



'Serving with Love; Striving for Excellence'

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a busy and positive start to the year and half term is now upon us!

We are really pleased that our new children and have settled in so well, with a warm welcome from the rest of our St Mary's family.

Our Meet the Teacher parent meetings have had excellent attendance and we look forward to inviting to more meetings and workshops in the year.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs MJ 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 **Wednesday 19th October** we celebrated our Harvest Festival.

Thank you so much for your huge generosity and food donations, which will support a local charity, 'Gillingham Street Angels'.



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 after half term.

APPLYING FOR A SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACE IN SEPTEMBER 2023

The deadline for Secondary School applications is **Monday 31st October 2022**.

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

READING VOLUNTEERS

As part of our continued efforts to raise the standards of literacy in school, we are hoping to encourage parents to come into school and help pupils with their reading. Reading regularly to an adult has been shown to significantly increase the rate of progress that children can make with their reading. If you think you would enjoy coming into school on a weekly basis to listen to some children read, we would be grateful for your support. All volunteers will need enhanced DBS clearance and you will be provided with training beforehand. If you are interested, please let Miss Brown or Mrs Bennett know, either in person or by email via the office, stating the days and times you are available. Reading volunteers will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. We will contact you after half term to arrange this. Thank you in advance!

SCHOOL LEARNING COUNCIL

This term, we have held our very own Polling day to elect the new members of the School Learning Council. The day was a big success with all of the children given the opportunity to vote for their two class representatives. A big thank you to all of the children who put themselves forward for the role and took the time to create their own posters and speeches. Congratulations to the following children who have been elected and will be starting their role.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Representatives</u>
Holly	Lawrence and Leila
Willow	Nedya and Shamoya
Beech	Matthew and Nadia
Cherry	Luca and Ava
Maple	Kian and Menujaa
Yew	Vinnie and Amelia
Poplar	Ruby and David
Juniper	Naomi and Nethra
Birch	Jireh and Camron
Pine	Ivan and Hannah
Oak	Gargi and Kadin
Cedar	Osaramen and Kiril

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.

CHILDREN DUE TO START SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2023

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:

16th November and 23rd November

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

HALF TERM

Have a lovely break and we look forward to seeing on **Monday 31st October**.

SCHOOL TERM DATES

SEPTEMBER 2022 - JULY 2023

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

One additional INSET day to be confirmed.

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