

## Individual Class Mass

This year sees the start of a new initiative set up by Father Stephen, Mrs Archibald and Mrs Jukes to celebrate mass on an individual class basis. Each term, Father Stephen will book dates with each class teacher to hold Mass in the children's class room. Parents are more than welcome to come along – details will always be provided in your child's Class Newsletter.

## Mrs Terry is retiring

After almost 30 years of dedicated service to Stella Maris, Mrs Terry has decided it is time to retire. This will be another big change for the school staff and our entire community. Mrs Terry will finish next Friday – 29<sup>th</sup> September.

The Governors, staff and parents would like to say a huge 'thank you' to Mrs Terry for all she has done at the school during her long service for the children and their families. We wish Carole a long and happy retirement (and a well-deserved rest).

## Bus

As you are aware, the school has recently lost the bus due to a fire. This has been a challenging time for many parents that used the bus service daily to get their children to and from school. Unfortunately these challenges are seldom quickly resolved. We now have to wait for information from our insurance company, our Governing Body and of course KCSP.

Please rest assured that as soon as we are able, we will update you on the long term plans for the school.

## Fire Safety

Following on from the bus fire, Kent Fire Service kindly came into the school to speak to each year group to reassure them. The team talked about the dangers of fire and how to avoid it. The children discussed what to do in the case of fire.

## Safety on Site



Please remember when using Parkfield Road you should be driving at **walking pace, 5mph is the speed limit – 'kill your speed, not a child'**.

**Thank you in advance for your cooperation.**

## Exceptional Leave

Family holidays should be taken during the school holidays and we are only able to authorise a **maximum of 10 days additional leave per year** during term time, provided parents fill in the proper Application for Exceptional Leave (available from the School Office).

Authorisation will only be given when parents can show that there are exceptional reasons for taking time out of school during the term and a child's attendance record otherwise is good.

**Remember – if the form is not completed with full details of why exceptional leave is necessary, your application will not be approved.**

## Safe guarding

### REMINDER

The school gates open at 8.30 a.m. where a member of staff will be on duty at the entrance to the playground. Children should not be left unaccompanied before this time.

School starts at 8.45 a.m. - parents must leave their children promptly and make their way out of the playground. Failure to do this weakens the security for all children of the site. If you arrive late, your children will need to be left at reception and we will take the children to their class.

This ensures our school day is both safe and productive, from start to finish.

Should you need to leave your children earlier than 8.30 a.m., we have a Breakfast Club where your child will be offered a healthy breakfast and drink. The cost of this club is £1 each day and is open from 8.00 a.m. Should you wish to sign your child up, please contact the school office.

Pupil Premium children are entitled to this provision at no extra cost. Again, please talk to the school office.

## ALARMS

We have recently briefed the children on our new alarm system. The children are used to hearing the fire alarm sound and regularly participate in fire drills to ensure compliance in an emergency. We now have a new alarm that has an intermittent loud ringing sound (the two are very distinct). The children have been briefed that if this alarm was to sound, the children should return to their classrooms and wait for instructions.

These new alarms are to ensure the school is fully compliant with safeguarding regulations.

## Data Collection Sheets – Medical Information

By now, your child will have been given a copy of their Data Collection sheet for you to review, amend and return to the class teacher. A huge thank you to those who have already returned these forms. It is essential that the data we hold for each of your children is as up to date as possible.

Should your child have any medical conditions – these must be declared on the form and where necessary discussed with a school first-aider. Asthma pumps and associated records cards should have been given back to school for the new year – please ensure if your child suffers with asthma we are prepared for them.

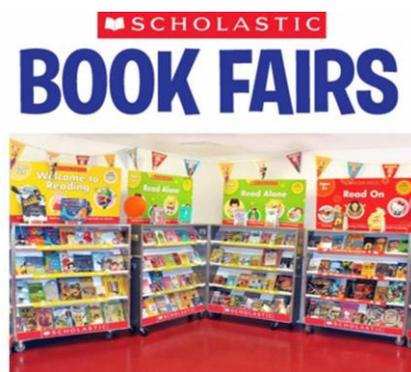
Similarly, if your child has a prescribed medicine/pain relief that needs administering whilst at school, you will need to see the office to complete the necessary forms. We will not be able to administer without such authorisation. Once again, this ensures compliance with the KCSP Medical policies.

## School Choir

The school choir will be starting again next Tuesday – 26<sup>th</sup> September. This after school activity will take place every Tuesday between 3.15 p.m and 4.15 p.m. Choir will be with Duncan this year and is open to children from Y1 through to Y6.

Over the coming months the children will be learning Christmas songs and working towards their annual trip to the O2 for the Young Voices choir in February.

Please bring your child along to show off their talents.



## BOOK FAIR

**Next week is the Scholastic Book Fair**

The Book Fair will be located in the school hall every day after school, 3.15-4pm on Monday 25th - Thursday 28th September. Staff will be on hand to help if you have any questions about choosing a suitable reading book for your child.

This is an excellent way of raising money for the school – ensuring our book corners are well stocked. Please support this fair if you are able.

## Jewellery

Remember that for safety reasons, Jewellery of any kind is not allowed, apart from watches and small studs or sleepers for earrings. Children with studs or sleepers must be able to remove them or cover them up with tape for PE lessons.

## Head Lice

Head lice are a common problem, particularly in school children aged 4-11.

They're largely harmless, but can live in the hair for a long time if not treated and can be irritating and frustrating to deal with.

Please check your children's hair regularly to keep on top of these unwanted pests!