



St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School

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Value of the Week
Hope

Newsletter Issue 1
Week ending Friday 6th September 2024

'For I know the plans I have for you. Plans to prosper you not harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future..' Jeremiah 29:11

Welcome Back

Welcome back to a brand new school year. A special welcome must go to our new Year 3 children who have made a super start to their new school. A big welcome also to Miss Evans, Miss Ngondozi and Miss Buchanan who have joined our school team. We hope that all our new starters will be very happy at our school.

Attendance and Punctuality

As always, we will be having a big push on attendance and punctuality this year as pupils' progress (both academic and social) is directly impacted by poor attendance. This year, we will be working in 'days' and 'lessons missed' rather than in percentages and parents will be alerted at the first sign of a child's attendance causing concern. Please note that holidays in term time are not authorised and are likely to incur a fine. Likewise, ten sessions of unauthorised absence within a ten week rolling period may also incur a penalty (possibly a fine).

As a rough guide:-

Equates to	ATTENDANCE	
0 SCHOOL DAYS ABSENCE (in a school year)	0 missed lessons	PERFECTION
4 SCHOOL DAYS ABSENCE (in a school year)	20 missed lessons	IMPRESSIVE
7 SCHOOL DAYS ABSENCE (in a school year)	35 missed lessons	GOOD
9 SCHOOL DAYS ABSENCE (in a school year)	45 missed lessons	NEARLY THERE
11 SCHOOL DAYS ABSENCE (in a school year)	55 missed lessons	NEEDS TO IMPROVE
19 SCHOOL DAYS ABSENCE (in a school year)	95 missed lessons	SERIOUS CONCERNS
29 SCHOOL DAYS ABSENCE (in a school year)	145	GRAVE CONCERNS

Recognition

This year, we will not be publicising our weekly certificate winners in the newsletter. Instead, we will have a recognition section on the newsletter and will recognise achievements/successes both in school and out of school. If your child has an out of school achievement, please let their class teacher know so that they can be included in the newsletter. You may also send their success to the Senior Leadership Team e mail: slt@smmj.org.uk.

Congratulations

A huge congratulations to Eden in 5PS who kindly donated her hair to the 'Little Princess Trust'. What a kind, selfless deed you have completed to support a charity - we are all proud of you for demonstrating our gospel values of love and kindness!



A New Start

It has been brilliant to see smiling faces walking around school this week as children have settled into their new classes. Here are a few pictures of children working hard this week:



Year 6 enjoyed PE!



Year 5 have been doing RE!



Year 4 had fun in English!

SPOTLIGHT CURRICULUM/AWARD

This year, we will be continuing with our SPOTLIGHT curriculum and are hopeful that, by the Awards Ceremony in the Summer Term, some pupils will have achieved their SPOTLIGHT Award. We have introduced a SPOTLIGHT Collectors' Card and once this has been filled (with a sticker for each aspect

of SPOTLIGHT), the child will be eligible for a SPOTLIGHT Award at the 2025 SMMJ University Celebration. Any aspects of SPOTLIGHT achieved last academic year will be carried forward to this year. This year, there will be more guidance provided as to what an Independent Project should look like/include. As a guide as to how to achieve recognition in each aspect of SPOTLIGHT:-

S-pupils will need to learn a new skill

P-take part in an out of school hours performance (eg. school production/out of school production)

O-take part in an oracy activity (eg. Speech Choir, a debate, deliver a speech to an audience)

T-represent the school in a team (eg. sport team, choir, out of school ambassador)

L-read 10 of our recommended reading books (L=Love of Reading)

I-independent project of the child's choice (guidance will be provided on this)

G-(Gospel values)-be nominated as Disciple of the week multiple times/taken part in an out of school Charity Event.

H (Health and Wellbeing)-complete at least 12 hours of extra-curricular activity

T-Taken part in a residential trip/ taken an out of school trip to a museum/gallery/the theatre

Parent Forum

Our Parent Forum Meetings are an ideal way for parents to be kept in touch with developments in school. They are also a platform for parents to bring to the attention any suggestions that they have for the future development of the school. The first of these meetings will take place next **Tuesday (10th September at 9.30am)**. All parents are invited to attend and the Zoom Code will be sent out to parents on Monday.

Anti-Bullying email address

As a school we are keen to ensure that every child's experience is a positive one. If any child feels that they are encountering difficulties with other children, they should alert school using the following e mail address:-

anti-bullying@smmj.org.uk

A member of the Pastoral team will regularly check these emails.

SHINE

Personal Development Curriculum

Following the success of our SHINE curriculum (in particular the recognition that we were given from the Ofsted inspector who inspected us last year). We will be continuing with our SHINE Curriculum this year. The elements of our SHINE Curriculum are as follows:-

Safety

Health and Wellbeing

Independence

News

Equality and Diversity.

The children will cover each element every half term and these lessons will provide lots of opportunities for discussion/debate and P4C (Philosophy for Children)

High School Admissions

For our Year 6 parents, applications for high school are now open and will close **on 31st October 2024**. Application to high school should be made via the council that you reside in.

Details will be available on the council website.

Should any parent require any support in completing the high school admission form, please do not hesitate to get in touch with school and a member of our team will assist you.

Breakfast and After School Club

Breakfast Club (£2) - 8.00am to the start of the child's registration session.

After School Club (£7) - End of the school day to 17.30pm.

We ask that parents do not send cash into school but instead pay via our ParentPay system.

It is essential that parents book their child a place for each session that they require. Children should not be sent into the Breakfast or After School Club without first having booked a place via parent pay.

Year 3 pupils have brought home their ParentPay login details this week.

Communication

If any parent has a question/concern/suggestion that they would like to bring to our attention, they should raise it via the class teacher in the first instance. If it is something that the class teacher will be unable to solve, please do not hesitate to contact your Year Group Head (Year 6-Mr Arnold (6SA), Year 5-Mr Hurst (5AH), Year 4-Miss Howell (4KH), Year 3-Miss Finnegan (3CF) or a member of the Senior Leadership Team (Mrs Wilkinson, Mrs Culley, Mrs Ambrose, Mr Pimblett. The SLT e mail is slt@smmj.org.uk.

We ask that, out of courtesy to staff, emails are only scheduled to arrive between 8am and 6pm (Monday-Friday only). Weekend/holiday emails should not be sent to any member of staff.

Healthy Eating

There is evidence to suggest that the healthier a child's diet is, the better able they are to concentrate. We would therefore like to offer parents a few suggestions as to what they might send in with their child to consume during their break times:-

Toast

Crumpet

Fresh fruit (avoid dried fruit at snack times)

Veg sticks

Low sugar rice cakes

Low sugar yoghurt

Soft cheese and crackers

Please note that crisps and chocolate will not be allowed to be consumed during morning break times. We recommend that children bring a labelled bottle of water to school to drink throughout the day.

Musician of The Month

As part of our Music Curriculum, we would like to expose our children to a range of musicians living/dead, from a variety of cultures and covering a range of genres (classical, pop, rock, reggae, Musical Theatre). September's Musician of the Month is Bob Marley. The children will learn about Bob Marley and his music over a series of assemblies and some Home Resources will also be provided for the children. At the end of each month, we tend to have a music quiz to see how much information the children have remembered and how many pieces of their music they recognised!

Year 4 Holy Communion

A short Holy Communion enrolment meeting for our current Year 4 pupils will take place on **Tuesday 10th September** at **5.30pm** in the school hall. Please bring a copy of your child's baptism certificate with you. Your child will need to have been baptised in a catholic church to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Mobile Phones

Please note that, unless a Mobile Phone contract has been signed (by the parent and child) and returned to school (for the attention of Mrs Culley), mobile phones will not be allowed in school. Mobile phones will be confiscated should a child without a contract bring one into school. Should this happen, the phone will be returned to a parent/responsible adult at the end of the day. Should parents wish their child to bring a phone into school (because their child is walking home/going home with someone different), please request a contract from Mrs Culley or your child's class teacher.

AUTUMN TERM DATES FOR DIARY

Dates are subject to change in certain circumstances-in the case of changes, we will endeavour to give parents as much notice as possible.
Dates may also be added

September

10th Parent Forum (9.30am)
Holy Communion Enrolment for Year 4 (5.30pm in the school hall)
25th Full Governors' Meeting
27th MacMillan Coffee Morning in the school hall 9.30-10.30am
30th School Photograph Day

October

4th-Theatre Café
Week beginning 7th October-Year 3 Child Centred Reviews (for parents of pupils with SEND)
8th-14th- Book Fair in School
Week Beginning 14th-Year 4 Child Centred Reviews(for parents of pupils with SEND)
18th St Margaret Mary Mass
Week Beginning 21st-Year 5 Child Centred Reviews(for parents of pupils with SEND)
22nd Year 4 Harvest Assembly (1.30pm)
23rd Year 4 Harvest Assembly (1.30pm)
25th School closes for the half term holiday
31st Closing Date for Secondary School Applications

November

4th-Return to school following half term holiday
Week Beginning 4th-Year 6 Swimming
Year 6 Child Centred Reviews(for parents of pupils with SEND)
8th Theatre Café
Week Beginning 11th Year 6 Swimming
Anti-Bullying Week
11th-Remembrance Assembly
15th-Charity Day-Time for Bed
Week Beginning 18th Year 5 Swimming
Assessment Week in School
22nd Theatre Cafe
Week Beginning 25th Year 5 Swimming
27th-School Closed for INSET Day

December

Week Beginning 2nd Assertive Mentoring Conversations (Dates and Times to be decided)
2nd-St Andrew's Day to be celebrated today (St Andrew's House Team have the option to wear a splash of blue)
4th Year Meeting of the Full Governing Body
7th 3GT and 3HM to work with the CLC
6th Christmas Jumper Day
Coffee Morning
Christmas Fair (pm) 2pm-4.15pm
Week Beginning 9th Assertive Mentoring Conversations (Dates and Times to be decided)
9th Stay and Pray Event
10th 6JK Assertive Mentoring Conversations
11h Year 3 Nativity Performance for Parents (1.30pm)

12th Year 3 Nativity Performance for parents (9.30am)
13th Theatre Cafe
16th Christmas Party
17th Whole School to the Christmas Pantomime-Peter Pan
18th-Christmas Carol Event for Parents (2pm)
20th End of Term Mass
Break up for the Christmas Holiday (1.30pm)

Thank You!

Many thanks to all parents for your ongoing support of the school. It is very much appreciated!
We very much look forward to once again working in partnership with you this year

Loving, learning, growing together with Jesus



We're working towards Artsmark
Awarded by Arts Council England

