



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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The loss of our Pope

As a school community, we are deeply saddened by the passing of Pope Francis. His leadership, compassion, and unwavering commitment to peace and justice have left a profound impact on millions around the world. In honour of his legacy, we wish to come together as a school to reflect, remember, and pay tribute to this great spiritual leader.

We will be dedicating additional time throughout the day for lessons and reflection focused on the Pope's contributions to faith, unity, and humanity. This will include

guided discussions, prayers, and activities that encourage children to think about the values he upheld.

Furthermore, the entire school will be making a trip to the local church, where we will participate in a collective prayer service to honour his memory. This outing will provide an opportunity for children to reflect in a peaceful, spiritual setting and connect with the values of faith that guide us.

We invite parents to join us in keeping Pope Francis in our thoughts and prayers during this time of reflection.

Sun Safety

As the warmer weather approaches, we want to take a moment to remind everyone of the importance of sun safety for our children. With the sun shining brighter and the days growing longer, it's essential that we all take steps to protect our little ones from harmful UV rays.

At school, we do not apply suncream to children, so it is crucial that each child arrives with a long-lasting, high-quality suncream already applied. We recommend using a suncream with an SPF of at least 30, which offers broad-spectrum protection from both UVA and UVB rays.

To ensure continuous protection throughout the day, please choose a suncream that provides long-lasting coverage, as children will be outdoors for various activities, including playtime and PE. We also encourage you to send your child with a sun hat, sunglasses, and a water bottle to help them stay cool and comfortable.

By working together, we can keep our children safe and healthy in the sun. We appreciate your support in this important matter.

Thank you for your attention to sun safety.

Year 6 SATs

As the Year 6 SATs approach, we want to remind all parents and guardians that the official testing days are just around the corner. These tests are an important milestone for our students, but with a little support and encouragement, your child can approach the exams with confidence.

Here are some simple but effective ways parents can help their children in the final days leading up to the SATs:

Create a Calm and Positive Environment

Stress levels can rise as the SATs draw closer, so it's crucial to help your child stay calm. Encourage open conversations about how they're feeling, and remind them that the tests are just one part of their learning journey. Keep a positive attitude and focus on effort, not perfection.

Encourage Regular Breaks

It's important that your child balances their study time with breaks to avoid burnout. Encourage them to take regular short breaks while revising- perhaps a quick walk, a healthy snack, or a few minutes of relaxation to keep their energy levels up.

Support with Practice Papers

Practise makes perfect! Try working through a few past SATs papers together to familiarise your child with the format and timing of the tests. Don't worry about aiming for perfection - focus on building confidence and identifying any areas that may need further attention.

Help with Time Management

Time management is key during the SATs. Practising timed exercises at home will help your child get used to the time limits they will face during the tests. This can also help them develop strategies for pacing themselves.

Encourage Healthy Habits

The days leading up to the SATs can be tiring, so help your child stay in top form by encouraging good sleep habits, nutritious meals, and physical activity. A healthy mind and body will set them up for success on test day.

Be Their Cheerleader

Sometimes, the best thing you can do is to be there for them with encouragement and reassurance. Celebrate their efforts, no matter the outcome, and remind them how proud you are of all they've accomplished throughout the year.

The SATs are an opportunity for students to demonstrate all they have learned so far, but it's important to keep everything in perspective. With your support and a calm, positive approach, your child will feel well-prepared to tackle the challenge ahead.

We wish all of our Year 6 children the best of luck as they head into these final days of preparation. You've got this 😊.