



Weekly Newsletter - Friday 16th 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,

Thank you for the many good wishes of support over these last few weeks. None of us will pretend that life has been easy over the last 6 months. Many families have been faced with challenges either here in the UK or difficulties due to having families spread out all over the world. What St Mary's Community does incredibly well though, is to keep working together while showing consideration to each other and sharing joint prayers. Thank you to the junior families who have reduced the number of adults on site for drop off and collection. Please be reminded that there should only ever be one adult per family. Changes to drop off to the Nursery and Infant school will be sent as a separate communication.

We can see evidence of you responding to our requests last week in speaking to the children about keeping a focus on their learning in school. For some, this needs to be a daily reminder, so please continue. The school has also been faced with challenges in terms of securing stable staffing for the benefit of both staff team bubbles and for the children in our care. There have been times when some staff have been sick (non COVID) and times when they may have had to isolate due to contact outside of school. These have happened most weeks but due to confidentiality will not inform you each time, we will of course ensure the provision and teaching has continuity. Generally, the staff cover is someone from within school or known to us. Individual cases will not be reported on now we have routines in place for each year group and the children are settled.

For your information baseline assessments were completed earlier in the term and internal achievement updated recently. From a first look at the data it seems as if in language skills need some support as this in turn impacts on the writing and articulation across all subjects. Family action would be supportive please if the spoken language skills were focussed on at home: Good discussion at meals times using longer phrases and sentences rather than one word answers. Daily reading too whenever possible is essential together with knowing the range of multiplication tables by rote and/or individually.

Year 2

You may have seen in the press that year 2 will be undergoing the postponed phonics check in November. It will take on the same form as when it would have been completed in Year 1 but just 5 months later. Your child's class teacher may be asking you to work on some strategies to support your child in the lead up to this.

Spirituality

Sunday 18th October - 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Usually at this time of the year both schools would have a Harvest Mass. Sadly, due to Covid-19 restrictions, this is not possible this year. Nevertheless, both schools have celebrated the Harvest with school liturgies. From their individual class rooms Year 4 led a beautifully prayerful and reflective liturgy for the Junior School, at the end of which the new Y6 Chaplaincy Team were presented with their badges.

As always we are grateful for your most generous donations of food for the food bank at St. Philomena's High School for Girls. This service is open to families of our school. For more information, contact Deacon Errol in confidence by emailing foodbank@stphils.org.uk.



News for the week

Infant Parent Governor Ballot Replies

To return your Infant Parent Governor Ballot replies, please be advised you will be able to return them as follows:

- Put into a sealed envelope for the attention of the School Office and put into your child's book bag.
- Into the box outside the main school office (front of school)
- Via email with the ballot reply attached.

Closure on Wednesday afternoons

School will continue to close at 2.05pm on a Wednesday afternoon after half term. It was hoped that we could review this and return to the normal end of day release. However, with consideration, it has been decided that this needs to remain in place especially as the COVID restrictions have been taken to the next tier of restriction in our area. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Miss Atkinson (junior teacher) started her maternity leave last week, we wish her and her family much joy in the coming weeks.

Please do not forget to bring in your Harvest Collections items

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 of the following 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.

50/50 Fundraiser

If you would like your family to take part in this effortless (and contactless!!) fundraising scheme whilst having the chance to have some fun, please complete one slip per entry and return it with your payment to school in an envelope marked "50/50".

Deadline for participation will be Friday 23rd October.

Good luck and thank you for your continued support.

St Mary's PTA

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, we will be looking to set this up as a payment on Parent Pay due to COVID 19 restrictions.

No Mobile Phones on the school site

Please remember no mobile phones are currently allowed in school for adults and pupils.

