



'Serving with Love; Striving for Excellence'

Dear Parents/Carers,

The children have settled back into school extremely well and we are very pleased to have had a positive start to the new school year. Thank you to everyone who has cooperated in adhering to the safety measures in Greenfield Road; this has made a huge difference ensuring the safety of others and also alleviated potential congestion, helping our staggered start and finish times to run smoothly. The safety of our school family is always our priority.

We want to work together and thank you for your continued support of the school during this challenging time.

Mrs Maureen Grabski
Headteacher



October is the Month of the Rosary

The word Rosary means *"Crown of Roses"*

As many will know, the main part of the Rosary is divided into parts or 'mysteries': the Joyful, the Sorrowful, the Glorious, and Mysteries of Light. Each of these 'mysteries' is divided into five 'decades' (ten beads), usually following one 'Our Father' and ending with 'Glory Be'. All are taken from sacred scripture and tradition and encompass our main beliefs in who Jesus Christ is and what he's done for us. All involve Our Lady, Jesus's mother Mary, in some way or another. When we pray the Rosary we're invited to see Jesus through the eyes of Mary and to be drawn into his divine life. As Mary was closer to Jesus in his life on earth than anyone else she points the way for us and shows us that we, the Church, God's family on earth, are also called to be like her eventually in the glory of heaven but also in our lives here on earth.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph knew about family life first hand; they knew about being displaced (the flight into Egypt soon after Jesus's birth); they knew about conflict (when Jesus, as a teenager, was lost and when found by Mary and Joseph, he implied that he now had to make his Father's will a priority). If our family life includes similar tensions and more, we can be sure that real help and support is right there in the prayer that is the Rosary. Placing our trust in the Lord, we are sure to find a way through what seems humanly impossible.

"To pray the Rosary is to hand over our burdens to the merciful hearts of Christ and his Mother; the Rosary does indeed 'mark the rhythm of human life', bringing it into harmony with the 'rhythm' of God's own life, the joyful communion of the Holy Trinity, our life destiny and deepest longing."

St John Paul II



Joyful (Monday / Saturday)	Sorrowful (Tuesday / Friday)	Glorious (Sunday / Wednesday)	Luminous (Thursday)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Annunciation 2. The Visitation 3. The Nativity 4. The Presentation 5. The Finding of Our Lord in the Temple 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Agony in the Garden 2. The Scourging at the Pillar 3. The Crowning with Thorns 4. The Carrying of the Cross 5. The Crucifixion 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Resurrection 2. The Ascension 3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit 4. The Assumption 5. The Coronation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Baptism in the Jordan 2. The Wedding at Cana 3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom 4. The Transfiguration 5. The Institution of the Eucharist

HARVEST FESTIVAL

On Thursday 22nd October the school will be celebrating our annual Harvest Festival.



We would be very grateful if the children could bring in some tins or dried food such as rice and pasta. These will go to the 'Caring Hands in the Community', a charity that helps those in need.

We thank you for your generosity which will help to feed those in need.

Sr Kay

RE Leader

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES



On Friday 25th September the school celebrated European Day of Languages. The children came to school dressed in both European and International costumes, to celebrate the rich diversity in our school. They all looked amazing and were able to talk about the country their costumes came from. During the day all classes had the opportunity to join in a range of live language lessons with the company Lingotot. These included games and stories in a variety of languages including Spanish superheroes and Welsh BFG! A great learning experience was had by all!

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Bucklee

MFL Leader



Kent Autistic Trust continues to offer free and impartial advice and support to families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders.

They are currently running some virtual groups and offering email advice for support through diagnostic pathways as well as support for parents of pre-school children.

Your child does not need to have a diagnosis for parents and family members to access the service.

Go to the Kent Autistic Trust for more information: <https://www.kentautistictrust.org/>

CAFOD

On Friday the children brought home their CAFOD envelope. They have been asked to give up a treat and put the money into the envelope and return this to school when they have done so.



The money will go to one of CAFOD's many projects in helping those less fortunate, especially during this current pandemic.

A huge thankyou to everyone for your continued support and generosity.

PARENTS' CONSULTATIONS

There will be an opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress with their teacher and to see how they have settled into their new class.

This will be scheduled for the week beginning **9th November, as a telephone appointment.**

Further details regarding booking appointments will be sent after half-term.

SCHOOL NURSE

If you would like a telephone appointment with our School Nurse, Dawn Smith, please contact **Mrs Dumbrell, our Home School Support Worker** who will arrange for her to give you a call.

MATHS WORKSHOP

We would like to invite you to a KS1 and KS2 Mathematics Calculations Parent Workshop on **Tuesday 10th November at 1.30pm.**

The meeting will delivered via Teams and letter will be sent out separately, in order for you to please confirm your attendance with the school office. Details of how to join the meeting will be sent nearer the time.

Miss Staunton, Mathematics Leader

'ST MARY'S MOVE IT'

The children have thoroughly enjoyed 'St Mary's Move It' this week. All classes have been moving and grooving for as many minutes as they can throughout the day.

The support from the parents/guardians has been fantastic, with reports of children scootering and cycling to school.

The winners will be announced after the half term break ... *I wonder which class it will be?*

Miss Moore, PE Leader

COVID-19

Please follow this guidance if your child has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19):

Do not send your child to school if they are displaying signs and symptoms of coronavirus and ensure that they get a test as soon as possible.

You will need to stay at home until you get the result and inform the school of their absence and the outcome of the test, as soon as you know.

Main symptoms

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

What to do if you have symptoms

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.

Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get their test result – only leave your home to have a test.

Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get the result.

To arrange a test:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/>

If the test is positive, follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection, and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

We ask that you implement these actions by following the advice set out here, together with wider public health advice and guidance.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

If your child is going to be absent from school either because of illness or visiting the doctor /dentist / hospital please can you call the school absence line for each day of absence. **If your child is unwell, please ensure that the school is notified of the reason for absence, including any specific symptoms.**

If you need to take your child out of school for a medical appointment, please let the class teacher and office know in advance and provide the school office with a copy of your appointment letter.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY PTA

Thank you to our wonderful St. Mary's Catholic Primary School PTA, for their fantastic fundraising efforts and hard work behind the scenes, in support of our school. We thank them all for their huge commitment and we are very grateful to them for taking on their challenging roles.

Should you wish to know more about the PTA or you have some ideas that you wish to share, please contact our Chair, Amy Healey:

heala062@stmarysrcp.medway.sch.uk

ENSURING ACCESS TO REMOTE LEARNING

As there is a risk of localised outbreaks of Coronavirus (COVID-19) or of small numbers of individual pupils being unable to attend school, we have plans in place for pupils to continue with remote learning off-site.

Pupils who are absent from school due to self-isolating, a family member testing positive or awaiting their own test result, will be given a home learning pack, which includes up-to-date learning and activities aligned to the class lessons for that week. Please note that if your child is absent from school because they are unwell or for another reason (medical appointment or unauthorised absence), work will not be sent home. In the event of whole bubbles self-isolating or a local lockdown, the school will continue to provide teaching through Microsoft Teams and lesson material on our Home Learning page on our school website:

<http://stmarysrcp.medway.sch.uk/home-learning-2/>

Collect FREE donations for our school with all your online shopping!

A BIG THANK YOU to our School Supporters and our new supporters, who have helped to raise school funds through www.easyfundraising.org.uk and I am pleased to inform you that so far we have raised **£598.98!**



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2020

At St Mary's we have been looking at influential

black men and women throughout History and incorporating this into our Reading and Topic work to highlight Black History Month, from learning about athletes in Year 3, such as Jack Leslie and Florence Joyner to the significant Civil Rights activists such as Harriet Tubman, Nelson Mandela and Rosa Parks in upper KS2.

From poets and explorers to scientists and musicians, the children have been able to reflect on the experiences of many influential black men and women and extend their knowledge and own personal involvement in this movement.

Diversity and inclusion is an integral part of our History; our past reflects our future and we hope to continue celebrating this throughout all year group termly Topics, not just for a month, but all year round.

Watch this space!

Miss Godley

History Subject Lead

SCHOOL UNIFORM

After half term all children must be wearing full winter uniform.

Thank you to all parents who have donated school trousers, this has really helped. If you have any unwanted socks or tights in small sizes which your children have grown out of, Reception class would love them.

If you find yourselves low on any school uniform items for your child please feel free to contact us and we can look to see if we have any items from our donated stock which we can let you have. Thank you.

CHILDREN DUE TO START PRIMARY SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2021

If your child's **5th birthday** is between **1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022** they will be due to start school in September 2021.

Applications need to be made online via the Medway Council website. You will also need to complete a **Supplementary Information Form (SIF)**:

<http://stmarysrcp.medway.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Admission-to-Catholic-Schools-SIF-2021-22.docx.pdf> and submit this to our school office.

The deadline for Primary School applications is **5pm on Friday 15th January 2021**.

RECEPTION PARENTS—READ, WRITE, INC. MEETING

Just to let you know we are scheduling a Teams meeting to talk about Read, Write Inc. on **Thursday 5th November at 4pm**.

This meeting is primarily for new Year R parents, but any KS1 parents are welcome to join.

A letter will be sent to you with more information. Please confirm your attendance with the school office and details of how to join the meeting via Teams, will be sent to you nearer the time.

Many thanks.

Mrs Plummer and Mrs Hunt

E-SAFETY

If you would like to get some practical tips on how to keep your child safe online, here are some recommended websites for more information and support:



<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/>

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/have-a-conversation>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

APPLYING FOR A SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACE IN SEPTEMBER 2021

You need to apply for a Secondary School Place if your child was born between 1 September 2009 and 31 August 2010. The deadline for Secondary School applications is **5pm on Monday 30th November 2020**.

INSET DAYS

Please note that the following dates have been set aside for Staff Development training and **school will closed for pupils** on the following dates:

MONDAY 4TH JANUARY 2021

TUESDAY 5TH JANUARY 2021

MONDAY 7TH JUNE 2021

Please be aware:

An additional INSET day to be confirmed.

HALF TERM

Please remember that the children break up **at the normal time on Friday 23rd October** and return to school on **Monday 2nd November**.

HAVE A LOVELY BREAK!