



St Mary's News

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

Friday 20 October 2017

Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's,
and to God the things that are God's. **Matthew 22:21b**

Catholic Life of the School

In the Gospel message this Sunday, some of the leaders try to trap Jesus with a question about whether it is right to pay taxes to the emperor.

Jesus points out that the people are using coins marked with the emperor's head so they should pay to the emperor what he is due. Jesus continues that we should give to God the things that are His. As everything belongs to God anyway, what Jesus is saying is that we should surrender all to God and we will then be clear about our responsibilities to worldly leaders and the communities we live in.

As the soft federation relationship between St Mary's and St Joseph's comes to an end, we can be sure that we have been obedient to Jesus' teachings by always putting the children first and by working hard for their best interests.

In your family prayer time this week, you may wish to thank God for all he has given to you and your family - for the provision of food, a home, money and an outstanding education. Then ask God how you can use these resources to honour Him and to bless others.

The heart that knows how to say 'thank you' is a good heart, it is a heart that is content **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.

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Attendance

★ During week beginning 09 October 2017, Classes 4A, 4G, 5O and 6H 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.

Year 1 Visit Paddington Recreation Ground

This week, Year 1 visited Paddington Recreation. As part of their 'Plants' Science topic, the children discussed and investigated how seasonal changes affect plants and trees. They also looked at what happens to the leaves during different seasonal changes which occur in Autumn.



School Council

Congratulations to our newly formed School Council group for 2017/18.

Well done to Ryan, Taym, Teigan, Vanessa, Desia, Rafael, Daniel and Matusiez for being elected by the children for this great responsibility.

They are excited and enthusiastic about representing their classes to ensure their suggestions to improve pupil experiences even further are heard and considered.

We look forward to hearing about their discussions throughout the school year and how they are helping the school community through this democratic forum.



St Mary's School Environment

Parents will remember the protests they were involved in early in 2015 regarding the HS2 works which were taking place in the immediate vicinity of the school.

HS2 is a government backed scheme – one which would have been difficult to oppose. However, in the interests of the children, the school leaders fought a quiet and strong battle to secure more funding for St Mary's. We are now delighted to announce the school has secured £500,000! The funds have been sent to the Diocese for accounting purposes and this will be used to further enhance the school environment. The works have begun this week with the programme to replace the old wooden windows across the school and to complete urgent remedial repairs to the roof.



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

Star of the Week

Name	Class	Reason For Nomination
Abi Maria	EYFS 1	Trying really hard to complete a task.
Jin Xi	EYFS 2	For achieving a full sticker chart.
Iris	1P	For being a fantastic role model and prayer leader.
Charlotte	2M	For using the star words to write an excellent fact file.
Abdulrahman	3M	For working well in a team.
Lily	3Q	For neat work and joining in with class discussions.
Adam	4A	For working well in his group to make a negative number line.
Vanessa	4G	For always trying her best and working hard in class.
Trinity	5O	For exemplary manners and maturity in class.
Afomeya	5P	For lots of enthusiasm and effort during after school Mathematics.
Jammel Louise	6H	For always trying her best and setting a good example.
John Lloyd	6M	For working hard to complete all his learning.

Other Information

Safeguarding:

At the start of the school day, as well as for the dismissal arrangements at the end of the day, parents have clear entry, exit and pick-up points. We insist that parents stand back to allow the staff to dismiss the children safely. Parents are not permitted to cut across playgrounds to pick up children. Our key priority at the start and end of day is to ensure all children are dropped off and safely picked up by their parents. Thank you for your co-operation on this matter.

Communication:

As teachers are focused on their safeguarding duties at the start and end of day, this is not the best time to discuss any matters with them. Please arrange an appointment through the school office to see the class teacher, leaving a brief message for the reason for your request, so we can arrange a meeting or provide a prompt response.

School Uniform:

Towards the end of this half term, a very small number of parents were asked to correct their children's haircuts where cuts or styles were not compliant with our school uniform regulations. Please consider this when taking your child to the hairdresser / barber. Thank you to all parents for their clear support of our school policies.

Feast of All Saints:

On Wednesday 1 November, the children in Years 3 to 6 will be taken to The Immaculate Heart of Mary Church for the 9.15am Mass. Parents are most welcome to join us at the church.

Fr Alex:

Fr Alex has met the children in Years 1, 2 and 3 this half term. He has talked to the children about the Rosary throughout October. The children are always very excited to see Fr Alex and we look forward to all he will be sharing us next half term as we look forward to Christmas celebrations.

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.

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