



St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

Following Jesus in all we think, do and say

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Headteacher: Mrs Mary Wilson

Newsletter: 21st October 2022

Dear Parents, carers, pupils, staff and governors,

St. Mary of the Angels Book Corner Competition

We love reading at St. Mary of the Angels so having an inviting, engaging and comfortable area to read and enjoy books is a must in all of our classrooms. To ensure our class reading corners meet our high expectations, we held a 'Book Corner' competition. This year's theme was 'The Environment' which was in keeping with our National Poetry Day celebrations.

Mrs Mulvey, who works as a volunteer in our school, was tasked with visiting each classroom and choosing an overall winner. After much deliberation, Swans (Year 6) was announced as the winner during a special assembly on Friday 21st October. During the assembly, the winning class was awarded £100 to spend on new books. Ms Hulands, Mrs Fahss and Mrs Tavernier received a bouquet of flowers for their hard work and commitment to making reading a priority. Due to the high standard of all entries, we decided to award all classes £50 to spend on new books for their class. Please [click here](#) to view all book corner entries and remember to visit your child's class page to read about their chosen theme and cosy reading area. They are all truly amazing!



Attendance

Thank you to all our parents and carers who ensure their child/children attend school regularly and on time, which is essential for them to achieve their potential in all areas of their learning and development. Poor attendance is directly correlated to a pupil's level of success in their education and the school is currently reviewing our attendance policy and procedures to ensure we do all we can to promote and model good attendance. Once approved by the governing body, we will share the updated Attendance Policy with you via the school website.

We understand that there are times when children will need to be absent from school for a number of reasons. This could include:

- Sickness or ill health;
- Medical or dental appointments which fall during school hours;
- Religious or cultural observances;
- Family emergencies;
- Bereavements.

Absences during term time will only be authorised for the reasons above. However, we do urge you to book GP and dental appointments outside of school hours wherever possible.

Other absences during term time will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances and the length of any authorised absences will be determined by the headteacher. **Requests for leave of absence during term time for the purpose of a family holiday will not be accepted.**

Authorisations will also not be granted for absence in the following instances:

- Day trips in term time;
- Leaving school for unnecessary reasons during the school day;
- Not attending school for an unnecessary reason such as shopping or birthdays;
- Absences which have not been properly explained or have failed to follow the absence procedure.

Please ensure your report your child's absence before 9.30am on the first day of absence. This can be done by leaving a message on the school's dedicated absence line by calling 02077921883 or emailing office@stmaryangels.co.uk. Any parent who has not reported their child as absent will be contacted by the school via telephone, text message or email. Failure to provide a reason for your child's absence may result in your child receiving an unauthorised absence. Please ensure you keep the school informed regarding how your child is and when they are likely to be back in school.

Reception Phonics Meeting

Thank you to everyone who attended the Reception Phonics meeting on Thursday 20th October. We hope you found the sessions useful and informative in supporting your child at home with early reading. If you require any further information about how phonics is taught at St. Mary of the Angels, then please visit our school website by [clicking here](#).

Year 1 Phonics Meeting

Parents/carers of pupils in Goldfinches and Year 1 pupils in Kingfishers are warmly invited to a Phonics Meeting on **Thursday 24th November at 3pm** in the school hall with your child's class teacher.

Reminder: 2022 Mini London Marathon

Thank you to everyone who has sponsored and/or donated to our Mini London Marathon event which took place this week at school. All children received a certificate for successfully completing the challenge. **We have extended the deadline for sponsorship donations.** All donations can be paid up to and including Friday 4th November in cash in a sealed envelope labelled with your child's name and Mini Marathon 2022 or online at www.schoolgateway.com.

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

Our dedicated team of Mini Vinnies (MV) met this week to discuss which charity they would like to support for our first mission of the year. The MV team have decided to ask for donations of winter coats and fleeces for the **Calling London Winter Coat Campaign** and we are delighted to say that we are working once again working with Chestertons, Notting Hill, to support this charity. From Friday 21st October until Tuesday 22nd November you can drop off your donations in a plastic bag to the front office at school.



What winter clothing items are needed?

- Coats of all styles
- Jackets
- Gilets
- Fleeces

All coats and winter jackets in good condition are welcome for children or adults.

School Grounds Improvements

We are thrilled that the works for our new and improved Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 playgrounds has commenced! The project is due to last roughly 3 weeks-with the main works scheduled for the October half term break. Once all works are completed, we will showcase our new outdoor learning environment by hosting a special event for parents/carers of children in our Foundation Stage. We will update parents and carers on the date of the event once the work is nearing completion.

You may also have noticed the freshly painted railings outside the school which are a vast improvement and we can also confirm that work to repair areas of the brickwork on the terrace area adjacent to the sports pitch have been repaired.

Westminster Children's University (KS1 & KS2 ONLY)

We are now in the fourth year of our exciting partnership with Westminster Children's University (WCU). WCU is part of the national Children's University charity which is a programme designed to: inspire, challenge and empower 5-14-year olds across London to try new experiences, acquire new skills and participate in inspiring activities within and outside of the school day. Our aim is to provide free access to educational and cultural opportunities within London to ensure that all young people have the opportunity to access the widest scope of culture and experience possible regardless of financial limitations.

Our partnership with the WCU goes from strength to strength with hundreds of our pupils graduating, having individually achieved 30 or more hours of extra-curricular activities per year. Pupils in Years 3 to 6 are able to continue to accumulate hours, building on previous hours banked, in order to graduate with higher honours this coming July. All pupils in Year 1 and 2 are now enrolled in the WCU – welcome!

How to claim and collect hours

Children in Years 1 to 6 have been given their 'Home Learning Log' to take home. They are asked to record hours in the passport for any learning activities they participate in **out of school hours** (before-school, lunchtime and after-school clubs, and during weekends and holidays). This can include school clubs, sport clubs, music lessons, dance/drama lessons, museum and art gallery visits, local library workshops, etc. The activities must encourage learning. Each different activity can only account for **5 hours** in the 'Home Learning Log', so students are encouraged to try a range of activities to accumulate hours. Each time a child completes an activity they are to record this in their 'Passport to Learning' and have it signed. **Teachers, parents and coaches** are able to sign off activities in passports. Teachers will include hours for activities completed at school.



My CU Home/Out-of-school
Learning & Experience Log (2022/2023)
My name is: _____
My class is: _____
My school is: _____

Activity	Hours	Signed

When students have reached **30 hours or more** in their passport, they will be invited to the **Children's University Graduation** ceremony, held in July each year. The children will wear caps and gowns and parents are invited to come along. Children can earn higher levels of achievement each year, as they continue to add hours in their passport. If you would like to find out more information about WCU, or choose from hundreds of activities available to complete at home, or in the local area please visit: <https://www.westminsterchildrensuniversity.co.uk/>

If you have any questions please ask your child's teacher or email the school office.

Miss Hulands

Children's University School Co-ordinator/UKS2 Leader

Westminster Deanery Choir: Message from Yvette Murphy (Choral Director, Diocese of Westminster)

I am writing to invite your child to join the newly founded Westminster Deanery Choir. The Westminster Deanery Choir will rehearse weekly on Thursdays from 4-5.00pm at Our Lady of Sorrows, 17 Cirencester St, London W2 5SR. The choir is particularly aimed at **KS2 children in year 3-6**. We hope that the first rehearsal will be held after half term, on 3rd November 2022.

The Catholic Faith is at the heart of all our provision; by lifting voices together to God we enrich the children's faith, evangelise, and teach by singing the rich heritage of Catholic sacred music, from the oldest chants of the church through to the very best new worship songs.

Positive outcomes from participation in this choir would include:

- Enhanced musical education, including improved singing technique, understanding musical notation and terms, and performance skills.
- Increasing social interaction between students.
- Supporting the national curriculum.
- Improving students' presentation skills and confidence.
- Opening doors for students to pursue a wider range of aspirations.
- Enhancing a sense of Catholic community and identity.
- Opportunities to sing in other churches, including Farm Street, Mayfair, and Westminster Cathedral.

To express your interest in joining the choir, please fill out the form below and I will get in contact with you with more details: <https://forms.gle/v6wyGWTqFsdBWvPs5>

Mass: Feast of All Saints -Tuesday 1st November

We 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.

Uniform

A reminder that pupils should return to school after half term wearing their winter uniform.

And finally, ...

Congratulations to Ms McNab on the safe arrival of her baby boy! Zachary was born on the 19th October, both mum and baby are doing well.

Have a lovely half term!

Mrs Wilson

Mrs Hough

Headteacher

Acting Deputy Headteacher