



Primary School Newsletter

16 September 2016

It's been a busy week for the children with nearly every class out on a trip linked to their 'Unit of Inquiry'. Thanks to all the staff for their hard work organising and accompanying the children and a special thanks to the parents who volunteered to come along and your feedback. It's not possible for the children to go on trips without your support and we hope you enjoyed yourselves. Photos of the trips will feature in next week's newsletter. As a staff we will be reflecting on the successes of the trips and any improvements for future ones. This newsletter contains a lot of important information including dates for a 'Meet the Teacher'. Please read through carefully.

Ms Ruth Luzmore



Parking outside the school

The **safety of our children is paramount**; therefore, may I politely remind you that it is illegal to park on the yellow zigzag lines outside of the school gates. We understand that it may be busy to drop off and collect, but this allows access for emergency vehicles. Last week, we had cause to phone an ambulance, but it was reported to me that people were parked on the zig-zags at the time delaying access. You must also not stop here to drop off children as this is not only dangerous, but creates further traffic problems. Wardens from Islington will be patrolling in the future periodically.

Message from PTA - Welcome Barbecue

Thursday 22 September 3.30pm

Next Thursday we will hold our annual barbecue to celebrate the return to school for years 1 to 6 and to welcome the new Reception children and their families. All are welcome. Hotdogs and burgers will be £1 each, but free for Reception, who will get vouchers. If anyone can help on the day please let Donna know. If you have any unneeded uniform please also give it to Donna, as we plan to sell second hand uniform at the barbecue.



Jeans for Genes

Next **Friday, 23 September** we will be celebrating Jeans for Genes Day again. The money raised goes to causes such as providing support for families with children with genetic disorders, undertaking important research into attempting to find cures and treatment for various genetic disorders as well as producing educational resources. This year the suggestion is to 'overdo' it in denim by wearing two items of denim clothing. So, if you have a denim shirt and jeans you may wear these next Friday. If you don't have a denim top just wear jeans or a denim skirt and your school jumper. Please don't forget to bring a donation of at least £1. Class teachers will collect the money and hand out stickers.

St Mary Magdalene Academy Liverpool Road London N7 8PG Tel 020 7697 0123 Fax 020 7700 4218

Email firstcontact@smmacademy.org Website www.smmacademy.org

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Nut Allergy

Please be aware that we have a number of children in school with significant allergies and as such we would insist that all products brought into school are nut-free. Thank you.



Birthdays

Birthdays are an important celebration. If you would like to send in a treat for your child's birthday then individual small cakes or a small packet of sweets are easiest and best for giving out at the end of the school day. Please do not send in large cakes that need to be cut up by staff or anything containing nuts.

Assembly themes

This week **Reverend April** talked to us about how small acorns can grow into large oak trees and how we all have the potential to use our talents. **Mrs Luzmore** spoke about the difference between wisdom and knowledge telling a traditional Indian folktale.

After School Clubs

Clubs start next week. Please see Donna in the office if you would like to arrange for your child to be walked to MLK the club finishes on Monday – Wednesday only.

**Chess club will start 28 September
12.45pm**

Contact Details

It is **vitaly** important that we have up to date contact details for all children's parents and carers. If you have changed your address and/or phone number, please let Donna in the Primary office know.

Attendance and Punctuality

Good attendance at school is a key factor in ensuring all children here at SMMA have the best opportunities to fulfil their potential. Good attendance means, where possible, an overall attendance of 96% or above.

As parents/carers we expect you to play your part by making sure your child arrives to **school every day and on time**. Children need to be in the playground to start the day **at 8:55am**. If your child (ren) arrives after 9am they will be registered as late. If for any reason your child is unable to attend school it is important that you call the School Reception on **0207 502 4716/4722** on the first day of absence. If your child is absent from school for more than three days due to ill health, a medical/prescription /note will be required. For further information, please contact Sharon Baker-Spencer (Attendance Officer) or Donna at Reception.

School Uniform

At the start of a new school year, we know that lots of families will have spent money on buying new uniform and the children have come back to school looking very smart.

Please ensure **all** uniform is labelled – especially coats, jumpers and lunch boxes which tend to go missing easily. This saves everyone time reuniting the item with its owner and money if things go missing!

Free School Meal Entitlement

As you will know, **all** of the primary children currently receive a free school meal, however, **some** primary children are also eligible for a school meal entitlement. The school receives significant extra funding for all children with a free school meal entitlement and this provides much needed extra resources for the school. If you think your child may be eligible for a free school meal entitlement, then please do speak to Donna in the Primary office. The process of applying is very straight forward and can be completed at school.

Meet the Teachers!

At St Mary Magdalene, we believe that a strong partnership with home is crucial to your child's success. So at the start of a new school year, we felt it would be a good idea to offer parents and families a chance to come along after school to meet their child's new teacher. For Year 1 – 6 classes, these short meetings (**dates below**) will take place at **3.30pm** in the classrooms and will be an opportunity for staff to introduce themselves, talk about the curriculum for the year, share the expected outcomes for pupils and how you can support at home. A crèche for school age children will be available in another classroom. A separate meeting for Reception will take place at the date and time below. We understand that it may not be possible for all families to attend at that time, but will endeavour to make the information for those who couldn't make the meeting. While these meetings will be more general in content, there will be time to talk in more detail about individual pupils at the parent meetings in the last week of half-term. We would welcome your ideas as how we can best communicate with you all. Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Standing or Ms Luzmore to talk about your ideas.

'Meet The Teachers' dates

Monday 26 September	Year 2 – Miss Eastlake
Tuesday 27 September	Year 1 – Miss Nagra
Wednesday 28 September	Year 3 – Miss Grindrod
Wednesday 28 September	Reception Class – Miss Barbor (Class talk) 9.00am
Monday 3 October	Year 5 - Mr Spencer
Tuesday 4 October	Year 6 – Mr Standing
Wednesday 5 October	Year 4 – Mr Berridge

Other important dates for your diary

Macmillan Coffee Morning – Thursday 29 September – 9.00am

Harvest Festival – Friday 30 September, 9.00am -

Individual Photos - Friday 14 October

Parent Meetings - Tuesday 18 October, Wednesday 19 October 3.50pm – 6.10pm

PTSA Christmas Party – Thursday 8 December – times TBC

Reception & KS1 Nativity - Friday 16 December – 9.30am & 2.00pm (tickets £2.00)

Y3, 4, 5 Shaw Theatre, Snow White & Seven Dwarfs – Monday 19 December, 1.30pm

Reception Class - Little Angel Theatre – Tuesday 20 December, 10.00am

Y1, 2 Little Angel Theatre - Tuesday 20 December, 11.30am

Y6 Hackney Empire Christmas show - 20 December 1.30pm

KS2 Christmas Carol Concert – Tuesday 20 December 6.00pm – SMMA Church

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