

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER

September 2023

"Everyone directly involved in the school is a part of the school community: teachers, directors, administrative and auxiliary staff. Parents are central figures, since they are the natural and irreplaceable agents in the education of their children. And the community also includes the students, since they must be active agents in their own education." (From 'The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School', 1998, n32)



Our school received an overall effectiveness of outstanding for Religious Education and outstanding for the Catholic Life of the school (OFSTED Section 48) in September 2019. As you know our school's standards over time were also assessed by Ofsted in June 2018 and found to be good.

Thank you parents for your valuable support for the school always which definitely assisted us in receiving these very pleasing judgements.



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

If you visit 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 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).

Classes for this new school year

Nursery: Mrs Forgione and Mrs Whytock

Reception (Hope): Mrs Rowley

Reception (Grace): Mrs Linnane

Year 1 (Wisdom): Mrs Keevil

Year 1 (Rosary): Miss Beckles

Year 2 (Fatima): Miss Nurdaji

Year 2 (Faith): Miss Sheehan

Year 3 (St. Cecilia): Miss Tanak



Welcome to a new term and year at St. Mary's. It was so lovely to see the children come back safe, refreshed and happy this week. I hope that everyone had an enjoyable summer break. A very special welcome to all new families who are starting with us this term.

Year 3 (St. Bernadette): Mrs Falzone

year2@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

Year 4 (St. Paul): Ms Joseph

year3@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

Year 4 (St. Peter): Miss Habboo

year4@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

Year 5 (St. Anthony): Mr Dixon

year5@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

Year 5/6 (St. Joseph): Mrs Egboh

year6@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

Year 6 (St. Christopher): Mrs Brennan



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 would love to hear from you.

Staff will also be in the playground at the end of the school day if you need to check anything.

Year Group Addresses:

nursery@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

reception@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

year1@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

New Staff

A warm welcome to the new staff who have joined us (a few this year).

We hope they will enjoy their time with us. I know the children have already made them feel very welcome.

Mr Murphy has joined us this year from another London school and has taken up the Deputy Headteacher position in our school.

He is an experienced deputy headteacher and teacher. Please stop and say hello to him when you see him. I know he is looking forward to getting to know everyone.

Also we were delighted to hear about the recent arrival of a new baby girl to **Miss Soto** and her family and a baby boy to **Mrs Martin** and her family. Both mums and babies are doing well.



St Mary's Catholic Primary School Street

As I know you are aware Enfield Council have set up a School Street for St Mary's between Alexandra Road and Bursland Road.

A 'School Street' is an area transformed into a pedestrian and cycling zone operating Monday to Friday during the school term, during set times at drop-off and pick-up times.

School Streets aim to:

- ensure the safety of school students as they arrive to and leave school,
- improve the air quality near the school, and
- encourage more young people to walk and cycle to school.

When the School Street zone is in operation during the designated hours, motor vehicles cannot pass through the zone, except for those who have applied for and received a permit or exemption.

The times of operation for the St Mary's Primary School Street are 8.15am to

9.15am, and 2.30pm to 3.30pm from Monday to Friday during school term time only and operates using a camera enforced system.

Further information on School Streets and how they operate can be found at

<https://letstalk.enfield.gov.uk/schoolstreets/widgets/38314/videos/3024>

<https://letstalk.enfield.gov.uk/SchoolStreets>



School Organisation

It is wonderful to have all of our children back in school. We are looking forward to enjoying another new year in school.

Reception (once their induction is completed), Years 1 and 2: 8.45am-3pm (lessons begin at 9am)

Years 3-6: 8.45am-3.15pm (lessons begin at 9am).

It is really helpful to your child to be in the classroom before 9am so they are settled and ready to begin their day. Teachers use the time to read with children,

follow up on work from previous lessons etc.

Children enter the school site via the gate next to the bicycle shed.

For safety reasons children are asked to walk, rather than to cycle or scooter, once they are inside the school gates.

Parents will collect from the playground at the end of the school day. Please do your best to move right into the playground as once you turn the corner at the end of the building the area is narrow and if you stand or sit there you will block the way for others. Space is limited in our playground as you know so try your best to continue to be patient with one another and with the school staff.

Children are encouraged as before to bring a bottle of water to school and are allowed to fill up their water bottles during the day.

If you are visiting the school office at the end of the day please access the office from the front of the building via the main entrance.

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>



Re-establishing the Friday Penance

As you are aware a key resolution of the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales, released after their May 2011 plenary meeting, was "to re-establish the practice of Friday penance in the lives of the faithful as a clear and distinctive mark of their own Catholic identity".

This act of common witness formally came into effect on Friday 16th September 2011 (the anniversary of the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to the UK).

As you know we formally began our practice of not serving meat to the children / staff on a Friday right from the start of September in 2011.

Thank you parents for not including meat as part of your child's packed lunch on a Friday.

Although our children are young we know that you agree

that it is good to establish the practices of our faith right from the start. This good habit formed when young will hopefully be part of your child's way of life as he / she grows up. He / she will see abstaining from meat on a Friday as a distinctive mark of his / her Catholic identity.

Parents thank you for your wonderful support with the re-establishment of the Friday penance.

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

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 on this site.

Online Safety at Home

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/dark-web-explained/>

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/feeling-good-on-social-media/>

<https://www.kidsonlineworld.com/4-11-online-safety-videos.html>

<https://www.kidsonlineworld.com/4-11-info--updates.html>

<https://www.kidsonlineworld.com/cyp-support--reporting.html>

Digiduck Stories (Childnet)

The five stories in the

Digiduck series were created to help parents and teachers educate children aged 3-7 about online safety. The collection includes a ebooks, PDFs, a poster and an interactive app.

As well as the books, there is a Digiduck Activity Menu, that can be found here:

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/digiduck-stories/>



You might also find the following links helpful:

[Jessie Friends videos \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/jessie-friends-videos/)

[Parent guides | Parent Zone](https://parentzone.org.uk/)

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/age-ratings>

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.

The latest guidance and video on hand washing can be found at: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>

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.

<https://www.annafreud.org/schools-and-colleges/resources/advice-for-parents-and-carers-talking-mental-health-with-young-people-at-primary-school/>

Christian Meditation

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.uk/meditation-with-children-young-people/>

Or

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6Cb5LrAIU7_MPTRDMUBcvQ?view_as=subscriber

Since Saturday 4th July 2020 there has been live streaming of our parish services, The link is: <https://www.churchservices.tv/enfield>



Support for Prayer



Father John has asked me to remind you that the church is now open each morning from 8.15am to enable families / parents to call in to pray.

Uniform

Please read the attached list. 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 the PE uniform, socks and hair colours **and to leave jewellery at home.**

If it is very warm your child is more than welcome to wear their summer dress if they prefer to do so.

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.

Own Clothes' Day - July 2023

£141.30 was donated. Thank you children and parents.

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.

Six years ago during the summer break we had new lighting fitted in the Reception and Year 1 classes as well as in the main corridor and offices. We also replaced a number of older ceilings.

Last school year we renewed all of the lighting from Reception to Year 6.

Five years ago we replaced the roof covering to the school kitchen.

During the summer holidays four years ago we renewed the toilets for the Reception children.

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

Two school years ago we had our new canopy installed during the summer break and prior to that had the new climbing frame (fitness trail) installed in the playground.

All of the pupil toilets and staff toilets were redecorated last school year during the Easter break.

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.

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.

Play Equipment

Parents please support the school by **not** allowing your children (including toddlers) to play on the playground equipment at the end of the school day. This request is made purely for health and safety reasons.

Children are also asked not to cycle or use their scooters / bicycles / tricycles while on the playground after school.

As the area is very crowded it is easier and safer for all if children walk with their bikes or scooters until they leave the school premises.

Parents / childminders please keep your children with you

once you have collected them from the classroom / teacher.

Thank you as always to the great number of parents who are very supportive of all school requests. We have only noticed a minority of pupils doing the wrong thing. With the support of their parents or child minders this will easily be sorted out.

Open Afternoon (Years 1-6)

There will be an opportunity to meet your child's class teacher during the week beginning on Monday 11th September. Each teacher will give a talk on the routines and practices in the classroom, arrangements for homework etc. You are very welcome to attend.

Tuesday 12th September,
3.30pm: Year 3 and Year 1

Thursday 14th September,
3.30pm: Year 4 and Year 2,
3.30pm

Friday 15th September,
3.30pm: Year 5 and Year 6,
3.30pm

Holidays and Absences

I would urge you to try not to book holidays during term time as time away from school can unsettle children and affect their progress. I regret that we are unable to authorise time off during the term

which is requested for holidays.

Any requests for time off (special circumstances will only be considered) must be put in writing in advance to the Headteacher.

It is not school policy to provide homework for absence during term time.

We are required to ask for a written note to explain any absence from school.

100% Attendance for 2022-2023 School Year

16 pupils had 100% attendance! Well done to those children and their parents! This is an excellent achievement! We are hoping to see the number achieving 100% attendance increase this school year.



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

Attendance

Thank you for your support in trying to build our attendance up to our excellent pre-pandemic levels.

Our target is 98% attendance (last school year our absence was 5.9% - this is much higher than we would like it to be).

The classes with the highest attendance for the 2022-2023 school year were:

1. 96.36%-Y4, St. Peter
2. 95.68%-Y4, St. Paul
3. 95.19%-Y6, St. Catherine
4. 94.95%-Y3, St. Cecilia
5. 94.79% - Y2, Faith
6. 94.76%- Y2, Fatima
7. 94.59%-Y5, St. Joseph
8. 94.21%- Y5, St. Anthony
9. 94.00%- Y1, Wisdom
10. 93.98%-Y6, St. Christopher



Social Tariffs: Cheaper Broadband and Phone Packages - Ofcom (this might be of interest to you)

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phone-s-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/costs-and-billing/social-tariffs>

Some Dates for this term

Friday 1st September: Staff Training (No school).

Monday 4th September: Staff Mass and Staff Training (No school).

Thursday 7th September:

PGL Meeting for Year 6 parents (via Teams) at 5pm

Friday 8th September: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary - School Mass (Years 2-6).

Tuesday 12th September: Open Afternoon - Years 1 and 3, 3.30pm.

Thursday 14th September: Open Afternoon - Years 2 and 4, 3.30pm.

Friday 15th September: Open Afternoon - Years 5 and 6, 3.30pm

Tuesday 26th September: Year 3 to parish Mass at 9.30am.

Friday 29th September: Ss Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels - School Mass (Years 2-6).

Monday 2nd October:

Month of the Rosary begins - children are encouraged to bring their rosary beads to school for prayer.

Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels - Year 4 to Parish Mass at 9.30am.

Friday 6th October: Our Lady of the Rosary and Harvest Fast Day - School Mass in church for Years 2-6. Rosary beads are blessed.

Monday 16th October: Year 6 trip to PGL (return on Friday 20th October).

Wednesday 18th October: Year 2 to parish Mass at 9.30am.

Friday 20th October: Own Clothes' Day.

Monday 23rd October - Friday 27th October: HALF-TERM (No School)

Monday 30th October and Tuesday 31st October: Judaism workshops.

Wednesday 1st November: Feast of All Saints - School Mass in church for Years 2-6 at 9.30am.

Thursday 2nd November: Feast of All Souls - Years 5 and 6 to Mass at 9.30am.

Thursday 2nd—Wednesday 8th

November: Book Fair after school

Tuesday 7th November: Bring your Dad to School AM.

Thursday 9th November: Year 3 to parish Mass at 9.30am.

Wednesday 15th November: Photographer in school - individual photographs.

Tuesday 21st November: The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Years 5+6 to Mass followed by Benediction.

Wednesday 22nd November: Nasal flu Immunisations.

Friday 24th November: Own Clothes' Day - items for Christmas Bazaar.

Thursday 30th November: Year 4 to parish Mass at 9.30am.

Friday 1st December: Nursery Christmas Performance AM.

Monday 4th December: School Mass in church for Years 2-6 at 9.30am for Blessing of Advent Wreath.

Year 1 Christmas Performance AM (parents with babies and toddlers).

Tuesday 5th December: Reception Christmas Performance AM (parents with babies and toddlers).

Wednesday 6th December: Year 1 Christmas Performance AM (adults).

Thursday 7th December: Reception Christmas Performance AM (adults).

Friday 8th December: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - School Mass in church for Years 3-6.

Monday 11th December: Year 2 Carol Service for parents / relatives, 9.30am (for Nightingale Hospice).

Thursday 12th December: Junior Carol Service in church, 5pm (for the Nightingale Hospice)

Thursday 14th December:

Years 5 and 6 to Mass at 9.30am followed by Confessions.

Monday 18th December: Christmas Lunch.

Tuesday 19th December: Christmas Class Parties PM.

Friday 22nd December: Last day of autumn term - School Mass (Mrs. Derwin's 19th anniversary Mass) in church for Years 2-6.

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

Monday 8th January 2024: Return to school for Spring Term.

On occasions it is necessary to change dates. 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!

I would like to thank you for your wonderful support to date (we are truly blessed with the support we receive from our families) and wish you well for the term ahead and this new year in school. I look forward to seeing you as the term progresses.

Stay safe and well please.

Miss M. Creed

Headteacher.



Dates for 2023-2024 School Year

Academic Year 2023 - 2024

Autumn Term

Friday 1st September -
Friday 22nd December 2023

Half - Term Monday 23rd
October - Friday 27th
October 2023

Spring Term

Monday 8th January -
Thursday 28th March 2024

Half -Term Monday 12th -
Friday 16th February 2024

Summer Term

Monday 15th April - Friday
19th July 2024

Half - Term Monday 27th
May - Friday 31st May 2024

May Bank Holiday: Monday
6th May 2024

INSET Days

Friday 1st September 2023
Monday 4th September 2023
Monday 19th February 2024
Tuesday 7th May 2024
Monday 10th June 2024

Governors' Day: Monday 22nd
July 2024 (school closed)

**ADMISSIONS FOR
ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/2024**

Due to the fact that there are now fewer pupils in London (decrease in the population of children) and the issues with finding affordable places to live we currently have places in some of our 2023/2024 class groups.

Thank you parents for recommending our school and helping to build up our pupil numbers. Please continue to do this. We need your help!



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.

Hands For Prayer





Online Safety Newsletter

September 2023

The W App - Anonymous polls

The W App is rated as 12+ in the App store and as 'Parental Guidance' on Google Play. Once an account has been created, the user picks their school and participates in polls.

A user can choose any school (no verification takes place) and then you can see all users at that school (includes their name/year group and profile picture if that has been added). In the polls, users are asked a question (for example 'Hallway crush') and then the user selects one of four random people from that school. Whilst the app says that it is anonymous, users can purchase a membership that allows users to see who chose them in a poll.

You should be aware that this app does include in app purchases and can be linked to other social media accounts. You can block and report other users.

Further information

Internet Matters have produced an article outlining what you need to know about anonymous apps in general and the risks your child might face in using them, including cyberbullying.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/anonymous-apps-guide-what-parents-need-to-know/>

Back to school photos

With the excitement of a new school year and your child reaching a new milestone, many of us share photos of our child online without thinking about the associated risks. If you post online, then try following these basic rules:

- Don't post any photos of your child that show their school logo/name or recognisable places by where they live that can make it easy for people to find out their location.
- Never include your child's full name.
- Are there any other children in the pictures you share online? If yes, do you have permission from their parent/carer to upload it?
 - Would your child be happy for your comment/photo about them to be online – remember what might be 'cute' now may be embarrassing to them in the future.
- Make sure appropriate privacy settings are on.



Alternatively, you could just share photos with those who you really want to share the photo with (grandparents etc.) via WhatsApp or iMessage rather than via social media.

Further information

CEOP have published this article which includes advice on sharing photos of your child online:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Sharing-pictures-of-your-children/>

Meta introduces more parental supervision tools.

Meta have announced new features for some of their products. Firstly, they have added parental supervision to Messenger (users must be 13+), which includes the ability to see who your child interacts with. Also, Meta have added a feature to encourage teens to set time limits on Facebook (users must be 13+) and new parental supervision features on Instagram (users must be 13+). Find out more here:

<https://about.fb.com/news/2023/06/parental-supervision-and-teen-time-management-on-metas-apps/>

Threads (13+)

Threads was launched by Meta (creators of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp) in July and is similar in design to Twitter. As with Twitter, users can share text posts (with images and videos) and then other users can respond to create a thread. You need to have an Instagram account to login to Threads and **you must be at least 13 years old to create an Instagram account.**



For everyone 13 – 17 years old (in the UK), their account will automatically be set as private when they join Threads. As with Instagram, users can choose specific words to filter out of replies as well as hide comments that may be offensive. Users can also unfollow, block and report a profile. Any accounts that you have blocked on Instagram will automatically be blocked on Threads as well. Users can also change their settings on Threads so other users are unable to mention them in replies.

If you have supervision set up on Instagram for your child (aged 13 – 17) then it will automatically be set up for Threads and the same settings will be applied, such as time limits and scheduled breaks. You can find out more here: <https://help.instagram.com/658522825492278>

Threads is still being developed so new functions will be added but currently you are unable to direct (private) message other users.

You need to be aware that your child may come across content that is not appropriate for your child. If your child is using this app, then make sure they know how to use the reporting/blocking facilities, that appropriate privacy/safety settings are applied and they know to speak to a trusted adult should they need to.

Further information

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/instagram-threads-a-guide-for-young-people-and-parents/>

Roblox: new checklist

PEGI rate Roblox with a 'Parental Guidance' label (icon shown right), this is because of the huge level of user generated content within Roblox. It is rated for 'Teens' on Google Play and 12+ on the App store.



You can either use Roblox to create games or play games that other users have created. **As a lot of the content is user generated, it may mean not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play. It is important to set up Parental controls appropriate to your child.**

New Roblox Checklist

The 2023 Roblox Checklist created by SWGfL and the UK Safer Internet Centre in partnership with Roblox is now available to download here: <https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/new-roblox-checklist-available/>

Age ratings

There is so much that we can do online nowadays including playing games, chatting with others, watching TV or sharing our videos/photographs. One of the ways we can help keep our children safe online is by checking age restrictions/ratings as detailed below:

- **Films:** The British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) rate films. This page includes a link to a 'Parents' Guide to Age Ratings': <https://www.cbbfc.co.uk/resources/viewing-films-safely-online>.
- **Video games:** PEGI provides age classifications for video games. PEGI considers the age suitability of a game, not the level of difficulty. It is important to note that PEGI do not take into consideration the chat facilities within games.
- **Apps:** Check the individual age ratings within the relevant app store. We also recommend that you download any apps and use them yourself to check their suitability.
- **Social Media networks:** All social media networks have a minimum age rating; they are all at least 13+.



Does your child have speech, language and communication needs?

Parent Zone understand that talking about life online with a young person who has speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) makes it difficult, so they have created a selection of visual and spoken resources to help you. You can find out more here:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/TalkTech>

WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF I KEEP MY CHILD FROM SCHOOL FOR AN UNAUTHORISED REASON?

Local authorities and schools can use various legal powers if your child is missing school without a good reason. Consequences of continued absence are:

- a Parenting Order
- an Education Supervision Order
- a School Attendance Order
- a fine (sometimes known as a 'penalty notice')



You can be given one or more of these but the council does not have to do this before prosecuting you.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS!
Every Student, Every School, Every Day

WHAT EACH SANCTION MEANS

Parenting Order

A parenting order is a sanction that is decided and issued by the Magistrates court (if the local authority instigates court proceedings). This means you have to go to parenting classes. You'll also have to do what the court says to improve your child's school attendance.

Education Supervision Order

If the local authority thinks you need support getting your child to go to school but you're not co-operating, they can apply to a court for an Education Supervision Order.

A supervisor will be appointed to help you get your child into education. The local authority can do this instead of prosecuting you, or as well as.

School Attendance Order*

You'll get a School Attendance Order if the local authority thinks your child is not getting an education.

You have 15 days to provide evidence that you've registered your child with the school listed in the order or that you're giving them [home education](#). If you do not, you could be prosecuted or given a fine.

**This is a legal proceeding instigated by the local authority and referred to the Magistrates court for their consideration.*

Penalty Notices

Your local authority can give each parent a fine of £60 per child (issued on behalf of schools), which rises to £120 per child if you do not pay within 21 days. If you do not pay the fine after 28 days you may be prosecuted for your child/ren's absence from school.

Prosecution

You could get a court fine of up to £2,500, a community order or a jail sentence up to 3 months. The court also gives you a Parenting Order.

IMPROVING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

YOUR ROLE AS A PARENT/CARER



Good attendance at school is the single most important factor in ensuring that children and young people have the best opportunities in adult life.

How parents/carers can help their child have good attendance?

- From starting at nursery, make sure your child arrives at school on time, every day.
- Encourage your child to take part in school activities and ensure that they understand the importance of being there every day.
- Don't let your child take time off school for minor ailments – particularly those which would not stop you from going to work.
- Where possible, make appointments after school, at weekends or during school holidays.
- Remember, a morning appointment does not mean a whole day of absence. Bring your child back to school in the afternoon.
- Take family holidays during school holiday time only. Schools publish term time dates well in advance – use these to plan your family holiday.
- Encourage your child to tell you about any problems they may have at school. If you know or think that your child is having difficulties attending school you should contact the school straight away.
- Find out regularly your child's attendance and absence record and check that this matches with your own records.
- Acknowledge, praise and reward good or improved attendance, even small successes.



There are 365 days in a calendar year and 175 of them are non-school days! That's plenty of time to book appointments, holidays and lots of quality family time together!

Below 90%

Serious impact on education and reduces life chances

90-95%

Less chance of success

96% & above

Best chance of success



But it's only a day

- ▶ **90% attendance = half day missed every week!**
- ▶ **One school year at 90% attendance = four weeks of learning missed!**
- ▶ **Over 5 years of school = half school year missed!**

All children and young people whose school attendance is 90% or below are considered to be persistent absentees.

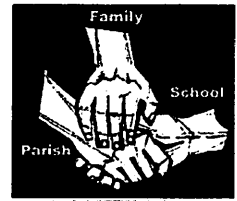


THE IMPACT OF SCHOOL ABSENCE

- The pupils with the highest attainment at the end of Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 have higher rates of attendance compared to those with the lowest attainment.
- At Key Stage 4 the overall absence rate of pupils not achieving grades 9-4 was over twice as high as those achieving grade 9-5 (8.8% absence compared to 3.7% absence).

Taken from 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance', September 2022

Family – Parish – School Links



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School Autumn 2023 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:	Monitoring opportunities:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>Children's development will be monitored through observation and the collection of work samples for their portfolio.</p>
Affective and Spiritual Dispositions	
<i>It is hoped that pupils will develop:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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:

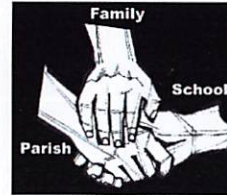
- Look over photo albums and recall stories of your family.
- Look at their Baptismal Certificate or photos of their Baptism. Explain who their Godparents are.
- Celebrate the friends you have who are from different cultures. Speak positively about difference.

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 Autumn
2023 (first half-term) - Years 1-6*



Religious Education

Key Idea: Beginning with the Church

This topic is intended for the first of the academic year 2023/2024. As we welcome new and returning members to our schools community, we learn about how the Church formally welcomes new members in study of the sacraments of Initiation. This topic is the last in our study of the Year of Matthew.

Attitudes and Spiritual Dispositions

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sense of the importance of the sacramental life of the Church • A commitment to celebrating their faith | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An openness to the presence of God in the Sacraments • Reflectiveness in prayer |
|--|--|

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. Help your child by trying this activity while this topic is being taught:

- Welcoming people into our homes, workplaces and communities is part of life. Talk with your children about how you welcome new friends and family and why. Making people welcome is the first moment when we say to them you matter to us – you are important and valuable to us...and to God.

An idea for prayer at home



Prayer Activity

Loving God, as we gather as a family today/tonight, may we remember your great love for us. You call us your daughters and sons, making us all members of one family. This day and tomorrow might we remember to welcome and show our love and appreciation for those around us: old friend and new. Make us people who welcome as you did – inviting others to be part of your family, your home.
Amen.



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

**has achieved the Gold School Games Mark
award for their commitment, engagement
in the School Games for 2022/23.**



W/C:

week: 01

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

**Halal Chicken & Veg
Meatball Marinara**

Served with
Penne Pasta
& Mixed Salad

**Halal Chicken
Korma**

Served with
Whole Grain
Rice Green Beans

**Halal Roast
Beef**

Served with
Crispy Roasties,
Broccoli

**Homemade Veggie
Supreme
Pizza**

Served with
Garlic & Herb
Potato Wedges

**Golden Fish Fingers
(Salmon or Pollock)**

Served with
Chips &
Sweetcorn

**Baked Cheese &
Tomato Potato
Dumplings**

Served with
Mixed Salad

**Sweet Potato Chana
Masala (Vg)**

Served with
Whole Grain Rice & Green
Beans

**Really Cheesy
Cauliflower**

Served with
Crispy Roasties,
Broccoli

Pizza Margherita

Served with
Garlic & Herb
Potato Wedges & Peas

**Veggie Fishless Fingers
(Vg) & Chips**

Served with
Chips &
Baked Beans

**Jacket Potato
with Cheese or
Baked Beans**

**Jacket Potato
with Cheese or
Baked Beans**

**Jacket Potato
with Cheese or
Baked Beans**

**Jacket Potato
with Cheese or
Baked Beans**

**Jacket Potato
with Cheese or
Baked Beans**

**Penne Pasta with
Tomato Sauce**

**Penne Pasta with
Tomato Sauce**

**Penne Pasta with
Tomato Sauce**

**Penne Pasta with
Tomato Sauce**

**Penne Pasta with
Tomato Sauce**

Viennese Biscuits

**Jelly &
Fruit Slices**

**Peach Crumble &
Custard**

**Vanilla
Ice Cream Ball**

**Oat
Cookie**

SEASONAL VEGETABLES, SALAD BAR, FRESH BREAD, YOGHURT AND FRUIT ARE AVAILABLE DAILY

let's eat, together

www.stirfood.co.uk

Stir.

menu

W/C:

week: 02

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

Halal
All day breakfast
Served with
Baked Beans

Homemade Pizza
Margherita
Served with
Paprika Potato
Wedges & Green Salad

Halal Classic
Cottage
Pie
Served with
Peas & Carrots

Halal Chicken
Chow Mein
Served with
Egg Noodles &
Green Beans

Battered Fish
Served with
Chips &
Baked Beans

Veggie
All day breakfast
Served
with Baked Beans

Creamy Broccoli &
Cheese Pasta Bake
Served with
Green Salad

Shepherdless
Pie (Vg)
Served with
Peas & Carrots

Honey & Soy
Vegetable Stir Fry
Served with
Egg Noodles &
Green Beans

Cheese & Bean
Turnover
Served with
Chips & Baked Beans

Jacket Potato
with Cheese or
Baked Beans

Jacket Potato
with Cheese or
Baked Beans

Jacket Potato
with Cheese or
Baked Beans

Jacket Potato
with Cheese or
Baked Beans

Jacket Potato
with Cheese or
Baked Beans

Penne Pasta with
Tomato Sauce

Penne Pasta with
Tomato Sauce

Penne Pasta with
Tomato Sauce

Penne Pasta with
Tomato Sauce

Penne Pasta with
Tomato Sauce

Sticky Toffee
Pudding

Jammy Crumble Bars

Fruit Bowls

Vanilla
Ice Cream Ball

Apple Crumble
Served with Custard

SEASONAL VEGETABLES, SALAD BAR, FRESH BREAD, YOGHURT AND FRUIT ARE AVAILABLE DAILY

let's eat, together

www.stirfood.co.uk

Stir.

menu

W/C:

week: 03

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

Hidden Vegetable & Beef Bolognese
Served with Green Beans

Halal BBQ Pulled Chicken thighs
Served with Wholegrain Rice Peas

Halal Roast Chicken
Served with Crispy Roasties, Carrots & Sweetcorn

Homemade BBQ Vegetable Pizza
Served with Potato Wedges & Broccoli

Golden Fish Fingers (Salmon or Pollock)
Served with Chips & Garden Peas

Mac n Cheese with a Crispy Crumb Topping
Served with Green Beans

Bean & Sweetcorn Burrito (Vg)
Served with Peas

Super Veggie (Lentil & Onion) Pastry Pie (Vg)
Served with Crispy Roasties, Carrots & Sweetcorn

Homemade Margherita Pizza
Served with Potato Wedges & Broccoli

Vegetable Fingers
Served with Chips & Baked Beans

Jacket Potato
with Cheese or Baked Beans

Jacket Potato
with Cheese or Baked Beans

Jacket Potato
with Cheese or Baked Beans

Jacket Potato
with Cheese or Baked Beans

Jacket Potato
with Cheese or Baked Beans

Penne Pasta with Tomato Sauce

Penne Pasta with Tomato Sauce

Penne Pasta with Tomato Sauce

Penne Pasta with Tomato Sauce

Penne Pasta with Tomato Sauce

Melon Selection (85g)

Chocolate Rice Crispy Cake

Oaty Apple Crunch Slice

Vanilla Ice Cream Ball

Shortbread Biscuits

SEASONAL VEGETABLES, SALAD BAR, FRESH BREAD, YOGHURT AND FRUIT ARE AVAILABLE DAILY

let's eat, together

www.stirfood.co.uk

Stir.

menu

MAYOR OF LONDON

London Borough of Enfield

Date: July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I'm delighted to inform you that City Hall is ensuring all primary school children who attend state schools in London will receive **free school meals** for the full academic year, starting this September.

As Mayor of London, I know parents/carers are really struggling with the cost-of-living crisis right now. That's why I've taken the decision to provide funding to expand on the Government's limited existing free school meals offer. This means all state funded primary school children in London are now eligible for free school meals.

The funding we're providing will help up to 270,000 primary school children in London, like yours, access free school meals and could **save your family upwards of £440 across the year.**

Your child will receive their free school meals automatically, but it's vitally important that you still complete your school or borough's registration form in case your child is eligible for extra funding for their school from the Government, worth £1,300 per year. That's extra money to spend on enrichment activities, teacher development, and targeted support for the children that need it most. Depending on how schemes operate in your borough, it may also entitle you to other benefits like food vouchers during the holidays. There is more information about registration in your borough here: <https://www.enfield.gov.uk/services/children-and-education/school-welfare-and-information/school-meals>.

Those parents/carers whose children already qualify for free school meals under the Government's existing offer must also continue to apply for free school meals as before.



City Hall, Kamal Chunchie Way, London E16 1ZE
mayor@london.gov.uk ♦ london.gov.uk ♦ 020 7983 4000

MAYOR OF LONDON

My administration has taken the unprecedented step of providing this funding because we're deeply concerned by the number of primary school children going hungry in London's classrooms. Eligibility criteria for the Government's existing free school meals offer is strict, which means many parents/carers and children who need this helping hand have been missing out. But from September – thanks to our intervention – that will all change as part of our effort to build a better London for everyone.

As someone who received free school meals myself, I'm incredibly proud that we're able to step up and provide this crucial lifeline to London's families during such tough economic times. I firmly believe that every child deserves the chance to be able to grow up healthy and thrive, regardless of their background or circumstances. But for this to happen, children must be able to access healthy, nutritious meals.

My online hub for families provides all the information you need about our scheme. Please find the link here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/free-school-meals>.

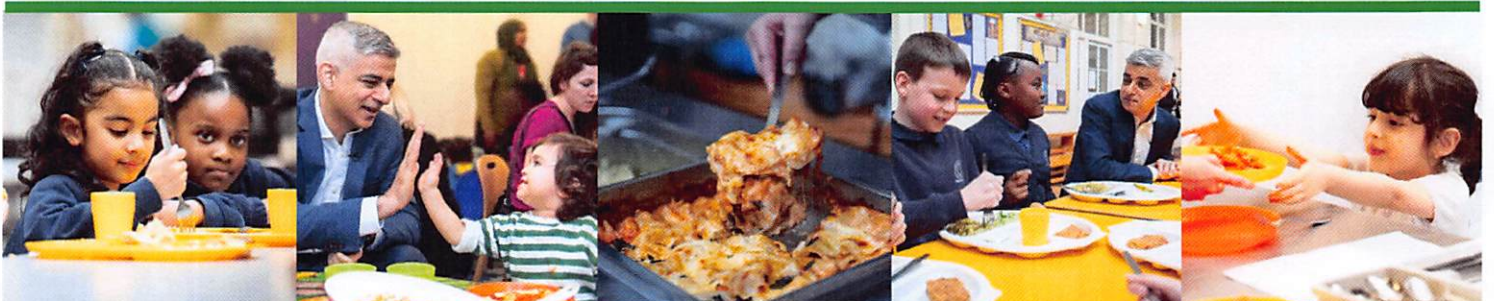
Families who are struggling with their financial situation can also access advice and support by visiting my cost-of-living hub here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/communities-and-social-justice/help-cost-living>.

Your school will be in touch with more details of how you can take up the offer of the free school meals. I wish your family a happy and healthy academic year – and I hope they enjoy their free school meals.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London



Is my child too ill for school?

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school, nursery or playgroup when they're unwell.

There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK. These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day. Let them know that your child won't be in and give them the reason.

If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let their teacher know.

Other illnesses

Follow this advice for other illnesses:

Coughs and colds

It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold. But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes.

Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.

High temperature

If your child has a high temperature, keep them off school until it goes away.

Chickenpox

If your child has chickenpox, keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over.

This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

Cold sores

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have a cold sore.

Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.

Conjunctivitis

You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have conjunctivitis.

Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

COVID-19

If your child has mild symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, and feels well enough, they can go to school.

Your child should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if they have symptoms of COVID-19 and they either:

- have a high temperature
- do not feel well enough to go to school or do their normal activities

Ear infection

If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.

Hand, foot and mouth disease

If your child has hand, foot and mouth disease but seems well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off.

Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.

Head lice and nits

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice.

You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.

Impetigo

If your child has impetigo, they'll need treatment from a GP, often with antibiotics.

Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment.

Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.

Ringworm

If your child has ringworm, see your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP.

It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.

Scarlet fever

If your child has scarlet fever, they'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks.

Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

Slapped cheek syndrome (fifth disease)

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have slapped cheek syndrome because, once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious.

But let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.

Sore throat

You can still send your child to school if they have a sore throat. But if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until it goes away.

A sore throat and a high temperature can be symptoms of tonsillitis.

Threadworms

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have threadworms.

Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.

Vomiting and diarrhoea

Children with diarrhoea or vomiting should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours).



STREET ROBBERY

Robbery is when force is used or threatened to steal items. Thieves often target people who are distracted, so keeping your valuables including your mobile phone and other devices hidden ensures you're more alert.

HOW CAN I STAY SAFE?

- When out and about – be aware of your surroundings.
- Stay alert when walking along the road for criminals who might use bikes/mopeds or e-scooters to snatch phones/valuables.
- Try not to walk along with your phone or valuables on show.
- Earbuds/Headphones can be a distraction.
- Plan your route and use forms of transport that others are using and avoid shortcuts in isolated places.

IF YOU ARE A VICTIM

Crime prevention advice can help reduce your chances of being robbed, but it may still happen to you. It can be a frightening experience and leave you feeling worried afterwards, especially if you felt threatened or violence was used. Talking to a parent or adult you trust can help.

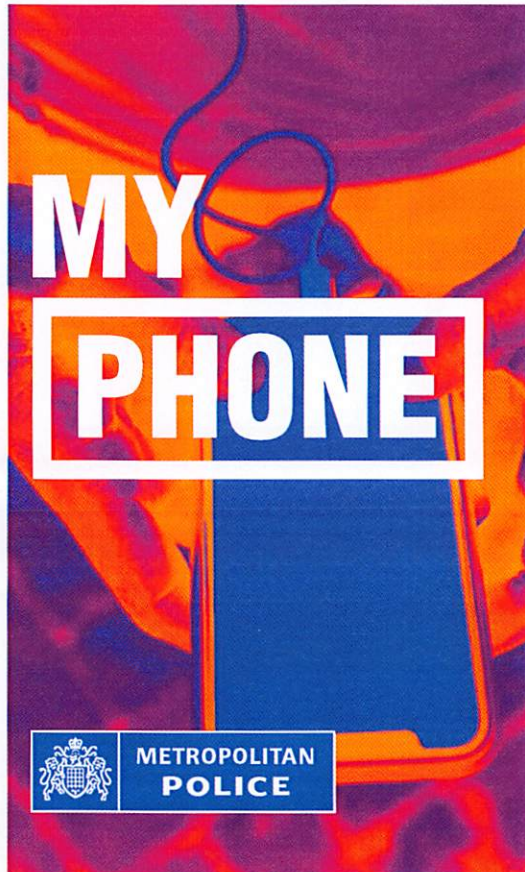
KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT STREET ROBBERY?

If you have any information about street robbery taking place in your area, you can tell us what you know 100% anonymously at [Fearless.org](https://fearless.org)

IF YOU SEE A ROBBERY TAKING PLACE...

Thieves may use force or threatening behaviour. It's better to hand items over than risk your own safety.

If you see a robbery or one has just taken place call police on **999**. You can still report later on **101** or online.



KEEPING YOU AND YOUR PHONE SAFE

Getting a phone is really exciting. You can stay in touch with friends and find out more about the world.

As police officers, our job is to keep you safe and stop people who want to steal property like phones, cash, earphones and even expensive coats or trainers.

You can help us do that by being careful where you use your phone and taking care of cash and other valuable items.

5 TIPS TO KEEP SAFE

- **Keep your phone and valuables out of sight and in a safe place. Take care when you take them out especially near bus stops and train stations.**
- **Stay alert and remember earphones/headphones can distract you from being aware of someone approaching from behind you. Thieves can approach on mopeds, e-scooters and pedal cycles.**

Don't fight back, it's not worth the risk when a phone can be replaced.

- Tell us if someone robs you or tries to. It's important you get help straight away by dialling **999** using a friend or trusted adult's phone rather than contacting police when you get home. This gives us the best chance to catch the suspects, recover stolen items and make sure you're safe.

- If you don't want to talk to police – contact Fearless online, without giving your name, at www.fearless.org
- Memorise or keep a note of a parent/carer's phone number in a separate place in case of emergency.

**YOU CAN HELP
US PROTECT AND
TRACK YOUR PHONE
IF IT'S STOLEN.**

**HERE'S 3 THINGS
YOU CAN DO:**

- Your phone will have security features such as a passcode or fingerprint/face ID. Make sure you use it to protect access to your phone.

- Tracker apps can help locate your phone if it's lost or stolen. Ask a parent to show you how to set one up.
- Record the phone's IMEI number in a separate place at home. Find this by typing in ***#06#**. You'll need to give this number to police if it's stolen.

For more information go to www.fearless.org/campaigns/robbery