



# St Mary's News

St Mary's Catholic Primary School  
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Executive Headmistress: Mrs D Titus

Friday 13 October 2017

So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find. **Matthew 22:9**

## Catholic Life of the School

This Sunday, the Gospel message continues to reveal more about the Kingdom of God.

In this reading, Jesus uses another parable to explain how a wonderful celebration has been prepared in Heaven for those who wish to accept God's invitation. Jesus is telling us that everyone is invited to enjoy eternity in His Kingdom; the banquet starts the moment we accept God's invitation and continues forever.

Jesus often uses weddings and other celebratory feasts to help us understand God's generosity and His desire to help us enjoy our time together here on earth and in Heaven.

In the prayer Jesus taught us, we say, ***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*** In your family prayer time this week, you may wish to think about the wonderful celebration we will enjoy in Heaven and how can we celebrate our life in Jesus right now on this earth?



*I would like to say to anyone who feels far away from God and the Church, the Lord invites you to be part of this people. **Pope Francis***

## Online Safety

Schools, police, social services and other agencies are concerned at the ever-increasing volume of offences being committed against children through online devices. Children are also being exposed to activities which are completely inappropriate for their age.

From class discussions and e-safety learning, it seems that a significant number of children access the internet from their bedrooms without parental controls or monitoring.

***Parents are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure their children are involved in age appropriate online activities and to keep their children safe when they are using mobile phones, tablets, laptops, games consoles etc.***

## Attendance

During week beginning 02 October 2017, Classes 3M and 4G had 100% attendance.

Class 6H currently have the highest class attendance for the year so far with 99.8%.

All children may arrive from 8.20am at their designated gates. Please take full advantage of this early arrival as it not only helps your child to prepare for their learning day but also eases congestion.

***Parents who choose to take their child out of school during term time will each be referred to Brent Education Welfare and may be issued with a £120 Education Penalty Notice Fine per child (reduced to £60 if paid within 21 days of issue date)***

*Please remember that if your child is absent from school, and we have not already been informed in advance, parents must telephone the school by 9.00am on every day of absence. This is a very important safeguarding measure to ensure we know the whereabouts of every child.*

*If a child's whereabouts are unknown or unclear, the school will contact Brent's Children Missing In Education team so they can carry out an investigation.*

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

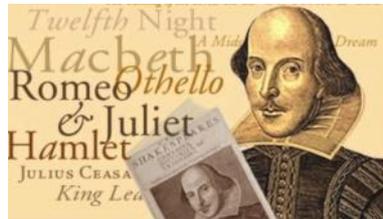
Thank you to our parents who baked so eagerly for our Macmillan Coffee Morning last week. Parents were delighted to come together for a slice of cake and a cup of tea in order to support a great charity. A cheque for £250 has been sent to the Macmillan appeal.



## Year 6 Shakespeare Workshop

Last Friday, Year 6 took part in a Shakespeare workshop which was all about 'Hamlet.'

The pupils enjoyed being actors and helped to direct different scenes within the play. The suspense and excitement created by the workshop facilitator has now inspired Year 6 to read other plays by William Shakespeare. Please support your child with their love of reading by accessing Shakespeare's works from local libraries.



## Playground Equipment

There was huge excitement this week as the children learnt that their new playground gym equipment was to be delivered and installed! It is very exciting for all the children at St Mary's to have their own gym in the playground.

We are really grateful for the generosity of our parents and various sponsors during the last academic year. Fr Alex was delighted to bless the equipment with the children and officially cut the ribbon to mark the opening of the new outdoor gym.



## Happy To Help!

One of the great strengths of our children is their willingness to take part in leadership roles. They have a great sense of pride and enjoy serving others.

This week we inaugurated a small group of helpers who want to offer their service to younger children at break and lunchtimes.

Thank you to David, Ranady, Aklicya and Hamza in Year 6; and to Jayden, Amy, Maryam and Trinity in Year 5 for all their help at lunch and break times.



### Pupil Survey

Further to the Parent Survey outcomes which were published last week, please see below the outcomes from the Pupil Survey:

1.	I enjoy school	<b>90%</b>
2.	My school helps me to be healthy	<b>92%</b>
3.	I feel safe when I am at school	<b>95%</b>
4.	I learn a lot in lessons	<b>94%</b>
5.	Behaviour is good at my school	<b>91%</b>
6.	Adults in school care about me	<b>96%</b>
7.	Adults in school listen to my ideas	<b>88%</b>
8.	I know how well I am doing at school	<b>85%</b>
9.	Adults explain to me how to make my work better	<b>95%</b>
10.	Mrs Quinlan and senior staff do a good job	<b>99%</b>

The results from the children's survey are very pleasing. We are delighted that our most important stakeholders are very happy at school.

The very high attendance levels at school support the views that our children are also appreciative of all that is provided for them on a day to day basis.

### Catholic Life of the School

Fr Alex visited the Year 1 and 2 classes this week to talk to the children about the importance of devotion to Our Lady during the month of October.

The children were delighted to welcome Fr Alex into their classes. They enjoyed the opportunity for further learning about our faith and how we can continue to grow closer to Jesus.

The weekly visits from Fr Alex supports the Catholic Life of the School. Please speak to your children about this very important aspect of their learning and development.

### Star of the Week

Name	Class	Reason For Nomination
Abena	EYFS 1	For being helpful and kind
Elelta	EYFS 2	For trying very hard in all classroom activities
Francis	1P	For excellent sound work during Phonics lessons
Simon	2M	For working really hard to improve his handwriting
Mariah	3M	For trying really hard in English lessons
Lara	3Q	For always working her hardest and doing her best
Gabija	4A	For an incredible homework project on the Romans
Lara	4G	For outstanding writing using direct and reported speech
Kwali	5O	For excellent effort in PE and English
Larissa	5P	For making an excellent effort in every subject
Youssef	6H	For being eager to participate in new challenges
Rayane	6M	For creating an excellent animation to improve her understanding of rounding decimals

## Safeguarding

St Mary's treats seriously its responsibility to ensure children are safe and well.

Where there is information causing a level of concern, the matter is discussed between the Executive Headmistress and Head of School to determine if other agencies, such as Social Services, should be informed of the matter.

Where appropriate, parents are informed if the school decides to make a referral to Social Services. In line with their own procedures, Social Services may instruct the school that parents should not be informed in particular cases.

The school follows Social Services guidance with regards to referrals and information sharing to ensure our approach is child-centred.

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The school frequently reviews processes to ensure we are doing all we can to minimise risk and keep children safe.

Please be reminded of the following expectations to support safeguarding at St Mary's:

- When you bring your child to school in the morning and when you collect your child in the afternoon, please move off the premises promptly to ease congestion and to support the staff in dismissing the children to other parents.
- While term time leave is banned, we know there will be emergencies when children need to travel with their parents. In these situations, regardless of whether the leave will be authorised, please provide the school with a copy of the outgoing and return travel documents. This is a very important safeguarding measure.

## Early Help

The school works with a number of agencies including health and Social Services to ensure that our children and families receive all the help they need at the earliest opportunity.

We therefore encourage parents to approach the school if they are unsure where to access help and support with any issues relating to family life. Please make an appointment to see Mrs Quinlan, Head of School, to discuss any worries and we will help directly or signpost you to the most appropriate service.

## Prevent Strategy

In line with safeguarding procedures, the school is keeping up to date with the latest guidance from the Government in relation to anti-radicalisation and extremism.

All staff receive frequent safeguarding training and updates throughout the year and we refer to the latest advice from reputable sources including Brent Social Services and the Department for Education.

The Educate Against Hate website contains useful information and has a specific section for parents

<http://educateagainsthate.com/parents/>

## St Mary's Mission Statement

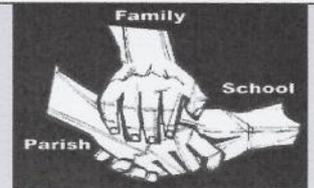
At St Mary's Catholic Primary School we strive to create a stimulating environment so that by learning, playing and working together, we openly follow Christ's teachings. We seek to offer every person the opportunity to be a unique and valued individual, sharing and developing our belief in the teachings of Jesus through everyday relationships and mutual respect in our dealings with one another.

Our School Mission is as follows:

- We stand on holy ground
- We will always open our doors in welcome
- We will always love and care for each other as Jesus taught us
- We will always place the Word of God at the heart of our school
- We will always be witnesses to our faith by following in the footsteps of Christ

# Beginning with the Church

## Linking School, Parish and Home



### Religious Education

#### Key Idea: Beginning with the Church

This topic is intended for the first of the academic year 2017/2018. As we welcome new and returning members to our schools community, we learn about how the Church formally welcomes new members in study of the sacraments of Initiation. This topic is the last in our study of the Year of Matthew.

#### Attitudes and Spiritual Dispositions

**Spiritual Outcomes:** *It is hoped that pupils will develop:*

- |                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                              |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A sense of the importance of the sacramental life of the Church</li> <li>• A commitment to celebrating their faith</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An openness to the presence of God in the Sacraments</li> <li>• Reflectiveness in prayer</li> </ul> |
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#### Activities to try at home

You are the first educator of your child in faith. Your child's learning in religious education will be much greater if you and the school are engaged in talking about the same ideas and beliefs. Help your child by trying this activity while this topic is being taught:

- Welcoming people into our homes, workplaces and communities is part of life. Talk with your pupils about how you welcome new friends and family and why. Making people welcome is the first moment when we say to them you matter to us – you are important and valuable to us...and to God.

#### An idea for prayer at home



##### Prayer Activity

Loving God, as we gather as a family today/tonight, may we remember your great love for us. You call us your daughters and sons, making us all members of one family. This day and tomorrow might we remember to welcome and show our love and appreciation for those around us: old friends and new. Make us people who welcome as you did – inviting others to be part of your family, your home. Amen.

**Please remember that school will be closed from Monday 23 October to Friday 27 October for the half-term break**

**The last day of school for children is Friday 20 October**

**Children return to school on Monday 30 October**