

# St Mary's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter No 1

September 2022

*'Serving with Love; Striving for Excellence'*

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school!

It has been wonderful to welcome your children back to school and so lovely to see the children so engaged in their learning, enjoying their time at school.

I would like to welcome our new families who have joined us at St Mary's; it has been a pleasure to see the children settling in so well.

This term, I am very pleased to welcome new staff to St Mary's: Mrs Cosgrave our Early Years Lead, Miss Lambourne in Year 2, Miss Slater in Year 3, Miss Hitchcock in Year 4 and Miss Asif in Year 5. Our special congratulations to Miss Staunton, now Mrs Dengate, who got married during the summer break.

Continue to check our newsletters and website: [www.stmarysrcp.medway.sch.uk](http://www.stmarysrcp.medway.sch.uk) for upcoming events where additional up to date information can be found. You can follow us on our official school Twitter account [@stmarysrcp\\_1894](https://twitter.com/stmarysrcp_1894).



We look forward to a another successful new school year!

**Mrs MJ Grabski**

**Headteacher**

## ***The Value of the Individual***

*There was a young man who aspired to become a photographer. Every year he brought a bundle of his best prints to an old famous photographer, seeking his advice and judgement. The old man studied the prints, sorting them into two bundles, good and bad. Every year he discovered that the young man submitted the same photo—a landscape—and it always ended up among the rejects. Eventually he turned to the young man and said, 'You obviously have a high regard for this photo. Why do you like it so much?' To which the young man replied, 'Because I had to climb a mountain to get it.' A thing becomes precious to us, not only because of what we get out of it, but also because of what we have put into it.*

***I don't agree with the big way of doing things—love starts with an individual.***

***I never look at the masses as my responsibility, I look at the individual.***

***I can only love one person at a time.***

***I can feed only one person at a time.***

***I know that my work is only a drop in the ocean,***

***but if I didn't put that drop in,***

***The ocean would be one drop less.***

*Mother Teresa*



### SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

The school photographer will be taking individual photos of pupils in school on **Wednesday 5th October**.

Please make sure your child is in the correct school uniform on that day.

### SCHOOL LEARNING COUNCIL

Preparations for the upcoming School Learning Council elections have begun. The School Learning Council will meet regularly with Mrs Grabski to represent their class and share their comments and recommendations about their learning. They will also be responsible for organising whole school charity events throughout the year. All of the children have been given the opportunity to put themselves forward to represent their class and will be creating posters and manifestos as part of their campaign. We will be holding our own School Polling Day on **Friday 7th October**, for the children to vote in a class ballot and elect the two representatives for their class. Results will be announced to the children shortly afterwards.

### 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](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and I am pleased to inform you that so far we have raised **£738.90!** Please continue to support the pupils at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, by raising much needed funds to support our curriculum and events for the children, throughout the year.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/smaryscatholicprimaryschool1/>



### PARENTS' CONSULTATION EVENING

There will be an opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher to see how they have settled into their new classes. This is scheduled for **Wednesday 16th November** between 4-8pm. This is an evening for **parents only** so please arrange child care. Further details regarding appointments will be sent nearer the time.

### MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Macmillan coffee morning will take place on **30th September at 9am** in the school hall.



We are also holding a cake competition so let the children loose in the kitchen for this one and try out their baking skills. All cakes to be sent in with child on the 30th (labelled with class and name). We would love for you to join us for a slice of cake a cup of tea all in aid of a fantastic cause.

### PARENT PAY AND SCHOOL DINNERS

**Please be aware that ParentPay must be in credit for a child to receive school dinners.**

The kitchen cannot supply a school dinner if the account is not in credit.

If your child arrives at school with no packed lunch you will receive a phone call by 9.30 am asking you to credit your account or supply and deliver a packed lunch to school by 12 pm.

### MEET THE TEACHER

We value the relationship between home and school and a strengthening of this is provided by a meeting at the beginning of the academic year to meet your child's new class teacher. We thank you for engaging with these meetings and hope that the teacher presentations provided you with the key information, as your child settles in to their new class.

### ATTENDANCE

Whole school attendance is currently at **97.43%**.

Please remember that we do expect **ALL** pupils to achieve **96%** attendance across the academic year. When a pupil's attendance begins to drop below the expected 96%, we will monitor this closely. If we continue to be concerned, then we will contact parents by phone or send a letter home. If it continues we will then need to inform the Local Authority.

If you are experiencing any difficulties with your child's attendance, please get in touch and we can discuss ways to support your family.

### EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

On Monday 26th September it was The European Day of Languages.



St Mary's commemorated this event by celebrating the wonderful diverse culture within our school community on, not just a European, but an international level, with our children dressed in international costumes or traditional dress of their choice.

**Mrs Bucklee**

**Modern Foreign Languages Lead**

### LATE TO SCHOOL

The gates are open **8.40 - 8.50 am**. We expect all children to be in school by **8.50am**. After this your child will be signed in to the late book. We advise that all children should be in class with their peers to register as learning starts promptly each day.

**Mrs Laphorn, Home School Support Worker**



### CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY – HARVEST – WORLD FOOD CRISIS APPEAL

Millions of families around the world are facing a food crisis that could be worse than any we've lived through. This is a crisis created by other disasters: climate change, coronavirus, and conflict in Ukraine, mean food prices are skyrocketing. All around the world – including here, in the UK – families are finding it harder than ever to put food on the table. In northern Kenya, Ethiopia, and South Sudan, up to 20 million people face devastating drought and grain shortages.

**Together, as one global family, we have the power to help. It takes love – from all of us.**

This year we will be raising money for CAFOD's **Family Fast Day on Friday 7 October**. CAFOD works with local experts in East Africa and across the world who know how best to respond— and your donation means they can help stop this crisis getting even worse. Every child across the school will be taking home a CAFOD envelope and any donations would be gratefully received.

### CHILDREN DUE TO START SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2022

If your child's **5th birthday** is between **1st September 2023 and 31st August 2024** they will be due to start school in September 2023.

Applications need to be made online via the Medway Council website. You will also need to complete a supplementary form and hand this into the school office. Visits and tours of our school are scheduled for the following dates at 9.15am:

**12th October; 16th November and 23rd November**

Please contact the school office if you would like to book a place.

### SCHOOL UNIFORM

The children are very smart in their school uniforms. We expect children to take pride in their uniform so please could you make sure that the children are wearing the correct uniform. Please **ensure all items of clothing are labelled** to avoid any confusion. Summer uniform can be worn until half term.

### YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL TRIP 2023

We are currently in the process of finalising plans for our Year 6 Residential Trip at the end of this academic year. We will be in touch with Year 6 parents soon, with further information and details.

### ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

If your child is going to be absent from school either because of illness or visiting the doctor, dentist or hospital please can you call the school absence line every day of absence, **explaining the reason why**.

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.

## **If you care about children's safety DON'T PARK HERE**

### NO PARKING OR DROPPING OFF IN GREENFIELD ROAD

We are very fortunate to have two car parks that have been allocated for parents to park safely in, free of charge. If you wish to use the Council car park, the school office can give you a permit. Alternatively you can park in the Church car park each day, completely free of charge.

Thank you to all our parents who have supported us in trying to make the parameters of our school a safer place for our school community, and help by not driving into Greenfield Road.

However, there is still much to be done to make drop-off and pick-up times **safe** in Greenfield Road.

Unfortunately there are some parents who persistently drive into Greenfield Road and choose to continue to make it unsafe.

By driving into Greenfield Road, you are not considering the safety of others, particularly children, and equally presenting a safeguarding issue for your own child.

**Safeguarding is paramount and this issue is a collective parental responsibility.**

There are currently plans being put forward for enhanced parking restrictions in Greenfield Road. The Local Authority have now also assigned designated Traffic Patrol Officers who will be on duty each day outside the school, both in the morning and afternoon, to issue Penalty Charge Notices.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

**Mrs Grabski**

**Headteacher**

**Parking on the zig-zags is  
SELFISH and DANGEROUS**

## SCHOOL TERM DATES

### SEPTEMBER 2022 - JULY 2023

<b>Term 1</b>	<b>INSET</b>	<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022</b>
	Start	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2022
	Finish	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2022
<b>Autumn Break</b>		Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> October to Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
<b>Term 2</b>	Start	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2022
	Finish	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2022
<b>Christmas Break</b>		Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2022 to Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2023
	<b>INSET</b>	<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023</b>
	<b>INSET</b>	<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023</b>
<b>Term 3</b>	Start	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
	Finish	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
<b>February Break</b>		Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
<b>Term 4</b>	Start	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
	Finish	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023
<b>Spring Break</b>		Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April to Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
<b>Good Friday</b>		<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2023</b>
<b>Easter Monday</b>		<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2023</b>
<b>Term 5</b>	Start	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
<b>May Bank Holiday</b>		<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023</b>
	Finish	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2023
<b>May Break</b>		Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2023
<b>May Bank Holiday</b>		<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023</b>
	<b>INSET</b>	<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023</b>
<b>Term 6</b>	Start	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2023
	Finish	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2023
<b>Term 1</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>September 2023</b>

**One additional INSET day to be confirmed.**

***Please remember that holidays at the start of the academic year are not authorised.***