

**St Mary's Catholic Primary School**

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St Mary's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Friday October 18<sup>th</sup> 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you today, sharing the enriching experiences and noteworthy accomplishments that have recently transpired within our school

Dear Lord,

We thank You for the wonderful children of St. Mary's Primary School. As we approach the weekend, we ask for Your blessings upon them. Please watch over them, keeping them safe, happy, and filled with joy.

Bless their families with good health, peace, and love, and may their homes be filled with laughter and happy times. We pray for sunshine and warmth to brighten their days, and that every moment is filled with hope, kindness, and Your grace.

Guide us all to appreciate the little blessings in life and to return next week refreshed and ready for new opportunities.

Amen.

community. The vibrant tapestry of educational pursuits and extracurricular activities continues to weave a narrative of growth, discovery, and achievement for our children.

Of particular note was the exemplary Year 5 excursion to Cadbury World, an expedition that seamlessly melded academic rigour with experiential learning. This meticulously planned outing served to breathe life into our curriculum, offering our children a multifaceted exploration of history, culture, and gastronomy. The dedicated team at Cadbury World, ensconced within their purpose-built education rooms, presented a curriculum-linked discourse that transported our young scholars to the heart of the ancient Maya civilisation.

The children were introduced to the magnificent city of Chichen Itza, its architectural marvels

standing as a testament to the ingenuity of a bygone era. They delved into the intricate tapestry of Maya cosmology, unravelling creation myths and legends that have endured through millennia. The sensory experience was heightened as the

children examined authentic cacao pods and inhaled the aromatic essence of cocoa beans, gaining a tactile understanding of the commodity that held such immense value in Maya society circa AD 900. The wooden whisk, an ingenious implement employed in the preparation of their preferred chocolate libation, offered a tangible link to ancient culinary practises.

Select children were afforded the opportunity to don traditional Maya attire, an immersive element that bridged the temporal divide between past and present. The educational journey continued with an exploration of Maya sporting traditions, potentially unveiling the origins of team sports in human history. This comparative study enabled our children to draw connections and contrasts between ancient Maya life and our contemporary existence.

The educational odyssey extended further, encompassing an examination of the vibrant Día de los Muertos celebration, an analysis of the remarkable ancient Codices, and an introduction to the pantheon of Maya deities. This comprehensive approach ensured a holistic understanding of Maya civilisation, fostering cultural appreciation and historical insight.



Transitioning from ancient history to contemporary philanthropy, I am delighted to report on the resounding success of our recent 'Wear it Pink' fundraising initiative. Through the collective efforts and generosity of our school community, we have amassed an impressive sum of £166.54. This figure

represents a remarkable increase from the previous year's total of £80.60, more than doubling our contribution to this worthy cause. The breakdown of donations by year group is as follows:

- Reception: £19.00
- Year 1: £14.00
- Year 2: £20.50
- Year 3: £40.00 (including a commendable £10 contribution from a pupil, generously donated from her personal savings in honour of her grandmother)
- Year 4: £10.00
- Year 5: £40.23

- Year 6: £22.81

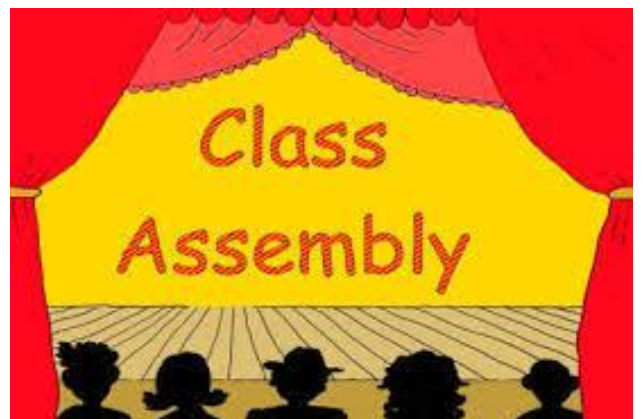
This outpouring of support exemplifies the compassionate spirit that permeates our school community, and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who participated.

In matters of health and well-being, our Year 6 cohort recently participated in the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP), colloquially known as the school height and weight checks. This annual, mandated programme, executed by local authorities, involves the measurement of height and weight for all children in Reception and Year 6. I am pleased to report that our Year 6 children conducted themselves with admirable maturity and composure throughout this process, demonstrating the responsible demeanour we strive to cultivate.



In our ongoing commitment to safeguarding and emergency preparedness, we recently conducted a practice of our Lockdown procedures. It is with great pride that I report the exemplary behaviour exhibited by our children during this exercise. They adhered to all practical steps with a level of care and consideration that belies their years, further reinforcing the importance we place on safety and preparedness within our school environment.

Looking ahead, I am excited to announce our Curriculum Assembly for the parents of Year 6 children, scheduled for next week. This event presents a unique opportunity for our Year 6 cohort to showcase highlights from their lessons, projects, and activities, providing you with valuable insights into their educational journey this academic year. We eagerly anticipate this occasion for them to share their progress and achievements with you, celebrating the fruits of their academic labour and personal growth.



As we reflect on these recent events and look forward to future endeavours, I am continually impressed by the dedication, enthusiasm, and resilience demonstrated by our children, staff, and wider school community. These qualities serve as the bedrock

of our educational ethos, fostering an environment where learning thrives and personal development flourishes.



It is with a sense of concern that I must bring to your attention a recent development that reflects a broader societal issue. This week, our school received a delivery of complimentary toothbrushes and toothpaste. While seemingly benign, this occurrence serves as an indicator of a national trend: children are not engaging in adequate oral hygiene practises, either in frequency or duration at home. The implications of this trend are significant, prompting some schools to assume what has traditionally been a parental responsibility. These schools have implemented supervised tooth-brushing regimens, occurring twice daily within the school environment. We will be giving the toothbrushes and toothpaste to all children in Year One as part of their study of 'Myself', so it can be used.

Here are some top-tips to support teeth brushing...

Start teaching your child to brush their teeth as soon as they can hold a toothbrush. During those early years, you'll need to assist them until you are confident, they can do it independently. Some children refuse to brush their teeth at all, but if you're only struggling to get your child to use proper technique, these activities might help:

- Educate with Fun Books & Videos. If you can't convince your child that proper oral care is important, maybe your child's favourite book or TV character can. Many popular books, TV shows and online videos are designed for teaching children how to take care of their teeth and encourage healthy oral care habits.
- Teach Through Play. Children often learn through play, so use age-appropriate dental activities to help your kids learn about dental hygiene and encourage proper brushing. For example, use a poster board to draw a smiling face with teeth. Use a marker to colour those teeth yellow, and allow the kids to paint the teeth white. Talk about the importance of cleaning teeth, so they stay white and healthy.



- Use a Timer. One of the biggest obstacles to proper brushing is getting your children to brush for the entire two minutes. Turn this into a game by using a timer to help them understand the proper brushing length. You can use an hourglass timer or even an app on your phone to keep your kids on track.
- Make a Special Dental Visit. Regular dental checkups can be another way to encourage proper brushing. Your child's dental professional can demonstrate proper cleaning techniques and give them tips for a sparkling and healthy smile. Make these visits a fun activity by combining them with fun family time — like a trip to the local park or museum or a picnic with healthy snacks.

No matter how often you explain the importance of clean and healthy teeth, some children will still refuse to brush. If you're tired of the tears and fights, try these tips for making brushing fun for that child who just won't brush their teeth.

- Lead by Example. Toddlers often love to mimic what their parents are doing. Use that to your advantage by brushing together. Watching you brush your teeth can make the process more interesting for your toddler, and you can set a great example simultaneously. If you're courageous, let your toddler practice brushing your teeth while you brush theirs. Funny faces are encouraged.
- Sing and Brush. Everything is more fun with music, and teeth brushing is no exception. Find a song about brushing to sing to your child, or make some simple lyrics on your own. You can even let them pick out one of their favourite tunes to play — bonus points if the song lasts for two minutes to encourage thorough brushing.
- Play Games. Use props, games, or apps to add an element of fun to toothbrushing. Bring along a favourite stuffed animal or doll, and let your child practice brushing its teeth while you brush theirs. Pretend a dirty puppy is hiding in their mouth and "chase it away" with the toothbrush. Or take advantage of mobile apps that play music or use characters to encourage kids to brush their teeth.
- Let Them Choose. Practicing oral care is not an option, but you can still empower your child with choices when it comes to teeth brushing. Take your child to the toothbrush aisle at the store and let them choose a toothbrush or toothpaste in a fun colour or with their favourite character. You could even have multiple toothbrushes available and let them choose which one to use when it's time to brush.
- A Note from the Tooth Fairy. Children love getting money from the tooth fairy. If your child refuses to brush their teeth, place a note from the tooth fairy on the

bathroom mirror informing them that there's no payment for teeth that haven't been properly brushed. And the tooth fairy knows everything (wink, wink).

- Reward. Sometimes a little extra motivation is all that's needed to encourage brushing. Create a simple progress chart, and let your child place a sticker every time they finish brushing their teeth. This visual aid gets them involved in the process and helps them stay focused on the task. You can also provide little rewards — like an extra story at bedtime or the ability to choose the next family board game or five minutes of extra screen time — to motivate them even more.

### Dates for your diary

Date	Activity	
24.10.24	Year 6 Curriculum Assembly	During the assembly for the parents of Year 6, the children will present highlights from their lessons, projects, and activities, giving you insight into their educational journey this year. We will be excited for them to share their progress and achievements with you.
24.10.24	Year 1 Trip to Blists Hill	
25.10.24	Half term	

04.11.24	Year 6 trip to Walsall Arboretum	
05.11.24	Reading workshop for Parents	We are pleased to invite you to an informative workshop on Early Reading Development, designed to help you support your child's reading journey. This will be straight after school.
06.11.24	St Mary's Day	
07.11.24	Year 4 trip to Chester All day	
11.11.24	Club members performance for parents	During this celebration for parents, the children will share what they've been working on in their clubs, from sports and arts to computing and music. It's a chance for them to shine and for us to recognise their dedication and enthusiasm outside of regular school hours.
13.11.24	Year 5 Curriculum Assembly	During the assembly for the parents of Year 5, the children will present highlights from their lessons, projects, and activities, giving you insight into their educational journey this year. We will be excited for them to share their progress and achievements with you.
19.11.24	Early maths workshop for parents - SG	During this workshop, we will cover foundational number skills that are essential for young learners, including counting, number recognition, and simple calculations. You will leave with helpful resources and ideas for fun, engaging activities that can build your child's confidence in mathematics.
10.12.24	KS1 Christmas performance 9am and 2pm	We will be delighted to invite you to our annual Christmas performances! The children will have worked hard to prepare a festive show filled with music, drama, and cheer. We can't wait to share the magic of the season with you!
12.12.24	KS2 Christmas performance 9am and 2pm	
17.12.24	Christmas dinner	
19.12.24	Children break-up for Christmas	
07.01.25	Children return to school	

Have a nice  
weekend

