be respectful of other people's beliefs.

We have also begun to think about next year and how we are going to improve our learning in Year 4. We are most looking forward to earning our pen licenses!

### News from Year 4

June has been a very busy and enjoyable month; children have performed at Fairfield Halls, celebrated First Holy Communion, prepared for and celebrated the Year of Mercy mass, and travelled to Brighton.

On arrival at Fairfield Halls, the children were wowed by the size of the venue; they went on to captivate the audience with their talent and enthusiasm. All children enjoyed performing with a range of schools from the Borough of Sutton and returned to St Mary's beaming with pride. Whilst some children were performing, the rest of the year group enjoyed sculpting with model magic in order to make a chosen animal in its habitat.



The children were thrilled with their final year 4 trip to Brighton. They explored the Sea Life Centre, learning even more about the range of habitats at the coast and the wildlife that occupy them. All the while gasping and exclaiming every step of the way at the animals and information they encountered. Afterwards, they surveyed Brighton's coast line to complete their study of Brighton as a coastal city. Thinking hats helped the children to contemplate how a coastal city compares and contrasts with a city like London. A trip they'll never forget.

We are all reflecting on our progress and successes in year 4 and the adventures to come in year 5.



### **News from Year 5**

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June, Year 5 took part in an 'Under Canvas' camping experience in the school grounds! The children had the responsibility of setting up camps in groups as well as setting up tents for their teachers! They took part in team building games through the day and were treated to a slice of pizza and songs around the campfire. The children really enjoyed having the responsibility of looking after their tents and also staying away from home for the night. In RE we started our topic on Freedom and Responsibility and we will be thinking about how we can be a steward in God's creation. Year 5 have been reading the Highwayman in English and exploring the figurative language that is used by the poet Alfred Noyes to describe the Highwayman on his travels! Our Geography topic is linked to the Olympics where we are leaning about the countries of South America and their natural resources such as oil in Venezuela. We are working hard in these last few weeks of term in order to prepare for the challenges ahead in year 6.

### **News from Year 6**

Where did this month go? June had to be the best month for year 6. We prepared for our trip away to the Isle of Wight and had a fantastic time, teachers as well, despite the deluge of rain that occurred most days. (Some children came back with quite a bit of mud soaked clothing.) We all came back, slightly rested, more mature, responsible and with a hint of independence.

We also had three of our girls spend a week down at the Infant School helping out the teachers there and seeing how the younger crowd learns. We had some fantastic reports from the school of how responsible and eager the girls were looking after the children there.

Once we came back it was clear Year 6 have their sights set on that ever closer last day of school, but they are finding there is a lot to get done before they walk out our doors one last time. We have been preparing eagerly for our production of Grease and many of the kids have spent time having interviews and induction days at their new high schools. It's clear that all of them are quite excited for their future paths after St Mary's.

### **Music**

Wider Opportunities Fairfield Hall - Well done to all that participated in the concert at Fairfield Halls on Thursday 16th June. They performed with great expertise and musicality on the violin and cellos as well as fantastic singing of 'True Colours'.

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July the Choir will be performing at the Summer Fete at the infants at 3pm. Please meet at 2:30 at the front of St. Mary's Infants near the office to warm up. We hope you can come along and support us.

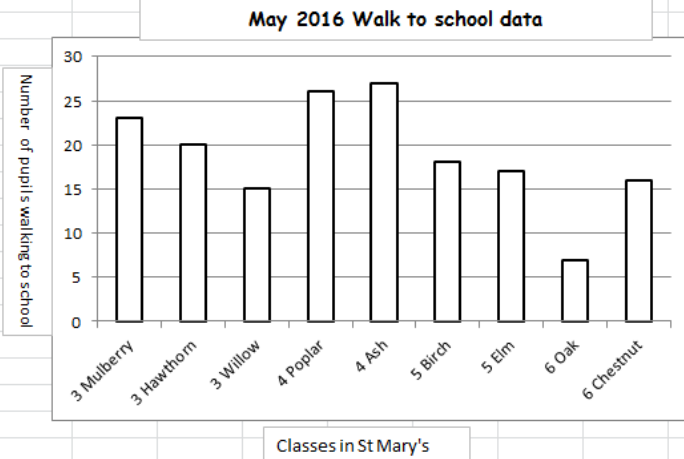
On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July the Choir, St. Mary's Community Orchestra, children from Year 4 who didn't play at Fairfield Halls and instrumentalist will be performing at the St. Mary's Prom at 2:15pm. We hope the Year 4 and Orchestra Parents can come.

Great news - tickets are now on sale for the Scratch Youth Messiah from the Royal Albert Hall website. Please find the link below, and do spread the word!

The choir are performing at the Scratch Youth Messiah on Sunday 27th November 2016 at the Royal Albert Hall at 2pm.

<https://tickets.royalalberthall.com/booking/production/bestavailable/48566>

May was Walk to school once a week month and school councillors were busy collecting data for every child in their class, every day, for the entire month. Thank you, school councillors. JTA's organised the data and the results are below. Congratulations to 4 Ash you will be receiving the WOW trophy (at the awards assembly) to look after until October (next WOW month).



unicef

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June was the European Union membership referendum. Throughout the school (using white, black, yellow and green hats) children debated what staying or leaving, as members of the European Union, could mean for citizens of Great Britain. They also reflected on their learning about the values of modern Britain, remembering that we should respect the views and opinions of others even if they are not the same as our own. Finally, all children, present in school that day, were able to vote in the hall at lunch time (democracy). School councillors prepared for the day and they facilitated the polling station helping children understand how to vote so that their votes would not be invalid.

Student councillors counted votes: 120 pupils voted to remain in the EU and 38 pupils chose to leave. 22 votes were invalid as they weren't marked correctly and 81 children chose not to vote. School councillors finished their work communicating the results to each class and showing them on a Power Point in the dining hall the next day.

Congratulations to school councillors for all of their hard work.

