

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter No 8

April 2021

'Serving with Love; Striving for Excellence'

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school! I hope you enjoyed a happy and peaceful Easter holiday and are refreshed and ready for the new term ahead.



As May is the month dedicated to Our Lady we will be having special class liturgies in honour of Our Lady, Patron of our School. During the month of May, children in KS2 will be invited to pray a decade of the Rosary each day in our School Prayer Garden during their lunch time.

The term has begun extremely well and as usual, we will be expecting wonderful work from the children. Please continue to read with your child and encourage them to read every evening, to complete homework promptly and to do their best. We also attach a curriculum letter to let you know the topics that the children will be studying this term.



You can continue to keep up to date with key messages/events throughout the term, by following our school official Twitter account [@stmarysrcp_1894](https://twitter.com/stmarysrcp_1894).

Also, keep checking our newsletters and website: www.stmarysrcp.medway.sch.uk for upcoming events, where additional up-to-date information can also be found.

We are looking forward to a rewarding final Summer term and thank you for your continued support.

Mrs MJ Grabski
Headteacher

Finding One's Work

We invest a huge amount of our lives in work and therefore, the way we regard our work is of the greatest importance. If our work has meaning, it can become a blessing, but if it has no meaning, it can become a curse.

People like the Good Shepherd are very fortunate people, as they have found a real treasure. They haven't just found work; they have found a vocation in life. They have an occupation into which they can put their hearts and which affords an outlet for their talents.

Even though their work may be difficult and unspectacular, it glows with meaning because it is a labour of love. Even though lives may contain many difficulties and hardships, deep down they are contented. We must never equate a happy life with an easy life. The harder task to which we give ourselves for love's sake, the more it will exalt us. True happiness comes from the joy of deeds well done.

***Lord, grant that we may experience the love of Christ, the Good Shepherd,
and be generous in sharing this love with others.***



SCHOOL UNIFORM

Now that the Easter break is finished, children can wear their summer uniform. To make sure that they are safe, however, we ask that they wear suitable shoes to school, not high-heeled sling-back sandals. Please also remember that trainers are not part of the school uniform. As the weather can still be rather chilly, please make sure children have a jumper and coat if appropriate. Hooded sweatshirts are not appropriate as coats.

Summer uniform for girls is a blue and white checked dress or navy skirt or trousers, a pale blue polo shirt, with either a school cardigan or sweatshirt.

Summer uniform for boys is grey shorts or trousers with a pale blue polo shirt with a school sweatshirt.

Thank you for your co-operation.



EARTH DAY

On Thursday 22nd April it was Earth Day! The children had a great time learning about a

continent and the environmental difficulties that it faces before putting on their creative thinking hats to think up possible solutions.

They took part in a range of activities, from writing poetry (to raise awareness) to writing letters to the White House. Some children even designed machines that could clean up our planet once and for all: motorbikes that run on air, drains that convert flood water to hydropower and bioengineered seeds that grow trees in half the time! Could it be a St Mary's student who solves climate change once and for all?

Miss Johnson Geography Leader



RE QUALITY MARK

We are so delighted that we have recently been awarded the Silver Religious Education Quality Mark, which is not only reflective of the high standard and quality of Religious Education at St Mary's, but also the special and distinctive strong Catholic ethos in our school. A huge thank you to all our children and staff for their continuous hard work and excellent standard of achievement across our school. Congratulations to all!

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE

If you received SAL home learning packs during lockdown, we ask you to please return these to school, so the packs can be updated.

SECONDARY TRANSFER MEETING

For the parents of those children who are transferring to Secondary School in September 2022, the process starts soon.

Information from the Local Authority regarding this will be available to you towards the end of May.

If you want your child to take the Medway Selection Test, decisions have to be made by the beginning of July. The dates of the Medway Selection Tests have been scheduled for **Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th September 2021.**

Further information will be shared with you, as soon as this becomes available.



SUGAR AND HEALTH

As a Healthy School, we ensure the children are taught that some foods present a possible health risk if they are eaten too often.

Through the Personal, Social and Health Education curriculum and our work with the National Healthy Schools Standard, we teach children the importance of making healthy choices.

As we are all aware, consuming too much sugar can have serious effects on health and these issues may only appear later in life. Children can grow accustomed to a diet high in free sugars, and this habit will then be harder for them to break.

As a school, we are therefore raising awareness where possible, and encourage children to make sensible choices. We request that snacks consist of fruit or raw vegetables such as carrots for breaktime and the following items should not be included in packed lunches: chocolate and sweets.

We ask that the only drinks provided are water, pure fruit juice or drinking yogurt. Due to the risk of severe allergy, nuts (including peanut butter) must not be brought into school. Foods that are less healthy may be offered from time to time as treats or as part of whole school celebrations such as Christmas parties.

Children should not bring any sweets or cakes in to school to share with their class, firstly to consider the varied dietary and allergy needs of all pupils but also to support us in promoting healthy choices.

Thank you for your co-operation.

MEDWAY FOODBANK

We are registered to refer families for a Medway Foodbank voucher so please do get in touch if this is something you need.

YOUNGMINDS

YoungMinds offer information, support and advice for children and young people on mental health, wellbeing and self-harm. They provide help for parents over the phone.

Visit the YoungMinds website at youngminds.org.uk or call the parent helpline on: **0808 8025544**.



WALK ON WEDNESDAY

Congratulations to **Birch Class** who won a bundle of books for their class for being the class with most walkers on

a Wednesday prize day!

Also, a big well done to **Cherry Class in KS1 and Poplar Class in KS2** for having the highest percentage of walkers over the term. The most improved classes were **Cherry in KS1 and Pine in KS2**. Keep up the great walking (scooting, riding, park and then walking).

The KM team give out many great prizes to individual classes so those extra few walkers could make a difference.

Mrs Reddin-Tasker Eco Schools Leader

KENT ALLIANCE WEBSITE

I am pleased to share with you the news of the launch of the Kent Alliance website at:

<http://www.ssfak.org.uk/>

This website exists for families in Kent where relationships have broken down and separation is taking place. A lot of work has been done to create this digital resource to support and guide parents who are separating to navigate the process for themselves and their children. Please use this resource if you are going through these difficult circumstances.

EMPLOYMENT AND BENEFITS SUPPORT WEBSITES

If you need any information regarding employment and benefits the following websites are a very useful starting point:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/universal-credit>

<https://www.entitledto.co.uk/>

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

St Mary's have had an active start to this term. Pupils from Year 3 and 6 have enjoyed attending extra-curricular provision, focused on multi-skills and developing their sport specific ability. All pupils throughout the school have begun their PE lessons focused on a new sport and are looking forward to challenging themselves to grow and develop in this area.

Additionally, some children from our Reception classes have enjoyed taking part in a balance bike lesson, led by Greenacres Sports Partnership. They were resilient when learning to balance on the bikes, while following a set path, working their core muscles hard. All the children were happy and smiling at the end of the session!



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 **£654.21**.

Please spread the word so that we can continue to raise much needed funds, to support our curriculum and events for the children, throughout the year.

All you need to do is register with www.easyfundraising.org.uk and then visit any of the 3,000 retailers to start shopping. After you have made your purchase, the retailer will make a donation to our school at no extra cost to you.

Thank you!

Join, shop and raise here:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmaryscatholicprimaryschool1/>

HALF TERM

School finishes on Friday 28th May at the normal time.

The children return to school on

Tuesday 8th June 2021

School is CLOSED for our INSET day on

FRIDAY 25TH JUNE 2021

Fortis Trust Outreach (FOS)
Parent/Carer Support Forum

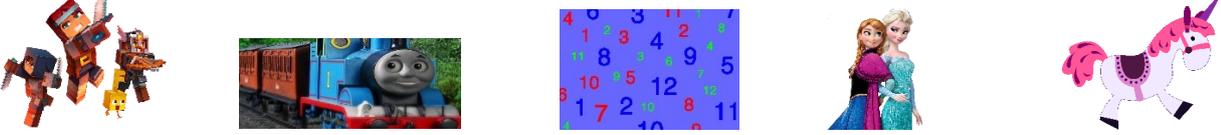


Virtual coffee morning



Fortis Trust Outreach Service (FOS) support SEND & SEMH pupils and staff within mainstream settings, from Nursery through to Secondary. The Team have a wide range of both professional and personal experience supporting children with a wide range of SEND, learning needs and associated behaviours.

We will be holding a Virtual Coffee Morning for Parents/Carers of children with either a diagnosis of Autism &/ or ADHD or you are in the process of working towards getting a diagnosis. This is an opportunity for a discussion around the challenges and successes, how to support, for example managing intense interests, behaviours and how to lessen anxiety. We will also be able to offer advice and share personal experiences of being parents of children with Autism and ADHD.



Thursday 20th May 10-12pm



Virtual Coffee morning for Parents/Carers of children with Autism & ADHD.

If are interested in attending this session then please contact Lorraine Lewin at

Outreach@fortistrust.co.uk by Friday 14th May.



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|-------------------------|--------------|---|
| Term 1 | INSET | Wednesday 2nd September 2020 |
| | Start | Thursday 3 rd September 2020 |
| | Finish | Friday 23 rd October 2020 |
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| Autumn Break | | Monday 26 th October to Friday 30 th October 2020 |
| | | |
| Term 2 | Start | Monday 2 nd November 2020 |
| | Finish | Friday 18 th December 2020 |
| | | |
| Christmas Break | | Monday 21 st December 2020 to Tuesday 5 th January 2021 |
| | | |
| Term 3 | INSET | Monday 4th January 2021 |
| | INSET | Tuesday 5th January 2021 |
| | Start | Wednesday 6 th January 2021 |
| | Finish | Friday 12 th February 2021 |
| | | |
| February Break | | Monday 15 th February to Friday 19 th February 2021 |
| | | |
| Term 4 | Start | Monday 22 nd February 2021 |
| | Finish | Thursday 1 st April 2021 |
| | | |
| Good Friday | | Friday 2 nd April 2021 |
| Easter Monday | | Monday 5 th April 2021 |
| Spring Break | | Tuesday 6 th April to Friday 16 th April 2021 |
| | | |
| Term 5 | Start | Monday 19 th April 2021 |
| May Bank Holiday | | Monday 3rd May 2021 |
| | Finish | Friday 28 th May 2021 |
| May Bank Holiday | | Monday 31st May 2021 |
| May Break | | Tuesday 1 st June to Friday 4 th June 2021 |
| | | |
| Term 6 | INSET | Monday 7th June 2021 |
| | Start | Tuesday 8 th June 2021 |
| | INSET | Friday 25th June 2021 |
| | Finish | Thursday 22 nd July 2021 |
| | | |
| Term 1 | INSET | Wednesday 1st September 2021 |
| | Start | Thursday 2nd September 2021 |