

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter - 20th Oct 2023

Head of School's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Issue 2 of our school Newsletter!

On the top right hand side, you will see a box, which you can use if you would like to read the Newsletter in your own language, by pressing the Translate button!

What a busy half term it has been!

Within the **Catholic Social Teaching**, we have been looking in depth and learning about one of the principles: **Care for Creation**.

We had two assemblies led by guest speakers from **Caritas** and **Cafod**. Both guests, Sister Silvana and Helen commented on the engagement of the pupils during the assemblies and very interesting questions and ideas our children shared.

We also had an assembly and workshops organised by **NSPCC** for Y5 and Y6 pupils.

On Thursday 12th October, we had a visit from the **poet, James Carter**, who enchanted all the children and adults during his assemblies and workshops with his creativity, charisma and amazing vocabulary.

Children then wrote their own class and individual poems that showed their thoughtfulness and deep thinking.

On Wednesday 18th October, we had our first **International Evening** event post Covid. It was a great evening of delicious food from around the world, music, costumes and even some dancing!

Prior to the evening, Donna Olga worked with different classes on Portuguese tongue twisters and asked children to bring some tongue twisters from their home languages.

We would like to say a **huge Thank You to our amazing parents**, who got together in various groups and cooked, baked and prepared super delicious treats for us all to taste. We are very grateful and truly appreciate your amazing contributions! Even the rain did not dampen our spirits!

THANK YOU again!

I hope you and your families have a lovely, restful week during this half term!

Magdalena Tusting

Head of School

Upcoming dates:

Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October – Half Term Holiday

Monday 30th October: first day of Autumn 2

Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November: Y6 'Into University' programme

Wednesday 1st November: The Feast of All Saints (Holy Day of Obligation) 9.30am School Mass in church

Monday 13th November to Friday 17th November: National Anti-bullying Week

The theme this year is: **Make a Noise About Bullying**

Friday 24th November: Dance Share for Y2 and Y3 (after Star of the Week Assembly, in the school hall)

Tuesday 28th November: Parent Consultation Meetings

Thursday 30th November: Parent Consultation Meetings

Thursday 7th December: Whole school Mass Advent Mass

Class Assemblies: at 9.10am in the school hall

Thursday 9th November: Year 1 Class Assembly

Thursday 16th November: Year 4 Class Assembly

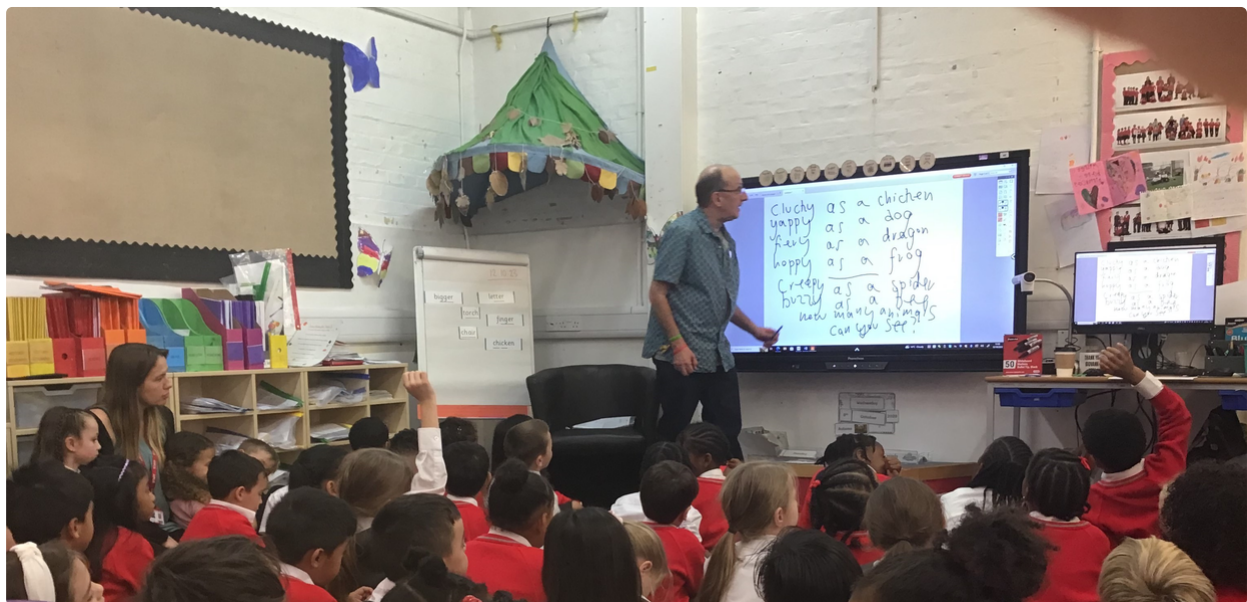
Thursday 23rd November: Year 3 Class Assembly

Thursday 30th November: Year 2 Class Assembly

We will share more dates with you as they are set.

With the very best wishes

Magdalena Tusting





Attendance

We are working towards achieving 96% attendance this academic year. Please be aware that holiday leave in term time cannot be authorised.

Attendance

Whole school attendance to date stands at 91.2%, which is lower than this time last year.

There is strong correlation between good attendance and good progress. Please make sure your child is at school unless they are unwell.

Punctuality also contributes to attendance so we encourage everyone to be at school for **the soft start at 8.45am**

Absence

In the event of your child being absent, you must let the office know in the morning. It is school policy that you phone the office **by 9.15am** each day your child is absent, as the school has a legal responsibility and a duty of care to know where your child is between 9am and 3.15pm.

A phone call will be made to parents if an absence is not reported. If we do not receive a reason for an absence, it will automatically be recorded as unauthorised.

All doctor and dentist appointments should be booked outside school hours when possible. The office should be informed in advance when your child has a medical appointment.

Medicines

We are currently updating our records. If your child has an ongoing allergy or medical need, please inform the school. If your child has an allergy that requires an EpiPen or is prescribed an asthma pump, please bring in their Allergy Action Plan or Asthma Plan to the office as soon as possible.

There should be two EpiPens per child in school, that are both in date.



Star of the Week

Congratulations to all the pupils who have received **Star of the Week** awards on:

Star of the Week winners for Friday 20th October:

Rec: Pippa

Y1: Major

Y2: Mariam

Y3: Lee-Lee

Y4: Regina

Y5 Sienna M

Y6: Simona,

Star Readers:

Rec: Farah,

Y1: Omar,

Y2: Thirdy,

Y3: Deborah,

Y4: Beza,

Y5: Kian

Y6: Jayden

Handwriter of the Week:

Rec: Ethan,

Y1: Novena,

Y2: Dilyet,

Y3: Mimi,

Y4: Kessiah,

Y5: Agatha

Y6: Karim

Congratulations to all the Stars!

Term Dates 2023-2024

Autumn Term – 2023 First Half Term

Staff Training – Mon 4th & Tues 5th September - School Closed

First Day of School – Wednesday 6th September

Last Day of School – Friday 20th October

Half Term – Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October

Second Half Term

First Day of School – Monday 30th October

Last Day of School – Thursday 21st December - 1.30pm - School Closed

Christmas Holiday – Friday 22nd December – Friday 5th January 2023

Spring Term - 2024

First Half Term

Staff Training – Monday 8th January – School Closed

First Day of School – Tuesday 9th January

Last Day of School – Friday 9th February

Half Term – Monday 12th – Friday 16th February

Second Half Term

First Day of School – Monday 19th February

Last Day of School – Thursday 28th March - 1.30pm - School Closed

Easter Holiday – Friday 29th March – Friday 12th April

Summer Term – 2024 First Half Term

Staff Training – Monday 15th April – School Closed

First Day of School – Tuesday 16th April

Bank Holiday – Monday 6th May

Last Day of School – Friday 24th May

Half Term – Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May

Second Half Term

First Day of School – Monday 3rd June

Staff Training – Monday 24th June – School Closed

Last Day of School – Wednesday 24th July - 1.30pm - School Closed

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