



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

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Newsletter: 14th October 2022

Dear Parents, carers, pupils, staff and governors,

National Poetry Day 2022

Last week we held our National Poetry Day recital on Thursday 6th October and it was an absolute joy to witness. Each class performed their poem as an ensemble which was linked to this year's theme - **The Environment**. Well done to everyone for learning and participating in this year's National Poetry Day. Each and every child performed confidently and with expression and tone, to the great enjoyment of the audience.

Forest School

This week Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 had their first Forest School trip of the year and it did not disappoint! The weather was delightful and all the children were given the opportunity to freely explore the urban nature space.

Nursery had an incredible morning on Thursday at Forest School, starting with a tour of the urban nature space. This was followed by a leaf hunt whereby the children discovered and learnt the names of the different types of leaves. The highlight of the day was when the children in Nursery were given the opportunity to play with 'Log Dogs'. What a fantastic day they had at Forest School!



Year 5 and 6 Cross Country Event: Thursday 13th October

We send congratulations to all the children in Year 5 and 6 who took part in a Cross-Country event on Thursday. The children represented our school and Miss Hampshire spoke about how well behaved all the children were and how they displayed great sportsmanship and virtue. We are all so proud of all the children - their hard work, achievements and the commitment they showed at this event.

Second Hand School Uniform Sale: Wednesday 19th October

Please come and join us for a second-hand school uniform sale on Wednesday 19th October in the school hall from 3:30-3:45pm.

A reminder that pupils in Years 1 – 6 should return to school after the half term wearing the school's winter uniform, more information about which can be found by clicking [here](#). Winter hats are available to purchase from the school office for £6.20.

Reminder: all coats should be navy/dark blue. Please ensure all items of uniform are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Reception Phonics Meeting: Thursday 20th October

You are warmly invited to a Phonics Meeting for parents/carers of pupils in Robins on Thursday 20th October at 3pm in the school hall. Learning to read is an exciting journey for your child and we look forward to working in partnership with you to ensure your child learns the skills necessary to help them to learn to read.

Next half term, we will offer a phonic meeting for our parents and carers of pupils in Year 1 (date to be confirmed).

Foundation Stage Resource Requests

We would like to ask parents and carers for donations to support our learning environment in our Foundation Stage. We are looking for: -photo frames -shells -pine cones -acorns -kitchen equipment (pots, pans, utensils) -bottle tops -bags of soil- wicker baskets (small and large) -dress up clothing (scarfs, traditional cultural clothing i.e. African prints/Saris).

Please only donate items which are in good condition. You may donate items by dropping them off to the front office. These items may seem unusual play items, but they can be used in endless different ways, allowing children to use their imagination whilst playing and exploring.



Reminder: 2022 Mini London Marathon

Thank you to everyone who has sponsored and/or donated to our Mini London Marathon event which will be taking place on Monday 17th -Friday 21st October. As you are aware, the children will be challenged to run, walk or jog 2.6 miles. The children will be completing the challenge during their PE lessons with our PE coach Miss Hampshire and during our Daily Mile sessions.

Sponsorship donations can be paid up to and including Friday 21st October in cash in a sealed envelope labelled with your child's name and Mini Marathon 2022 or online at www.schoolgateway.com by Friday 21st October.

House Captains

Congratulations to the following Year 6 pupils who have been elected as House Captains 2022-2023 at St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School.

Kelly Mae - St. Raphael

Theo - St. Uriel

Todd - St. Michael

Abrielle - St. Gabriel



School Council

The School Council is a group of pupils who are elected by their peers to represent the views of all pupils in their class and to make their own valuable contributions to discussion about the daily life of the school and how we can improve our school environment. In the past, School Council members have helped out at the parish Christmas bazaar, taken part in the 'Big Battery' recycling event and have been instrumental in having improvements made to the school playgrounds.



Upper Key Stage Two- Anabel, Alexander, Yasin, Amelia W, Kelly-Mae, Theo, Todd, Abrielle
Lower Key Stage Two- Shagaf, Miller, Olivia M, Toni

Mini Vinnies 2022-2023 – 'Turning Concern into Action'

Who are the Mini Vinnies?

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) is a Christian organisation dedicated to tackling poverty and disadvantage, both worldwide and in local communities. In an effort to reach out to young people, the SVP have established a branch of their organisation called 'Mini Vinnies'. The Mini Vinnies are 7 to 11 year olds based in schools and parishes across England and Wales. Members are encouraged to 'Think, see and do', putting the needs of other people before their own. At St Mary of the Angels, we have an amazing group of children who have volunteered to give their time to live out the Gospel Values in and out of school. Our Mini Vinnies group will work as ambassadors in our school and local community in promoting good causes and charitable acts. Last year, the Mini Vinnies helped organise a whole school projects whereby we packed essential items for the homeless, we sang at the St John's Hospice: Light Up a Life Christmas Ceremony, we appealed to parents and carers to donate winter coats and fleeces for the Calling London Winter Coat Campaign. This year, we look forward to see how our new representatives will encourage our school family to answer the call to serve those in need in our near and wider community.



Upper Key Stage Two- Beatriz, Areen, Lanz, Meryem
Lower Key Stage Two- Narin, Ashwin, Sienna-Blue, Albie

Congratulations to all of the Key Stage 2 pupils who were duly elected by their peers to our School Council and as our Mini Vinnie representatives. We wish them well in all their endeavours and thank them for offering to serve our school community.

Free School Meals

Through the government's Free School Meals initiative, all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive free school meals automatically. For children in other year groups, a parent/carer must apply. Westminster council's online system aims to simplify the application process and speed up the eligibility checks. For more information, please click [here](#) or go to www.westminster.gov.uk/free-school-meals. You will have to set up a My Westminster account, but you will be advised how to do this when your first enter the website. Please make your application via the Westminster website even if your home address is in a different borough.

If you receive benefits and your child is in Reception or Years 1 or 2 we strongly encourage you to still apply for Free School Meals through the council's system as our school will receive more funding – over £1,000 per eligible pupil – which will be used to enrich the curriculum and support teaching and learning.

School Street Update

Thank you for continuing to comply with the 'School Street' which is in operation on Shrewsbury Road between Talbot Road and St Stephen's Gardens (south). You will know from the signage and previous school newsletters that access to this section of Shrewsbury Road is restricted between 8.30 and 9.30am and 3.00 – 4.00pm. We share your frustration that other road users do not always comply with the restriction but we are grateful that the majority of our parents/carers do in order to help keep our families safe during school drop off and pick-ups.

Thank you to everyone who shared their opinions and concerns during the online consultation period that ran earlier this year. Our school community's feedback has been noted by the council and we look forward to sharing more news very soon, re further plans to encourage all road users to abide by the restrictions.

Half Term

A reminder that school closes for the autumn half term on Friday 21st October at the usual time and reopens on Monday 31st October.

Mass: Feast of All Saints -Tuesday 1st November

We now look forward to joining parishioners to celebrate Mass for the Feast of All Saints on Tuesday 1st November which is a Holy Day of obligation for Catholics. Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils and staff will be attending Mass at St. Mary of the Angels Church at 10am. Parents and carers are most welcome to join us.

Prayer and Worship

Ten Ten's October newsletter is now available for you to read [here](#) or by visiting the [Prayer and Worship](#) for Home section of the school website.

Our School Prayer

Loving Father

*Bless our school and fill our hearts
with love, friendship and forgiveness.*

*Help every child to grow and
achieve the best that they can
When we find things difficult give us the
courage to carry on.*

*We thank you for all of our friends
and classmates.*

*Bless our families, our community and
all who help us in our school.*

Help us to follow in your footsteps.

Amen

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Wilson

Mrs Hough

Headteacher

Acting Deputy Headteacher