

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

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Newsletter: Friday 20th October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Attendance

We continue to expect and encourage good attendance and so are delighted to share that 83 pupils across the school (41%) were awarded a certificate today for achieving 100% attendance in Term 1 (5th September to 20th October). We award these certificates every term to ensure that pupils who may have missed school due to illness or other authorised circumstances in one term have the opportunity to achieve a 100% award later on in the year. We then award gold, silver and bronze awards at the end of the school year in recognition of outstanding, excellent and good attendance respectively. Good attendance is judged to be above 96% which equates to up to 8 days of authorised absence a year.

The overall attendance for the school to date this term is 94.7% which is below the national average of 95.2%. The difference can be attributed to the attendance in the first week of the new school being 90.7%, mainly due to family's extending holidays in term time, compared with the national figure of 95.2%. However, for the rest of this term we have been in line and even above national average which is really positive and we hope will continue.



Black History Month 2023: Saluting Our Sisters

Black History Month is celebrated every October and is a special time dedicated to celebrating the incredible contributions of Black individuals. The theme for this year is 'Saluting Our Sisters' so we will be shining a spotlight on the remarkable contributions of Black women throughout history. We have displayed some posters around the school which celebrate the life and achievements of a Black woman who has made her mark on our world in her own special way. This year our focus at St. Mary of the Angels will be on brilliant and pioneering Black women who have shaped maths and science. More news to follow!

Caritas Assembly

On Tuesday 17th October, we welcomed three special visitors to our school, Sister Silvana Dallanegra, Fr. Keith and Nigel the Penguin. Sister Silvana delivered a wonderful assembly, teaching and informing the pupils of about our Caritas Ambassadors program and our call to serve. Caritas Ambassadors is a programme for both primary and secondary schools which aims to equip pupils with a strong understanding of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) and how we can put it into action in our daily lives. Our wonderful Mini Vinnies and Pupil Chaplaincy Team will work together this year to undertake the task of imagining, planning and developing ways of making their dreams for our future world a reality. We will continue to work closely with Sister Silvana and Fr. Keith to develop a social action project for our school and local area. Keep an eye out here on the Caritas page on our school website for updates about their work!



Mini Vinnies and QPR Working Together

Thank you to Ms Hampshire and Ms Jacobs from QPR and our Mini Vinnies for all their hand work and effort in making this years' World Mental Health Day a huge success! The children worked together with QPR in order to raise the profile of wellbeing and pupil voice throughout the school. Here is a selection of voices from across the school about this years' planned activities, shining a light on mental health.

'When I was colouring and doing sports. I felt very excited because mindfulness is very fun!' Faustine Year 2

'Mental Health Day is important because everyone goes through mental health and it's important to talk about your health. In Year 6 we did lovely activities. My favourite was when we did some mindful colouring'. Cheyenne Year 6



Key Stage 1 Habitat Exhibition: Thursday 19th October

Thank you to all who came along to our Key Stage 1 Habitat Exhibition on Thursday 19th October. It was wonderful to welcome so many parents/carers and staff into the hall to look and appreciate all the hard work of our Year 1 and Year 2 pupils. The models and art work were amazing and the children were rightly proud to share what they had created. It was also a pleasure to hear how much parents had enjoyed spending time with their child planning, resourcing and creating the habitats which ranged from deep under the sea to the tree tops in jungles. A wonderful reminder too if the glory and wonder of God's creation.

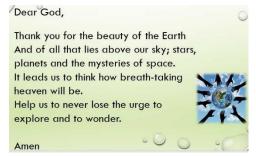
Robins (Reception) Assembly: Friday 13th October

Thank you to Robins Class who invited their parent/carers to gather and join them and the whole school for their assembly on Friday 13th October. It was wonderful to hear the children share their gifts and talents while giving thanks to God our Father for his love for each and every one of us. Well done Robins!

Swans (Year 6) Assembly: Friday 20th October

Swans space-themed assembly today was a perfect blend of entertainment and education. They taught us about the earth, planets and history of space exploration, wowing us with their learning and knowledge and inviting us to join in the beautiful prayer shared her to your right.

Please <u>click here</u> to view the dates of all prayer services and assemblies for the year ahead.



Parent Teacher Consultations

Online booking is now open for our forthcoming Parent Teacher Consultations which are scheduled to take place on the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th November. Invitations regarding dates and timings for your child's class were sent via email earlier today and booking is open until 12.30 on Friday 3rd November. This year we see a return to face to face meetings. If you have any difficulty booking online or did not receive the email please contact Mrs Conway in the school office.

Stay and Share: Key Stage 1

Parents/carers of pupils in Goldfinches, Hummingbirds and Kingfishers are warmly invited to come into school from 8:30-8:50am or 3:20-3:40pm on Wednesday 1st November to visit your child's classroom and look at their books.

Stay and Play: Foundation Stage

Parents/carers of pupils in our Foundation Stage are warmly invited to come into school on **Thursday 2nd November between 8:30-8:50am or 3:20-3:40pm**. This is an opportunity for your child to show you around Nursery/Reception and all the activities they love to play. It is also a chance for you to talk with your child's class teacher and have a look through your child's achievements to date.

Mini Vinnies: Turning Concern into Action

Our dedicated team of Mini Vinnies (MV) met this week to discuss charitable acts we would like to support and we are delighted to say that we are working once again working with Chestertons, Notting Hill, to support **Calling London Winter Coat Campaign** this winter. From **Monday 30th October until Tuesday 21st November** you can drop off your donations of winter coats 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.

Mass: Feast of All Saints: Wednesday 1st November

We look forward to joining parishioners to celebrate Mass for the Feast of All Saints on **Wednesday 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 11am. Parents and carers are most welcome to join us.

Parents/carers of pupils in Robins are warmly invited to a Phonics Meeting on **Thursday 23rd November** at **2:45pm** in the school hall with your child's class teacher.

Year 1 Phonics Meeting: Friday 1st December

Parents/carers of pupils in Goldfinches are warmly invited to a Phonics Meeting on **Friday 1st December** at **3pm** in the school hall with your child's class teacher.

Uniform

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



After School Puppet Club

The Puppet Theatre Barge and the Floating Classroom have teamed up again to offer a fun, free creative project for children aged 6 - 11 who attend schools taking part in the Westminster Children's University. Discover the art of puppetry with hands-on workshops and live performances. At the end of the course, children will receive a nationally recognised Arts Award qualification, moderated by Trinity College London.

Over 6 weeks, children will learn about and create 4 different types of puppet, see 2 professional puppet shows and enjoy 3 boat trips on the canal. Parents, carers, family and friends are invited to join us for the professional shows in the second and final week of the project. Click <u>here</u> for more information and an online booking form.



October Half-Term Activities

Westminster City Council is providing **free cycle training courses** to all children who live or go to school in the borough during the OCTOBER HALF TERM. Location is Academy Sport, Torquay Street, W2 5EW. This is suitable for children from 4 years. Cycles are available to borrow. Children must be able to attend training for every session. Places are limited and can be booked online on a first-come-first-served basis. To secure a place, parents and carers need to book on the Cycle Confident

website http://www.cycleconfident.com/courses/child-group/

The Council is also funding 29 local organisations to offer free activities and free, healthy meals to children and young people in the borough. Activities include sports camps, music, dance, arts & crafts, adventure play, youth clubs, offsite trips and activities for those with special educational needs and disabilities. For more information please click <u>here</u>.

Westminster Family Information Service Autumn Newsletter

The Westminster Family Information Service's Autumn edition newsletter can be accessed <u>here</u> and includes information on childcare, financial support for families, what's on in the local libraries and Family Hubs and training opportunities for adults.

Talking to children about war and conflict

The shocking events that have occurred in Israel and Gaza can cause feelings such as fear, sadness and anxiety for children, young people and adults. As teachers, parents and carers, it is very hard to protect children from frightening and confusing world events, such as war and conflict. We can, however, continue to do all we can to ensure a sense of safety at home and at school and pray for peace and safety for all. You may find some of the resources below helpful if your child wants to talk or ask questions about war and conflict.

<u>Place2Be: Taking to children and young people about war and conflict</u> <u>Unicef: How to talk to your child about conflict and war</u> BBC Newsround

Prayer

May God give wisdom and courage to those who work for peace. We pray that their efforts may be blessed, that they may bring an end to violence and solace and stability to suffering peoples. May the gift of peace permeate all troubled souls, convert all who live by violence and comfort all children who live in menacing situations, that the freedom to enjoy life and grow in safety may be theirs. And may each one of us know peace of mind and heart, peace of body and spirit, peace of community and world.



Holy Spirit of Peace, grant our prayer. Amen. Sr Bridgetta Rooney/CAFOD

Have a lovely half term!

Mrs Wilson Mrs Hough

Headteacher Acting Deputy Headteacher