



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

*"a place of educational excellence
with Christ at its centre"*

Autumn Term 1

Head teacher: Mrs L. Concannon

A message from the Chair of Governors.

Dear Parents,
I hope you are all keeping well during these very difficult and trying times.
I along with the other governors are thrilled that St Mary's has been able to reopen this autumn term and importantly remain open. This is testament to everyone's hard work, commitment and dedication. We extend our sincere gratitude to Mrs Concannon and her wonderful school team. I will be writing to you every half term to update you with the work we as governors are undertaking to ensure the school is fully supported and able to provide an outstanding education to our children.
Kind regards
Rebecca Iley, Chair of Governors

The Governing Board

Rebecca Iley – Chair of Governors
Raphaëlle Clark – Foundation Governor
Ksenija da Silva – Foundations Governor
Steve Prance – Parent Governor
Rosie Russell – Parent Governor
Debbie Brimson – Staff Governor

We will be welcoming two new governors:
Fr. John – to replace Fr. James
Lisa Beavers – Foundation governor taking over from Raphaëlle Clark who's term has come to an end.

We will be recruiting in the New Year please look out for further details if you are interested in joining the board.

Premises – There has been a lot of work over the summer to improve the school building, we have replaced very old windows and doors with new throughout, the water and heating has also been reviewed and improved where required. In addition, teachers and staff have painted and decorated to refresh their classrooms and communal spaces, this went over and above their day-to-day responsibilities and we are very thankful to them for ensuring their classrooms remain an inspirational learning environment. It was however necessary for them to do this as the school budget did not allow for external labour. You will have seen Mrs Concannon's requests on previous communications to sign up to our school buildings fund, we would urge as many of you as possible please to do this. With the additional funds, we will be able to keep the school building safe, secure and well maintained. You only need pay what you can afford, but every little really does help! Next on the job list is to remediate the school roof. If you are able to contribute on either a monthly basis or a one off donation, please contact Mrs King in the school office who will be able to help you – Our sincere thanks in advance.

Standards and Achievements – all children have undertaken back to school assessments to determine the level they are currently working at following the lockdown period. The results were unfortunately as expected with many children at least 2 levels behind where we would expect them to be. This is being addressed with several targeted interventions; COVID catch up sessions, resuming Read Write Inc strategies, continuing with a full and varied curriculum, math reasoning workshops to name but a few. The children have already made great progress in their first half term back; however, there is still some concerns with the level of writing throughout the school. Please continue to support your children with regular reading, homework and extracurricular learning, as this will enhance the work completed in school. We are exploring the possibility of hosting a parent's information and guidance evening to help you to support your children, planning is underway as to how best to do this with current COVID restrictions. Please look out for upcoming dates.

Catholic Life – The catholic ethos of the school continues to flourish despite the COVID restrictions in place. Children are partaking in class assemblies and worship. Fr. John has been able to meet each class, although at this time the Diocese request that children do not attend whole school masses or their local churches. For the children to enjoy collective worship Mrs Concannon is looking into the possibility of linking up with other catholic schools in our dioceses for online worship. At present, we are not able to plan for children to recommence their sacramental preparations for Confirmation and Holy Communion, however it is at the forefront of our minds and as soon as we are able we will restart.

Safeguarding – following a recent external review of our safeguarding policy and procedures and observations within the school setting, we were judged to be at a very high level. We will of course continue to seek improvement and make adjustments as necessary. Thank you to all for your continued commitment and support to ensure our children are safe. Should you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish discuss anything detailed on this newsletter or any other matters.

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