



St. Mary's RC Primary School, Clive Road, Failsworth, Manchester. M35 0NW

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*"Called to love as God loves"*

October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been another incredibly busy half term again at St Mary's with lots to celebrate and give thanks for. The pupil leadership in the school is magnificent and having a significant impact on school life. Earlier this term we appointed Freya and Connor as Head Girl and Head Boy; Alana, Hanisgaa, Scarlett and Joe were appointed House Captains and Orla, Isla, Sienna, Sophie, Darcy, Leyton, Kai and Feranmi are the Early Years and Key Stage One Prefects.

### **Pupil Chaplains**

Thank you to our Pupil Chaplains who organised Rosary Prayer Bags for children to take home and pray the Rosary with their families. They also led prayers at lunchtime during the month of The Holy Rosary in honour of Mary, Our Mother.



### **Well Being Ambassadors**

The Well Being Ambassadors have been busy leading the assemblies for World Mental Health Day and organising a Talent Show in each class so that the children could showcase their talents.



### **School Council**

The School Council put together an action plan and have already achieved all their targets for the first half term. They asked the children how they could improve wet playtimes and spent almost £1000 purchasing their favourite games.

I would like to say a special thank you to the School Council for organising The Day of the Dead celebrations. The children looked amazing in their skeleton costumes and the class shrines to their loved ones was a fitting way to celebrate and keep their memories alive.



## **Laudato Si**

Our Laudato Si Committee met for the first time last week. They are responding to Pope Francis' message to care for our common home and will be looking at ways we can do this around school. All eyes will be on Glasgow next week when world leaders meet to discuss the challenges of climate change.



Well done to our Year One children who organised a harvest food collection for Cafod, their chosen class charity. They came to school in green on Family Fast Day to celebrate "Go Green for Cafod". The food collected was gratefully received by The Lalley Centre that does incredible work supporting families in need within our Diocese.



## **School Improvement**

I am delighted to be able to report that during the half term break, external doors will be fitted to Miss Whitehead's and Mrs McFee's classrooms. This will improve fire safety in school as children will exit the building from their own classrooms rather than several classes through the cloakroom.

## **Punctuality**

In Early Years and KS1 the day starts with phonics lessons, the building blocks of early reading. In KS2 the day starts with a "Get Set Go" mathematics activity where they practise the mental maths strategies required for the

following lesson. Therefore, it is vital that the children are in school on time ready to begin learning. Gates are open ten minutes before the official start time of 8.50am in KS2, 8.55 am in KS1 and 9am in Nursery. The teacher on duty will close the gates promptly in order to take the children for registration.

### **Applying for Secondary School Places**

May I remind parents in Year 6 that there are still a few days left to complete an application using the online application system available on the Oldham Council website. Applying on-line is the only form of application as Oldham Council no longer provides paper application forms. The online system opened on 1 August 2021 and closes at 5pm on 31 October 2021. If you don't have access to the internet, there are computers in all Oldham's libraries. You will need an email address, these are very easy to set up and staff at the library will be happy to help.

Finally, please remember in your prayers our Year Three children who were presented in church recently as they begin their Sacramental Journey.

Wishing you all a happy half term.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Ms M. Garvey

***Stay With Us, Lord, On Our Journey***



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