



### 'Serving with Love; Striving for Excellence'

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a busy and positive start to the year. In the coming weeks, the children in Year 1 to Year 6 will have their termly 'Pupil Conferences' with their class teachers, to discuss their learning journey, progress and next steps individually. This is a very valuable and collaborative approach to assessing children's ongoing progress and centres on the quality of learning experiences and new challenges.



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 also follow us on our official school 'X' Twitter account [@stmarysrcp\\_1894](https://twitter.com/stmarysrcp_1894).

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

### HARVEST FESTIVAL

We would like to say a huge thank you the generosity you have shown when celebrating our Harvest Festival on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October**. Your contributions are very appreciated and have supported two local charities, Gillingham Street Angels and Caring Hands in Chatham.



### 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 **Tuesday 14th and 21st November** between 4-8pm. This is an evening for **parents only** so please arrange child care. Further details regarding appointments will be sent un due course.

### CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Since September, we have introduced a second weekly certificate which is awarded to children in Praise Assembly on Fridays. This is a very special certificate which celebrates Catholic Social Teaching in our school. Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is rooted in Scripture, formed by the wisdom of Church leaders, and influenced by grassroots movements. It is our moral compass, guiding us on how to live out our faith in the world.

There are seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching: **Dignity; Solidarity; The common good; The option for the poor; Peace; Creation and the environment; The dignity of work and participation.**

Our faith calls us to love God and to love our neighbours in every situation, especially our sisters and brothers living in poverty. Following in the footsteps of Christ, we hope to make present in our unjust and broken world, the justice, love and peace of God. To find out more about Catholic Social Teaching and the seven principles, please visit <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/catholic-social-teaching> or watch Catholic Social Teaching in 3 minutes [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELyLdMIFdzA&ab\\_channel=trocaire](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELyLdMIFdzA&ab_channel=trocaire)

### ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Anti-Bullying Week is **13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> November**.

At St Mary's, our theme is '**Be a Good Friend**' and children will be involved in whole school and class based activities to promote this theme. We will also be celebrating the week by asking the children to wear odd socks to school on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November** to visually demonstrate their uniqueness.



### 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	Saul and Aleyah
Willow	Nathan and Lola
Beech	Hannah and Liam
Cherry	Tesneem and Toby
Maple	Kian and Menujaa
Yew	Clark and Sophia
Poplar	Joseph and Tharniga
Juniper	Levi and Precious
Birch	Wilhelmina and Eseosa
Pine	Kamsiyo and Ruby
Oak	Holly and Dara
Cedar	Micheal and Vively

### ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

From Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November, the Mini Vinnies will be selling poppies around the school to raise money for the Royal British Legion. We keenly support our children wearing poppies with pride next week in honour of Remembrance Day. If your child would like to donate or buy a poppy accessory, please put money in a sealed envelope for them to bring in. Prices for accessories range from 50p to £2. We have a limited amount of accessories from the Royal British Legion and when the items are gone, we are unable to replenish. On behalf of the Royal British Legion, we thank you for your donations and support.

### 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. Visits and tours of our school are scheduled for the following dates at 9.15am:

**8th November and 22nd November**

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

### APPLYING FOR A SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACE IN SEPTEMBER 2024

The deadline for Secondary School applications is **Tuesday 31st October 2023 at 5pm**.