



St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

Following Jesus in all we think, do and say

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Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Alley

Dear Parents/Carers,

Newsletter: Friday 26th September 2025

Welcome Meetings

Thank you to all of you who attended our welcome meetings. The presentations shared at the meetings have been uploaded to the class pages on the school website. Please [click here](#) to view.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your generous support today for our Macmillan Coffee Morning. Your contributions, whether through donations, baking, or simply attending, have helped to make the event a tremendous success.

Together, we were able to raise much-needed funds for Macmillan Cancer Support, a charity that does incredible work for individuals and families affected by cancer. Your participation not only made a positive impact on our school community but also supports those facing challenging times in our wider society.

We are truly grateful for your kindness, generosity and time. We look forward to announcing the amount raised in our next newsletter.



Neal Zetter Author Visit: Monday 22nd September

We were lucky enough to be visited by a real author and poet this week, Neal Zetter. Neal performed an array of poetry for KS1 and KS2, and even had a Q&A session to answer all of our excellent questions. Neal brought poetry to life for the children, and helped build enthusiasm for upcoming National Poetry Day. Thank you to the children who bought Neal's books, they were very popular!



Year 6 National Child Measurement Programme: Tuesday 30th September

A reminder that Year 6 will have their height and weight measured at school on Tuesday 30th September. The measurements will be carried out by [Westminster School Health Service](#), in line with the school and local authority's safety control measure and national guidance for schools and healthcare. All the information collected about your child will be held securely by Westminster Council's Public Health team and the School Health Service and will be sent securely to NHS England. Please see the letter sent home earlier in the month for more information.

National Poetry Day 2025: Thursday 2nd October

Next week we will be celebrating National Poetry Day by holding a Poetry Recital at school. National Poetry Day is a UK-wide celebration of poetry, and this year's theme is 'Play'. Each class will share a poem or nursery rhyme which they have been learning about in class. They will perform it in a whole school assembly celebration. If you would like to get involved at home and promote a love of poetry, then please visit the National Poetry website by [clicking here](#).

Sayer's Croft Year 5 Residential Parent Meeting: Friday 3rd October

Year 5 parents are invited to attend an information session in the school hall at 3pm on Friday 3rd October. This follows on from the Sayer's Croft letter emailed to parents this week, which included payment information. Miss Smaller, Miss Brown and Miss Hulands will be sharing important information about the upcoming Year 5 residential, including packing list and medication procedures. They will be able to answer any questions or concerns you may have. If you are unable to attend, we will upload the information shared in the session to the Year 5 class page. We look forward to seeing you there!

School Photographer: Tuesday 7th October

The school photographer will be in on Tuesday 7th October to take individual photos of children and siblings. More information to follow.

Flu Vaccine Programme Immunisation Day: Thursday 9th October

Vaccination UK has been commissioned by NHS England to deliver school-aged immunisations to pupils in England. Consent information was sent earlier in the month. The quick, painless nasal vaccine will be administered to pupils who have been given consent.

Stay and Play Foundation Stage: Monday 13th October

Foundation Stage parents/carers of pupils in our Foundation Stage are warmly invited to come into school on Monday 13th October between 8:30-8:50am or 3:20-3:40pm. This is an opportunity for your child to show you around Nursery/Reception and all the activities they love to play. It is also a chance for you to talk with your child's class teacher and have a look through your child's achievements to date.

Stay and Share Key Stage One: Tuesday 14th October

Key Stage 1 parents/carers of pupils in Goldfinches, Hummingbirds and Kingfishers are warmly invited to come into school from 8:30-8:50am or 3:20-3:40pm on Tuesday 14th October to visit your child's classroom and look at their books.

Stay and Share Lower Key Stage Two: Wednesday 15th October

Lower Key Stage 2 parents/carers of pupils in Swifts, Swallows and Kestrels are warmly invited to come into school from 8:30-8:50am or 3:25-3:45pm on Wednesday 15th October to visit your child's classroom and look at their books.

Stay and Share Upper Key Stage Two: Thursday 16th October

Upper Key Stage 2 parents/carers of pupils in Herons, Swans and Pelicans are warmly invited to come into school from 8:30-8:50am or 3:30-3:50pm on Thursday 16th October to visit your child's classroom and look at their books.

Parent Teacher Consultations

These will take place during the week beginning **Monday 20th October**. Dates are as follows:

- **Monday 20th October & Wednesday 22nd October – Foundation Stage/Key Stage 1**
- **Tuesday 21st October & Thursday 23rd October – Key Stage 2**

Further information will be sent via email so please ensure the school office has the most up to date contact information. Meetings will be held in person.

School Tours for Prospective Parents

Prospective parents/carers whose child is due to start Reception or Nursery in September 2026 are encouraged to visit the school for a tour with a member of the senior leadership team. Further information on admissions can be found [here](#). Tours are scheduled to take place on the following dates at 10am.

Thursday 9th October

Thursday 23rd October

Thursday 6th November

Thursday 13th November

Thursday 8th January

Tours last approximately 30 minutes and must be booked in advance. To book a place, please contact the school office on 020 7792 1883 or email office@stmaryangels.co.uk We look forward to meeting you!

Autumn Term Calendar Dates

Important dates for the Autumn Term (September to December) were emailed to parents earlier this week. Please ensure you have looked at these carefully and added them to your diary. We will also always send reminders of events to parents/carers, and feature them in our fortnightly newsletters. Please [click here](#) to view the Autumn Calendar Dates.

Persistent Absenteeism

Once a child's attendance falls below 90% for whatever reason, they are automatically defined as a Persistent Absentee by the Department for Education (DfE), irrespective of the reason for absence. Once a child's attendance falls below 50%, they are termed Severely Absent. Much of the work children miss when they are off school is never made up. These gaps in their learning leave children at a considerable disadvantage for the remainder of their school career. Statistics show a direct link between poor attendance and under-achievement, particularly at GCSE. Therefore, it is our policy to inform parents when their child's attendance has dropped below 90%, via letter initially. The letter will state the actions we may need to take to support parents to improve pupil attendance. We may follow this up with a meeting should attendance continue to cause concern, so we can work together to bring about improvements. We thank you for your support with this.

Attendance record and lessons missed

- 95% attendance means 50 missed lessons. This means a child missed about 10 days or 2 weeks of lessons in the school year.
- 90% attendance means 100 missed lessons. This means a child misses four weeks of lessons in the school year.
- 85% attendance means 150 missed lessons. This means the child misses almost 6 weeks of lessons in the school year
- 80% attendance means 200 missed lessons. This means the child misses over 7 weeks of lessons in the school year
- 75% attendance means 250 missed lessons. This means the child misses about 9 weeks of lessons in the school year

Punctuality

- Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year, that's 20 lessons missed
 - Arriving 15 minutes late every day adds up to 2 weeks absence a year, that's 55 lessons missed
 - Arriving 30 minutes late every adds up to 19 days absence a year, that's 123 lessons missed
- *Please note, these calculations are approximate, based on how the terms fall each calendar year.

Discounted Tickets – Royal Opera House

Westminster City Council are offering discounted tickets for the Royal Opera House Family Sundays. Family Sundays at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden are fun, relaxed and creatively packed sessions perfect for families with children aged 3 to 10. Jam packed with workshops, performances and craft. They go on sale **Monday 29th September at 11am**. The discount makes these ticket £5 per ticket, which is a great saving. Get in quick as they will go fast! Click on the links below from Monday 29th September at 11am:

[Opening Night - 26 October 10:00](#)

[Opening Night - 26 October 13:00](#)



Catholic Life and Mission of the School

Feast of the Archangels Mass: Monday 29th September

Parents and carers are invited to join Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils and staff at Mass on Monday 29th September at 11am to celebrate the Feast of the Archangels. This will be celebrated by Fr. Keith at St. Mary of the Angels Church (W2 5DJ).

Pupil Roles and Responsibilities

Next week we will start our recruitment drive for new RE Pupil Chaplains (Year 5 and 6) and Caritas Ambassadors (Years 3-6). Children should collect a form from their teacher if they would like to apply, we will then short list pupils. The deadline for completing the application will be Friday 3rd October. We look forward to receiving applications. Our new RE Team will be announced in the next newsletter, alongside Year 6 House Captains and Student Council. We look forward to sharing new initiatives with the school community in the coming weeks. We can't wait to inform you all of our plans for the year ahead. Let's make a positive difference together!

Millennial Saints

Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati are the newest Saints of the Catholic Church. Both Carlo and Pier Giorgio lived amazing lives for Jesus, powered by the Holy Eucharist: they loved the people around them putting Jesus before anyone else. Pope Leo XIV says the examples of these two young saints invite all of us, especially young people, to direct our lives upwards to God and make them masterpieces of holiness, service, and joy.



Westminster Cathedral Junior Voices

The Westminster Cathedral Junior Voices is a top after-school choir seeking excellent and keen young singers (primary and secondary), starting on 8 October. The choir offers members an opportunity to sing once a month for the Saturday evening vigil mass at the Cathedral. Sessions are led by Choral Conductor Gerard Lim, and include instruction in Classical vocal production, choral ensemble skills building, and work on Roman Catholic liturgical music. Basic introduction to Catholic music history and music theory will also be taught in the process. This programme provides supervision from 4PM before a rehearsal at 4:30-5:30PM on Wednesdays during the school term. Rehearsals are held in Victoria, at the Hinsley Room, at Morpeth Terrace, beside Westminster Cathedral. On Saturdays where the choir sings at the Cathedral, rehearsal is from 4:30PM for mass at 6PM.

Come on 8 October for our first rehearsal! Sign up at: <https://forms.office.com/e/gp872nyRC4>

Assemblies and Prayer Services 2025/2026

Please [click here](#) for upcoming dates for the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms.

Reflection

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths." **Proverbs 3: 5-6**

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Hough
Acting Headteacher

Miss Hulands
Acting Deputy Headteacher