



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Term 1 Week 24

September 27th

MacMillan Coffee Morning

This morning, despite the rain, we were very pleased to welcome so many members of the School and Church community to our MacMillan coffee morning. The St Mary's School Support Staff Team did themselves proud again this year in their amazing efforts organising and hosting this wonderful morning of coffee, cakes and companionship in aid of this wonderful cause. Thank you to everyone who sent in cakes, who attended the coffee morning and who purchased raffle tickets for the massive hamper of goodies – your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you as well to the St Mary's Support Staff Team for giving so generously of their time and for all their efforts hosting this event.



Dates for Your Diary

Remember: PI shows parents, carers, parishioners and friends are invited to attend.

October

- 3rd FSM AGM 8pm School hall PI
- 4th Horrible Histories trip Indigo and Violet classes
- 9th Individual / Family School photographs
- 11th Welcome assembly 9.30am PI
- 18th Health and Wellbeing day
- 18th Flu spray vaccination
- 18th FSM Autumn Disco 3.15 to 5pm
- 25th Last day of term 1. 3.15pm finish

November

- 4th First day of Term 2
- 4-8th Pupil/Parent consultations week
- 7th Pupil/Parent consultations 3.30-6pm PI
- 11th Remembrance Assembly 10am PI
- 11th RE Events week—Judaism
- 20th New parent open morning for Sept 2020 admissions 9.30aam
- 21st New parent open afternoon for Sept 2020 admissions 2pm. No booking required.
- 25th—29th Eco Week (Christmas Crafts)

Please check dates regularly as events are added or may be changed.

Attendance

- Red Class YR: 96.2%
- Orange Class Y1: 99.3%
- Yellow Class Y2: 100.0%
- Green Class Y3: 99.0%
- Blue Class Y4: 99.1%
- Indigo Class Y5: 98.4%
- Violet Class Y6: 98.1%

Well Done
Yellow
Class



ALERT!!! CHANGE OF DATE/ARRANGEMENTS

Pupil/Parent/Teacher Consultations

The forthcoming Pupil/Parent/Teacher Consultations will be taking place on the following dates:

Thursday 7th November 3.30 – 6.00 pm
 Monday 11th November 3.30 – 6.00 pm

More information and sign-up sheets will be made available closer to the time.

Thank you

Parents' Consultation Evening



Taken from this week's Gospel:
Time, Year C

26th Sunday in Ordinary

Abraham answered, 'Your brothers can read what Moses and the prophets wrote. They should learn from them.'

~ Pray ~ Learn ~ Love ~ Enjoy ~

BEGINNING OF YEAR MASS AND HARVEST CELEBRATION

Thank you to everyone who joined the School today for the first mass of the new school year and our harvest celebration. It was really lovely to gather in the Church for this occasion, which had been so beautifully and thoughtfully decorated by the School. Blue Class did a wonderful job leading the mass – they read clearly and sang beautifully and the simplicity of the mass allowed everyone time and space to reflect on all that we have been blessed with as a School and Church Community and to feel thankful. What a very special way to begin the year – in thanks for all that we have. Thank you Blue Class.

Our Harvest Offering this year is in support of Cafod's Harvest Appeal to raise money to build wells in communities where many children are unable to attend school because they spend hours collecting water from wells great distances away from their own villages. We hope that as a community we can give a little to help these children a lot and to afford them the most basic of things which we take for granted in our own lives. Please feel free to send in donations of money directly to the school at any time over the course of next week. We will continue to collect money for this brilliant cause and hope that you and your children will be inspired to give up a little treat next week in support of Friday's Family Fast Day and donate the money you have saved to Cafod's Harvest Appeal.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.



Harvest 2019

CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

no one beyond reach

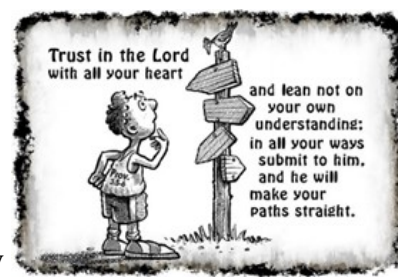
SAFEGUARDING

Thank you to everyone in the community for the efforts being made to ensure the dismissal arrangements at the end of the school day are as secure as possible. There has been a noticeable improvement in the number of children who have a clear knowledge of who is collecting them each day or if they are attending clubs. We also appreciate the efforts of parents/carers in ensuring that changes to arrangements are shared with the school via the school office. We appreciate that family life is complex and challenging at times so would like to thank everyone for the efforts being made to support the school at the most vulnerable time in the school day. Thank you.



YEAR SIX BEGINNING OF YEAR RETREAT

It was an absolute privilege to join the Year Six Team on Monday at St Mary's Church for their beginning of year retreat. The children and staff joined the Church Congregation to celebrate Mass and then they moved into the Church Hall for their morning's retreat. It was a time for the children to think about, and to prepare for, the journey ahead of them. The final year at primary school is always a very special year for the children, as they work hard to achieve all that they can and to ensure they are ready to move on to thrive in new places, with new challenges and opportunities. It was great to see the children maximise the chance to come together and reflect upon all that they want to achieve and all that they want to be this year – both as individuals and as a team. We shared the following Scripture passage with them as an important reminder that this year they will not be alone.



SPOT LIGHT ON THE OFFICE

The school office plays a huge role in the operational and organisational aspects of the running of the school. The range of tasks carried out by the office staff are vast and very varied and the skills and experience of the staff who work in this crucial part of the school are a great asset to our community. Anita Dean, our School Bursar, has worked in many different roles throughout the school and has a wealth of knowledge and understanding of our school and its community. She now works alongside the Leadership Team and Governors on all financial aspects of the school. Tracy Shields has also been involved with the school for a number of years and has fulfilled different roles within the school but is now working as School Secretary, where her skills are greatly appreciated. Sam Matthews joined our school team at the end of the last academic year to work as part of the Office Team as School Secretary. She has experience of working in school offices and brings a very welcome fresh pair of eyes to operations.

The Office Team also work as our front of house – they are often the first port of call for any questions or queries, not only from parents and carers but from the staff within the school too. They do a super job trying to help everyone and will always do all they can to find out the answer to something if they do not already have it. Their resourcefulness is truly staggering at times! They also play an incredibly important role in the safeguarding of pupils across the school at the beginning and the end of each school day.

The Office Team are responsible for accounting for every child in the school and their whereabouts every morning. Once the registers come in from class teachers the Office Team are responsible for ensuring we know the reason for the absences of any children not present. This is a huge responsibility and one which must be carried out and completed within a very short space of time. If the Office Team are unable to account for any child soon after the registers are taken the Leadership Team are informed and a visit to the home is made. If the Leadership Team cannot locate the child at the family home, they treat the situation as that of a missing child and the police are contacted.

At the end of the school day, again the Office Team play an important role in ensuring the safe dismissal of all the children from the school site. If any children are not collected, the Office Team work hard to try to make contact with parents/carers quickly in order to ensure the safety of parents/carers and their children. When parents/carers are delayed collecting their children, children can become upset so it is important that the Office Team try to make contact with parents/carers in order to ensure everything is okay and to reassure the children.

The Office Team's responsibilities for accounting for the whereabouts of all children at the beginning and end of the school day means that at certain times of the day they may not be able to make the requests, queries or enquiries of parents/carers their main priority. Please bear this in mind and please try to avoid making non-urgent enquiries at the school office between the following times: 9.00 – 9.30 am and 3.15 – 3.45 pm. In this way, you will help to support the Office Team to have the time to deal with urgent enquiries and to fulfil their important safeguarding duties.

The office is open throughout the school day but we appreciate that it is easiest for parents/carers to pop into the office whilst doing the school drop off/collect. However, please remember that this is a very busy time for the Office Team and you can always contact the school office via email (office@stmarysrc.e-sussex.sch.uk), telephone (01892 655 291) and we also have a secure post box in the entrance for you to use. Please feel free to use the post box for any forms, money, permission slips, etc. or give them to your children to hand in.

Your help and support in enabling the Office Team to focus on their safeguarding responsibilities at the beginning and end of the school day would be greatly appreciated. The Office Team are always happy to help and they are there for you to access especially for any matters which are urgent, but we would ask you to please bear in mind the range of ways you can make contact with the Office Team and to consider which is the most appropriate and when would be most appropriate.

Thank you to everyone for your support.



Earrings

Just a quick reminder that if your child has recently had their ears pierced, they may tape their ears for six weeks for P.E lessons. After this your child needs to take their earrings out themselves. Staff are not allowed to tape the children's earring or remove earrings, so you must teach your child to do this. Unfortunately this is not the same for swimming. During Swimming, your child must remove their earrings. They are not allowed to tape them as this can come off in the water. If your child is unable to remove their earrings they will not be able to swim.

Mrs Piper

P.E Kits

It has been brought to our attention that some children have returned to school without a complete PE kit. Children must have separate P.E shoes, trainers or plimsolls, to change into and wear. It is also a good idea to have a spare pair of socks. Children must also have navy shorts and their house coloured P.E t-shirt. Tracksuit bottom are only allowed to be worn in cold weather if the lesson takes place outside. Mrs Piper

Unihoc

On Wednesday, twelve children went to Beacon to take part in a Unihoc festival. This was a really fun afternoon where children learnt to play Unihoc. (An inside version of hockey.) The children, led by Beacon leaders, learnt a range of skills needed to play before taking part in matches against St John's and Ashdown. The children's behaviour was impeccable and they all learnt lots.

Mrs Piper

Cross Country Running

On Wednesday 2nd October, 48 children from years 3-6 will be going to Beacon for a cross country running competition. Children need to wear rugby or football boots or have running shoes with spikes to reduce the chance of slipping.

We would be grateful if anyone could loan boots Monday or Thursday or donate any boots to school that they no longer need.

We have asked the children to try and source boots themselves if possible but we do not want parents to buy them just for the run. We do have some boots so please contact Mrs Piper if you need to borrow any. Thank you ! Mrs Botterman.



There are a number of people currently with debit balances on their

account. Please ensure that these are cleared **as a matter of priority**. All school

meals need to be paid for in advance, it is not acceptable to expect meals for your child where they have not been paid for.

Where debts are over £10, the school meals provider have said that they cannot continue to provide meals and you will be asked to provide your child with a packed lunch.



Swimming money reminder

Please could you contribute to the swimming lessons for Term 1. This can be paid via ParentMail or cheque made payable to St Marys School or cash in a named envelope to the office.

Thank you very much.



Class Teacher email addresses:

Mrs Williams (Reception) mwilliams@stmarysrc.e-sussex.sch.uk

Miss Heathcote (Year 1) cheathcote@stmarysrc.e-sussex.sch.uk

Mrs Tabassi-Gill (Reception and Year 1) etabassi-gill@stmarysrc.e-sussex.sch.uk

Miss McMillan (Year 2) emcmillan@stmarysrc.e-sussex.sch.uk

Miss Searle (Year 3) vsearle@stmarysrc.e-sussex.sch.uk