



STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES

Dear Parents,

It has been a short but dramatic half term but I continue to be filled with wonderment at the quality of work the teachers and your children produce. Thank you so much for all your positive comments in the recent survey. They were a heart-warming affirmation, in such difficult circumstances, of the success of the communication and efforts of all involved in maintaining a positive learning environment.



We eagerly await the announcement of the Government on the return to education - though if we have learned anything it is that there is no point trying to second guess what will happen. Whatever form the return will take, complete or partial, we will return to the Covid 19 security measures that were in place before lockdown. There will still be the same staggered start and finish times and the same designated entrances. There will be temperature testing and an emphasis on handwashing and ventilation. Given the temperatures on return, children will need to WRAP UP WARM!!!!!!!

Ash Wednesday and Lent

I am grateful to Deacon Michael for his Lenten reflection:

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Lent is that period of 40 days when we reflect on the time that Jesus spent in prayer and fasting in preparation for his public ministry. It is a time for us to Turn again, Start again, Prepare again... to celebrate the events of that first Holy Week and the wonderful Feast of Easter. Pope Francis has these words for us! *"God's love is greater than our sinfulness; and that God freely loves us at all times and that we were made for eternal life. The Lord asks us to be joyous heralds of this message of mercy and hope!"*



Follow us on twitter

@StMarys_SW8

Lent is not about great gestures, but simple acts of kindness that draw us closer to God.

This Lent is a time for all of us, at home, in School, wherever we may be to live out the Good News of the Gospel. It is time to Pray, to Reflect, to Repent, to Fast, and in the words of St Teresa of Calcutta, "to do something beautiful for God". This Lent let us all try to do our best, to be the person God wants us to be, and to show our love and kindness to the needs of others. Let us bring the love of Jesus to all during these 40 days of Lent.

Ash Wednesday Masses at Our Lady of Mount Carmel will be at 10am

Lenten collection

This Lent I would like to us think of others in a practical way. The Federation has started a Justgiving page because Lent is also about giving. If we give up sweets or chocolate or certain drinks(!) we could donate the money that we have saved to charity. If the children could each save some pennies from their Lenten acts, any money raised will go towards the St Georges Hospital Foundation. We will keep the page open throughout Lent.

Please see letter and link on last page

Shrove Tuesday

Next Tuesday is the day that we traditionally make pancakes. We would be delighted if you could post pictures of your pancake flip on our dojo page or send them to our admin email address and we will put them altogether for display on twitter and class dojo .



British Science week

Next month, in March, we are celebrating British Science Week. It starts on the 5th of March and we will continue it through to the end of March. This year's theme is "Innovating for the Future." We will be marking the celebration in several different ways. One of them involves you!



If any of you (parents or carers) happen to work in a job that includes using STEM (science, technology, engineering, maths) skills, and would be happy to share your experiences with children across the Federation of Sacred Heart and St Mary's schools, please email the office to let us know. Add British Science Week as the subject of your email – and we will get back to you as soon as possible. This would include either a Zoom interview or a recorded video of you answering a few questions.

If it is a Zoom interview, it would be led by a teacher, so there will be no need to manage the children. It would include a short 10/15 minute chat using the questions below. And then a 10/15 mins Q&A session.

Questions could include...

How would you describe your job?

How do you use Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths in your work?

How have things changed over time in your profession/career/job? Where have you seen innovation in your profession?

How do you think innovation will change the future for your career?

Were you always interested in these aspects of learning at school?

Final words of encouragement and motivation.

Thank you for all your support this half term. It has been a challenge for all in many ways-but we have all worked together and for that we are grateful.

Although life has been very different we have tried to bring some normality to the children's education at St Mary's and below are just some examples of what we have been able to offer to our children this half term.

Opportunities to create exciting recipes at home with our weekly 'meal in a bag' collections courtesy of Emanuel School.



Online art lessons, including still life drawing lessons provided by a London creative drawing company and clay and painting lessons as taught by our own teachers, all materials provided!

Opportunities to attend the Festival of Literature and meet (virtually!) authors and poets such as Onjali Q. Raúf, Emma Yarlett and Joseph Coelho.



Wednesday Word

St John Bosco founded the Salesian order to support and teach young children on the streets on Turin.

In This Sundays Gospel Jesus was found teaching in the synagogue

The Wednesday word this week is **COMPASSION**

"The compassion of God, his suffering with us, gives meaning to our struggles and our sufferings." Pope Francis

Try to keep that in mind parents as you struggle through the next 40 days!

Sacred Heart and St Mary's Lenten Promise 2021

Fundraising for St George's Hospital

The Federation of Sacred Heart and St Mary's Catholic schools, Battersea, are raising money for St George's Hospital Charity. We have decided to donate funds for this charity as part of our Lenten promise 2021.

So many of us have been truly inspired by the hard work, dedication and commitment of all NHS workers during this past year in response to the global pandemic. As a school community, we have been touched by the generosity and kindness of others who have wanted to support our school community. Now we feel that it is our turn to support others in need.

During Lent, we are reminded to fast, almsgiving and prayer. This lent if you chose to give up your daily coffee or chocolate bar, please donate what you would usually spend on this to this worthy cause.

St George's Hospital Charity, exists to support St George's hospitals and the communities they serve. Every day, our work makes a real difference to patients, their families and friends and the staff who care for them. We have set a target of £500 we would like to raise during lent

You can donate to my JustGiving page by clicking here: https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/federation-of-sacred-heart-and-st-mary-s-catholic-primary-schools-battersea?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=federation-of-sacred-heart-and-st-mary-s-catholic-primary-schools-battersea&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=.a8ed684c7dbd42f196182b01904f420f.

Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to St George's Hospital Charity, so it's the most efficient way to give - saving time and cutting costs for the charity.

We would like to thank you in advance for your generous contributions.

Kind regards

Jared Brading

Executive Headteacher

St. Mary's Roman Catholic School
7 St Joseph's Street
London
SW8 4EN

Claire Mitchell

Associate Headteacher

07762 4922
Email: admin@st-marys-pri.wandsworth.sch.uk
Executive Headteacher: Mr Brading BA
Associate Headteacher: Mrs Mitchell BA