



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: 6th January 2023

Dear Parents, carers, pupils, staff and governors,

We hope that you were able to enjoy the celebration of Christmas and we wish you every blessing for 2023.

Pope Benedict XVI

It was with great sorrow we received the news that Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI passed away on Saturday 31st December 2022. We came together as a school yesterday morning, the day of Pope Benedict's funeral, to give thanks for his life of service and to pray for the repose of his soul. As always, the children showed reverence and respect throughout the special assembly.

Feast of the Epiphany

Today is the Feast of the Epiphany and we were delighted that children and staff in Years 3 to 6 were able to join parishioners at the midday Mass celebrated by Mgr Keith Barltrop in our parish Church. The children and staff prayed together throughout the first week of term to prepare for the Feast of the Epiphany, which celebrates Jesus being revealed to the Wise Men after their long journey following the star. Inspired by the experiences of the wise men who brought treasures to the baby Jesus, our daily prayers this week celebrated the Epiphany and encouraged children to recognise God's blessings - treasures - in their own lives. Short verses from scripture were used in class to remind children about the importance of giving thanks for all the treasures they have been given by God and the people in their lives.

Mrs Hough

Mrs Hough leaves us today to start her maternity leave. We wish her all the best as she prepares for the arrival of her second child and look forward to hearing of baby Hough's safe arrival. While Mrs Hough is on maternity leave, Miss Percival and Miss Hulands will be taking on the roles of Acting Assistant Headteachers including Miss Percival taking over as Foundation Stage Lead. Both teachers will be out of class for a day per week with their classes being covered by Mr. Canning, an experienced class teacher, who has spent time in both classes this week.

Prayer and Worship

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

A Special Message of Thanks!

Please click [here](#) to read a lovely letter of thanks from St. John's Hospice in light of our donation of £193.59 raised on our Christmas Jumper Day.

Curriculum Newsletters

These will be uploaded to your child's class page on the school website early next week along with the RE newsletter. This term's curriculum newsletter will also include information regarding Relationships and Health Education (see below).

Relationships and Health Education (RHE)

We use the **Life to the Full** programme to deliver RHE which is based on the model [Catholic Relationships and Sex Education Curriculum](#) developed by the Catholic Education Service and approved by Westminster Diocese. Please visit your child's class page to see what topics they will be covering in RHE this term. More detailed information for each topic along with suggested activities and prayers you can use at home can be found by logging on to our school's Parent Platform.

To access the online parent platform please click [here](#) or visit: www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal

Username: **st-mary-angel-w2**

Password: **palace-gardens**

We thought it would be useful to remind you of the outcome of the RHE consultation held with parents/carers, staff and governors in the summer of 2021. This focused on gathering views on four key decisions and the outcomes were as follows:

Key Decision 1: Genitalia

Genitalia is not named in Early Years Foundation Stage / Key Stage 1 - private parts are merely referred to as 'privates'. However, we do introduce names of genitalia to pupils in Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4).

Key Decision 2: Puberty

In Module 2 of Lower Key Stage 2, we provide two sessions on puberty and changing bodies. We have decided to use these sessions with our Year 3 and 4 pupils as NHS guidance states that the average age for girls to begin puberty is 11, while for boys the average age is 12. But it's different for everyone. It's completely normal for puberty to begin at any point from the ages of 8 to 14. The process can take up to 4 years.

Key Decision 3: Talking About Sex

The third key area for consideration during the consultation was about whether to include a session in Upper Key Stage 2 which answers the question: 'Where do babies come from?' Following feedback from parents, staff and governors, we have decided not to teach this unit to our Upper Key Stage 2 pupils as it is not part of the statutory curriculum; however, we have opted to give parents/carers access to the resources so that they can lead at home if they so wish. Omitting this session does not impact on the rest of the programme.

Key Decision 4: Talking About Pornography

One of the sessions in Upper Key Stage 2 addresses the risks that children face from seeing pornographic images and videos online. While this is very much a lesson about 'internet safety' and therefore falls under the statutory Health Education curriculum, we consider that this falls under the non-statutory Sex Education curriculum and so have decided not to teach this session.

As our RHE programme does not include sex education, parents do not have the right to withdraw their child from RHE lessons. Further information from the Department for Education regarding Relationships and Sex Education including answers to some frequently asked questions can be accessed [here](#) and you can find further information, including the school's RHE Policy and a Life to the Full booklet for parents, by visiting the [Relationships and Health Education](#) section of the school website. If you have any questions regarding Relationships & Health education please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance or the Relationships and Health Education Co-ordinator, Mrs Wilson, via office@stmaryangels.co.uk

Oral Health Workshop: Thursday 12th January

On Thursday 12th January from 9am-10am we will be hosting a free Oral Health workshop in the school hall for parents and carers of children in Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception). The session will be led by Joey Chan (Family Oral Health Promoter) from the Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust. Please [click here](#) to find a list of general dental practices currently accepting new NHS patients.

Change4Life Workshops

We are delighted to be working closely with Change4Life, as we work towards reapplying for our Healthy School Award. As a result, they have offered the school and parents of the school a range of Healthy Eating and Oral Health/Sugar Swap workshops in the coming months. More information to follow.

PE Days

Children continue to wear their PE Kit to school on the days that they have PE lessons as follows:

- Robins: Wednesday & Thursday
- Goldfinches & Kingfishers: Monday and Thursday
- Swifts: Monday & Wednesday
- Kestrels: Wednesday & Thursday (Swimming on Thursdays)
- Herons & Swans: Monday & Thursday

Ducklings have PE on Monday and Wednesday.

Free School Meals: Years 3 to 6

A reminder that parents/carers of all children in Years 3, 4, 5 or 6 who have been paying for school lunches no longer have to pay as of 4th January 2023. The council have pledged that this offer will remain in place until at least the summer of 2024 in the first instance. The school office will be in touch with you in the new year if your school meals account is in credit or if you have an outstanding balance to pay for meals taken up to and including 16/12/2022. If you think you are eligible for means tested free school meals you should still apply as, if you are eligible, you will have access to free activities & food vouchers during the school holidays. Please click [here](#) to check your eligibility.

Applications for Reception 2023

The closing date for applications for a place in our Reception class in September 2023 is January 15th 2023. Parents/carers of children who have their fourth birthday between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023 are invited to apply. Parents of eligible children in our Nursery class were sent a reminder of the closing date and application process yesterday but please do pass the word to any friends and family you may know who are looking for a Reception place for September. More detailed information re how to apply can be found in the [Admissions](#) section of the school website or by clicking [here](#).

Applications for our Nursery class for children who have their third birthday between 1st September 2022 and August 31st 2023 close on 24th February 2023.

School Street Update: CCTV Enforcement

Further to the letter from Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg we shared with you last term, we can now confirm that the CCTV cameras outside our school go live on Monday 16th January. There will be a short grace period during which time registered owners of motor vehicles which are not exempt from entering the school street zone will receive a warning letter. However, from Monday 30th January Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) will be enforced.



A reminder that the School Street provides a Pedestrian and Cycle Zone along Shrewsbury Road between its junction with St Stephen's Gardens south and Talbot Road. Motor vehicle volumes will therefore be reduced between Monday to Friday 8:15am to 9:15am and 2:45pm to 3:45pm during term-time only. To inform drivers of the restrictions, advanced warning signs have been installed at the junctions of Shrewsbury Road with St Stephen's Gardens south and Talbot Road. Residents within the School Street area will have retained vehicular access during the times of operation, along with:

- Blue Badge Holders,
- White Badge Holders and
- Emergency services vehicles

For more information regarding the School Street please click [here](#) or go to <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/school-streets/cctv-school-streets-trial/st-mary-angels>

A prayer for the soul of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Father, eternal shepherd,
hear the prayers of your people for your servant Benedict,
who governed your Church with love.
In your mercy, bring him with the flock
once entrusted to his care
to the reward you have promised your faithful servants.
He did the work of Christ on earth.
May your Son welcome him into eternal glory.
May your servant whom you appointed high priest of your flock
be counted now among the priests in the life of your kingdom.
Give your servant the reward of eternal happiness
and let your mercy win for us the gift of your life and love.
May he rejoice in those gifts for ever with your saints.
Through Christ our Lord,
Amen

Kind regards,

Mrs Wilson
Headteacher