



The Friday *Flyer*

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

No. 12 2 December 2022

Dear Parents and Families,

Saturday's Christmas Fair was a huge success! It was so good to see all of our families come together to enjoy the event and to support our school. Thank you to everyone for your support, with a particular mention for our Class Reps and PTA, working together under the direction of PTA Chair- Donna Mentesh.

The fair raised an amazing £15,000, all of which will be spent directly on our children.

Thank you!

Best wishes,

Mrs Vassallo and Staff



Headteacher: Mrs I M Vassallo BEd (Hons) ACP NPQH
Telephone: 020 8650 2355
Website: www.st-marys-catholic.bromley.sch.uk

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

Attendance matters

There is a strong link between good school attendance and positive outcomes for children. Children who come to school regularly tend to have better academic outcomes, stronger friendships and greater resilience.

Understandably, there are times when children are too unwell to attend and this half term, many have been affected by a flu-like virus and chickenpox. This link provides guidance on common childhood illnesses, including whether or not a child should come to school.

Infection Control in Schools

If your child has been prescribed antibiotics but does not have a temperature, they can come to school and we can administer medication for them- they do not have to complete the course before they return. All you need to do is to supply the antibiotics in a clearly-labelled bottle and to fill in a brief form at the office.

Nationally, school attendance below 90% is deemed as '**persistent absence**' and at 50% or below is categorised as '**severely absent**'. I am concerned that at this point in the year, 33 of our children are '**persistent absentees**'. For some of these children, there is an absence almost every week. For others, their late arrival (i.e. after 9am), means that they have to be registered as missing the entire morning session.

So, how is persistent absence calculated?

Persistent absence thresholds by half term (10% of possible attendances)	
Autumn 1	3 days absent
Autumn 2	7 days absent
Spring 1	10 days absent
Spring 2	13 days absent
Summer 1	16 days absent
Summer 2	19 days absent

If a child is persistently absent and there are no extenuating circumstances, I have a duty to involve the Educational Welfare Service (EWO) and it could result in a fine. Equally, if children are taken out of school for holidays in term time, it is referred to the EWO service and may result in a penalty notice.

In short, we want children to be in school so they can access their full curriculum, establish good routines and enjoy time with their peers. We appreciate your support in achieving this.

A copy of the attendance policy accompanies the Friday Flyer.

RAB	90.1	RHH	89.1
1SW	91.9	1DS	88.3
2NG	86.5	2BY	88.2
3YL	93.1	3ES	95.2
4AC	94.6	4JB	95.1
5SR	93.9	5LM	95.2
6EW	92.7	6HW	94.4

Best classes for attendance this week- 3ES and 5LM.

Please call the school office by 8am if your child will be absent from school and each day until they are well enough to return.

After-School Sports Clubs

We always seem to have a lot of uniform, coats, shoes etc left in the school following after-school sports clubs.

When you pick your child up from their club, please check that your child has all their belongings with them before you leave the premises.

Also, could we take this opportunity to remind you to make sure that your child's name is written on any item that they bring in to school.

Thank you,
The School Office

Important links

[St Mary's Curriculum](#)

[Our Parent Handbook](#)

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Inspirational Person for next week - Olaudah Equiano

Olaudah Equiano was an extraordinary person who lived in a time that stifled personal freedom, views, and aspirations all because of one simple notion: skin colour. Equiano was an African writer whose experiences as a slave prompted him to become involved in the British abolition movement. Can you find out why he was also known as Gustavus Vassa?



Contacting the school office

Please could we ask that if you need to email the office, you do so using the school email address:

admin@stmaryscp.co.uk

Unfortunately if you use any other address - including the one from which you have received the Friday Flyer, your message could be missed.

Advent Devotions

During Advent we are encouraged to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. One of the ways in which you can do this is to join us in praying the rosary each Friday of Advent at 8.30am in the main hall. There is a prayer sheet to follow and everyone is welcome to come along - you do not have to be Catholic.



Twitter feed @StMarysBeck.

Next week at St Mary's

Monday 5 December	Y5 Thames trip 3.15pm- 4.30pm: Netball- Y3-6 3.15pm- 4.15pm: Football- Y3-6 3.15pm- 4.15pm: Taekwondo- R, Y1 & 2
Tuesday 6 December	7.50am- 8.40am: Gymnastics- Y1-6 3.15pm- 4.15pm: Taekwondo- Y3-6 3.15pm- 4.15pm: Multi-sports- Y1&2
Wednesday 7 December	3.15pm- 4.15pm: Irish dancing- Y3-6 4.15pm- 5.15pm: Irish dancing- Y1&2 3.15pm- 4.20pm: Hockey- Y4-6 NO HOCKEY
Thursday 8 December	KS2 Carol Service 7pm at St Edmund's 3.15pm- 4.15pm: Spotlights- Y1&2 4.45pm to 6.15pm Spotlights- Years 3-6
Friday 9 December	Advent devotions Year 4 Forest School 3.15pm- 4.15pm: Karate- Y4-6 4.25pm- 5.25pm: Karate- Y1-3

All policies are available from the school on request.

Request from St Edmund's

We're desperately short of flower arrangers at St Edmund's and need more volunteers: please contact the parish office for more information.
Fr Ashley