

# ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



## NEWSLETTER

October 2021

Almost a whole half term in school complete already (only just three weeks to go including this week)! Thank you to all who have worked hard to make these first weeks a success. It's good to see the new children settling so happily in Reception and Nursery. Welcome to any new children who have joined other classes this year - thank you to the children already in school for being friendly, welcoming and kind to our new pupils.



### Where can I find out more about St. Mary's School?

If you visit [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk) and click on 'Inspection Reports' you can access the full inspection report for our school.

Also if you visit the website for the Diocese of Westminster at [www.rcdow.org.uk](http://www.rcdow.org.uk) and click on

'Find a School' you can read the full Section 48 inspection report for our school (I know many of you are aware that our school is also inspected by inspectors from the Diocese of Westminster. The school was last inspected in September 2019 by 3 Diocesan inspectors and received an Outstanding grading. This wonderful outcome is due to the hard work of all members of our community - children, parents and staff).



If you have any questions about the work, the organisation of the classroom, need any support or just want to say hello please contact the teacher via the year group e-mail address or via the school address or call us at school. I know the teachers are always happy to hear from you.

Staff will also be on the playground each afternoon if you need to check anything. Remember please to practise social distancing.

Year Group Addresses:

[nursery@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk](mailto:nursery@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk)

[reception@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk](mailto:reception@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk)

[year1@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk](mailto:year1@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk)

[year2@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk](mailto:year2@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk)

[year3@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk](mailto:year3@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk)

[year4@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk](mailto:year4@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk)

[year5@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk](mailto:year5@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk)

[year6@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk](mailto:year6@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk)

### Please Stay Safe

Please try to keep yourself safe as I know you are aware that coronavirus has not gone away.

If you are coming into the school office / lobby area please wear a face covering and maintain a safe distance from others.

Parents, although we continue to be extremely careful in school, washing our hands before and after we touch any letters, packs etc. which go home and keeping handling to an absolute minimum please ensure that you / your child washes your/their hands after

touching anything which you receive from school as you would do with any post or delivery to your home. You might consider having a box just inside your front door for any uniform, school bags etc. so that everything is wiped down before it is brought in. We will try to scan and email as much as possible too to avoid too many bits going home.

### Handwashing Advice



We know that it is essential that everyone continues to wash their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (i.e. when outside) but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides.

Guidance and video on hand washing can be found at: <https://www.nhs.uk/live->

[well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/](https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/)

### Safe Parking

Thank you to all parents and carers who continue to support the school by parking safely away from Durants Road and walking with their children. This really helps and the support we receive from so many parents always with everything we do is a great strength of our school.

We continue to deal with complaints from some of the local residents due to the behaviour of a minority of parents and child minders who behave in a disrespectful manner.

Please remember that if you do the wrong thing our whole community suffers the consequences.

Please try hard to:

- Park away from Durants Road and walk with your child. This is better for your general health and reduces the fumes and pollution around the school. If you can, leave the car at home and try to build the walking time into your child's day. If a child minder or another family member brings your child to school please encourage them to park

away from Durants Road.

- Please do not sit in the car with the engine running. This is not good for the health of others.
- Never park in / across any of the driveways even for a minute. This is disrespectful and causes a lot of problems.
- Never park on the zig-zag lines during the designated no parking times (please check the signs) or in the disabled bays which are reserved for blue badge holders.

### Safer travel guidance for children

It continues to be a requirement to wear a face covering when travelling in England on public transport including a bus, coach, tram or train. Where travel with children is necessary, such as to an education setting, consider whether children could walk or cycle, accompanied by a responsible adult or carer, where appropriate. Face coverings should not be used by children under the age of 3, for safety reasons.

The Department for Transport's guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

### Wednesday Word

Have you started to read 'The Wednesday Word' yet?

*The Wednesday Word* is a gift to you and your family because of your connection with our Catholic school.

Every Wednesday, a 'word' (inspired by the Sunday Gospel) will be suggested for you and your family to talk about in your home.

This weekly Family Time is structured around the Sunday Gospel because evidence shows that Gospel values really do help family relationships to thrive.

Regularly spending quality time with children is without doubt one of the most important aspects of parenting. *The Wednesday Word* seeks to support you in this important task: to help you and your children maintain a special closeness throughout the school years.

*The Wednesday Word* 'Family Time' leaflet is designed to ensure that all family members feel included. It presents an effective way for even the busiest of parents to enrich relationships with their children through spending a

very special 5 or 10 minutes together each week.

We suggest Wednesdays for *Family Time* because it is the day that the Catholic Church dedicates to St Joseph - the Patron Saint of Families. But rather than miss out, any other night would do just as well.

The Wednesday Word is currently available online:

<http://www.wednesdayword.org/index.html>



### 100% Attendance for 2020-2021 School Year

90 (89 in 2019-2020) pupils had 100% attendance! Well done children and parents! This is excellent!



153 children had 100% attendance in the summer term! Well done!

### The Angelus

In the autumn term we try to learn / say *The Angelus* each day at 12 noon in all of our junior classes from Year

3 - Year 6. This is a wonderful prayer which reminds us that God the Son became man in order to save us.

You might like to say this prayer with your child at home. It can be said in the morning, at noon or in the evening.

### The Angelus

The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:  
And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.  
Hail Mary...

Behold the handmaid of the Lord:  
Be it done to me according to your word.

Hail Mary...

And the Word was made Flesh:  
And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...  
Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.  
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us Pray.  
Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may be brought by his passion and cross to the glory of his resurrection, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.  
May the divine assistance remain always with us and may

the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



### Online Safety at Home

You might find the following link helpful:

<https://www.kidsonlineworld.com/#>

This site has been created by ECP, the company which has provided our staff safeguarding training for many years and has provided numerous sessions of online safety for our children and parents. This company also provides training on behalf of the local authority and to many different business and community groups.

There is some really useful help to understand apps, games and parental controls.



Thinkuknow is the education programme from the National Crime Agency's Child

Protection Command CEOP (NCA-CEOP) whose aim is to protect children and young people from sexual abuse online.

For more information, advice and guidance, visit their [parent's website](#) and download their home activity worksheets for fun, online safety activities to do with your family.

### Watching videos

Children love to watch videos and YouTube is always a firm favourite! But sometimes children can be exposed to videos that are not meant for them. [YouTube Kids](#) is a safer way for children to explore their interests. You can find more information about this on [YouTube: what parents need to know](#).

Remember, primary-age children should be supervised at all times when online.

### Sharing pictures

Using devices like phones and tablets to share pictures and videos can be a great way for children to have fun and stay in touch with friends and family. It's really important your child knows what's ok to share online and what they should check with you first.

Read [younger children sharing pictures or videos online](#) for

more information on the risks and how to support safer sharing.

### What is mental health?

We all have mental health. Mental health is about our feelings, our thinking, our emotions and our moods.

Looking after our mental health is important. We all have small feelings every day: These sometimes feel strong and overwhelming, whether happy or sad, but they go away before too long.

Sometimes we experience big feelings: These feel strong and overwhelming for a long time. They stop us doing what we want to in our lives.

### Christian Meditation

We appreciate what a challenging time this continues to be for many children and their families.

As you know the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM) has worked to develop videos which provide short meditation sessions which children and young people can participate in, whether in school or at home. These sessions are inspired by meditation in the tradition of John Main OSB.

Full details are available here: <https://www.cathchild.org>

[g.uk/meditation-with-children-young-people/](http://g.uk/meditation-with-children-young-people/)

### Harvest

This year we are again supporting the Manna Centre, a centre for the homeless in London. Thank you for your very generous contributions to date. Again last year the representative from the Manna Centre again said that our collection was the most food received from a school. We celebrated our Harvest Mass on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September.



### October is Black History Month

Here are some words to think about:

#### EMPATHY

When we think about how other people feel, because different people have different feelings. Sometimes it helps to think about how you would feel if the same thing that happened to your friend, happened to you.

#### DIVERSITY

Different people do different things and have different feelings. It's so important that we have lots of different kinds of people in our

community and that everyone feels safe.

#### UNAPOLOGETICALLY

People should not have to apologise or say sorry for being different. One way we are different is the colour of our skin. It's important that all people are treated fairly.

Look at the story links below and think about the questions, there are a few activity ideas too;

**The Day You Begin** by Jaqueline Woodson

Have you ever felt different or like you don't fit in?

Have you ever seen others making fun of people for being different?

#### Watch Here

**One** by Katherine Otoshi  
What can we do if we see people being treated unfairly?  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbgsR0SP0yQ>

**All the Colours of the Earth** by Sheila Hamanaka  
Watch Here

**The Colours of Us** by Karen Katz  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=679Sw4IACAK>

**Black all Around** by Patricia Hubbell and Don Tate  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cwiInpiQ0qc>

Here are some stories that celebrate being 'unapologetically black' and celebrating diversity. There are some stories to teach you about the Civil Rights Movement in America and to help you understand how people have fought and continue to fight for equality for all people.

**Mary had a Little Glam** by Tammi Sauer  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qs19IaMc4bY>

**Child of the Civil Rights Movement** by Paula Young Shelton and Raul Colon  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XbfRAoO142g>

**I love my Hair** by by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley and E.B. Lewis  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jl\\_jlQc2Iok](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jl_jlQc2Iok)

**A Sweet Smell of Roses** by Angela Johnson and Eric Velazquez  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bWDvuTWN91w>

**We March** by Shane W. Evans  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P1QqHZ88KBY>

**Emmanuel's Dream** by Laurie Ann Thompson and Sean Qualls  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBhTOSyXi2o>

Hair Love by Matthew A. Cherry

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6Iw3gmX39Y>

Ada Twist, Scientist by Andrea Beaty and David Roberts

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5tQcSKH37AY>

Green Pants by Kenneth Kraegel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQ5t9nI7LSo>

Those Shoes by Maribeth Boelts and Noah Z. Jones

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LjUFJEduguk>

#### Participating in Mass online

As you are probably aware there is still no obligation to attend Mass on Sunday.

Please see the website for the Diocese of Westminster

<https://rcdow.org.uk/> for links and further information or follow the links on our school website (Religious Education page or Parents' page).

Since Saturday 4th July 2020 there has been live streaming of our parish services, The link is:

<https://www.churchservices.tv/en/field>



#### Support for Prayer from Ten Ten

- Sunday Liturgy for Families -

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/sunday-liturgy-for-families>

#### Uniform

Uniform can be purchased online by logging onto ParentPay and clicking on the school shop link. Items purchased will be available for collection from the school office.

Please ensure that your child's clothing is labelled. Labelled clothing when found can be returned to its owner while unlabelled items generally remain in lost property. Please encourage your child to wear the correct uniform (including PE uniform) **and to leave jewellery at home.**

Uniform is part of our identity at St. Mary's. Thank you to all of the children (and their parents) who have come back to school wearing neat correct uniform.

#### Hair

Please ensure long hair is tied back in school colours only (blue / black / white). **No highlights, designs, lines or dyes** to be put in hair please. Mohican hairstyles are not permitted.

#### Nails

False nails or nail polish are **not** permitted in school.

#### Year 6 Secondary School Transfer

Father John will be available to sign references on the following date:

Thursday 14th October from 5pm-6pm

This meeting will take place in the Parish Hall.

If you have not already done and will require a reference to support an application for a secondary school place please make an appointment by telephoning 8804 2396 (our school number - our office staff will be pleased to make an appointment for you).

Father John has asked that both the child and parent attend. He would like you to bring along with you your child's Birth and Baptismal certificates and proof of address.

#### Development of School Building and Site - School Fund



We have had a continuous programme of updating and improving our school site over the last 20 years.

During the summer holidays two years ago we renewed the toilets for the Reception children after securing a grant.

Last year during the summer half-term we had the ground floor carpet replaced and renewed some of the older interactive boards.

This year we arranged for a canopy (covered walkway) to be erected along the back of the old building to provide shelter /shade for the school community as they move around.

Remember your donations to the School Fund assist the school in improving the facilities provided for all of the children. This is part of your commitment to the wider community and Catholic Education.

Thank you to all who made contributions last school year and to date this year.

Your support for the School Fund will make a real difference to what we are able to do for the children.

School Fund costs £2.00 per week / £25.00 per term / £76.00 per year for one child.

For two children School Fund costs £2.50 per week / £32.00 per term / £95.00 per year.

If you have three children in the school School Fund costs £3.00 per week / £38.00 per term / £114.00 per year.

If each family in our school paid its School Fund for one year we would have at least £20,000 in donations! This money would make a real difference to our school and to our provision for the children.



### School Dinners

School meals cost £2.50 per day / £12.50 per week (from September 2016).



**Please pay in advance (at least a week in advance) online using the Parent Pay system or ask the Office staff for a Pay Point card.**

**Remember that if your child has school meals (and is not entitled to free meals) and you don't pay for them the school has to find the money**

**to pay your debt. Always pay for your child's meals.**

**Your child may be entitled to free meals.** To qualify for free school meals parents or guardians must be in receipt of:

- Income support
- Income based job seekers allowance
- Asylum seekers subsistence payment (support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999)
- Child tax credit (but not working tax credit) only and have an annual income of less than £16,190

Please contact the school office if you believe your child qualifies for free meals.

### Some Dates for this term

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October: Month of Rosary begins. The older class groups will try to say a decade of the Rosary each day at school. You might like to do the same at home.

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October: Online Safety sessions for pupils. Month of the Rosary begins - children are encouraged to bring their rosary beads to school for prayer.

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October: Year 4 to parish Mass at 10am (face coverings are required).

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October: Online Safety sessions for pupils.

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October: Our Lady of the Rosary -School Mass in

church for Years 3-6 (face coverings are required). Rosary beads are blessed.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October: Year 5 to parish Mass at 10am (face coverings are required).

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October: Year 6 trip to PGL (return on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October).

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October: Year 2 to parish Mass at 10am (face coverings are required).

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October: Own Clothes' Day.

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October: HALF-TERM (No School)**

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November: Feast of All Souls - School Mass in church for Years 1-6 (face coverings are required).

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November and

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November: Judaism workshops.

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November: Year 3 to parish Mass at 10am (face coverings are required).

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November: Bring your Dad to School AM.

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November: Year 1 Christmas Performance AM (parents with babies and toddlers).

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November: Year 4 to parish Mass at 10am (face coverings are required).

Reception Christmas Performance AM (parents with babies and toddlers).

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November: Reception Christmas Performance AM (adults).

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November: Year 1 Christmas Performance AM (adults).

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November: School Mass in church for Years 1-6 (face coverings are required) for Blessing of Advent Wreath.

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December: Years 5 and 6 to Mass at 10am (face coverings are required).

Year 2 Carol Service for parents / relatives, 9.30am (for Nightingale Hospice).

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December: Nursery Christmas Performance.

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - School Mass in church for Years 1-6 (face coverings are required).

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Lunch.

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Class Parties PM. Junior Carol Service in church, 6.30pm (for the Nightingale Hospice)

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December: Last day of autumn term - School Mass (Mrs. Derwin's 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary Mass) in church for Years 1-6 (face coverings are required).

Early Closing (12.45 Infants and 1pm Juniors). Own Clothes' Day.

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022: Return to school for Spring Term.

*On occasions it is necessary to change dates and in the current pandemic times it may be that some of what we have planned may not actually happen in the end. I apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause.*

These are some of the prayers we say with the children each day in school. You might like to say these in the morning with

your child, at meal times or before he / she goes to bed.

### Morning Offering

O My God, you love me,  
You are with me night and day.  
I want to love you always in all I do and say.  
I'll try to please you Father.  
Bless me through the day.  
Amen



### Night Prayer

God our Father, I come to say,  
Thank you for your love today.  
Thank you for my family,  
And all the things you give to me.  
Guard me in the dark of night.  
And in the morning send your light. Amen.



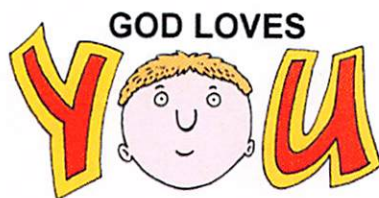
### Grace Before Meals

Bless us O Lord  
As we sit together.  
Bless the food we eat today.  
Bless the hands that made the food.  
Bless us O Lord. Amen.

### Grace After Meals



Thank you God  
For the food we have eaten.  
Thank you God  
For all our friends.  
Thank you God  
For everything.



#### Thank you and Best Wishes!

Thank you for your continuous support. We are truly blessed with the support we receive from our families always.

Stay safe and well please. You and your children remain in our prayers at school every day.

Miss M. Creed  
Headteacher

#### The God Who Speaks

The key themes of *The God Who Speaks* are:

**Celebrating God's Word** - enriching our worshipping and spiritual community;

**Living God's Word** - enriching our social action and outreach;

**Sharing God's Word** - enriching our evangelisation, formation and proclamation.

*"The study of the sacred Scriptures must be a door opened to every believer. It is essential that the revealed word radically enrich our catechesis and all our efforts to pass on the faith..."*

Pope Francis - *Evangelii Gaudium*



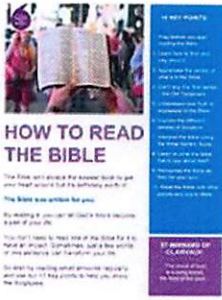
*"... to help young people to gain confidence and familiarity with sacred Scripture so it can become a compass pointing out the path to follow... witnesses and teachers who can walk with them, teaching them to love the Gospel and to share it...."*

Pope Benedict XVI - *Verbum Domini*



#### How to Read the Bible

1. Pray before you start reading the Bible.
2. Learn how to find your way around.
3. Appreciate the variety of what's in the Bible.
4. Don't skip the 'first series' - the Old Testament.
5. Understand how truth is expressed in the Bible.
6. Explore the different senses of Scripture.
7. Interpret the Bible using the three golden rules.
8. Listen to what the Bible has to say about itself.
9. Recognise the Bible as food for your soul.
10. Read the Bible with other people and share ideas.



**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC  
PRIMARY SCHOOL  
ADMISSIONS FOR  
ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/2022**

*Due to the fact that there are now fewer pupils in London (decrease in the population of children) and the issues with finding affordable housing (as is usually the case of our families were moved out of London over the summer period) we currently have places in our Nursery, Reception and Year 2 2021 year groups and some places in some of our other year groups.*

<https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/How-to-read-the-Bible.pdf>

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/word-on-the-go/a-crash-course-on-scripture/> (Click on this link for a Scripture crash course!)

Dear God,  
We thank you for giving us your peace.  
Help us to spread peace at home and at school by loving and caring for one another.  
Help us to spread peace by listening to one another, even when we don't agree.  
Help us to spread peace by sharing our time with those who are lonely and who need a friend.  
Help us to spread peace by thinking and praying for children who have no food or who are frightened and live in fear.  
Let us pray every day for peace for our families, for our friends and for ourselves. Amen.

**Thank you parents for recommending our school and helping to build up our pupil numbers. Please continue to do this.**

From our School Inspection Reports:

*'The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection...Pupils make good progress from their various starting points...Their willingness to come to school is evident in their well above average rates of attendance...You have successfully maintained the above-average attainment by the end of Year 6 in reading, writing and mathematics...Teachers form good relationships with pupils,*

*providing them with a wealth of interesting activities across the curriculum. Pupils concentrate well in class and are keen to work with each other...Pupils say they feel safe at school and know how to avoid danger in the wider community'(OFSTED Inspection, June 2018).*

*'A. Classroom religious education is outstanding*

- The school has adapted and developed the themes of the Religious Education Curriculum Directory in an excellent manner to meet the learning needs of the pupils' of St Mary's.*
- The religious education programme in use fully delivers this content and the use of De Bono system in religious education pushes pupils to develop their understanding further.*
- After carefully analysing the needs of their pupils, the school has developed a curriculum and teaching programme that has reached outstanding achievement by the pupils in religious education.*
- Teachers have high expectations and plan lessons that deepen pupils' religious literacy.*
- Since the last inspection, staff confidence in recording and assessment has been demonstrably achieved with the evidence*

of the clarity and confidence on the part of the staff in planning imaginative lessons based on the religious education programme followed in the school.

- The headteacher is also the religious education curriculum coordinator and she takes the closest interest in developing the excellent teaching and learning of religious education in the school.
- The chair of governors is a recent appointment but with her years of experience on the governing body she is clear in her role of both support and challenge in pursuing the special responsibility of governors of a Catholic school.

*B. The Catholic life of the school is outstanding*

- The curriculum fully conforms to the classroom curriculum time of at least 10% for religious education and teaching is fully in line with the requirements of the Bishops' Conference.
- The previous inspection asked the school to develop pupils' understanding of Catholic Social Teaching and to help pupils understand the ethics of the market

place and fair trade. The school has fully addressed these priorities, both in their classroom teaching and in the encouragement offered when choosing charities to support.

- The pupils of St Mary's enjoy an outstanding experience of prayer, liturgy and Catholic worship.
- Pupils and staff have a deep understanding of the call to 'human flourishing' and are given opportunities to develop and celebrate their gifts and talents.
- Partnership with the parents is excellent; they appreciate and support all that the school provides for their children.
- The leadership and management of the school are very effective in promoting the Catholic life of the school. The head is strong and devoted in providing both oversight and support on all aspects of Catholic life. The contribution and regular visits of the parish priest provides a strong and stable reinforcement of the foundational position of Catholicism in the life of the school' (OFSTED Section 48

*Inspection, September 2019).*

### **Our School Prayer**

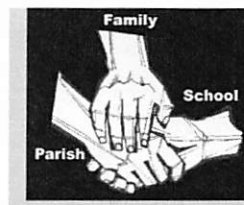
This is our school.  
May we all live here  
Happily together.  
May our school be full of  
joy.  
May love dwell here  
among us  
Every day.

Love of one another,  
Love of all people  
everywhere,  
Love of life itself,  
And love of God.

Let us all remember that  
As many hands build a  
house,  
So every child  
Can make this school  
A lovely place. Amen



# Family – Parish – School Links



## St. Mary's Catholic Primary School Autumn 2021 First Half-Term



### Newsletter for Parents – Nursery and Reception

#### Religious Education

##### Topic Theme: Beginnings

Children will explore how we 'begin': in our families, in our Church and at school.

##### Learning opportunities include:

- Coming to know that God loves each one always and at all times.
- Coming to know Jesus is God the Father's Son.
- Experiencing and becoming familiar with the sign of the cross.
- Knowing that they are special within their family and the community.
- Experiencing that a Church is a special place where God's people gather to pray.
- Coming to know that Sunday is a special day for the Church family who come together to celebrate.
- Experiencing and recognising prayer is talking and listening to God.
- Considering ways in which a Christian family and parish share and celebrate life, and show care for one another.

##### Monitoring opportunities:

Children's development will be monitored through observation and the collection of work samples for their portfolio.

#### Affective and Spiritual Dispositions

*It is hoped that pupils will develop:*

- Value being special within their families and communities
- Appreciate that families come together to celebrate
- Respect for each other and for adults.
- Good relationships with peers and with adults in the school community.
- Appreciation of their friendship with Jesus brought about through Baptism.

### Activities to try at home

Parents are the first educators of their child in faith. Children's learning in religious education occurs best when school and family are engaged in talking about the same topics. You could help your child by trying one or more of these activities while this topic is being taught:

- Look over photo albums and recall stories of your family.
- Look at their Baptismal Certificate or photos of their Baptism. Explain who their Godparents are.
- Celebrate the friends you have who are from different cultures. Speak positively about difference.

### An idea for prayer at home

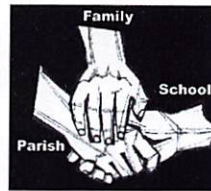
When you next collect your child from school take some time to walk around the Church and to prayerfully look at the religious items it contains. Allow your child to light a candle and together pray for a special intention.



# St. Mary's Catholic Primary

## Religious Education Newsletter for Autumn 2021

(first half-term) – Years 1-6



### Religious Education

#### Key Idea: Beginning with God

The framework of learning is intended as the last in the liturgical year, Year B; the first in the academic year 2021/2022. As the title suggests the content of this resource is the nature of God. Both belief in the singular nature of God (monotheism) and God as a Trinity are taught. New insights might be brought to pupils via exploration of a variety of Biblical metaphors for God and learning about the Nicene Creed as a time in history when the nature of Jesus was considered and clarified.

#### Attitudes and Spiritual Dispositions

**Spiritual Outcomes:** *It is hoped that pupils will develop:*

- An appreciation of the nature of God as greater than what we can imagine or know.
- A sense of the presence of God in their lives.

- An openness to wondering about God as 'three in one'.

#### Activities to try at home

You are the first educator of your child in faith. Your child's learning in religious education will be much greater if you and the school are engaged in talking about the same ideas and beliefs. This resource asks pupils to think about what God is like. Be open to the many metaphors they learn about and incorporate some into your family prayer.

#### An idea for prayer at home

##### Prayer Activity



Pray the following prayer with your child:

God who is bigger than all we can imagine or say.  
Help us to see you in our world; in the beauty of the natural world, in the traditions of our Church, in the stories of Scripture and in the people around us.  
May we remember that, created in your image, we are like you and we show others what you are like.  
We ask this through Jesus who took on human form to show us your great love.  
Amen.



# Online Safety Newsletter Oct 2021

## Roblox

### What is Roblox?

You can either use Roblox to create games or play games that other users have created. Roblox has a PEGI rating of 7+ BUT as a lot of the content is user generated, which PEGI does not rate, these games may not be suitable for your child to view/play.

### What should I be aware of?

**Chat Facility** - Players can chat to each other on Roblox. You can add parental controls to turn this feature off completely or add restrictions.

**Virtual Currency** - Players can buy Robux (their virtual currency) to buy in-game upgrades or accessories. If you do not want your child to purchase them, then ensure your card details are not saved.

### What should I do?

- Play the game with your child.
- Explore the parental controls within Roblox and set appropriately for your child (for example restrict access to age-appropriate games).
- Show your child how to use the Report Abuse system within Roblox to report inappropriate content and how to block other users.

### Further information:

- <https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>
- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/roblox-parents%E2%80%99-guide-%E2%80%93-what-it-and-it-safe-your-child>

## YouTube

*YouTube is intended for users over the age of 13, however the App store rates YouTube as 17+ due to the content that can be found on there.*

### How can I make YouTube safer?

- **Turn on Restricted mode** as this restricts the availability of mature content. You will need to set up a Google account to do this.
- **Explore YouTube together** and see what they like to watch. Make sure your child understands that they can **talk to you** if they see anything that makes them feel uncomfortable online.
- Ensure your child knows how to **report inappropriate content**.

### YouTube Kids



YouTube recommends that **YouTube Kids** is used for children under the age of 13 as it provides a safer environment and offers greater controls (you can select the shows that you would prefer them to watch). Find out how to set up the parental controls here:

<https://support.google.com/youtubekids/answer/6172308?hl=en-GB>

### Supervised experience (Beta version)

Managed by you by creating a supervised Google Account. It allows you to choose from three content settings:



- **Explore:** generally suitable for ages 9+.
- **Explore More:** generally suitable for viewers ages 13+.
- **Most of YouTube:** contains almost all YouTube content (except age-restricted content) so it *will* include sensitive topics that may only be appropriate for older teens. <https://www.youtube.com/myfamily/>



### Posting videos

You should be over 13 years of age to post videos. Talk to your child about posting videos, do they understand what information they should keep private and what to do if they receive negative comments? YouTube have produced these tips:

<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2802244?hl=en-GB>

### Should I let my child set up a YouTube account?

This article features the benefits and risks of using YouTube and their top tips: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/should-i-let-my-child-set-up-a-youtube-account/>



*Minecraft is rated 7+ or 12+ depending on which version you are playing.*

Minecraft remains ever popular and can be a great learning tool that is often used in schools to teach planning skills, recreate famous buildings in 3D and coding. Players use building blocks to create their own worlds.

If your child is playing Minecraft, then you need to ensure that it is being played safely.

## What should I be aware of?

- **Multiplayer** – children can interact with others (including strangers), you can switch this option off within settings.
- **Creative or survival mode?** Creative mode removes the survival elements of the game (no monsters) so may be a more appropriate mode for your child to play.
- **Chat facility** – you do have the option to switch this off.
- **Block and report players** – as with any game that your child plays with others, make sure they know how to block and report players within the game.

In addition, protect your child's privacy by using a nickname (don't include their age/birth year) rather than their real name for their profile and chat to your child to make sure that when playing online they know not to tell others personal information such as where they live, what school they go to and their age.

## Set up appropriate parental controls

Don't forget to make sure you have set up appropriate parental controls dependent on the device your child is using to play Minecraft.

## Further information

This poster includes some great tips for playing Minecraft safely:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/online-safety/minecraft-pdf.pdf>



## Is your child playing Gacha Life?

Gacha Life is rated 9+ on the App Store and Google Play Store. This article provides further information about this app as well as potential concerns:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/what-is-gacha-life-what-parents-need-to-know/>

## WhatsApp: View once

WhatsApp have introduced a new view once feature when sending photos and videos. This means that once the photo/video has been viewed, the recipient can't see it again and they won't have the ability to forward or save it.

You need to be aware that if your child is using WhatsApp, that they understand that even if they use this feature, the recipient could still take a screenshot or screen recording of the photo/video before it disappears without you knowing. They could then share this with other people.

More information available here: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/general/chats/about-view-once/>

## Ian Wright shares tips on gaming responsibly

Ian Wright shares his tips on gaming responsibly including playing games with your kids:

<https://youtu.be/pnWiong9C4c>

You can also visit Internet Matter's Online Gaming hub which provides advice on how to keep your family safe:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-gaming-advice/>



Parents/Carers

Please reply to: Peter Nathan  
Director of Education

E-mail:

Phone:

My Ref:

Your Ref:

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,


We are now several weeks into the Autumn school term which I really hope has gone well for you and your child/children. I am writing to keep you updated on the position regarding COVID19 in the borough and in schools in particular. As you know, the government have issued guidance advising schools to relax many of the measures we used last year to reduce infection. As you know and has been reported in the media, there are still many cases of COVID19 in schools and the community. This does mean that some schools may need to bring back some protective measures to contain any spread of the virus. This will vary from school to school as things such as ventilation options will be different, school sites are different, and some schools have extensive play areas and some don't. Schools may do some of the following:

- Change assembly arrangements to reduce mixing of children across classes
- Change break and lunchtime arrangements to reduce social mixing
- Have staggered start and end of day arrangements (some schools have found this a positive benefit and have chosen to keep this)
- Reintroduce mask wearing in communal areas (but not in lessons)
- Reintroduce bubbles if needed
- Move to remote learning for classes/year groups if necessary but only as a last resort due to a high level of COVID19 cases

Vaccines are being offered to children at secondary school who are between the ages of 12 to 15 and I am sure you will shortly or have already been contacted about the arrangements for this by your school.

**Tony Theodoulou**  
**Executive Director People**  
Enfield Council  
Civic Centre, Silver Street  
Enfield EN1 3XY

[www.enfield.gov.uk](http://www.enfield.gov.uk)

 If you need this document in another language or format contact the service using the details above.

As a reminder, please see below general information regarding COVID

### General COVID information

#### Symptoms

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you are not sure whether you or your child's symptoms suggest that they have coronavirus or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. If you are concerned about your child's health or the health of anyone else in your household please seek advice from your GP, use NHS 111 online <https://111.nhs.uk/> or call NHS 111.

#### **There are things you can do to reduce the risk of getting COVID-19:**

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get to your destination
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Yours sincerely,



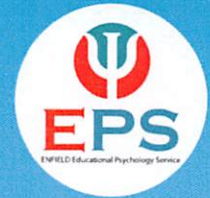
Peter Nathan  
Director of Education



Dudu Sher-Arami  
Acting Director of Public Health

**IMPORTANT** – Enfield residents should register for an online Enfield Connected account. Enfield Connected puts many Council services in one place, speeds up your payments and saves you time – to set up your account today go to [www.enfield.gov.uk/connected](http://www.enfield.gov.uk/connected)

# Enfield Psychology Service



## Telephone support line for parents and carers

In response to COVID-19, Enfield EP Service is offering Enfield parents and carers the opportunity to speak to an Educational Psychologist (EP) about a concern or issue they may have in relation to their child.

Educational Psychologists are professionals concerned with the development, learning and social and emotional wellbeing of children and young people. Issues we can help you to think about include:

- ▶ Learning
- ▶ Emotions (e.g. fears and worries, low mood, anger)
- ▶ Transitions at school and home
- ▶ Parenting
- ▶ Resource seeking
- ▶ Signposting to appropriate services



Calls can be booked between 9.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

If you have internet access, please **fill in the online form here** to request a phone call.

If you don't have access to the internet, please call us to request a phone call.

## 0208 379 2000

We will do our best to respond to your request within three working days.

A telephone consultation is not a formal referral to our service.

For more information email [eps-sews@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:eps-sews@enfield.gov.uk)

[www.enfield.gov.uk](http://www.enfield.gov.uk)

## Edibles: Information for Parents & Carers, May 2021

There is concern locally about the use of edibles by a small number of young people which has resulted in some requiring medical assistance. We are writing to share information with you about edibles and how to support children and young people who may have access to them.

### What are edibles?

Edibles are food products that may contain cannabis. There are many forms of edibles, including sweets, gummies and lollipops. They usually contain – or are marketed as containing – a number of chemicals, many of which are harmful and controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971) including tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). THC is the psychoactive compound in cannabis and can make people feel a range of effects, while cannabidiol (CBD) is the non-psychoactive chemical compound which does not have the same effect. Any CBD product containing THC is illegal in the UK.

The sweet versions are widely available on the internet and via social media and may be easily accessed by young people. The packaging is often deliberately targeted to attract young people. There is NO quality control of these products.

### What are we worried about?

The amount of cannabis in these products can vary greatly and sometimes other harmful drugs are added too. The effects of consuming edibles are unpredictable and it can be very easy to accidentally take a larger dose. Edibles take between 1-3 hours to have an effect because food is absorbed into the bloodstream through the liver. Because it takes longer, the person taking them may end up consuming larger amounts of the drug while thinking the drug isn't working. As edibles may look like other products, there is also the risk someone may ingest them without realising they contain drugs - this could include other children in the home.

#### Displayed side effects may include:

paranoia	panic attacks
nausea	impaired mobility
hyperactivity	elevated heart rate
hallucinations	

### What can you do?

We recommend monitoring food packaging/ wrappers, looking for wording such as CBD or THC suggesting the items are cannabis oil infused.

Please be mindful of the medical needs should a child present with symptoms, or if you suspect they have consumed a drug-laced substance. **In a medical emergency call 999.**

If you are made aware of any social media accounts advertising these items, we ask you report this information to the police, school or [Crime Stoppers](#).

### Local service:

[Catch22, Surrey Young People's Substance Misuse Service](#) is a county-wide specialist treatment service for young people aged up to 25. They offer free and confidential advice and support as well as training for professionals.

Tel: 01372 832905

Out of hours helpline: 0800 622 6662

Text: [ypsm@catch-22.org.uk](mailto:ypsm@catch-22.org.uk)

### Websites:

The following websites are really helpful sources of information for children, young people, and their parents and carers:

[Talk to FRANK](#) – the government's drug advice website/helpline and their specific page on cannabis - <https://www.talktofrank.com/drug/cannabis>

For friendly, confidential advice, Talk to FRANK on 0300 1236600.

[Healthy Surrey](#) – an up-to-date directory of health services operating within Surrey.

## Edibles Packaging Examples





# Does **your child** have asthma?

## Your child will need:



**an asthma  
management  
plan**



**the correct  
inhaler  
technique**



**an annual  
asthma  
review**

### What **you** can do:

- 1** | Ask your GP or school nurse for an asthma management plan
- 2** | Ask your pharmacist, GP or nurse how to use their inhaler correctly
- 3** | Ask your GP, asthma nurse or consultant for an annual asthma review for your child



These **three important steps** can prevent an emergency admission to hospital and even save a life.