

2016 - 2017
ISSUE 1

30th September 2016

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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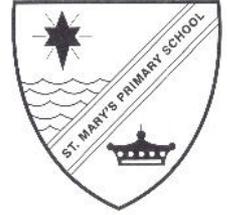
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Headteacher: Mrs C Lewis

Chair of Governors: Miss M Dargen-Murphy

Executive Headteacher: Mr D Carter



Dear Parents/Carers

We have had a good start to the school year. It has been great talking to you as you enter through our new improved gate; many of you have expressed your delight at this improvement. The children have settled well into their classes; new staff have been made welcome by the community and are familiarising themselves with the school's priorities and school improvement agenda. Of course, this is the responsibility of us all and I am sure that you will come along to the **meetings on 18th - 20th October** where, together with Mr Dave Carter, our Executive Headteacher, I will share with you all the ways in which we can all work together in achieving excellent outcomes for each and every child. Details of the dates and times of these meetings are available on the school website Calendar/Diary.

We were saddened to hear that Syd of Cobden Road, who was actively involved in the Morris Dancing and Father Christmas visits to the school, passed away during the Summer holidays. He will be greatly missed by us all and we ask that you keep his family in your prayers. Also please pray for Rowan, one of our pupils who left from Year 6 in July, for a speedy recovery from a serious illness which has prevented him from starting high school this September.

The school is inviting parents who have a child due to start school in September to view the school and meet with both Mr Carter and myself. Dates and times are on the school website; please advise any parents you know who will be looking for a school.

St Mary of the Angels is again providing a First Holy Communion programme for eligible pupils. Details are in this newsletter; please contact the Parish Church if you require more information.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meetings in October, and informally during the school day.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Lewis
Headteacher



October - the month of Our Lady of the Rosary
Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us!

Fundraising

Please continue to use www.easyfundraising.org.uk when shopping online.

When you support the school in this way, every time you shop you earn a donation for the school without it costing you a single penny!

Over 2,000 retailers are available through this website, including supermarkets such as Tesco and Asda, department stores such as John Lewis, M&S, Debenhams and House of Fraser, Amazon and electrical shops such as Currys, PC World, Game and Apple Store.

The site also offers a search engine; every search you make will raise further funds for our school.



Free School Meals (FSM) / Pupil Premium

Despite the introduction of Universal Infant School Meals parents in receipt of certain benefits are still entitled to claim "Free School Meals". Claiming for this results in additional funds being allocated to the school, which can be directed for the educational support of the individual child throughout their Primary years. This can include targeted teaching to accelerate progress.

We would therefore encourage anyone who may be eligible to speak to the office staff or your child's class teacher. All conversations will be treated with confidentiality. Thank you for your support.

Musical Instrument Lessons

Space is currently available with the peripatetic (visiting) Keyboard/Piano teacher, Mr Adam Kempshall. Lessons are available for pupils in Key Stages 1 or 2.

More details plus the application form can be found on the West Sussex Music Website:
www.westsussexmusic.co.uk

Gift Aid

For the attention of all Gift Aid donors: On 6 April 2016 some changes to tax allowances became effective. Please remember that you must have paid sufficient Income/Capital gains tax that is at least equal to the amount reclaimed on all your Gift Aid donations to charities. If you have paid insufficient tax you will have to repay the shortfall. If you need tax advice please contact either your tax office or professional tax adviser.

Is your child, or a child you know, due to start school in September 2017?

West Sussex County Council are not sending letters out to parents/carers of children this year. However, the online application system will be available from 9:00 a.m. on Monday 3rd October 2016 and the **deadline for making an application is 15th January 2017**. All parents/carers should apply for a school online at www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions. Once you have submitted your online application you will receive an automatic email acknowledgement.

St Mary's is holding three sessions for prospective parents to visit -
Wednesday 5th October, 10 am; Thursday 17th November 1:30 pm;
Wednesday 7th December, 10 am

Parents/carers who wish their child to come to St Mary's are asked to **also** complete the school's Supplementary Information Form and to provide the school with a copy of the child's Baptism Certificate, if relevant.

The Governing Body and WSCC do not support or recommend the advice, products or services offered nor the organisations offering them. Individuals should satisfy themselves on the suitability of any advice, products or services and on the nature and standing of these organisations.

Hot School Meals

These are now available at St Mary's C P School. Orders *must* be placed by telephone (01243 836130) by 3 p.m. on a Friday *or* online at www.mealselector.co.uk by midnight on Sunday one full week (7 days) prior to the complete week before the meal is served. Payment must be made by credit/debit card at the time of the order. If your child is eligible for Free School Meals and you have not yet registered, please speak to a member of the school office staff. Your conversation will, of course, be treated confidentially.

Cancellation of Meals

One full week's notice is required to cancel ordered meals so that you can be credited. Please see Chartwells' Terms & Conditions of Service.



St Mary of the Angels Parish News

First Holy Communion 2016-2017

An **Information Evening** was held on **Monday 26th September** for parents who wish their child to receive their First Holy Communion in June 2017.

A new Diocesan Programme is being introduced this year.

The **First Session for Parents & Children** will be on **Saturday 1st October**,

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.,

and the **Enrolment Mass** will be at 10:30 a.m. Mass on **Sunday 2nd October**.

Children need to be at least 7 years old by January 2017.

Reminder re Medicines in school

Prescribed asthma inhalers will be retained in a box within each classroom together with a book in which use will be recorded. An inhaler will only be used for the pupil to whom it has been prescribed.

One **prescribed auto-injector** will be retained in a box within the pupil's classroom; a second auto-injector should be retained in the general office. Staff members are trained in the use of auto-injectors by the School Nurse.

Prescribed medicine may be given to pupils by a member of school staff during the school day **only** if four or more doses are to be taken each day. The prescribed medicine must be handed to a member of the office staff in its original box, with the pharmacy label in place, and a Medicine Consent form completed by the pupil's parent/carer. The medicine will be stored appropriately in the Office.

Non-prescription medication including, but not limited to, pain killers must **not** be brought into school, and will not be administered by school staff under any circumstances.

Please do not ask staff to administer non-prescription medicines.

Long Term Medical Needs: It is important that the school is notified of a child's medical needs before the child starts school or when a pupil develops a condition. The school, together with parents and relevant health professionals, will draw up a written health care/medical plan for that pupil.

Do you provide a home for someone else's child?

If you have an arrangement to care for someone under 16 who is not your own child and you are **not** a close relative for 28 days or more, this is called Private Fostering (a close relative would be a grandparent, aunt, uncle or adult sibling).

It is an offence not to notify your local authority of a private fostering arrangement, so if you - or someone you know - have a private fostering arrangement in place, please don't ignore it.

West Sussex County Council can provide advice and support about the arrangement - including mentoring, childcare information and legal advice.

To notify us of a private fostering arrangement, or seek further advice, please call us on 01403 229900 or email MASH@westsussex.gcsx.gov.uk

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