

# St Mary's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter No 1

September 2023

*'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: Miss Constant, class teacher in Year 3; Miss Akinwale, class teacher in Year 4 and Mrs Singh, teaching assistant in Year 4.



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 'X' 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 4th 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 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 6th 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

On **Tuesday 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.



### 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 **£809.44!** 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/stmaryscatholicprimaryschool1/>



### PARENTS' CONSULTATION EVENINGS

There will be an opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher to see how they have settled into their new classes. These are scheduled over two evenings, **Tuesday 14th and 21st November** between 4-6pm. This is an evening for **parents only** so please arrange child care. Further details regarding appointments will be sent nearer the time.

### HARVEST FESTIVAL

This year our Harvest Festival will be held in school on **Wednesday 18th October 2023**.

We will be giving thanks for the food we have and will be supporting the local charities. We ask that you help us by donating a tin of food or a packet of dried food such as pasta or rice.

Your generosity will help to feed those in need. Please bring these items to school on the morning of

**Wednesday 18th October**. Thank you.

## SCHOOL FOOD UNITED

From **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September**, all school meals must be ordered and paid for using the School Food United app.

If your child is entitled to free school meals, food must still be ordered through the app.

**If you have not yet signed up for School Food United, please download the app and register your child.** To find our school, search for the work 'Roman' and it will appear in the list.

You can also register via the website:

[parents.schoolfoodunited.com](http://parents.schoolfoodunited.com)

**Children that have not been registered with School Food United will not be able to choose a meal on Monday and will be provided with a jacket potato.**

All school dinner balances will be transferred from Parent Pay to School Food United.



### CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY

#### HARVEST APPEAL

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 6th October**.

CAFOD works with local experts across the world who know how best to respond disasters and reach those in need. Your donation means they can help stop crises getting even worse and ensure that people can get help from doctors and other local experts when they need it most.

Every child across the school will be taking home a CAFOD envelope and any donations would be gratefully received. Please return the envelopes by **Friday 6 October**. You can find out more and also donate online at <https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/family-fast-day>

Thank you for your support of previous Family Fast Days, and thank you for your generosity and prayers for our sisters and brothers today.

### CHILDREN DUE TO START SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2024

If your child is born between **1 September 2019** and **31 August 2020**, they are due to start school in Reception Year in **September 2024** and you need to apply now.

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:

**11th October; 8th November and 22nd 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.



### FOREST SCHOOL DONATIONS

We would welcome any old pots, pans and seeds that you no longer need for our garden project. All donations gratefully received.

### OCTOBER - MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

4 <sup>th</sup>	CAFOD Harvest Fast Day Individual Pupil Photographs
5 <sup>th</sup>	National Poetry Day
6 <sup>th</sup>	School Learning Council Polling Day
11 <sup>th</sup>	New Entrants 2024 Parents Meeting 9.15am
12 <sup>th</sup>	Diwali
13 <sup>th</sup>	YR – Y6 Flu Vaccination
18 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest Festival
22 <sup>nd</sup>	World Mission Sunday
23 <sup>rd</sup> 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>HALF TERM WEEK</b>
30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>School opens for pupils</b>

### NOVEMBER - MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

1 <sup>st</sup>	All Saints Day Whole School Mass
2 <sup>nd</sup>	All Souls Day
5 <sup>th</sup>	Guy Fawkes Day
8 <sup>th</sup>	New Entrants 2024 Parents Meeting 9.15am
12 <sup>th</sup> 19 <sup>th</sup>	Interfaith Week
12 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Sunday
14 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Consultations 4 - 6pm
13 <sup>th</sup> 17 <sup>th</sup>	Anti-Bullying Awareness Week
17 <sup>th</sup>	BBC Children in Need
19 <sup>th</sup> 25 <sup>th</sup>	Road Safety Week
26 <sup>th</sup>	Feast of Christ the King
21 <sup>st</sup>	Parent Consultations 4 - 6pm
22 <sup>nd</sup>	New Entrants 2024 Parents Meeting 9.15am
30 <sup>th</sup>	St Andrew’s Day

### DECEMBER - ADVENT

3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent
6 <sup>th</sup>	St Nicholas’ Day
8 <sup>th</sup>	Feast of the Immaculate Conception Early Years Nativity 2pm
10 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent
12 <sup>th</sup>	KS1 Nativity 2pm
13 <sup>th</sup>	KS1 Nativity 2pm
15 <sup>th</sup>	Years 5 & 6 Nativity in Church 2pm
17 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent
19 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Parties
20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>School closes 2pm</b>