



St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

Following Jesus in all we think, do and say

Shrewsbury Road, Bayswater, London W2 5PR
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Website: www.stmaryangels.co.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Alley

Dear Parents/Carers

Newsletter: Friday 24th October 2025

Attendance

Thank you to all our parents and carers who ensure their child/children attend school regularly and on time which is essential for them to achieve their potential in all areas of their learning and development. Poor attendance is directly correlated to a pupil's level of success in their education and the school is currently reviewing our attendance policy and procedures to ensure we do all we can to promote and model good attendance. Whole school attendance is currently 94.14% which is close to the government's national target for primary school attendance. This is very positive but needs to be maintained and improved.

We understand that there are times when children will need to be absent from school for a number of reasons. This could include:

- Sickness or ill health
- Medical or dental appointments which fall during school hours
- Religious or cultural observances
- Family emergencies
- Bereavements

Absences during term time will only be authorised for the reasons above. However, we do urge you to book GP and dental appointments outside of school hours wherever possible.

Other absences during term time will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances, on a case by case basis, and the length of any authorised absences will be determined by the headteacher. **Requests for leave of absence during term time for the purpose of a family holiday will not be accepted.**

Authorisations will also not be granted for absence in the following instances:

- Day trips in term time
- Leaving school for unnecessary reasons during the school day
- Not attending school for an unnecessary reason such as shopping or birthdays
- Absences which have not been properly explained or have failed to follow the absence procedure

Parents and carers are reminded that they should report their child's absence by no later than 9.30am on their child's first day of absence. This can be done by phoning 02077921883 and pressing option 1 to leave a message or via email at attendance@stmaryangels.co.uk. Any parent who has not reported their child as absent will be contacted by the school text message. Failure to provide a reason for your child's absence may result in your child receiving an unauthorised absence. Please ensure you keep the school informed regarding how your child is and when they are likely to be back in school.

Punctuality

All parents/carers are reminded that on the rare occasions you and your child may arrive late for school you must accompany your child in to the school office where you will need to register your child. You are required to self-register your child using our online system in the school office, where you will sign your child in via their year group/date of birth. You will be asked to provide a reason for your late arrival. A reminder that arriving after the close of registration at 9.30 is counted as a missed session (half day) absence, although please be assured your child is registered as present.

Macmillan Coffee Morning and Young Minds 'Hello Yellow'

We are proud to announce that we were able to raise £120.55 for Macmillan Cancer Support at our coffee morning/afternoon. We were also very grateful for all of the donations of beautiful cakes from our parents, carers and staff. This year we wore yellow in support of World Mental Health Day, and were able to raise £175.89 for Young Minds. Thank you to our school community for your charitable giving, it was a wonderful opportunity to support such worthy causes and we look forward to many more opportunities to do so in the future.

School Book Fair: Monday 3rd November – Friday 7th November

Our first Book Fair of the year will be here from Monday 3rd November - Friday 7th November. This is a wonderful opportunity to buy some new books to read and enjoy, as well as help our school to buy new books for the classrooms. Last year, we were able to buy over £1,000 worth of books for the school due to the success of our previous book fairs. Let's continue to help and support the school and makes this year's Book Fair even more successful! Please come along and have a look! Don't forget to check out your teacher's 'Wish List' and donate a book to your child's class if you can.

Book Fair Opening Times

Location: School Hall

Monday 3rd: Foundation Stage (Ducklings & Robins) 3.25pm – 3.50pm

Tuesday 4th: Lower Key Stage 2 (Swifts, Swallows, Kestrels) 8.30am – 8.55am and 3:30-3:50pm

Wednesday 5th: Key Stage 1 (Goldfinches, Hummingbirds, Kingfishers) 8.30am – 8.55am and 3:30-3:50pm

Thursday 6th: Upper Key Stage 2 (Heron, Swans, Pelicans) 8.30am – 8.55am and 3:30-3:50pm

Friday 7th: Foundation Stage (Ducklings & Robins) 3.25pm – 3.50pm

Please enter the Book Fair via the school office

School Photographer: Tuesday 4th November

The school photographer will be in on Tuesday 4th November to take individual photos of children and siblings. Please ensure your child is dressed in the correct winter school uniform with their new tie (Years 1-6), or yellow polo shirt (Nursery and Reception). No P.E kits please. Information on how to order photos will be sent home with your child on the day. You will then be able to order your photos online.

Rescheduled Year 6 National Child Measurement Programme: Thursday 6th November

A reminder that Year 6 will have their height and weight measured at school on Thursday 6th November. 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 September for more information.

Year 6 House Captains and Posts of Responsibility

Congratulations to our newly appointed House Captains **Florence - St. Raphael**, **Treasure-Rae - St. Uriel**, **Theo - St. Michael** and **Albie - St. Gabriel**.

We have every faith that they will lead their houses with dedication and diligence and serve as a great example to others along with their Year 6 peers who have all stepped up to take on additional responsibilities including Digital Leaders, Hall Monitors, Office Monitors, Sports Captains, Pupil Chaplains, School Council Members and Caritas Ambassadors. We are so very proud of each and every one of them and know that they will all continue to have a positive impact on our school community in their final year at St. Mary of the Angels.



House points

A **coloured badge** has been given today to each student in Years 1-6 that correlates with their house colour. These badges are to be worn on their school ties each day at school. It helps to promote team spirit and pride amongst the children, as they work towards a collective goal.

Children in Years 1 to 6 have the opportunity to earn house points throughout the school day and from any member of staff in the school. Points can be awarded for words and actions which bear witness to Gospel Values and striving to be the best they can be. While our youngest children in Nursery and Reception are not awarded house points, we know from past experience that they enjoy joining in the celebrations when their house is awarded the House Point Trophy for having the highest number of house points that week and look forward to earning house points when they move in to Year 1. At the end of each half term, the children in the house with the highest number of house points awarded will receive a special reward. Congratulations to **Gabriel House**, who were awarded extra playtime today for their victory.

Parent Teacher Consultations

Thank you to all who made an appointment to speak to your child's class teacher this week. It was a pleasure to welcome you all in to the school to discuss your child's achievements to date and how they have settled into their new year class. As always, please contact the school office if you would like to speak to your child's class teacher or a member of the senior leadership team regarding any questions or concerns you may have. Year 5 Herons and Year 2 Kingfishers parents will be notified after the half term of rescheduled dates for parent teacher consultations.

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 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!

Catholic Life and Mission of the School

Caritas Ambassadors 2025-2026

Our dedicated team of Caritas Ambassadors will lead on the Calling London Winter Coat Campaign, in partnership once again with Chestertons, Notting Hill. We are seeking donations of winter coats and fleeces for those in most need. Donations can be dropped in to the school office from **Monday 3rd November- Thursday 20th November**.

What winter clothing items are needed?

- Coats of all styles
- Jackets
- Gilets
- Fleeces

All coats and winter jackets in good condition are welcome for children or adults.



Message from Fr. Keith

As Hallowe'en approaches, it is worth remembering that in origin it is a Christian festival: the Eve (evening before) of All Hallows, in other words All Saints, which the Church celebrates throughout the world on Nov. 1st, as a very important festival when all Catholics are supposed to go to Mass. What a pity it has been taken over by commercial interests and strange rather pagan practices. Why not visit a Church instead on Oct. 31st or Nov. 1st to light a candle, pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory (whom we pray for on Nov. 2nd, All Souls Day), and fill a container with Holy Water and bless your children, reminding them that Jesus has conquered the devil and they have nothing to be afraid of. Please see the letter emailed home to parents, in which Margaret Wickware, Catechist at St. Mary of the Angels Church, provides more information on this topic.

Catholic Life Resources at home

Families are invited to use the Wednesday Word, published weekly, and the Ten Ten Parent Newsletter, published monthly, to support you practise your faith together at home. [Click here](#) to access the Wednesday Word Gospel reflection.

RE Newsletter

Ten Ten's October newsletter is now available for you to read [here](#) or by clicking [here](#) to visit the Catholic Life of the School home page on the school website.

Other Faiths

Wishing all our staff, pupils and families a happy Diwali, may your home and hearts filled with joy and peace.

Assemblies and Prayer Services 2025/2026

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

Advent and Christmas Dates

Please [click here](#) for upcoming dates for Advent and Christmas.

After School Clubs: Term 2

Clubs will recommence from Monday 3rd November 2025. The final week of clubs for the term will be the week commencing Monday 8th December.

Uniform

A reminder that pupils should return to school after half term wearing their winter uniform.

Half Term

A reminder that school closes for the autumn half term on Friday 24th October at the usual time and reopens on Monday 3rd November.

Key Dates in UK

1 Nov	All Saints' Day (Holy Day of Obligation)
2 Nov	All Souls' Day (Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed)
9 Nov	Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
11 Nov	Remembrance Day (Armistice Day)
16 Nov	World Day of the Poor
20 Nov	Universal Children's Day
23 Nov	Christ the King (Solemnity – end of the liturgical year)
30 Nov	Advent begins (First Sunday of Advent)

And finally ...

As we wrap up our first half term together, we would like to take a moment to extend a thank you to each and every one of you for your support during our amalgamation. There have definitely been challenging moments, but we truly believe that the school community is growing stronger together with each passing day.

Congratulations to all our pupils for what has been a fantastic half term. Your hard work and enthusiasm shine brightly, and it's wonderful to see you all settling into this new chapter of our journey.

Let's keep the momentum going as we move forward. Here's to more achievements and shared experiences!

Wishing everyone a happy and peaceful half term and see you all on Monday 3rd November for the start of Term 2.

Mrs Alley
Headteacher

Mrs Hough
Deputy Headteacher

Miss Hulands
Acting Assistant Headteacher