



Weekly Newsletter - Friday 22nd January - Spring 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

New PTA Email address: pta@stmarysfed.uk



Dear Parents and Carers,

This is one of the more difficult newsletters to write. Whilst we all show care for each other and try to keep positive during these most tragic times, the grave national news reported this week, in addition to our own family communication impacts on us all.

We hear about the tremendous work that hospital staff do - our area in particular, where we have a number of major medical centres. We are hugely proud of our parents and members of our families who work in this profession, trying to take care of our loved ones whilst coping with the more drastic casualties.

As a community we ask you to join together in support and applaud our medical and emergency services. Thankfully school is a haven for the children we can provide for and we give thanks for this facility. However, we hear daily of family difficulties that have arisen during these times and hope to continue our support. We are hugely aware of the families supporting children at home whilst also fulfilling working commitments and we hope to be back together in the nearest possible future.

Once again we invite you to be glad of the benefits and blessings that we enjoy and continue to ask within our daily prayers for an end to this trauma.

Thinking about your family discussions, we ask you to be cautious and appropriate when discussing issues at home as we need to protect our pupils from the burden of knowledge and sadness instead take joy in what we have - our freedom and privileges of having a loving community to be proud of.

Stay positive and continue being kind to each other, reflecting the ethos of St Mary's loving and humble community. May we follow the example of Mary the Mother of God to be patient and faithful.

May God be with us all.



May we join together in our prayers and good wishes for Father Paul to have a speedy recovery.

Home Learning is provided through Google Classroom. Should you have a problem connecting please contact your class teacher for support.

For your convenience, further information regarding expectations and how to use gaming devices to access the site can be located in Parents and Carers Classroom.

Spirituality

Sunday 24th January - 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

This week, following on from Peace Sunday, we have been reflecting upon how we can both find peace within ourselves and how we can bring peace to others. A helpful quote for those of us confined to our homes at the moment is the one below from St. Teresa of Calcutta.



*“What can you do to promote world peace?
Go home and love your family.”*



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18th – 25th January



An excerpt from a reflection on Christian Unity by Fr. Jan Nowotnik, *National Ecumenical Officer*.

Perhaps this year the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes on another emphasis, it reminds us during a time of pandemic how much we have in common, how the virus doesn't discriminate by class or culture or religious background, we can all catch it! So, the way to combat it cannot be along the same lines, to overcome the pandemic we must all work together to protect each other and to alleviate suffering when we can. As Christians, it will be in those quiet moments of prayer, like sisters at Grandchamp and many others like them, that we will hear the voice of the Lord and receive the strength to do what he asks of us.

To read the complete reflection click here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/reflection-christian-unity-2021/>



Pope Francis & the Pope Emeritus receive the COVID-19 vaccine

The vaccination campaign against COVID-19 in the Vatican began last week, with both Pope Francis and Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI receiving their first doses of the vaccine. Pope Francis referred to the vaccination as 'an ethical action, because you are gambling with your health, you are gambling with your life, but you are also gambling with the lives of others.' The Vatican began its program of vaccination by prioritising the elderly and others in high-risk categories. ©Vatican News

Foodbank

Sadly, we are hearing of an increasing number of families who are struggling during this difficult time. As a school we are delivering food parcels each week. If you have spare items of food that are securely packaged we would welcome for these to be dropped off at the infant school (between 9am and 4 pm) should you be passing on your daily walk. You are always brilliant at supporting and caring for each other - thank you

News for the week

Guidance update:

Sutton is in: **National Lockdown**. For further guidance please click on this link
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

Spare Devices

Thank you to the members of our school community who have donated laptops and devices to the school. If you have any devices that are not needed or you think are too old, please feel free to donate it to the school and we will give it a new home.

Online Reflection and Registration session

We are excited to announce that following Year 4's successful online reflection and registration session that all classes (Reception – Year 6) will be having their own next week on Friday afternoon. Please see the slides in the parent and carers room on google for information.

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1lrgOiYrLV3TglhExvuxGv67z1V7WNJFB6Ks-pVH97Ss/edit?usp=sharing>

Many parents have been asking about 'live lessons', we have included information taken from Ofsted guidance for your information and hope it answers some queries.

What's working well in remote education

"Some think that a live lesson is the 'gold standard' of remote education. This isn't necessarily the case. Live lessons have a lot of advantages. They can make curriculum alignment easier, and can keep pupils' attention, not least as the teacher has more control over the learning environment. But live lessons are not always more effective than asynchronous approaches.

There are some specific difficulties in doing live lessons. It can be hard to build in interaction and flexibility. This means that giving feedback can actually be less effective than when we use recorded lesson segments followed by interactive chats, or tasks and feedback. Using recorded lessons produced externally can allow you to easily draw on high-quality lessons taught by expert subject teachers. The challenge here can be to make sure they are integrated with the curriculum. Because evidence suggests that concentration online is shorter than the length of a typical lesson, filming a classroom lesson may be ineffective."

PE and Physical Activity

All children now have usernames and passwords to access 'Real PE at Home'. Please do support your child to make sure they are getting as much exercise as possible during this time, whether this is in or out of your home. We know from our experience that the more activity they do, the better their concentration and attainment is when they are doing their learning! In these unusual times, the impact that exercise can have on their wellbeing is not to be underestimated either.

At school we do the 'Daily Mile'. Here is the first of their weekly 'Daily Mile at Home' challenges that you might like to try with your family.

[https://thedailymile.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/DailyMileAtHome PrintOut WK1.pdf](https://thedailymile.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/DailyMileAtHome%20PrintOut%20WK1.pdf)

We'd love to hear if you've tried this and how you've got on. Stay safe, Mrs Birch