



St Mary's Catholic Academy

Newsletter No.9 – Tuesday 19th April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well and had a good Easter break. May I apologise for my absence towards the end of term – COVID prevented me from being in school for the full ten days. I thank the staff for their unwavering support. I was so pleased to be able to return for the final day of term and enjoy our Easter liturgy in St Mary's church. Thank you to the family members who managed to join us and a big thank you to the staff who helped prepare.

Whole School - Dates for your diary

Tues 19 th April 2022	Return to school
Wed 27 th April 2022	10am Mass at St Mary's
Wed 25 th May 2022	Jubilee Party Day
Th 26 th May 2022	Ascension Mass
W/beg 20 th June	Y5 and Y6 Residentials
Fri 1 st July 2022	Sports Day
Fri 8 th July 2022	Summer Fair

Walk for Ukraine

The sun shone and spirits were strong as children walked around the school field, raising money for the people of Ukraine. The photographs of the afternoon look fabulous and we are so proud of our school community for raising over £200.



We continue to keep the people of Ukraine and all those living in danger, living with worry or uncertainty and those who feel lost, in our prayers.

Parent Permission - GDPR

A while ago we started collecting responses to our **data permission survey**. A big thank you to those who completed the survey, especially Year 4 families – 86% of whom have completed the survey. It is essential that 100% of families state what you allow school staff to do with your child's information, from displaying your child's name on our website to using a photograph in the Trust newsletter. Levels of completion are as follows:

Year	% complete	Number of children with data incomplete
N	43%	16
R	60%	12
1	73%	8
2	70%	9
3	50%	15
4	86%	4
5	41%	17
6	45%	16

Please can those who have not yet completed the survey do so before Friday 22nd April so we can update our system and follow your wishes.

Parent Forum – all are welcome



Parent Forum is a meeting where parents can express their views on school events and matters of interest. We will be meeting next at **3:30pm** in the school hall on **Monday 25th April**. Children are welcome to watch a DVD in Year 5 while the meeting takes place.

My proposed agenda includes: St Mary's Summer Fair, events including Sports Day, our use of social media going forwards. Please come along so you can hear others' views and hopefully share your own.

Our Easter Pledges

Jesus' resurrection gives us hope, inspires us to make changes in our life and encourages us to reach out to others to share God's love. As we enter the Summer term and approach the Feasts of Ascension and Pentecost, let's keep the joy of Easter alive in our hearts.

As a school, over the coming term, we will be thinking of ways to reach out to you and all in our community. We will be showing care for our environment, continuing to reach out to people in need and spreading joy to all.



St Mary's Governors

St Mary's Governors are a great team who ensure the leadership of our school works towards a high standard, living by our school motto each day.

The governors include:

Rob McConnell – Chair of Governors
Sylvia Tye – Vice-Chair of Governors
Fr David Palmer – Foundation Governor
Yvonne Alcock – Foundation Governor
Dr. Olusegun Oluwole – Foundation Governor
James Rowley – Parent Governor
Natasha Lindo – Parent Governor

Further information about our school Governors can be found on our school website.

Summer Uniform

We pride ourselves in dressing smartly for school. Please continue to support us as we enter the warmer months of the year.

Children **must continue to wear their tie with the blue shirts. Polo shirts are not part of school uniform.**

Girls and boys are welcome to wear grey shorts. Summer dresses and /or culotte style dresses can be worn. **Please ensure this clothing is knee length.**



Names in School Uniform

Please write your child's name on their uniform, **especially jumpers and cardigans**. As the weather improves, they regularly take their loose uniform off and a pile of uniform is hard to return to the correct owners if names are not clearly visible. Thank you.

If you write your child's name with a pen, please re-write it regularly so that it is visible. Names wash off easily.

St Mary's School Improvement

A look into our school improvement so far this year

Focus	Examples of Action
Learn the virtues we should live by through our Catholic Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtues are being introduced weekly via our assemblies. • We hope to display our work on them in the coming term.
Curriculum development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Science, Geography and Music curriculum have had intense support and other subjects are progressing well. • Newsletters inform you of the learning for the coming half term • Chatterbox emails help you to chat with your child/ren about what they have learnt – one focus per day • All our curriculum information can be found on the website
To promote oracy and its value in the learning process to (a) support the retention and retrieval of knowledge; and (b) develop children's speaking and listening skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are encouraged within lessons to contribute, by answering questions, explaining their thought process and extending their answers. • We encourage children to 'say it again, but say it better' to help them to articulate better what they are trying to say. • Vocabulary expectations are high and is prioritised in all curriculum areas. You will find specific vocabulary your child should know on the curriculum newsletter you receive from your child's class teacher at the start of every half term.
To develop writing fluency with a strong focus on the development of teaching and learning grammar to reduce the cognitive load demand on writers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff received training so that we all teach grammar in the same way and ensure our own subject knowledge is strong. • Grammar lessons are taught regularly and can be seen in the children's' books. • Progression of grammar teaching and learning is clear across the school.

If you have any questions about our school curriculum or developments, please contact the school via the office admin@smca.nottingham.sch.uk and we will respond as soon as we can.