



# St Mary's News

St Mary's Catholic Primary School  
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Associate Head of School: Mrs G Quinlan

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## Catholic Life of the School

In this Sunday's Gospel we learn about some of the people who tried to trap Jesus and get him into trouble. They tried to trick Jesus into answering a question about paying taxes. Jesus cleverly advised those trying to trap him to pay those who we owe duties to and pay God what belongs to him. In summary, Sunday's Gospel reminds us how we can live happier lives by giving God what is due to him. But what is due to God in our own lives? Surely 'our gratitude' would be a good answer to this question. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

*God speaks to those who are truly humble of heart, and enriches them with his gifts.' Padre Pio of Pietrelcina.*

## Welcome

This week we have welcomed Mr Keane to St Mary's. As the new Headteacher from January 2017 he is really keen to get to know the children and all of our families. I know you will extend a very warm welcome to him as he gets to know you all.

## Feast of All Saints'

Earlier this week we celebrated the Feast of All Saints' at The Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. We were very warmly welcomed by Fr Alex and his parishioners. It was a special Mass as Year 3 joined us on the morning as well as Mr Keane, the new Headteacher from January 2017.

## School Uniform

A small number of children are not wearing their school coats to and from school. Children must wear their coats every day.

## 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, phase assemblies 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,***



## Mini Vinnies

St Mary's are proud to introduce our new group. 'Mini-Vinnies' is a name for St Vincent de Paul groups for primary aged children. Our Mini Vinnies this term are Chloe, Jemira, Walter, Jayden, Ruana, Pelumi and Nardos.

The Mini Vinnies have come together and organised a **Christmas Shoebox Appeal**. As a school community we are asking that you support us in this appeal by donating items that could be placed in a wrapped shoebox to send to a child in need. Please read the separate letter which has been sent home about this appeal.

## Hamlet

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, Year 6 travelled to Wylllyotts Theatre to see the production of Hamlet. Excitement levels were high on the coach and these did not subside throughout the course of the day, as the show was phenomenal. Our children had the opportunity to show off their drama skills when they received the opportunity to act alongside the professional, taking on some key roles and learning their own lines. We are now looking forward to using this experience to enhance our learning over the coming weeks.



## Football

**Wildcats.** Queens Park Rangers have invited girls who want to play football to take part in football coaching sessions on Mondays between 5.00pm -6.00pm at Capital City Academy in Willesden. Information about the sessions is available from our Reception



## School attendance

Congratulations to the children in 6H and 5P who achieved 100% attendance in the week before half-term. Congratulations are also due to 6H who have the highest attendance since September 2017 with 99.9%.

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.

### Star of the Week

Mehdi	EYFS 1	For being helpful and expressing his needs by using new words.
Jack	EYFS 2	For putting so much effort into all his work.
Ana Maria	1P	For a huge improvement to phonics work.
Lara	2M	For excellent teamwork in Mathematics investigations.
Louis	3M	For making a wonderful Stone Age house.
Holy	3Q	For persevering in all of her written work.
Ron Joshua	4A	For making an extra special effort with his handwriting and presentation.
Lahand	4G	For great enthusiasm during Topic on the Roman gladiators.
Azariah	5O	For consistently working to the best of his ability.
Frank	5P	For completing his homework to an excellent standard.
Szymon	6H	For using ambitious vocabulary across the curriculum.
Lana	6M	For writing very detailed answers to comprehension questions.

### Frightastic

Throughout this week at school the children have enjoyed a Frightastic themed week. During their English lessons they have been looking at ghosts and ghouls, composing spooky similes and metaphors leading to scary creative writing. On Friday we saw some amazing costumes at assembly. The children with the most creative costumes were Jack, Ana Maria and Romal. Thank you to our parents for supporting Frightastic. Funds raised will go towards equipment for our very youngest children in Early Years classes.



### 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. All staff at St Mary's undertook Prevent training earlier this week.

The Educate Against Hate website contains useful information and has a specific section for parents <http://educateagainsthate.com/parents/>