

11 October 2016



St Mary
Magdalene
Academy

Parent Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Autumn term is in full flow. Pupils and staff are working well together, ensuring that life at the Courtyard is running smoothly and progress is being made in all areas.

Key Worker

As you will be aware, your child has a key worker who acts in a pastoral role to ensure that your child is happy and healthy in school. Your child meets four times a week with their key worker during Guardian time where they cover a range of topics including equipment and homework checks, social, moral and cultural discussions, and safety, in and around school.

For your information, your child's key worker is **Mrs Rush**. She is your link between home and school. If you have any inquiries please email Mrs Rush at Alison.rush@smmacademy.org If she is unable to answer your questions, then she will forward your queries onto Mrs Healy, Ms Norman or myself.

The Home-School link is incredibly important to us all at the Courtyard. Working closely with parents allows us to provide the best possible holistic education.

Parents Evening – 17.11.16

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the Courtyard parents evening will be on Thursday 17 November 2016, from 3:45pm – 6:30pm. The parents evening is an opportunity for you to discuss your child's academic progress with their subject teachers. After half term, a reply slip will be sent out asking you to confirm a time slot for your appointment. Please note if your child attends SMMA lessons, you will have the opportunity to meet with those teachers in the Spring term. The November parents evening is to meet with Courtyard teachers only.

Shakespeare Schools Festival

I am delighted to inform you that Courtyard pupils are participating in the Shakespeare Schools festival for the second year. A group of pupils are working with Mrs Healy to perform Julius Caesar.

The performance will take place at the Pleasance Theatre on North Road on **Thursday 20 October at 7:00pm**. Tickets cost £9 (£7 for under 18's) and can be purchased from the Pleasance Theatre Box Office on **02076091800**. Please say that you are members of the Courtyard school to purchase a ticket from our allocation. Alternatively, you visit www.pleasance.co.uk to purchase tickets online.

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Please can I urge you to come along to the festival and support our pupils as they overcome their difficulties around social interaction, interpretation and empathising with characters. The performance of Macbeth last year was outstanding and this year aims to be even better.

Parent Governor

Last week information was sent out from the Courtyard chair of Governors, regarding our available post of Parent Governor. Many of you have shown interest in the position, which we are hugely thankful for. If you would like to put yourself forward for nominations then please return the reply slip to me by **Monday 17 October**.

Half term

Finally, a reminder that half term begins on Friday 21 October until Sunday 30 October. Please ensure your child returns to school for registration at 8:30am on Monday 31 October. **We will be returning to Week B.**

Best wishes

Deborah Shepherd
Headteacher
The Courtyard
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