



St Mary's RC Primary School

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School Newsletter October 2021

'Forward Together In Christ; we can, we will , together

#Growth #Resilience #Community

Mission Statement: At St Mary's we are dedicated to educating our young people in an inclusive, stimulating and challenging environment preparing them for life-long learning.

Ethos & Values: We will provide this in a secure, happy and welcoming environment where Christian and Catholic values are cherished and where staff, pupils and parents work in partnership to achieve common goals.



October has been the month of the Holy Rosary and Black History Month. We had a whole school assembly highlighting key moments and figures from black history that have made incredible contributions to the country we live in and listened to people like David Olusoga. Classes have then been involved in discussions / activities about equalities and the world they live in. I had a lovely morning



in P3/4 watching them create a 'web' of connection where they were sharing what made them unique and Evan said in response to being asked why is it important to talk about these things, 'If we didn't talk about them maybe people would get bullied for being different'. Our parent/staff Equalities group met just before the holidays and we hope to send out a family 'talk task' and short survey so please look out for these very soon! It will come as no surprise that classes have also been having lots of discussions about our planet in light of COP26 happening soon.



Thank you for helping support the charity, 'Show Racism the Red Card' today—it was great to see pupils wearing red who were able. So far we raised £160. We have a Pupil Equality Group who are thinking about how we can make our school even better and raise awareness about equalities issues.



Sarah Adlington

Olympic athlete



Sarah Adlington is a British judoka. She has won over 75 medals, including +78kg gold at the 2015 Oceania Open in Wollongong and at the 2013 European Open in Rome. She was set to compete in the 2019 European Games in Minsk, Belarus. [Wikipedia](#)

Our P6 classes were delighted to welcome Sarah Adlington to school this week to talk about her recent experience at the Tokyo Olympics and about her training and what drives her.

Thanks so much to Aoife in P6a for helping to organise the visit. And thanks so much to Sarah for taking the time to visit!

It's been quite a short month but classes have been busy as always like P7a. As they begin to think about designing and building their eco cities P7a have been discussing land use and took a walk up Calton Hill to get a better view of Edinburgh's placement and an idea of the layout of the city. The pupils were tasked with taking photos of the views from Calton Hill so that they can use these photos in class. They also had an extra challenge to test their photography skills by trying to capture the sun through one of the monuments!



This may be of interest:

Place2Be has launched **Parenting Smart** a website resource for parents and carers of 4-11 year olds. A Place2Be survey of 962 parents found that around half (52%) of parents of 4-11-year-olds felt isolated during the pandemic, and almost half (48%) of parents felt they would have benefitted from advice about how to manage their children's behaviour during the pandemic. Place2Be developed **Parenting Smart** to help parents and carers support their children's mental health and manage their behaviour. It's completely free to use and access. Developed by Place2Be's parenting experts, the site is full of tips and advice on a range of topics including transition to secondary school, meltdowns and sleep difficulties. **Learn more at parentingsmart.org.uk**

General Information

Parent Consultations

Thanks to all those who have booked. If you have any issues please do get in touch. Mrs White has been doing a great job solving any problems so do let us know if you are having difficulties.

Christmas Cards

Huge thanks to Katie Berry for organising the Christmas Cards this year—it is quite an undertaking so we are incredibly grateful as it does raise helpful funds for the school!

After School Activity

We are delighted that we can begin to offer clubs and activities after school again and I am really grateful to those staff who have volunteered and are able to take a club. If any parent wants to volunteer to take a club after school or can help with our girls football teams in particular do get in touch!

Principal Teacher Post

Our own Ms Murphy was successful after interviews this Tuesday in being selected as the preferred candidate for our principal teacher post. She will hopefully be able to start in this role very soon once the necessary paperwork is completed. This means we will need to recruit a class teacher as Ms Murphy is obviously already in school and so recruitment will be underway asap for that post!

All Saints Day

As we cannot attend mass as we would normally for this holy day of obligation, classes have access to a service being broadcast on Monday with one or two classes possibly attending mass in the cathedral.

Dyslexia Awareness week

Next week is Dyslexia Awareness Week. Many thanks to Dr Anna Cunniff for the donation of these dyslexia friendly/super readable books for our library!



Clocks go back!

A reminder that the clocks go back this weekend ! (In the UK clocks go back 1 hour at 2am on the last Sunday in October).

As always, thank you for your continued support. N. Kehoe.

