



St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School
Following Jesus in all we think, do and say

Shrewsbury Road, Bayswater, London W2 5PR
Telephone: 020 7792 1883 Email: office@stmaryangels.co.uk
Website: www.stmaryangels.co.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Mary Wilson

9th September 2022

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
21 April 1926 – 8 September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

A warm welcome back to the start of the new academic year. It was a joy to welcome the children back and to welcome new children and families to our school family. Of course, that joy has been tinged with great sadness as we learnt yesterday of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We held a special assembly this morning where we gave thanks for her life of service and prayed for her family at this sad time. Following the announcement, Cardinal Vincent Nichols paid the following tribute to Her Majesty:

On 21 April 1947, on her twenty-first birthday, Princess Elizabeth said, 'I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service.' Now, seventy-five years later, we are heartbroken in our loss at her death, and so full of admiration for the unfailing way in which she fulfilled that declaration.

Even in my sorrow, shared with so many around the world, I am filled with an immense sense of gratitude for the gift to the world that has been the life of Queen Elizabeth II. At this time, we pray for the repose of the soul of Her Majesty. We do so with confidence, because the Christian faith marked every day of her life and activity.

In her Millennium Christmas message, she said, 'To many of us, our beliefs are of fundamental importance. For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life. I, like so many of you, have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ's words and example.'

This faith, so often and so eloquently proclaimed in her public messages, has been an inspiration to me, and I am sure to many. The wisdom, stability and service which she consistently embodied, often in circumstances of extreme difficulty, are a shining legacy and testament to her faith.

Our prayer is that she is now received into the merciful presence of God, there to be reunited with her beloved Prince Philip. This is the promise of our faith, and our deep consolation.

Queen Elizabeth II will remain, always, a shining light in our history. May she now rest in peace.

We pray for His Majesty the King, as he assumes his new office even as he mourns his mother.

God save the King.

We have now entered a period of national mourning that will continue until the end of the State Funeral. Once details of the funeral are confirmed by the Royal Household, the Department for Education will provide guidance for schools and we will write to you with further guidance and information as soon as this is given. In the meantime, you may find the following resource helpful if your child asks questions or wants to talk about the death of The Queen which we have also shared with school staff. <https://www.winstonswish.org/talk-to-children-about-death-of-queen/>

Welcome to Year Group Meetings

A reminder of the dates of the forthcoming Welcome to Year Group Meetings can be found below. These meetings will take place in the school hall with your child's class teacher and the key stage leader. Teachers will share information about the curriculum, expectations, home learning, essential learning experiences and how you can continue to support your child at home. There will also be the chance to ask general questions.

Welcome to Reception	Tuesday 13th September 9am
Welcome to Year 6/Secondary Transfer	Tuesday 13 th September 2.30pm
Welcome to Year 2	Wednesday 14 th September 9am
Welcome to Year 3	Thursday 15th September 9am
Welcome to Year 5	Thursday 15th September 3pm
Welcome to Year 1	Friday 16th September 9am
Welcome to Year 4	Friday 16th September 3pm
Welcome to Nursery	Monday 19th September 9am

Curriculum Newsletters

These will be sent home early next week.

PE Days

Miss Hampshire, our new PE Coach, is looking forward to starting PE lessons next week. We also welcome back coaches from Middlesex Country Cricket team who will be teaching cricket to our Year 1 and 2 children on Tuesday afternoons this term. Children in Reception to Year 6 must wear their school PE kit on their PE days (see below). Nursery children wear their usual uniform on their PE day. PE days for Autumn 1 (September – October) are as follows:

Ducklings	Wednesday
Robins	Wednesday & Thursday
Goldfinches & Kingfishers	Monday & Tuesday
Swifts & Kestrels	Wednesday & Thursday
Herons* & Swans	Monday & Thursday

*Herons start swimming lessons on Thursday 15th September. Please see the letter emailed and sent home with your child today.

Uniform

Now that it is becoming increasingly autumnal you may be thinking about purchasing new items of winter uniform. Please ensure that you adhere to the school's uniform policy which you can find [here](#). In particular, we draw your attention to the requirement for children to wear dark/navy blue jackets/coats and black school shoes (black trainers on PE days). Black jackets/coats are not part of our uniform policy and should not be worn to school. Jewellery is not allowed other than stud earrings and a watch.

Forest School 2022/2023

We are delighted to be taking part again this year in the Forest School programme at Sayers Croft's Urban Nature Space at Paddington Recreation ground> we are even more delighted that Ducklings, our Nursery class, are taking part this year for the first time! Each class has six half day sessions over the course of the school year. The dates for this term's visits are as follows:



Ducklings	Thursday 13 th October / Thursday 1 st December 9.30 – 11.30am
Robins	Friday 14 th October / Friday 2 nd December 9.30 – 11.30am
Goldfinches	Thursday 13 th October / Thursday 1 st December 1 – 3pm
Kingfishers	Friday 14 th October / Friday 2 nd December 1 – 3pm
Swifts	Thursday 22 nd September / Thursday 17 th November 9.30 – 11.30am
Kestrels	Thursday 22 nd September / Thursday 17 th November 1 – 3pm
Herons	Friday 23 rd September / Friday 18 th November 9.30 – 11.30am
Swans	Friday 23 rd September / Friday 18 th November 1 – 3pm

Class teachers will send home a letter with more detailed information about the Forest School programme prior to your child's first visit which will include the dates of all six visits and seek your consent for your child to attend. In the meantime, if you would like to find out more about the programme please click [here](#)

Kind regards

Mrs Wilson
Headteacher