

Newsletter



Friday 1st October 2021

St. Mary's Catholic
Primary School

Dear Parents

Goodbye September!

I can't believe I've been your Headteacher for a month now! It feels like much longer, but in a good way! Thank you for being so welcoming – I now know all the children, having taught in each class and look forward to seeing them flourish as the year progresses. September was so kind to us with warm weather, fantastic morning skies, with an occasional hot air balloon to greet us and the infrequent downpour (usually just before pick up!). As the days become shorter and the temperature drops, please can I remind you to send your child in to school with a coat, so they can still play outside comfortably – even in a light drizzle.



Parents Evening

It was lovely to see so many of you on Monday and Tuesday as you attended our first face-to-face parents evening for some time. I hope you found it informative, I know the teachers enjoyed being able to speak to you about how your child is settling in to the new school year. Please make sure you sign the targets sheets and send one back into your child's teacher. If, for some reason, you were unable to attend, please contact your teacher through Class Dojo to arrange an alternative date – it could even be a virtual meeting!

Mass

Fr Francis celebrated a beautiful Mass with us on Wednesday, which we shared with parents and parishioners. The Mass was the Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels. All the children were blessed by Fr Francis and both Miss Smith and I received very poignant blessings as well. Fr Francis shared the prayer he says every day to his Guardian Angel, and so the children received their own prayer card with this lovely prayer.

Guardian Angel Prayer

Angel of God,
my guardian dear,
To whom God's love
commits me here,
Ever this day,
be at my side,
To light and guard,
To rule and guide.
Amen



Snacks

If you are sending your child in with a snack, please make sure it is a healthy snack – fruit, vegetables etc. Please do not send in any biscuits, crisps or chocolate etc.



PTFA

Thank you to Michelle for rallying the troops! Thank you to those who have volunteered! We now have a PTFA who will be meeting for the first time on 19th October.

If you have any ideas, please pass them on through the school office or if you see Michelle at the school gate.

Start and end of day

I know that in my last newsletter, I said that from the week beginning 27th September, we were looking to reduce this lost learning time by changing the times. Please accept my sincere apologies for any confusion I may have caused around this, as we were trying so hard to find a solution that works for all. Thank you for those of you who helped with suggestions. We have decided to trial the following system for the remainder of the half term, which we will monitor closely. **This will start on Monday 4th October.**



Start of the day -

Gate opens at 8:30 and closes at 8:45 - all children to be in class by then for the start of school.

Parents could drop their children off at for the breakfast club from 8am.

Working parents can arrive before 8.30 and wait in their parked cars.

When the gates open at 8.30am, working parents can drop off and go quickly.

All other parents can drop off between 8.30 - 8.45. Children can play outside until the bell rings (weather permitting).

End of the day -

Gate opens at 3:10 and closes at 3:30.

Parents with 1 child at the school pick up at 3.10pm and parents with 2 or more children pick up at 3.25pm. This will help to stagger the car numbers and congestion.

It would be helpful if parents leaving could give priority to parents trying to arrive to drop off/ pick up their children.

If we can remain patient and polite it will help. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in this matter – it will always be tricky.

Before and After School Club

Please remember that we have Breakfast Club which starts at 8am every day and costs £2.50 per session.

We also have After School Club which has 3 sessions:

3:15 - 4:15pm - £3.50

3:15 – 5:00pm - £7.50

3:15 – 6:00pm - £10.00

Please use School Money to book your child in for any sessions.



PE Kit

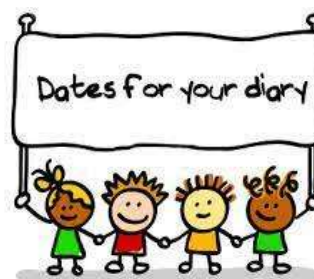
Please can I remind you that on PE days, for health and safety, children should not be wearing any earrings. If this cannot be avoided, please ensure your child wears (surgical)tape over their earrings. Can we also request that children in **KS2** wear long socks and bring shin pads for their PE days.

CAFOD Harvest Family Fast Day

Thank you for those of you who sent in donations for the local Foodbank. And thank you for your donation for CAFOD, - there's still time to donate online via School Money.

Dates for your diary:

- **Monday 4th October –change to start/end of day time start**
- **Friday 15th October – Operation Shoebox Appeal - shoeboxes to the office**
- **Friday 22nd October – break up for half term**
- **Monday 1st November – INSET Day**
- **Tuesday 2nd November – children return to school**



PLEASE NOTE CHANGE TO DATE OF END OF SCHOOL YEAR 2021-22 – DUE TO EXTRA Bank Holiday, the last day of school for the Summer term will be Thursday 21st July 2022.

Thank you for your continued support,

Sharon Betts
Headteacher