



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

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome Presentations

Thank you to all of you who attended our welcome meetings over the last two weeks. The presentations shared at the meetings will be uploaded to the new class pages on the school website by early next week. We will BE IN contact with Ducklings parents regarding the rescheduled Welcome to Nursery meeting.

Attendance and absence

The Department for Education's guidance on ['School attendance and absence'](#) states that parents/carers should only allow their child to miss school if either

- they're too ill to go in
- parents/carers have advance permission from the school

The guidance also makes clear that parents/carers must get permission from the headteacher if they want to take their child out of school during term time. In all cases an application for leave in term time must be made in advance to the headteacher and leave will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. If leave is granted, it is the headteacher's decision as to how many days leave will be authorised.

Our school's [Attendance and Absence Policy](#) provides further clarification on the above and the section on authorising parental absence requests has been copied and pasted as an appendix to this newsletter for your information.

A reminder that you must contact the school before 9.30am on your child's first day of absence which you can do by dialling 02077921883 and pressing option 1 or via email to office@stmaryangels.co.uk.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Hopefully you will have seen the invite sent home yesterday with your child inviting you to our first ever **Macmillan Coffee Morning** on Thursday 28th September at 9am in the hall. Please come along and enjoy a tea/coffee, cake and a chat. We are seeking donations of cakes (shop bought or homemade) which we kindly ask are handed in to the school office on Wednesday, the day before the coffee morning. All who attend on the day will be invited to make a small cash donation to Macmillan Cancer Support via the collection box or online via the QR code which will be displayed around the hall. If you are unable to donate a cake or attend on the day, you can still donate via the QR code. We would also be grateful for volunteers to help set up and clear away after the coffee morning: please see one of us at the gate or email Ms Chadwick (office@stmaryangels.co.uk) if you are able to help.



Breakfast Club

Our school's Breakfast Club is open from 7.45am each morning, providing before school child-care and a healthy breakfast along with opportunities for play. The breakfast menu is available on the school website in the Parental Information section and can be viewed by clicking [here](#). The club is open to all year groups and costs £4. Bookings must be made in advance via www.schoolgateway.com

Westminster Schools Singing Programme

Thank you to all the pupils in Key Stage 2 who put their name forward to audition for our new school choir. Miss Murphy, our choral director, auditioned Kestrels and Swallows pupils yesterday and will audition Herons and Swans next Thursday. We will let the children know on Friday next week if they have gained a place in the choir.



Music Corner

Our first Music Corner session in the Key Stage 1 playground at lunchtime this Wednesday was a great success. Mr Morcom, our music therapist, brought out a range of instruments to the playground and was joined by over 30 children who joined the drop-in session for a sing song or just to listen. The children were very impressed with Mr Morcom's singing and guitar playing and he is very much looking forward to seeing everyone again next week. Music Corner sessions will continue until half term after which Mr Morcom will be visiting the Foundation Stage playground for a few sessions.

Uniform

We are delighted to see how smart the children look in their uniform and thank you for your support in complying with the school's uniform policy. The warm weather on our return to school was very welcome. However, the heavy showers over the last few days are a reminder that all children should be wearing their school coat to school. Coats/rain coats should be navy / dark blue as per the school's uniform policy. We will be holding a sale of second-hand uniforms on Thursday 5th October in the school hall from 8.45 – 9.15 am and from 3.00 – 3.45pm.

Mass

Parents and carers are invited to join Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils and staff at Mass on Friday 29th March at 11am to celebrate the Feast of the Archangels.

Paddington Library

We are pleased to announce that our partnership with Paddington Children's Library is continuing this year. Robins, Goldfinches, Swallows & Swans managed to dodge the downpours and had their first visit this week. The dates for library visits for the rest of the term are as follows:

Tuesday 26 th September	Hummingbirds
Thursday 28 th September	Hérons
Tuesday 3 rd October	Kestrels
Monday 9 th October	Kingfishers
Monday 13 th November	Kingfishers & Robins
Tuesday 14 th November	Swallows & Goldfinches
Wednesday 15 th November	Swans
Thursday 16 th November	Hummingbirds & Herons
Friday 17 th November	Kestrels

Westminster Library Service run a range of after school activities for children which you can find out more about by clicking [here](#).

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

Kind regards

Mrs Wilson
Headteacher

Mrs Hough
Deputy Headteacher

Appendix: Authorising parental absence requests

The information below is taken from our school's [Attendance and Absence Policy](#)

Authorising parental absence requests

Parents will be required to request certain types of absence in advance. All requests for absence will be handled by the headteacher – the decision to grant or refuse the request will be at the sole discretion of the headteacher, taking the best interests of the pupil and the impact on the pupil's education into account. The headteacher's decision is not subject to appeal; however, the school will be sympathetic to requests for absence by parents, and will not deny any request without good reason.

Leave of absence

The school will only grant a pupil a leave of absence in exceptional circumstances. In order to have requests for a leave of absence considered, the school will expect parents to contact the headteacher in writing at least two weeks prior to the proposed start date of the leave of absence, providing the reason for the proposed absence and the dates during which the absence would be expected to occur. A Leave of Absence Request Form is available from the school office on request.

Any requests for leave during term time will be considered on an individual basis and the pupil's previous attendance record will be taken into account. Where the absence is granted, the headteacher will determine the length of time that the pupil can be away from school. The school is not likely to grant leaves of absence for the purposes of family holidays.

Requests for leave will not be granted in the following circumstances:

- Immediately before and during statutory assessment periods
- When a pupil's attendance record shows any unauthorised absence
- Where a pupil's authorised absence record is already above 10 percent for any reason

If term-time leave is not granted, taking a pupil out of school will be recorded as an unauthorised absence and may result in sanctions, such as a penalty notice. The school cannot grant leaves of absence retrospectively; therefore, any absences that were not approved by the school in advance will be marked as unauthorised.

Illness and healthcare appointments

Parents will be expected to make medical or dental appointments outside of school hours wherever possible. Where this is not possible, parents will be expected to obtain approval for their child's absence to attend such appointments as far in advance as is practicable. Parents will be responsible for ensuring their child misses only the amount of time necessary to attend the appointment.