



St Mary's News

St Mary's Catholic Primary School
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Head of School: Mrs B Pratley

Friday 7 September 2018

Welcome Letter from the Headteacher

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to welcome our children and families back at the start of this new school year. It is wonderful to hear so many of them telling me about their holidays and the experiences they have had over the summer break.

Having been the Deputy Headteacher at St. Mary's Catholic School for the past year I know the children and the school well and look forward to getting to know all the families better this year.

St. Mary's is a very good school with a strong, committed teaching staff and we are delighted that most of our teachers have remained on at the school. Our staff are highly committed and skilled, and work tirelessly to ensure the children learn well and make rapid progress in school.

Parents make an important contribution to children's achievements at school, and I want to develop the relationship between the school and parents for everyone's benefit.

We will be holding a number of events over the next term, which will provide an opportunity to meet you and discuss the building of a successful partnership. These meetings will take place at different times, which I hope will enable most families to attend. If you prefer, you are also welcome to contact me by email or phone.

God bless,

Mrs Pratley,
Headteacher

A prayer for Hassan

Please remember in your prayers this week Hassan, a brave and wonderful pupil from our Year 3 class. He became sick last term and has a big operation on 19th September. We remember him and his family and pray for his health and a speedy recovery.

Catholic Life of the School

Prayer for the start of the school year (Janet Erskine)

Heavenly Father, unseen Companion of our life,
give us faith and eager expectancy
as we begin this fresh stage of our journey.

Take from us all fear of the unknown
and teach us to wrest treasures from the darkness.

As the days come and go,
may we find that each one is laden
with many opportunities and enriching experiences;
And when this year is ended

May our best hopes be more than ever fulfilled.

Amen.

Parish Links

Fr. Alex has now moved from the parish of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and this parish is now being served by the priests from Sacred Heart Church on Quex Road. We welcome Father Terry to our school community and he will be working closely to support us.

In order to introduce himself to our school community, he is saying mass for us in our school hall on Friday 21st September at 9a.m. as a welcome mass for the start of the school year. Any parents who would like to attend are most welcome.

We also take this opportunity to thank Father Alex for all the work he did with the pupils and school community. We wish him luck with his future endeavors.

Chessington – 100% Attendance

Congratulations to all the children who attended school every day last year, and to Miss McGee's class from last year for your fantastic attendance. We have 55 children on this trip and hope you have a great day out – you have earned it!

We are starting to count towards the 100% attendance from the beginning of next week. Therefore, every child will have a chance to go on a fabulous trip if they achieve 100% attendance in a year from now.



Meet the Teachers

Parents will be invited to meet their child's class teacher, see their classrooms and find out more about the school year.

This is your opportunity to ask any questions you may have about your child's development, homework and any forthcoming assessments.

Please do try to attend if you can.



Staffing update

We are delighted that most staff from last year are continuing to work with us at St. Mary's this year.

We are happy to welcome our new staff who are joining us this year:

Mr. McAllister (Year 1 Teacher)

Mr. Donazzan (music)

Summer Fair

This took place at the end of last term and was a fantastic success. Most families joined us and supported the event. It was a chance for people to come together socially while at the same time support the school financially. We raised £2013 which was a great effort. This money is going to be used to help pay for new playground equipment for our infant playground.



Upcoming Events:

Parent Meetings with Teachers – for most year groups these will be on Tuesday 18th September.

Parent Academic Review Meetings – these will not be on a Wednesday afternoon but will be held during the week of 15th October. We will let you know the exact date nearer the time.

Trips and events this half term

Monday 10th September – fire brigade visit for Year 1 and 2

Friday 14th September – trip to Chessington for attendance (2017 – 18)

17th – 21st September – cycle training for some Year 6 children

Monday 17th September – Year 1 and 2 visit the Museum of London

Wednesday 19th September – British Museum visit for Year 5

Thursday 20th September – swimming to start for Year 4 (this will run all term)

Thursday 27th September – individual photographs in school

(please make sure children look smart and uniforms are clean).

You will receive letters for these trips nearer the time. For year groups where trips have not yet been arranged, we will be organising trips for them over the next few weeks. We plan to take all year groups on trips every term to enrich their learning and experience of school.

St Mary's Student Read!

As the students returned to school after a long holiday they would have noticed many things that had changed at St Mary's. One of the most noticeable changes that took place was to our Library. We now have a beautiful space where students can come to borrow and browse books.

Reading is a major priority for all students this year. Teachers are encouraging students to read more during school hours and designing engaging lessons to improve reading ability. Also, we are now an Accelerated Reading school and students from Year 2-6 will participate in this online program over the next year. Students will learn more about this exciting opportunity next week when borrowing begins.

Before School Library Borrowing Rota:

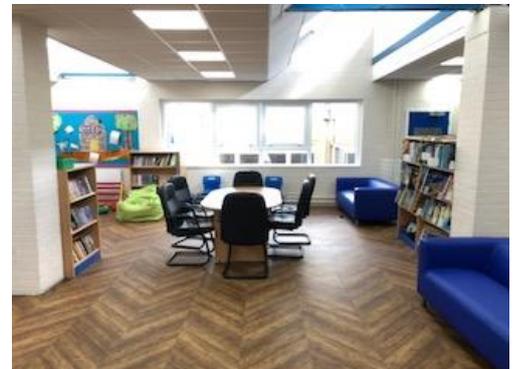
Monday: Year 3

Tuesday: Year 5

Wednesday: Year 4

Thursday: Year 6

Friday: Year 2



Children will also be given other opportunities during the week to swap their books as required.