



Weekly Newsletter - Friday 9th October 2020 - Autumn Term

Email: office@stmarysinfschool.org.uk or office@stmarysjunior.org.uk

Executive Headteacher, Mrs S Hulme. Chair of Governors, Mr B Tomkins

Safeguarding Statement: This school takes notice of and adheres to all the national and local policies and guidance in regard to Safeguarding Children and Young People.

Lead Safeguarding Person Junior School: Mrs. S Hulme Nursery & Infant School: Mrs. M Quinn.

Safeguarding Deputies: Mrs. S Hulme, Mrs H Nicholls, Miss F Sullivan & Miss E Bryant Safeguarding Governor: Mr. T Richmond

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a lovely autumn day to close our week, hopefully you all have something planned for the weekend to enjoy outdoors.

Good news - generally St Mary's has seen excellent attendance since September - this obviously helps in getting the children back into an effective learning mode. However, we do need to ask for your help in encouraging high expectations for their learning behaviour. We have allowed these last weeks for settling back in with consideration for the impact of partial school closure during the summer but we now need each to be highly motivated and focussed on their learning in class especially for those who haven't attended school since March. It is really important that we are able to use class time for maximum learning for all pupils, so we are asking for your to help in having those encouraging conversations at home enabling us all to work together. Thank you for your support in this matter. Remember the reading at home 3 times a week or everyday if possible is most effective and the learning of multiplication tables too.

Thank you for your feedback regarding drop off and collection times and routines. We are continuing to listen to parent feedback whilst reviewing the arrangements and may make some further small adjustments about gate opening at the infant school but please be reminded that no families should be waiting for entry for more than 5 minutes before entrance times to reduce queuing time and contact with each other. Some children and parents are still arriving far too early which in turn contributes to the safety issues.

We need to continue to be respectful to each other by using face coverings and keeping the safe distance while waiting on the school grounds, on pathways and in the alley. We appreciate your help in this matter in support of staying healthy enabling the schools to remain open and this will only happen with us all showing this due consideration. This may also mean postponing shared birthday parties out of school-disappointing but necessary.

Spirituality

Sunday 11th October - 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October is the month of the Rosary and this week, Wednesday, was the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. The Rosary is a simple yet powerful prayer. During difficult times, the prayers we know well can bring us great comfort. Throughout this month, weather permitting, pupils at the Junior School will have the opportunity to join Mrs. Norbury at break-times to pray a decade of the Rosary.

"The Rosary is a prayer which always accompanies me. It's also the prayer of ordinary people and the saints...and a prayer from my heart." (Pope Francis)

News for the week

Help Sutton library to choose Sutton's favourite bedtime story

Sutton Libraries are launching an autumn reading adventure for childminders, nurseries and families, looking for our favourite bedtime picture book in Sutton! There are sets of books to loan out, plus other activity sheets. It's all free, and there will be no library fines! If you would like to participate, please email lindsey.mcfarlane@sutton.gov.uk to register your interest.



Parent Governor Nominations

Although we set dates for these to happen simultaneously, we have two parents who have nominated themselves for both schools. When the Terms of the Constitution were set up by the Governing Body there was a requirement for just one Parent Governor but it was decided that to show equality, both schools should be represented. Hence the need to hold the elections that don't cross over to ensure both posts are filled.

The first post for election will be from today and closure by noon on Friday 23rd October 2020. Once the papers are counted, the junior election will then take place. This will secure two Parent Governors. This is a really important procedure and we thank you in anticipation for taking the time to read the information about the current governors. The information from the nominated ones will then help to identify the gap in skills that will enhance the knowledge of the governing body. Please note that each family is only allowed one vote per parent.

WhatsApp groups

We respectfully request all parents using these social media groups to refrain from naming pupils or using other indicators that would identify any individual. This is gross misconduct against both the school and PTA policies and could lead to safeguarding issues. This issue has been brought to our attention by parents.

Any WhatsApp group should not be used for discussion about school business and certainly not for any individual issues within a year group. We ask all parents to take responsibility for this and close these conversations down as soon as they arise. Thank you in helping to keep confidentiality and safeguarding for all children in our joint care. Commitment by all in the group will prevent the school having to take further action. Please be reminded that any concerns can be emailed to the class teacher via the school office. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Harvest Collections / Celebrations

For our harvest celebration this year we will be collecting for the food bank at St Philomena's School. We will be supporting this charity which benefits not only our schools' community but local families as well. If your child could bring a gift of any items such as pasta, tinned fruit/vegetables/ meat or fish/sugar/coffee/tea/cooking oil, we would be very grateful. Items need to be in-date for 4 months. It would help us immensely if your gifts could be brought to school from week beginning Monday 12th October, in time for our virtual Harvest Celebration. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you once again for all your support.

Mufti Day to raise funds for Haemophilia Society

This will be held on the last day of half term, (Friday 23rd October) in exchange for a minimum contribution of £1 in an envelope to be handed to the class teacher.

Summer Reading Challenge

Well done to the following Junior School children for completing the 'Summer Reading Challenge' this year with Sutton library. Well done to: Olivia (5 Elm), Roshan (5 Birch), Ria (4 Ash), Ellie (4 Poplar) and Andrea (4 Poplar). They have received a certificate, medal and have won a selection of books to be added to our school collection.