



St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

Following Jesus in all we think, do and say

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To Parents, carers, pupils, staff and governors,

Prayers for the people of Turkey and Syria

Following the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria that have left thousands dead and many more injured and homeless, Cardinal Nichols has written to Fr Andrawis Toma, Chaplain to the Chaldean Catholic community in London, to offer prayers and condolences. In his letter he writes:

'I am writing to offer my sincere condolences following the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and northern Syria. Please do extend my sincere sympathy to your congregation in the Chaldean Catholic Church. May God grant strength and enduring faith to all who are bereaved, injured and traumatised. May God welcome into his merciful presence all those who have died. I assure you all, too, of the prayers and condolences of the Catholic Community in England and Wales. We, too, mourn this loss of life. We pray for the eternal repose of all who have died.'

We join Cardinal Nichols in offering up our prayers for all those affected and the Turkish and Syrian communities who live amongst us here in our capital city. Our Mini Vinnies met with Miss Percival yesterday to see how we could offer practical help to those who need urgent aid in order to survive. As you know, we texted you to request a voluntary donation of £1 per child on our Dress to Express Day today. Together we have raised an amazing £249.05 which we will send directly to the Disaster Emergency Committee's [Turkey - Syria Earthquake Appeal](#). Thank you all for your generosity!

Ash Wednesday Mass – 22nd February

Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer for Catholics. On Wednesday 22nd February, Key Stage 1 and 2 staff and pupils will be attending Mass at 10am at St Mary of the Angels Church to celebrate this special day. Parents and Carers are most welcome to join us.



Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day is an event organised by the UK Safer Internet Centre, which aims to promote safe, responsible, and positive use of internet technology. This year's theme is "Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online" in order to highlight how important it is to provide young people with a safe space where they can share their thoughts, feelings, and experiences about life online. Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote in St. Mary of the Angels and celebrating Safer Internet Day was a great opportunity for us to re-emphasise the online safety messages we deliver throughout the year. A special thank you to Amelia, Esteban, Keiyana, Luca and Otsaye, our dedicated team of Digital Leaders, who delivered two special assemblies on the day (one for Foundation Stage / Key Stage 1 and one for Key Stage 2). Please click on the '[Online Safety](#)' section on the homepage of the school website for more guidance to help you keep your child safe online including our monthly online safety newsletters.

Children's Mental Health Week

This week at St. Mary of the Angels we acknowledged and celebrated Children's Mental Health Week. The theme this year was 'Let's Connect' - encouraging people to connect with others in healthy, rewarding and meaningful ways. Each class participated in activities during the week that encouraged connection. We had a whole school assembly on Friday morning, where we learned about mental health and how we can keep our brain healthy. It was wonderful to see so many bright colours worn for our 'Dress to Express' day too! To finish the week, we had a 'Connect at SMA' afternoon; each class buddied up with another and enjoyed a fun activity together.

Class Assemblies

A reminder of the dates of our class assemblies, all of which will take place at 9.15 in the school hall. Parents, carers and other family members are most welcome to attend.

Kestrels	Wednesday 1st March
Hérons	Wednesday 22nd March
Kingfishers	Wednesday 29th March
Swans	Wednesday 19th April
Goldfinches	Wednesday 14th June
Robins	Wednesday 21st June
Swifts	Wednesday 5th July
Ducklings	Wednesday 12th July

Prayer Services

We are delighted to share with you the dates for our class Prayer Services, which parents and carers are invited to, to share Collective Worship. All prayer services will take place in our school hall on Fridays at 3pm (other than Ducklings class).

Kingfishers	Friday 3 rd March
Swifts	Friday 28 th April
Goldfinches	Friday 12 th May
Swans	Friday 19 th May
Robins	Friday 26 th May
Kestrels	Friday 9 th June
Ducklings	Friday 16 th June (9.15am)
Hérons	Friday 23 rd June

Wigmore Hall

On Thursday 9th February, Swifts were lucky enough to visit Wigmore Hall. During their class trip, pupils had the opportunity to understand, see and hear the history of Wigmore Hall through a range of music genres.

Pupils took part in creating a musical time capsule, which will be opened in 122 years to commemorate the many years of Wigmore Hall. One of the focuses of the visit was based on how Wigmore Hall has been a great support through the difficult times like The Blitz and the numerous celebrations (Queen's Jubilee). Swifts absolutely loved this experience and recommend families to visit!



JOIN US FOR PUPPET CLUB

5 WEEKS OF FREE CREATIVE ACTIVITIES FOR 7 - 12 YEAR OLDS

Discover the art of puppetry with hands-on workshops on the Floating Classroom and live performances on The Puppet Barge. At the end of the course, children will receive a nationally recognised Arts Award qualification.

FIND OUT MORE & SIGN-UP USING THE QR CODE, OR VISIT: WWW.THEFLOATINGCLASSROOM.CO.UK

The Floating Classroom

Following our wonderful trips of the Floating Classroom this term, we are delighted to share with you the Floating Classroom's offer of a free after school Puppet Club. To find out more, please visit www.thefloatingclassroom.co.uk

Royal Opera House: Free Activities

Westminster City Lions have teamed up with the Royal Opera House to bring Westminster families free activities at The Royal Opera House. The Royal Opera house are running activities for families on a regular basis from Sunday 26th February until the end of June. Tickets are usually up to £15 each, but City Lions have managed to secure some free tickets for families living in Westminster. You can choose between a 10.00am - 12:30pm or 1:30-4.00pm session. Activities are inclusive, welcoming, fun and relaxed and range from singing, dancing, music, craft, dressing up & more! When signing up, please select date(s) and times you would like to attend and how many tickets you would like (maximum tickets is 4 per group). Please click on the website to register your interest <https://citylions.org/family-sundays/> Tickets are limited and Westminster City Lions will confirm your place by email after you have registered your interest.

Parents/Carers: Healthy Eating

Thank you to the parents who joined our school nurse, Prudence Barnes, for the 'Winter Illnesses' session this week. The next session for parents will have a focus on 'Healthy Eating' as follows:

Session

Healthy Eating
Healthy Eating

Date:

Friday 24th February @ 9-10am
Friday 3rd March @ 9-10am

Target Audience

KS1/KS2 Parents
Nursery/Reception Parents

We hope to see you there and will send out a text reminder nearer the time.



Wraparound Care: Let's Leap

Thank you also to all who attended the meeting with Reece and Chris from [Let's Leap](#), the childcare provider that will be offering after school care until 6pm for children in our school aged 4 – 11 years. Milo, the giant frog, certainly sparked interest on the street! Leaflets have been sent home and the provision is scheduled to open on Monday 13th March and will be based in two of our classrooms with access to the Key Stage 2 playground. We will keep you posted!

After School Clubs

Booking is now open for Term 4's after school clubs. Please go to www.schoolgateway.com to see what clubs are available to your child and to book. Let's Leap are aware of the after-school clubs already offered by the school and offer a flexible time slots which allows for children to be collected from an after-school club at 4.30 and cared for until 6pm.

Book Week/ World Book Day

World Book Day will be celebrated on Friday 3rd March. We will hold our annual dress up day - further details of which will be sent out next term. The Book Fair will visit our school again this year from 6th-12th March. This will be an opportunity for you to come in to our school hall and purchase books for your child, as well as for their class. Each class will have a day to visit the Book Fair; a letter will be sent out to you with more information of how you can purchase books.

Strike Action: National Education Union

The next proposed day of strike action by members of the NEU is Thursday 2nd March. We will endeavour to inform you as soon as possible of the possible affect strike action by teaching staff may have on the school. We hope to be able to do so no later than Friday 23rd February. A reminder that the action is the result of a national pay dispute between education unions and the government – it is not due to any actions taken by the school and it is a matter for the unions and the government to resolve independently of the school.

Prayer

We pray for the people of Central Turkey and North West Syria, whose lives have been devastated by the earthquake.
Be present, O Lord, our Good Shepherd,
to bring comfort, relief, shelter and human kindness.
Shield the people who suffer,
console those who are bereaved,
prosper the provision of relief,
strengthen the work of emergency teams,
and shine your light and hope in the midst of despair.
We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.



Amen

Mrs. Wilson	Miss Percival	Miss Hulands
Headteacher	Assistant Headteacher	Assistant Headteacher