

Newsletter

Friday 5th November 2021



St. Mary's Catholic
Primary School

Dear Parents

Back to school - again!

I hope you all had a great half term and managed to dodge the storms!

What a busy time we've had since I last wrote our newsletter!

Just Before half term, we raised money for CAFOD and collected about 20 Christmas shoeboxes! We also collected lots of items for the local Foodbank.

In addition to this, we had a visit from the CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of our Trust, Mrs Zoe Batten who was accompanied by Mrs Rose Colpus-Fricker, our Chief Operation Officer (COO). Their arrival coincided with our Prayer and Praise assembly, and so they were warmly welcomed by the children's beautiful singing. Mrs Batten thanked us for the wonderful welcome they received when they arrived. She said, "It was a very special start to the day!" and added, "Please let the children know how proud I was...their singing was beautiful! Please also thank all of the staff from me for taking the time to talk with us whilst we were looking around and for making us feel so welcome."

On our return to school, the children have come back as eager as ever to see their classmates and learn new things. St Alban's class had a fabulous time at Carymoor on Wednesday - they enjoyed den building, orienteering, fire making and many other team building activities. Several of the Carymoor staff commented on how polite, friendly, happy and hard working the children were so a big thank you to them all.



Reading Certificates

Reading certificates will begin again this week. All reading completed so far for this school year will be checked and counted towards how many reads your child has done so far. Your class teacher will keep a log of this. Please note that one read with an adult at home, per day will count as one read towards a certificate.

25 reads - Bronze

50 reads - Silver

100 reads - Gold

150 reads - Platinum

225 reads + - Outstanding



If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact with your class teacher.

Pupil Chaplains/GIFT Team



Just before half term, the GIFT team took your food donations to the Foodbank in Gillingham. All items were most gratefully received! Thank you. We will be asking for more donations again, closer to Christmas, as more and more families are finding themselves in difficulty as a result of the pandemic.

Remembrance Day

On Thursday 11th November, our pupil Gift team will be representing the school at the War Memorial in St Gregory's churchyard.



Poppy Appeal

Please can I remind you that we have a selection of items available for the Poppy Appeal from the office. These will be available for another week.



School Photos

On **Monday 8th November**, children will be having their Portrait Photos taken - please note, **only siblings in school** allowed photos together. There is a new system for this to reduce admin for school and support us in being Covid-secure whilst minimising our carbon footprint. Handing out proofs and collecting orders from parents is a thing of the past. Once Tempest have taken the photos, they email / text you a link so that you can order online. Photographs will be delivered back to home addresses. **If your child has PE on Monday, please ensure they wear their school uniform and bring their PE kit to change into for that day only.**



Children in Need

To support Children in Need, on Friday 19th November, we will be asking the children to come to school wearing spotty clothes and bring a donation for Children in Need.

Colder weather

Please remind your children to bring their coats, hats and gloves etc into school.



Flu Immunisation

11th November - You will already have received a letter from the office regarding this - please remember to complete the online form.

5 reasons to get your child vaccinated (from NHS leaflet)

1. *Protect your child - The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia*
2. *Protect you, your family and friends - Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family*
3. *No injection needed - The nasal spray is painless and easy to have*
4. *It's better than having flu - The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record*
5. *Avoid costs - If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare*

PTFA

Our PTFA met recently and have already put things in motion! First on their list is to organise a non-uniform day in exchange for specific types of items for the Christmas Hampers being organised. They have also arranged for the book fair to come to school for a week starting on 7th December – this will be a perfect opportunity for some Christmas shopping! – more details to follow from the PTFA.



TT Rockstars Competition

Message from Mr Young:



For Maths Week England we want to make maths exciting and high profile in our school. We will be taking part in a friendly competition involving schools from England from Monday 8th November to Thursday 11th November. It's all done online via <https://play.ttrockstars.com>

For every correct answer to a multiplication or division question, your child will earn their class a point. The Times Tables Rock Stars platform will calculate the class average (the number of correct answers per pupil in the class who play during the competition hours, subject to a daily 60-minute limit (see below)). Winning classes in the school and in the competition as a whole will be the ones with the highest average.

All game modes (Gig, Garage, Studio, etc.) will count but only from games played between 7:30AM GMT and 7:30PM GMT on Monday 8th, Tuesday 9th, Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th. To support player wellbeing, there is a daily time limit of 60

minutes per player. In other words, each player can earn competition points for up to 60 minutes between 7.30am and 7.30pm. Once the player goes beyond 60 minutes of play on a given day, they will still earn coins but will no longer earn points towards the competition.

In the spirit of the competition, please don't play on their behalf but by all means encourage and support them to the extent that it doesn't cause high stress levels or impact on family plans. We suggest a limit of half an hour a day outside school hours – some will play more; some will play less.

Competition

Our school Meal provider Chartwells have launched a campaign for children who will have the opportunity to collect a Food Super Hero Card every day for the first week and then one card per week thereafter when they eat a school meal on a Thursday in November and December.

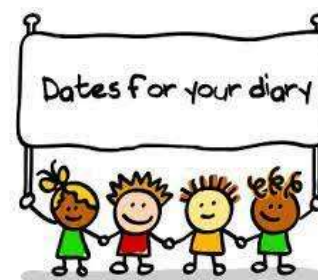


The idea is for children who order schools meals will receive a Food Super Hero Card with every meal from the week commencing 8th November every day through to the end of the week, they will then receive a card every Thursday starting on 18th November through to Thursday 9th December.

The Food Super Hero Cards will help children to learn nutritional facts and develop numeracy skills all whilst having fun.

The cards can be handed out to your children after lunch, or placed on their meal tray during the lunch service, or at a more suitable time during the school day.

As the cut-off point for ordering school meals for w/c 8th November has already passed, this campaign will run from Monday 15th November.



Dates for your diary:

- **Monday 8th November – School Photos (individual)**
- **Thursday 11th November – GIFT Team to attend Marnhull service**
- **Thursday 11th November – Flu immunisations**
- **Friday 12th November – PTFA Non-Uniform Day (Items for Christmas hampers)**
- **Monday 12th November Odd Sock Day to launch Anti-Bullying Week**
- **Friday 19th November – Children in Need – Spotty day**
- **Tuesday 7th December – Book Fair**
- **Wednesday 8th December 9:30 - Whole School Mass in church**
- **Friday 10th December – Christmas Jumper Day**
- **Thursday 16th December 2pm – Blessing of the Crib and carols in church**
- **Friday 17th December – last day of the Autumn term**
- **Tuesday 4th January 2022 – children return to school**
- **Thursday 6th January 9:30 - Whole School Mass in church**

Thank you for your continued support,

Sharon Betts
Headteacher



Bonfire Night Safety

Firework Safety

Lighting fireworks is very dangerous and should only be done by a responsible adult. Don't be tempted to play with fireworks. If you go to an organised firework display, or if your family is setting off fireworks at home, adults should always follow the Firework Code:

- Keep fireworks in a closed box
- Follow the instructions for lighting them very carefully
- Light them at arm's length
- Stand well back
- Never go back to a lit firework
- Never put fireworks in your pocket
- Never throw fireworks

The only fireworks you should touch are...

Sparklers

- Light sparklers one at a time
- Always wear gloves to protect your hands
- Keep your sparkler at arms length
- Be careful not to burn yourself or others

Make sure your pets are safe and secure at home - they might not like fireworks!

