



## St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

*Following Jesus in all we think, do and say*

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**Newsletter: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Dear Parents, carers, pupils, staff and governors

### Feast of the Archangels

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September was the Feast of the Archangels and we were delighted that children and staff in Years 1 to 6 were able to attend a Mass celebrated especially for the school by Fr. Hugh Logan in our parish church. Fr. Logan reminded all gathered of the roles the angels played in scripture and beautifully explained, in age appropriate terms, that the existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls 'angels' is a truth of faith. The attentiveness and reverence the children showed in Mass is a credit to their parents and the school. We now look forward joining parishioners to celebrate Mass for the Feast of All Saints on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November which is a Holy Day of obligation for Catholics.

### House System

The Feast of the Archangels is the perfect time to raise the profile of our school's House System. While the system has been in place for many years, we hope that relaunching it early in the new school year will further develop a sense of belonging and team work within the school community. Every child in the school has therefore been made a member of one of our 4 houses named after the following angels:



Each house is made up of children from all year groups and we will be choosing new House Captains next week from amongst our Year 6 class who will represent their houses and promote the House Point system across the school.

Children in Years 1 to 6 have the opportunity to earn house points throughout the school day and from any member of staff in the school. Points can be awarded for words and actions which bear witness to our school's vision of 'Following Jesus in all we think, do and say' and for striving to be the best they can be. While our youngest children in Nursery and Reception are not awarded house points, we know from past experience that they enjoy joining in the celebrations when their house is awarded the House Point Trophy for having the highest number of house points that week and look forward to earning house points when they move in to Year 1. At the end of the autumn, spring and summer term the children in the house with the highest number of house points awarded that term will receive a special reward.

The children have been told which house they are in today and this will be their house throughout their time at St. Mary of the Angels. Children in Years 1 to 6 have a picture of their respective house angels in their reading record books and pupils in Ducklings and Robins have been given a card with their angel on (morning only Nursery children will receive their card next week).

### Cycle Confident Training

We are very proud of all the children from Years 3-6 who participated in Cycle Confident training over the past two weeks at school. The instructors commented on the excellent behaviour, attitude and resilience demonstrate by all children who participated in the programme. The instructors also wanted us to make parents/carers aware that as residents of Westminster you and your family can avail of free individual cycle lessons. For more information about how to avail of this service please click [here](#). I'm also pleased to announce that we will be offering Balance Bike training and Learn to Ride training for pupils in Reception to Year 2 in the Summer Term.



### National Poetry Day 2022: Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October

Next week we will be celebrating National Poetry Day by holding a Poetry Recital at school. National Poetry Day is a UK-wide celebration of poetry, and this year's theme is **The Environment**. Each class from Nursery to Year 6 has carefully selected a class

poem which they will perform in a whole school assembly celebration. If you would like to get involved at home and promote a love of poetry, then please visit the National Poetry website by clicking [here](#).

### 2022 Mini London Marathon: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October

St. Mary of the Angels pupils and staff are once again taking part in the Mini London Marathon this year. The children will be challenged to run, walk, jog or wheel 2.6 miles between Monday 17<sup>th</sup> and Friday 21<sup>st</sup> Friday October. They will be completing the challenge during their PE lessons with our PE coach Miss Hampshire and during our Daily Mile sessions. This is a sponsored event so we will be asking parents and carers to help sign up as many sponsors as possible to raise much needed funds for the school which this year will go towards the cost of our Forest School sessions. Every child who takes part will receive a free commemorative Mini London Marathon pin badge and certificate. Last year, we were thrilled with the success of the sponsored event and raised an amazing £2282.60 for the school. More information about the event and sponsorship will be sent home early next week. Thank you in advance for your support.



### Parent Teacher Consultations

These will take place during the week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> November. Further information will be sent via email so please ensure the school office has the most up to date contact information. Meetings will be held via video or telephone call with the exception of Nursery and Reception children new to the school.

### Prayer and Worship

Ten Ten's October newsletter is now available for you to read [here](#) or by visiting the home page of the school website [www.stmaryangels.co.uk](http://www.stmaryangels.co.uk)

### Praying the Rosary

While we can pray The Rosary at any time, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7<sup>th</sup> and the month of October is a wonderful opportunity to pray The Rosary together as a school and at home with our families. Therefore, each class will be praying The Rosary each day in October starting with The Joyful Mysteries as follows:

- **Foundation Stage:** 1 x Our Father, 1 x Hail Mary, 1 x Glory Be
- **Key Stage 1:** 1 x Our Father, 3 x Hail Marys, 1 x Glory Be
- **Key Stage 2:** 1 x Our Father, 10 x Hail Marys, 1 x Glory Be (this is 'a decade')



### Paddington Library 2022-2023

We are pleased to announce that our partnership with Paddington Children's Library is continuing this year. The dates for this term's visits are as follows:

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Ducklings   | Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November                                     |
| Robins      | Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October / Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> November      |
| Goldfinches | Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October / Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> November       |
| Kingfishers | Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> October / Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> November |
| Swifts      | Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> October / Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> November     |
| Kestrels    | Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October / Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November     |
| Hérons      | Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> October / Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> November     |
| Swans       | Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> October / Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> November   |



### Celebrating Birthdays

Parents and carers are kindly asked not to bring birthday cakes or party bags to school to share with their child's class mates.

### Pupil Absence

Parents and carers are reminded that they should report their child's absence by no later than 9.30am on their child's first day of absence. This can be done by phoning 02077921883 and pressing option 1 to leave a message or via email at [office@stmaryangels.co.uk](mailto:office@stmaryangels.co.uk) If you have not contacted the school by 9.30am you will receive a text message which we ask to respond to immediately to inform us as to why your child is not in school. Otherwise, the absence is recorded as unauthorised. Routine doctor, dentist and optician appointments should take place outside of school hours and holidays in term time will not be authorised.

### Wraparound Care Update

Breakfast Club is now open to all pupils including Nursery. Bookings must be made and paid for in advance via

[www.shoolgateway.com](http://www.shoolgateway.com) and cost £4 per session. Breakfast Club takes place in the hall and opens at 07.45am. We are meeting with an after-school care provider next week to discuss options to extend our daily after-school provision until 5.30/6pm. If this is something you need now or may need in the near future, it would be helpful if you could contact Ms Chadwick via email ([office@stmaryangels.co.uk](mailto:office@stmaryangels.co.uk)).

**Foundation Stage Fun Day: Date to be confirmed**

Each year, we hold a Foundation Stage Funday for our Nursery and Reception families. This year's event will be held after half term (date to be confirmed) in order for staff and families to explore our new playground. The refurbishment of the Foundation and Key Stage 1 playground will start towards the end of October with main works scheduled for October half term and we very much hope that we will be able to showcase our new outdoor learning environment as soon as all works are completed. We will update parents and carers on the date of the event, in due course. The event will run from 2-4pm and will be held in the Foundation Stage playground. There will be lots of fun activities for parents and children to take part in and a delicious afternoon tea provided by the school. Older siblings in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 will join the fun when their school day finishes.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Wilson

Mrs Hough

Headteacher

Acting Deputy Headteacher