



St. Philomena's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Miss V Maher

Newsletter – 15 September 2023 Autumn Term

School Mass

We were delighted to welcome Fr. Cyriacus to school yesterday to celebrate Mass. During the celebration, we asked for God's blessings on our school and Fr Cyriacus encouraged the children to show respect for their teachers, their parents and each other.

Thank you to Ms Omilegan for organising the Mass and well done to all the children who read, sang and behaved so beautifully.

Virtues to Live By

Linked to the message delivered by Fr. Cyriacus yesterday, our assembly this morning introduced the children to the virtues of RESPECT AND COURTESY; our focus for September. All children were reminded about how they can demonstrate this through good manners, kindness and respect for their belongings and those of others. We look forward to awarding some special certificates to children from every class at the end of the month.

Parish Celebration

I look forward to seeing many of you at Our Lady of the Crays Church for the special celebrations on Sunday. This is a wonderful time for our Parish community to come together and we will also be celebrating the 20th anniversary of Fr Cyriacus' ordination as a priest.

Here is the link to the Parish newsletter which details lots of important information about the day.

<https://www.ourladyofthecrays.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/03.09.23-Twenty-Second-Sunday-A-Website.pdf>

Safeguarding

The safety of all of our children is always at the forefront of our minds and we value the importance of working together with our families and wider community to ensure the well-being of our children is maintained. With this in mind, I often use the weekly newsletter to share important information on the many ways in which we can protect our children.

This week, I have attached a prompt sheet with some great ideas on how you can keep your children safe online.

Playground Equipment

A polite reminder that children (including those who do not attend St Philomena's) should not play with any playground equipment BEFORE or AFTER school. This includes footballs, hoops etc... The playground is very busy at these times and we often have much younger siblings around so we like to keep everyone safe. Thank you for your support.

Lost Property

Please label all school uniform – we have lots of jumpers/cardigans already in lost property !

**LOST
PROPERTY**

Black History Month: October 2023



Black History Month 2023 is a momentous occasion to recognise and celebrate the invaluable contributions of black people to British society. The aims of Black History Month are to:

- Promote black history, culture and heritage.
- Share information on positive black contributions to society.

This year the theme is '**Saluting Our Sisters**' in which we will be learning about and celebrating the exceptional achievements of black women.



Would you like to help us?

Maybe you'd like to:

- Come in and read or tell a story
- Teach a group of children a traditional African or Caribbean dance
- Teach greetings in an African language
- Teach our children any traditional arts or crafts, e.g. tie dying or jewellery making

If so or if you have any other suggestions, please let Miss Molineaux know or email the office.

Thank you!

Miss Molineaux

School Gateway System

Please make sure you are registered with our new School Gateway System. This system is used to make payments and to register for clubs. .

Piano Lessons

There are spaces available for Piano lessons. Please contact the school office and we shall send you a Bromley Youth Music Trust form to complete.

Art Week!

(Monday 18.9.23 – Friday 22.9.23)

Details for the week have been separately, but hopefully this summary will help:

Monday 18th September *The Big Draw!*

Eco Mosaic: Uniting for a Greener World
NO RESOURCES REQUIRED

Tuesday September 19th *Recycled Sculptures.*

PLEASE BRING RECYCLABLE JUNK to create wonderful artwork

Wednesday 20th September *Eco-art toys.*

We will design and create playground equipment using recycled materials.
NO RESOURCES REQUIRED

Thursday September 21st *Upcycled T-shirt Day*

PLEASE BRING AN OLD T-SHIRT for a special upcycling project

Friday September 22nd *Recycled Rhythms*

PLEASE PAY ONLINE – NO RESOURCES REQUIRED



Please gather as many **plastic** bottle tops as possible. We will use them to create a mosaic. All colours are welcome, but we have a preference for blue or yellow please! Bring your collection to your teacher **ON MONDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER**, along with a note indicating the quantity collected. The child who collects the most bottle tops will be rewarded with a prize!

School Fund Contribution



We ask that each family contributes to a fund which helps to subsidise outings, cover the cost of cooking ingredients and pay for various other items needed to provide enrichment activities for your child. Enrichment of the curriculum is a strength here and your family contribution to the school fund will be put to very good use. The recommended amount is **£5 per family per term**, and this can be paid online (under products, online shop). Your contributions are very much appreciated.

OUTSTANDING DINNER MONEY

Should there be any outstanding dinner money from last term please can you make sure this is paid as soon as possible so that the account can be cleared on the school gateway system.

TERM DATES

ACADEMIC YEARS 2023 - 2024

Autumn Term 2023:

INSET DAY: **Wednesday 30th August 2023**
First day back: **Thursday 31st August 2023**

Half-term 16.10.23 – 27.10.23
Last day of term Wednesday 20th December 2023

Spring Term 2024:

INSET DAY **Wednesday 3rd January 2024**
First day of term Thursday 4th January 2024
Half-term 12.02.24 – 16.02.24
Last day of term Thursday 28th March 2024

Summer Term 2024:

First day of term Monday 15th April 2024

Bank Holiday

Half-term 27.05.24 – 31.05.2024
Last day of term Friday 19th July 2024
INSET DAYS **Monday 22nd, Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th July 2024**

Important Dates

Reception Parents Curriculum Meeting
2.45pm Hall Wednesday 20 September.

Year 5 & 6 Our Lady of the Cray Mass
Thursday 21 September

Year 4 Our Lady of the Cray Mass
Thursday 28 September

Year 2 Our Lady of the Cray Mass
Thursday 12 October

Whole School Mass – Our Lady of the Cray
Wednesday 1 November

Reception Mass – Our Lady of the Cray
Thursday 23 November

Remembrance Assembly – School Hall
Thursday 9 November

Harvest Festival Event
Tuesday 10 October

Carol Concert – Our Lady of the Cray
Tuesday 5 December

Class Assembly Dates

Year 3 Friday 17 November

Year 4 Friday 1 December

Year 5 Friday 24 November

Year 6 Friday 10 November

Have a lovely weekend !

Miss Veronica Maher



Children and young people are bound to spend lots more time on devices since Covid. **DON'T FEEL BAD** – lots will be schoolwork or healthy ways of catching up with friends or having fun. There are many ways to keep them safe, healthy and happy.

Don't worry about screen time; aim for screen quality

Scrolling through social media isn't the same as making a film or story, or Skyping Grandma. Use the Children's Commissioner's 'Digital Five A Day' to plan or review each day together.



Check the safety settings are turned on

Whether it's your home internet, mobile devices, consoles, apps or games, there are lots of settings to make them safer. The key ones are - can they chat to strangers, can they video chat or 'go live', are their posts public? **Internet Matters** has hundreds of guides to parental controls.



Get your children to show you their apps and games

You don't need to know all about the latest app or game, but if your child shows you what they are doing and with whom, you'll probably see if it's appropriate or not. Remember 18 games are not more advanced – they are harmful to children! For parent guides to apps, including recommendations for kidsafe apps and video platforms, search for **Common Sense Media** or **NSPCC's NetAware**. And why not download the **BBC Own It** app?



Don't try to hide news about scary things in the news

If you don't talk about it, your children might read inappropriate pages, believe scare stories or simply catastrophise in their heads. Why not watch **Newsround** together and talk about how they feel – there is guidance from **Childline** to help you.

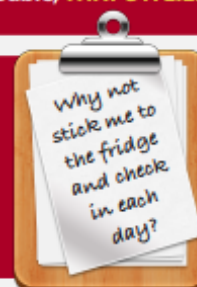


Remind them of key online safety principles

There are too many to list, but remember human behaviour is the same online and offline. Remind your children to be a good friend, to ask for help if they are worried or if someone is mean, not to get undressed on camera and most important of all... if somebody tells them not to tell or ask for help because it's too late or they will get in trouble, **THAT'S A LIE!**

If you aren't sure, ASK!

Your school may be able to give you advice, but there are plenty of other places to ask for help as a parent or a child, whether it is advice or help to fix something. Lots of sites are listed at reporting.lgfl.net, including ones to tell your kids about (they might not want to talk to you in the first instance).



Follow the links above, visit parentsafe.lgfl.net for much more or follow us @LGfLDigiSafe on Twitter or Facebook