



## St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

*Following Jesus in all we think, do and say*

Shrewsbury Road, Bayswater, London W2 5PR  
Telephone: 020 7792 1883 Email: [office@stmaryangels.co.uk](mailto:office@stmaryangels.co.uk)  
Website: [www.stmaryangels.co.uk](http://www.stmaryangels.co.uk)  
Headteacher: Mrs Mary Wilson

### Newsletter: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

#### **Kestrels Assembly: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January**

Thank you to the pupils and staff in Kestrels who invited their parents and carers to gather and join them in prayer and thanks at their class assembly on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January. The theme of their assembly was reflecting on the year just past and looking forward to the year ahead. They reminded all gathered of the importance of setting goals and aspirations and kindly shared some of their New Years' resolutions. The very wise Year 3 and 4 pupils in Kestrels class concluded their assembly by giving thanks God our Father for creating the world and for giving us His son Jesus to be the light of the world. Thank you Kestrels!

#### **Hérons Assembly: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January**

In a very moving assembly, Herons reminded all gathered today about life during World War II. We were reminded of and gave thanks for the sacrifice made by those who died during the Second World War and prayed for peace in our world. Thank you Herons for a very poignant assembly which we will remember for years to come.

#### **Library Visits**

We are pleased to inform you that all classes from Reception to Year 6 visited Paddington library this week. The visits to our local library are a wonderful opportunity to develop the children's understanding of libraries and to nurture a love of reading. It is also a lovely way to promote our local library and the wonderful asset they are to our community.

#### **Forest School**

Next week, pupils in Foundation and Key Stage One will be returning to Paddington Recreation Ground for their next Forest School session. We look forward to hearing all about their trips in the coming weeks.

#### **School Council News**

We are excited to announce that our School Council Representatives will be forming a 'Guard of Honour' on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January at Matrade Loftus Road Stadium to welcome the players on to the pitch before the QPR v Huddersfield game. This amazing opportunity is to raise the profile of the [Green Football Weekend](#) sustainability campaign which our School Council, in partnership with Miss Hampshire from QPR, are taking part in this term. More news to follow.



#### **The Feast of Presentation of the Lord – Friday 2nd February**

On Friday 2nd February at 11am, pupils and staff will be attending a special Mass at St. Mary of the Angels Church at 11am to celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Parents and carers are most welcome to attend to join us.

#### **Children's Mental Health Week: 5<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> February**

Schools around the UK will be shining a light on the importance of children and young people's mental health. This year's theme is 'My Voice Matters' and we want to empower children of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to work together to create a positive change for their mental health and wellbeing. Children who feel that their voices are heard and can make a difference have a greater sense of community and self-esteem. We will be empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves.



There are also lots of resources available on Place2Be's on the Children's Mental Health Week website which you can access via the school website homepage or by clicking [here](#).

### Dress to Express Day: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February

We are marking the end of Children's Mental Health Week with a 'Dress to Express Day' on the last day of term. The idea is simple – we would like all the pupils to use colour to express themselves by wearing a colourful outfit to celebrate what makes them unique. Our lives are full of colour and we can use colour to help make sense of how we're feeling, who we are and the world we live in. Donations of a £1 per child are welcome and all funds raised will go to the Catholic Children's Society who provide a counselling service in our school and many others across London.

### Safer Internet Day: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February, we will be joining schools and youth organisations across the UK in celebrating Safer Internet Day 2024. Safer Internet Day is a global campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology, which calls on young people, parents, carers, teachers, social workers, law enforcement, companies, policymakers and more, to join together in helping to create a better internet. More information to follow.

Safer  
Internet  
Day 2024 | Tuesday  
6 February

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

### Message From Fr. Keith

Our parish catechist, Margaret Wickware, has selected a wide variety of Catholic books for all ages from toddler through to adults. They will be available for purchase on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February after the 11am Mass at St Mary of the Angels Church.

### Racial Justice Sunday: 28th January

This Sunday is Racial Justice Sunday (RJS). The theme this year is 'Seeing one another in the life of the Church'. The Image and Likeness of God resources spoke of recognising one another as children of God regardless of our race. [Click here](#) for more information. The spotlight this year is on the saints of every race and culture who reveal Christ to us.

Last term, each class were introduced to their Class Saints who have been chosen to reflect our diverse school community and we hope learning about and getting to know their Saint will encourage the children to see themselves in the life of the Church.



Year 1-Goldfinches  
St Francis of Assisi



Year 5- Herons  
St. Josephine Bakhita

### Relationship and Health Education: Life to the Full

Our school website has a wealth of information regarding the curriculum taught in school including [Relationships and Health Education](#) (RHE). Children have a dedicated RHE lesson every week, which follows the **Life to the Full Plus** programme by Ten Ten, a model Catholic RHE programme endorsed by the Catholic Education Service. This programme provides planning and resources from Foundation Stage through to Year 6 and fully integrates the Personal, Social and Health Education curriculum. All parents and carers have access to the Life to the [Online Parent Portal](#) where you can view the teaching materials, engage with the teaching and deepen the experience for your child. To access the online parent platform please visit:

[www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal](http://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal)

School username: **st-mary-angel-w2**

School password: **palace-gardens**

You may also be interested to view the outcome of the consultation held with parents and carers in 2021 which focused on key decisions that guided the way the programme is planned and delivered in our school. You can view the consultation outcome by clicking [here](#). Governors plan to have a further consultation in the summer term so that our programme evolves in partnership with parents and carers.

### 'Look North More Often' Poetry Workshop: Swans Class

Earlier this term, The Poetry Society facilitated a day of free writing and performance workshops to our Year 6 pupils in the Swans class. Students worked with acclaimed poet Coral Rumble. During the workshop, the children learned about the history of the Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square, which the people of Norway have given to the people of London every year since 1947 in gratitude for Britain's support for Norway during World War II. Three children were selected by Coral read a poem at the lighting of the Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square and performed the poem beautifully in front of hundreds of people, as well as the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, and the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor Patricia McAllister. The Poetry Society have now published on their website a video of the children who read the poem in Trafalgar Square before Christmas. They have also uploaded a podcast, which the children were interviewed for on

the day. We are extremely proud of the children for representing our school in such a marvellous way. Please [click here](#) to view.

### **Parent/Carer Volunteers**

There are a number of forthcoming school trips for which we will be seeking parent volunteers to help with. Please see below a guidance for volunteers which will be given to all parents/carers who accompany classes or group on trips. We thank you in advance for your support.

### **Prayer**

God of light and truth,  
you call all men and women  
to live lives of holiness and justice.  
Help us to see in one another:  
a heart which is tender,  
a mind which is humble  
and a care for our brothers and sisters;  
so that together we may build up the Body of Christ  
as a sign of hope and mercy for all.  
We make this prayer through Jesus our Lord

Wishing you a happy and peaceful weekend.

Mrs Wilson

Mrs Hough

Headteacher

Deputy Headteacher



### DO

- ✓ **Attend our pre-visit meeting.** It will occur immediately before the trip. You will be welcomed and briefed on the rules, routines and expectations for the day.
  - ✓ **Follow the teacher's instructions,** and make sure that your group are also listening and following instructions.
  - ✓ **Remember that you are responsible for your group of children at all times.** We will give you a register with the names of all your pupils on it. Please conduct regular headcounts and make sure you can see them at all times.
  - ✓ **Alert the teacher immediately if there's an emergency.** The teacher is responsible for contacting the school and the associated parents.
  - ✓ **Turn your phone off.** We ask that you don't use your phone during the trip, so that you can stay focused on looking out for your group of pupils.
  - ✓ **Make sure your pupils are strapped in,** if the trip involves coach travel.
  - ✓ **Enjoy the trip!**
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### DON'T

- ✗ **Show preferential treatment to your child, their friends, or your group.**
- ✗ **Try and administer first aid or medication yourself.** Leave that to the teacher. We will tell you which teacher is responsible for first aid, and if you're not sure, ask.
- ✗ **Offer food to any pupils.** Remember, they might have an allergy.
- ✗ **Share any information you learn about pupils with anyone else.** You are an acting member of the school staff and are bound by the same rules we follow. We maintain confidentiality at all times, especially when dealing with information about pupils' medical needs.
- ✗ **Take photos of the pupils.** This is for child protection reasons.
- ✗ **Leave your group without telling anyone.** You shouldn't leave your group at any time, but, if you have to, because of an emergency, please let a teacher know.
- ✗ **Take a child to the toilet.** For pupils in Years 3 to 6 who can use the toilet independently you can wait outside while they go in as a group or a pair. For pupils in Nursery to Year 2 or older pupils who need assistance using the toilet you must inform the teacher who will take or arrange for a member of staff to take the pupil to the toilet.
- ✗ **Never go into the toilet yourself while the children are in the toilets unless a member of staff is present.**