



# SAINT MARY'S RC PRIMARY ACADEMY

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023

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### DIARY DATES

#### Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November

Y5 Swimming

#### Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November

Art Exhibition 3:30pm

#### Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December

Shining Lights Assembly – parents' welcome 8:50am

#### Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December

Y5 Swimming

#### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December

Y5 Planetarium

#### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Fair 3:30-5pm

#### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Dinner Day

#### Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December

Mass in Church

#### Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Y5 Swimming

#### Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Blackfriars Theatre – Peter Pan

Scholastic Book Fair in school 3:15-4:00pm

#### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December

Scholastic Book Fair in school 3:15-4:00pm

#### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December

EYFS/KS1 Nativity Performance 2pm

Scholastic Book Fair in school 3:15-4:00pm

#### Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December

EYFS/KS1 Nativity Performance 2pm

Shining Lights Assembly – parents' welcome 8:50am

#### Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December

Scholastic Book Fair in school 3:15-4:00pm

#### Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December

END OF TERM 2

#### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

Term 3 begins

#### Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January

Y2 Swimming

### SAFEGUARDING

St Mary's RC Primary Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all pupils. Each child's welfare is of up most importance. **Safeguarding is everyone's business.** If you have any safeguarding concerns, St Mary's RC Primary Academy Designated Safeguarding Lead is **Mrs L Gleed-Thornley (Headteacher)**. Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are **Mrs Williams (Deputy Headteacher)**, **Mrs Brader (SENCo/KS1 Leader)** and **Miss Spikings (Administrator)**. Our Safeguarding Governor is **Ms M Lewis**. Further Safeguarding information can be found on our school website under the 'Welcome' tab.

#### e-Safety – National Online Safety

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>

What parents need to know about the game Among Us

<https://nationalcollege.com/guides/among-us>

### Christmas Raffle Donations

Thank you to all those parents who have donated towards our Christmas raffle, you still have time to donate if you haven't already, please bring any items to the school office. Raffle tickets are on sale on the playground before and after school, we have also given you the option to purchase tickets via your ParentPay account.

### Staffing News

This week we say goodbye to Mrs Epton and thank her for her hard work and dedication during her time at St Mary's, we wish her the best of luck in her future career.

### Parking outside school

Concerns have been raised about parking around the school at peak times. Examples of poor parking have included blocked pavements, obstructed driveways, parking over dropped curbs, on zig-zag road markings and other access points and on some occasions, parking on the pavement. This seriously increases the risk of harm to children trying to safely cross the road, as well as causing access problems for local residents and the emergency services. Please be considerate when parking outside the school gates. In the interest of safety please do not park on the yellow lines, (even to momentarily drop children off) they are there for a reason!

### Whole School Art Exhibition

We would like to invite you to an exhibition of all our children's artwork. Please come and support the children at this absolutely fabulous event, which will be held in the school hall. All of the children's artwork has been professionally framed and mounted and can be viewed on special display stands, so that you can browse and view their masterpieces in their full splendour. To raise money for the school, you can also buy your child's framed masterpiece for £10 each. We hope you will enjoy and support this event and help raise funds for the school! We know you will find it hugely enjoyable, be amazed at the fantastic masterpieces on display and be very proud of your child's achievement. Tea and coffee will be available for a donation. Thank you for your continued support.

**The school art gallery will be open in the school hall on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November – 3:30-4:30pm**

### Attendance w/c 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Above National Average    National Average    Below National Average

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Whole School
80.5%	94.8%	97.2%	99.7%	86.5%	96.7%	98.6%	93.9%

Our attendance target is 97.5%

Well done to Year 3 who had the highest attendance with 99.7%

*"We love, we learn, we grow; walking with faith in the light of the Lord"*

### Vacancy - Midday Supervisory Assistant (MDSA)

Position: Permanent


Start date: ASAP

Pay grade: Band 1, Point 1-3

We require a Midday Supervisory Assistant to join our staff team for 5 hours per week, term time only (39 weeks per year). The post involves the supervision of children during the lunchtime break in the building and outside in the playground, as well as a variety of associated tasks: setting up and clearing away of tables and dealing with minor accidents. The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check. If you are interested in applying for the post, application packs are available from the CMAT website: - <https://www.olcatholicmat.co.uk/work-with-us/vacancies-single/?Category=Midday%2520Supervision&Advert=1OLep71MEs279g9C86q0dQ%3D%3D&Region=BostonStMary%27sCatholicPrimarySchool>

### KS1 and the Travelling Crib

As the season of Advent begins families across KS1 will be taking part in a special project called "The Travelling Crib". This is to help us remember the journey Mary and Joseph made to Bethlehem, and as a family take time to stop and think about the true meaning of Christmas. Your child will have the opportunity to take the travelling crib home for one night to set up, switch the candle on, say a prayer, read the Christmas story and sing a song together. We would like to hear about your experience of the Travelling crib in your home, so please complete the sheet by attaching a photograph or asking your child to draw a picture and write about how you shared the crib in your home. We look forward to hearing all about it. Don't forget to return the crib the next day so it can be passed on to another child.

	<b>Well done to all the children who received their Shining Lights Awards on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023</b>	
<b>EYFS</b>	<b>Loui</b> received a shining light award this week for his increased participation in the classroom. He has become more confident in both answering questions during whole-class sessions and in coming to adults to share the learning he has done in exploring time. Loui has been trying especially hard in our maths sessions, where he has been counting to and showing the parts of numbers to 5!	
<b>YEAR 1</b>	<b>Niall</b> has been chosen as Shining Light for his fantastic effort and positive attitude towards all of his learning. Niall has been working so hard on his writing in recent weeks and wrote his own brilliant version of Peace at Last and knew exactly where to add his full stops in. Well done Niall!	<b>Nicolette</b> has been chosen as Shining Light for working hard to improve her independence and confidence in her maths learning this week. She has been using resources and a number line to support her to subtract. She has also been working hard on her presentation and letter formation. Well done Nicolette!
<b>YEAR 2</b>	<b>Avanthika</b> has been chosen as this week's Shining Light for trying really hard with her maths when subtracting this week. She has been able to use different methods to solve problems and has put a lot of effort into making sure she uses one number per square. Keep up the great work.	<b>Nikita</b> has been chosen as this week's Shining Light for working really hard with his play lines. He has a lot of lines to learn and he has clearly been practising them and is able to say them without help using a script. He has also done some excellent work in maths even getting onto the extension questions.
<b>YEAR 3</b>	<b>Darcy</b> has been chosen as Shining Light, by the adults in Year 3, for showing great resilience and perseverance with her maths learning over the past few weeks. She is more confident with adding and subtracting 3 digit numbers with exchanging and we're all really proud of your progress. Well done Darcy.	<b>Noah</b> has been voted by Year 3 as Shining Light this week for always being kind and caring to his classmates. He is a considerate young man, who always puts others' feelings before his own. His classmates are also impressed with how he contributes to class discussions and shares his discussions. Well done Noah!
<b>YEAR 4</b>	<b>Karolina</b> has been chosen as this week's Shining Light by the adults in Year 4. She has been chosen because she always approach's her learning with a positive attitude. In all subjects, Karolina tries her best and makes sure her work is presented neatly. She is an incredibly helpful member of the class and always has a smile on her face no matter what! Well done Karolina!	
<b>YEAR 5</b>	<b>Joshua</b> has been chosen for shining lights this week for his eagerness to learn. Joshua listens well, respects the adults in class and has been working exceptionally hard with his learning. He always wants to help in the classroom and is a brilliant member of the school liturgical team – often volunteering to find scripture and lead our class liturgies too.	<b>Rafi</b> has been chosen for shining lights this week for his fantastic effort during our swimming lessons. He has impressed both the adults at school and the swimming teachers at the pool. He hasn't given up and his confidence has grown hugely in the pool. Well done Rafi and keep up the hard work!
<b>YEAR 6</b>	<b>David</b> has been chosen as this week's Shining Light by his teachers for the high quality of work he produces. He always gives 100% in all subjects and has a true 'thirst for knowledge.' We found it highly interesting to hear about him being addicted ... to reading. It is his true passion. He seems to always have a book in his hands which makes our English Co-ordinator (and teachers) very happy. Reading is the gateway to knowledge.	<b>Evan</b> has been chosen as this week's Shining Light by his classmates for being a supportive friend and showing kindness to others. A pupil in class commented that he has a good sense of humour and makes her laugh and cheers her up. Additionally, staff in the classroom are very pleased that he has focussed on staying on task when working with his new learning partner. Thank you.

### CLASS NEWS

#### EYFS

This week in reception, we will be continuing our topic 'Once upon a Time'. We will be looking at ordering events in the story Goldilocks and using story maps to recall key events and phrases from the story. In maths, we will continue working with numbers to 5, using 5 frames and part-whole models to show the smaller parts of the whole. Finally, in RE we will continue our new topic 'Birthdays' by learning that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus' birthday.

### Year 1

This week in maths we will be reading and writing numbers to 20 and finding one more and one less than a number. In English we will continue to explore the features of a diary and will be practicing writing in the past tense. In RE we will explore the parts of an Advent Wreath and hear the Annunciation story. We will explore sensory loss in science, begin to make our hand toy puppets in DT and will discover what life was like as a child in the 1950s in history.

### Year 2

This week in Year 2 we are finishing writing our story in English. We will be using all the things we have learned this term to help us with our sentence structure. We will also begin to look at our class text for non-chronological reports. We will be using sub headings and key subject words to help us discover more about a given topic. In maths we are learning about using the column method for subtraction when we do have to cross the tens barrier and when we do not. In our Science learning this week we are finding out about different parts of the human life cycle from being a baby to being an adult. In RE we are going to be learning about the Christmas Story and what happened when the angel visited Mary.

### Year 3

This week in maths we are learning how to calculate complements to 100 and how to use the inverse operation to check our answers. In English, we are focusing on writing in the past tense and putting events in chronological order, before planning and writing a diary entry from the point of view of Om (Stone Age Boy). In RE, we are using dance to express the message of the prophet Isaiah when he cleared the way for the Lord (Isaiah 40:1-5). In Spanish, we are learning to greet people in Spanish and in history, we are describing how the discoveries from the Iron Age improved people's lives. Please note that Year 3 have an extra PE lesson on Wednesday so please ensure children come to school in PE kit, thank you.

### Year 4

In English this week, we will be researching the Vikings and planning our non-chronological reports about them. In Maths we will be using the 3, 6- and 9-times tables to multiply and divide. In History we will be exploring what everyday life was like for Anglo-Saxons and in Science we will be investigating what happens when sound is muffled. We will be describing the Gift of Jesus in R.E and talking about how we prepare for Jesus.

### Year 5

This week in English we will be learning about and identifying the features of a newspaper article. Alongside this, we will be researching the Apollo 11 moon landing and will begin writing our own newspaper articles. In maths we will be continuing our learning about fractions and will be ordering and adding them. In RE we will be writing about 'waiting in hope for the Lord' and how Christians prepare during Advent and will also be exploring the light of the world painting, giving reasons for the symbolism used. During our History lesson we will be collecting evidence to answer the question 'Why were the people in the Shang Dynasty such successful warriors?' and in MFL we will be asking for and stating our ages. During Science we will be learning about the phases of the moon and in DT we will be designing our own pneumatic

### Year 6

In English this week, we will be continuing our narrative work based on historical events. In Maths we will be multiplying and dividing fractions and applying these skills to solving word problems. Our Religious Education work will focus on describing expectations for Advent and how art reflects religious beliefs. In History we will be discussing how the Battle of Britain was the turning point in WWII. We will continue investigating light and how it is reflected off objects. Please ensure you look over your child's homework with them and continue to listen to them read whenever possible.

### Introduction of Fixed Penalty Formal Warning from September 2023

From September 2023 we have decided to take the decision to request that the Local Authority issue a Fixed Penalty Notice where unauthorised absence exceeds 15% in a six-week period.

If you wish to seek approval for any request of absence for your child(ren) from School, then you must apply in writing to the Head of School, at least four weeks in advance of the requested period. (Please request a form from the school office). You should only remove your child(ren) if the absence has been authorised, and notified to you in writing by the School. Any exceptional circumstances must be clearly set out in the written request to the Head Teacher who will consider each case upon its merits.

If you then choose to take your child out of school during term time and it is not deemed to be exceptional circumstances and/or has not been approved by the School, then this will be coded as an unauthorised absence and a Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued for the period of absence.

The law states that, where there are unacceptable levels of attendance, schools may request that the Local Authority issue a Fixed Penalty Notice following the legal framework:

- Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 places upon parents a duty to ensure that their child receives efficient full-time education either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.
- Where a child is a registered pupil at a school and the parent fails to ensure that child's regular attendance at school the parent is liable to be prosecuted for a criminal offence under section 444 of the Education Act.
- In some cases, where this duty is not being fulfilled Section 444B of the same Act empowers the Local Authority to issue a Fixed Penalty of £60 per parent, per child, which will increase if the fine isn't paid within the first 21 days to £120
- Failure to pay a Fixed Penalty may result in further legal action being taken against you.

ALL fines are retained by the Local Authority and the school does not receive any of this. We will continue to work with families to support as much as we can with attendance and further information can be found in our school attendance policy on our website. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact the school office to make an appointment.

### Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

St Mary's are looking for volunteers to set up and run the school's PTA. The main role of the PTA is to build strong working relationships among parents, teachers and schools, in support of students, at schools where the PTA raises a significant portion of the school's discretionary money. In recent years the PTA have worked really hard in raising money for our school by organising events such as Discos, musical evenings, Christmas & Summer Fair and a BBQ at Sports Day are just some of the events that have been held over the years which have helped to pay for new books for the library, compost and plants for Gardening Club, Pantomime at Blackfriars, breakfast for SAT's, Year 1 dressing up outfits, Autism items and Year 6 diaries and pens. PTA events cannot happen without volunteers to run and organise them. The PTA committee is a small group of parents who always welcome new members to help co-ordinate the events diary. If you feel you can offer some of your spare time, please let the school office know – Thank you.

### Parent Pay

Thank you to those who have already signed up to ParentPay - In an attempt to remove all cash and cheques from school we are asking all parents to sign up to ParentPay to pay for school trips, breakfast club etc. If you haven't already done so, please visit [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com) and activate your account via the Account login area on the home page of the site. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you need assistance. Your support in using ParentPay will help the school enormously, thank you. **Did you know, you can pay any amount into ParentPay weekly/monthly to save for any upcoming trips/events, this is then held in your ParentPay account until you need to make a payment.**

### Free School Meals

If your financial circumstances have changed and you think your child may be entitled to Free School Meals, please call the school office where we will advise you on how to make an application for Free School Meals or click on the link below to create an account and apply.

<https://lcc.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/SynergyWeb/Parents/default.aspx>

### Hot School Meals

All pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 can receive a hot school meal FREE EVERYDAY! All children in KS2 can order a hot school meal at a cost of £2.30 per day. A School meal provides children with a healthy varied and balanced diet providing the right amount of energy to ensure that your child can work better in the afternoons. If you would like your child to have a school meal please come to the office where we will provide further information. Take a look at the Ideal School Meal website for an idea of the meals they provide - <https://schoolmealsonline.com/login> The deadline for ordering is a Monday for orders placed for the following week. If you have any queries, parents can contact Ideal School Meals direct on 01522 246424 or via email [admin@schoolmealsonline.co.uk](mailto:admin@schoolmealsonline.co.uk)

### Twitter & Facebook

Our Twitter & Facebook accounts are the best way to keep up to date with everything happening in school. Recently we have tweeted about upcoming events and even posted some children's fantastic learning online. Make sure you follow us on twitter @bostonstmarys. You do not need to have a Twitter account to view our tweets! You can see all tweets by clicking the link on our website [www.bostonstmarys.co.uk](http://www.bostonstmarys.co.uk) or at [twitter.com/bostonstmarys](https://twitter.com/bostonstmarys)