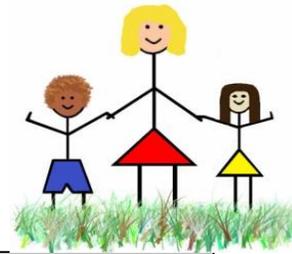




ST MARY'S CATHOLIC NURSERY, INFANT & JUNIOR SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

MAY 2016



Sunday 29th May - Feast of Corpus Christi



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

Another half term has come and gone, seeing lots of achievement for many reasons. Plans are in place for a great variety of activities to be held in each school in the last few weeks including sports days and remaining school trips. We hope you have lots in store for an exciting half term and that some of you get to the seaside. Best wishes for a fun family week together!

A plea to all

From time to time, sadly we get complaints from the public about the behaviour of parents of children who attend St Mary's Schools. This is not the impression we wish to give. The examples of this behaviour include:-

- Parking in private roads
- Parking across driveways
- One parent was seen driving into the alley in Shorts Road and passing the children over to another parent(silver car)
- Dropping off at the Pound Street gates (white Kia with TIG in the registration)
- Not being considerate on pavements
- Using unpleasant language

Can we please be considerate and live the message of the Gospel through our daily lives, looking out for the safety of all and displaying good manners. We need to look after each other and be kind as that is the message that we deliver to our children on a daily basis.

Thank you

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 devices. 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

The month of May is a time when we think especially of our Mother Mary. Following our liturgies, the children join in with a decade of the Rosary using beads donated by Mission Together. We were delighted to welcome Bishop Paul Hendricks to say Mass for the Crowning of Mary. Thank you for your generosity in donating flowers to decorate the school hall, to the children who sang beautifully and those who read clearly. We were also joined by Ms Noone, Headteacher of St Philomena's School who passed on the Year of Mercy candle to us. The candle is passed around the schools in our diocese during this Year of Mercy and we will pass it on the Junior School at Mass in June.

Junior School

The school pilgrimage for the Year of Mercy was a wonderful opportunity for all members of our school to reflect on God's love in our lives, His mercy and how this should influence our actions. We explored the cathedral, shared lunch together and attended lunchtime Mass before getting on the fleet of coaches and returning to school. We are now preparing for a whole school Mass after half term.

Throughout May, there has been the opportunity to pray the Rosary. Members of the Chaplaincy Team from Y6 have been particularly responsible in helping to set this up and lead it.

Members of the school's Liturgy Group have also been on a journey this month, to Aylesford Priory where they joined with pupils from other schools and are singing as part of a Good Shepherd liturgy.

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.

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.

Governors

The next full Governing body meeting is on Wednesday 8th June at the Nursery & Infants' School.

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

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>

Bertie Bin

Thank you for responding to the request to clear out your cupboards for a " Bertie Bin" collection. Please keep this in mind in the future as this is an easy fundraiser for the school.

Community News

England C v Slovakia U21 at Sutton United on Sunday 5th June 2pm. Admission Free.

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 - 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/ - 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 - 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

The Nursery has enjoyed reading the story of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and they have observed the changes to the caterpillars which have now changed into cocoons. Our tadpoles have now finally grown their back legs and will soon turn into tiny froglets. The children have made their own ugly bugs from play dough and we are now painting them ready for our art gallery exhibition after half term. We have also been practising songs ready for our ugly bug ball with reception on Thursday.



Reception

We ended one of our favourite topics with an incredible 'Ugly Bug Ball' the children had a lot of fun singing minibeast songs and even eating some worms! Every child looked fantastic in their creative and exciting costumes. Through this topic the children have enjoyed observing caterpillars become butterflies and tadpoles become frogs. They have become minibeast investigators making homes for snails, worms, woodlouse and even millipedes. It has been a creative and exciting project for all.

Our new topic is called 'Am I the fastest?' where we will be learning all about different sports, movements and the Olympics.

News from Year 1

As we are coming to the end of our topic of Paws, Claws and Whiskers, the children have really enjoyed learning about fascinating facts about different animals with paws, claws and whiskers. The children particularly enjoyed our year 1 trip to the British Wildlife Centre where we explored and visited the habitats of many animals that we would find in our garden and around the UK. The children also showed a lot of creativity when designing, sketching and collaging their paintings of the tiger in the storm by Henri Rousseau.

News from Year 2

We are coming to the end of our topic on the Scented Garden. The children have enjoyed learning about plants and flowers. We have used the book *The Green Ship* by Quentin Blake to help write stories and poems based around the text. We were lucky enough to have a parent who is a gardener come in and talk to us and he also helped us plant some seeds. We are continuing to take care of our vegetable patch in the school garden; the children have been weeding the flower beds and also keeping a close eye on our plants that are growing well. We look forward to tasting the radishes and peas after the half term break.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

News from Year 3

It's been a month of celebration as many of our year 3's have started to make their First Holy Communion. We are thoroughly looking forward to our mass in June where the whole of year 3 can celebrate together.

In English we have been studying the Greek myth of Medusa, and the children have created some terrifying mythical creatures of their own in their writing!

We have been making the most of the outdoors in our Science lessons, where we have been studying plants. This ties into our Art where we have begun using different sketching techniques to draw nature. This will lead on to our topic next term where we will be focusing on the nature inspired patterns of William Morris.

In R.E. the children have been learning about choices that we have to make on a daily basis and their consequences. Some of them recently showed some extremely good willpower when they were given the option to eat a sweet during the R.E. lesson, or wait until the end of the lesson to receive another!

News from Year 4

Would you buy water from a year 4 pupil? Year 4 tried to persuade each other to do so by writing and producing an advert for their own brand of drink. They used their persuasive skills to write a script and then acted and filmed their own advertisement for the product of their choice.

In science, we ended our topic of forces and magnets with an independent investigation. Children worked in small groups to pose a question, record data and come to a conclusion about their findings.

To end the topic on *New Life* in RE and to show an understanding of St Paul and his experiences of new life, year 4 took great care to make stained glass windows that even St George's cathedral would be proud to feature in their building. As a result of their hard work, the children took great delight in enjoying the real stained glass windows when they visited St George's on their year of mercy pilgrimage.

We are all looking forward to our final half term in year 4.

News from Year 5

After a busy last term we have been consolidating all our knowledge and understanding for the assessments we completed this week. We hope they reflect our hard work in Year 5 and preparation for Year 6. In Geography we have been exploring the Water Cycle and water usage in detail with links to our previous trip to Bough Beech. In DT we have been working hard on our books based on a country of our choice!

In this term, Year 5 has been putting together their finishing touches for their *Go Giver's* awareness event. The children have researched a particular cause and they have been developing an awareness raising campaign for homelessness. Look out for news of their fundraising event

which will involve the whole school next term! We will be discussing further how we can make a difference to this in our community and the wider world we live in. This will all be showcased at an event in London on Tuesday 11th July; we will be choosing a select number of enthusiastic team players from our year group to attend.

News from Year 6

"Yaaaayyy!!!!" cried out Year 6 (and their teachers) as the clock alerted us to the end of their final SATs exam this month. After all the work that went into revision and cramming in those last bits of grammar knowledge, often at lunchtime sessions, the students should be congratulated on all their efforts. It was a draining week but ended with a fun filled SATs party. Thank you to all the parents for supplying the enormous amount of cakes, crisps and drinks (the leftover pile is still staggering and being carefully hidden from the rest of the teachers).

After the amount of work that went in we felt just one party was not good enough to celebrate Year 6's achievements so we also took a day off to sneak to Thorpe Park! A great day was had on all the rides and time in the sunshine. A big thank you to the parents and staff on the day who helped us out!

We are now getting into full-swing of *Grease* rehearsal and eagerly counting down the days to our trip to Isle of Wight!

Pupil Achievement & Awards

St Mary's Awards Summer 1

3 Mulberry - Ava Migliore

3 Hawthorn - Oliwia Kedzierska

4 Poplar - Charlotte Miller

5 Elm - Leo Mulgrew

6 Oak - Isobel Dowler

3 Willow - Andrés Crosdale

4 Ash - Liam Wylie

5 Birch - Thomas Conroy

6 Chestnut - Amelia Squires

Swimming Gala

St Mary's took part in the annual Sutton Schools Swimming Gala on Friday 13th May and came 6th place overall. Lots of children went home clutching medals. Congratulations to all those who took part including Henry Jake Kikoyo, Elena Pitcher, Troy Sebastian, Sam Houghton, Gabriel Vick, Alicia Ruiz, Joshua Jefferson, Eduardo Reader, Federico Trigila, Charlotte Peters, Niamh Smyth, Kim Randall, Aoife Arnott, Sophie Kvam, Jasmine Guest and Simona Pinto

Friends of St Mary's

The 50/50 draw took place and the winner are as follows:

April - Tyra Frimpong

May - Daniel Borici

Thank you to all parents, families and friends who supported car free day either by not driving to school or wearing the supportive stickers to try to remind everyone of the importance of clean air. Hopefully photos will be in the next newsletter. The junior travel advisors (JTAs) worked very hard making posters and a power point to advertise the sticker competition.



They worked well together to judge the 78 entries and announced the winners at an assembly. Congratulations to Ella Serrano, 3 Mulberry, Pia Bruce, 4 Poplar and Charlotte Peters, 6 Chestnut (1st, 2nd and 3rd place respectively). Their designs were worn with pride by all pupils.



NSPCC visited St Mary's to raise awareness of their *Speak out, stay safe with buddy campaign*. The children learnt more about their UNICEF rights and how to stay and feel safe when they have worries. We all learnt a fun way to remember the child line telephone number 08001111 - perhaps ask for a demonstration at home!



The NSPCC and the staff at St Mary's would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported the cake sale. We raised a huge £273.47, congratulations to 5 Elm who had the closest prediction of the amount we would raise.

Finally, a big thank you to Student Councilors who not only helped year 6 sell cakes but also gave up their lunch time to make posters and help advertise the cake sale. A big buddy pat on the back to everyone at St Mary's for helping the NSPCC continue their fantastic work of giving children the right to a safe and happy childhood.