



# The Friday *Flyer*

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

No. 8 5 November 2021

Dear Parents

There are only two weeks until our Christmas Fair, so please save the date! The PTA and Class Reps have been working hard behind the scenes and we hope they can rely on the support of our whole school community. Let's make it the best one yet!

Best wishes,

Mrs Vassallo and Staff

## St Mary's Christmas Fair

*Only two more weeks...*

**20th November**



*St Mary's is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Designated Safeguarding Leads at St Mary's are Mrs Vassallo, Mrs Durand and Mrs Beirne. They can be contacted at [safeguarding@stmaryscp.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stmaryscp.co.uk)*

### Our Wednesday Word message

*God wants us to trust and depend on him, and to share our gifts of time, talent and money to help others. When used well, our gifts help us to find our purpose in life and to improve the lives of those around us.*

### Twitter

On Twitter this week @StMarysBeck

Farewell to Mr Wentworth  
Mini Vinnies at work

### John Willis- Power2Inspire

Next week, we have a visit from John Willis who is the director of the charity- Power2Inspire. John was born without fully formed arms and legs, but despite the challenges this brings, he leads life to the full. His mission is to embed inclusive sport in communities, giving everyone an opportunity to participate. I am sure that the children will gain a great deal from listening to him. For further information, visit [www.power2inspire.org.uk](http://www.power2inspire.org.uk)

### Reading for pleasure

Two things that parents worry about are screen time and reading: any screen watched just before bed, even TVs, interrupt the sleep of children and adults; reading improves vocabulary, comprehension and writing across all subjects - but some people (children and adults) don't enjoy reading. I love books, but I understand that not everyone feels the same and the idea of 'reading for pleasure' is lovely - but what if reading just isn't a pleasure at home? Increasingly, juggling



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activities/work commitments/family commitments means that something has to give, and before the pandemic, the number of children reading for pleasure was at a 15-year low.

I have often recommended audiobooks to parents worried about a child who doesn't want to read as my son is a book avoider - but loves audiobooks (especially David Tennant reading Cressida Cowell's How To Train Your Dragon books). It wasn't until he said to me that audiobooks were great but weren't they 'cheating' that I realised there was a perception problem with audiobooks. So, I did some research into whether or not audiobooks were as good as traditional books for children. Anyone interested can read more about it on the Literacy Trust's website, but the main points are this:

- Audiobooks widen children's access to literature
- They offer easy access on different devices and can be listened to anywhere
- Audiobooks allow children to access more of a book than reading alone as the children listen to tone, pronunciation, accents and dialects
- Listening to an audiobook engages the same cognitive skills as reading in print
- Audiobooks support the development of skills children need to read - including language comprehension and the ability to understand and retain information (memory)
- Some of the research showed that audiobooks elicit stronger emotional responses than either reading in print or watching a film - so support emotional intelligence
- Audiobooks are brilliant for helping children who struggle with their reading to access more appropriate age-level texts
- Audiobooks are a great way to listen as a family (on car journeys, for example) and fantastic for relaxing for bed

Based upon this, we are asking Year 6 to join their local libraries (if they haven't already) and use the free apps available to download and listen to audiobooks. Details on your local library and this apps can be found on the Bromley Libraries website: <https://www.better.org.uk/library/london/bromley>. We will be talking about audiobooks in school and will be encouraging other year groups to make this their homework over the coming weeks - I thought you might like a head start!

I'm always happy to answer any questions about

books and reading (although you may struggle to get away from me once I start talking about books), so please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you, and have a lovely weekend,  
Mrs Woods

### **Squid Games**

You may have heard of Squid Game, a programme on Netflix that has been very popular recently. It's rated 15 due to its violent nature and sexual content, but there have been reports of younger children also watching it. Children might also have seen parts of the programme recreated as challenges on social media, for example on TikTok, or they may have seen or played an online game that's based on it.

### **What should parents do?**

- It might be tempting to, but don't directly raise Squid Game with your child - they might be unaware of it, and mentioning it could make them more likely to seek it out.
- Do encourage your child know they can talk to you about anything they see online that they find upsetting. If you hear them talking about Squid Game or if they mention it to you, talk to them about how the show isn't meant for young children.
- We'd encourage you to take this opportunity to check your Netflix settings for your child's profile. You can set maturity ratings so that your child only sees TV shows and films that have a rating suitable for their age.

### **To do this:**

- From a web browser, go to your account page
- Open the 'Profile and Parental Controls' settings for the profile you want to manage
- Change the 'Viewing Restrictions' setting
- Enter your Netflix password
- Set the maturity rating level for the TV shows and films you want to allow in that profile
- Select 'Save'

You'll need to have set up a profile for your child in your account to do this. See how to do this here: <https://help.netflix.com/en/node/114275>

For more pointers on talking to your child about

online safety, see this page on the NSPCC website:  
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

### Our neighbours

Please be considerate when parking in roads adjacent to St Mary's. I have had messages this week from the residents of Convent Close and Westgate Road about inconsiderate parking (which means residents could not get out to drop children to school) and about people driving on the pavement to avoid puddles.

If you do not have a Reception child, you should not drive on the unmade road. This extends to periods outside the normal school day (when collecting from clubs etc).

Thank you for your cooperation.

### Birthday books

Because we have a number of children with allergies, we cannot permit sweets and cakes for birthdays, even if they are to be distributed on the playground after school.

If you wish to mark your child's birthday we would welcome a donation of a book for the class library; a book plate will be added to acknowledge your child's gift.

Next week at St Mary's	
Monday 8 November	<b>4AC swimming this week</b> 3.15pm- 4.30pm: Netball- Y3-5 3.15pm- 4.15pm: Football- Y3-6 3.15pm- 4.15pm: Taekwondo- R, I & 2
Tuesday 9 November	7.50am- 8.40am: Gymnastics- Y1-5 3.15pm- 4.15pm: Taekwondo- Y3-6 3.15pm- 4.15pm: Multi-sports- Y1&2
Wednesday 10 November	John Willis visit <b>Hewitts in the amphitheatre after school</b> 3.15pm- 4.15pm: Irish dancing- Y3-6 4.15pm- 5.15pm: Irish dancing- Y1&2 3.15pm- 4.15pm: Running- Y2&3 3.15pm- 4.20pm: Hockey- Y4-6
Thursday 11 November	<b>Photographer in for Years 2 and 6</b> 7.50am- 8.40am: Yoga- R-6 3.15pm- 4.15pm: Spotlights- Y1&2

Friday 12 November	Year 6 Mass at 9.10am Year 5 forest school 3.15pm- 4.15pm: Karate- Y4-6 4.25pm- 5.25pm: Karate- Y1-3
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### COVID-19 guidance

#### *What should I do if my child has COVID-19 symptoms?*

If your child has any of the main COVID-19 symptoms (a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste), they should not attend school and should stay at home. **You should arrange for them to get a PCR test** and send the school a copy of the test results. Your child should not attend school while you are waiting for test results, even if they are feeling better. If the test is negative, they should go to school as normal. If they test positive, they should continue to isolate and follow public health advice.

Schools no longer trace close contacts - close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace.

*All policies are available from the school on request.*

