



## Sunshine Team

Following on from last years' huge success, the Sunshine Team have decided to run their backwards advent calendar once again. The principle will remain the same – instead of children getting a chocolate each day, they are encouraged to give something over advent to our campaign. Further details will be sent out shortly from this team.

Our Sunshine Team would like to say thank you for all children and parents that supported their cake sale on Wednesday – it was a great success!

## School/Parish Mass

This terms School/Parish Mass will be held on **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 11.00 a.m.** at Our Lady Help of Christians church in Guildhall Street. As usual, the children will be doing the readings, the bidding prayers and the offertory procession. We do hope to see lots of families there to support their children.

## Hinduism Day



On **15<sup>th</sup> November**, the children will be learning all about Hinduism.

If you have any links to the Hinduism faith and would like to share any experiences, traditions, recipes or anything that you think the children would enjoy, please contact Mrs Huotari.

## Admissions for September 2018 & Open Day

Remember, the school will be holding an Open Morning on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November from 9.30 a.m.** PLEASE, if you know of anyone interested in applying for a place in September 2018, encourage them to come and look around our school. If that date is not convenient we can always organise an alternative.

Applications for children due to start primary school in September 2018 opened on 6th November 2017 and close on **Monday 15th January 2018**. Parents must have

completed their applications and returned the form to KCC or apply online by this date. They must also send the Supplementary Form to school by **15th January 2018**.

## Road Safety

This week, the children have attended Road Safety assemblies. These events focused on three key messages:-

- Sensible parking and where to cross the road
- The importance of being visible and making use of reflector aids
- Helmets whilst riding scooters and bicycles

To continue to support this message, it is important that we demonstrate sensible parking around the site. Please refrain from double parking in the car park at the front of the school – this causes obstructions and makes crossing the road for children incredibly difficult.

Thank you once again for your support with this request.

## Traffic Congestion – School Gate Access

In an attempt to reduce traffic around Parkfield Road, we have decided to trial opening the park gate each morning.

We would ask that you respect the neighbours in Beech Close and surrounding areas, driving and

parking considerably. Thank you in advance!

## Letter of Thanks from Clive Webster – KCSP

Following on from our very pleasing Ofsted visit, we have received a letter of congratulations from Clive Webster, Chief Executive at Kent Catholic Schools Partnership.

*“I would like you to pass on my thanks to the teaching and support staff, governors, all volunteers, pupils and parents of Stella Maris for all the hard work they have done, and continue to do, to ensure the academy continues as a successful and flourishing community for learning and the deepening of our shared Gospel values”.*

## Relationship and Sex Education

You will have recently received a letter regarding our new policy on Relationships and Sex Education. If you would like to know more about 'A Journey in Love' we shall be holding a meeting on **Wednesday 15th November at 6pm. This is for all parents but not for children.** This is an ideal opportunity for you to look at the resources being used and address questions that you may have.

## Exceptional Leave Approval

Mrs Huotari has recently been contacted by the Kent with regards to the Exceptional Leave figures for the school. In short, we are higher than many schools across Kent and as such, except in extreme circumstances, requests for leave in term time will not be authorised.

## Attendance Table

At Stella Maris, our attendance target is to be above 96%. The league table below shows how the children are currently fairing.

Congratulations to the Dragons who are currently in pole position!

Imps	97.16%	Pixies	<b>97.63%</b>
Elves	97.47%	Hobbits	<b>96.74%</b>
Dragons	97.86%	Griffins	<b>94.33%</b>
Unicorns	97.12%		

## Thank you to the new Bunnings Superstore

This term, our Gardening Club received a kind donation from Bunnings Superstore to spend within their store on plants. Some of the children enjoyed choosing the plants and potting them around the school for us to all enjoy.

Our thanks to Bunnings for helping to make our school look so colourful.



At Stella Maris, we are keen to provide the best outdoor environment we can for our children. We are in the process of improving various areas on our school field. Many thanks again to the Parents Association who are supporting these initiatives. We

will keep you posted with our progress.

## Thank you to Mr Holdsworth

As many of you know, the annual Firework display was held on Monday evening and was a terrific success, enjoyed by many of our children, parents and neighbours.

A huge thank you to Mr Holdsworth for putting on another superb display. We are already looking forward to next year.

## Thank you to Randolph Matthews

On Thursday, the children all attended workshops celebrating Black History with Randolph Matthews. The children thoroughly enjoyed this session and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Matthews for another superb event.



## Our School App

And finally, watch out next week for information in book bags regarding the launch of our new school App. This will be an ideal way of communicating with you reminders and last minute news. We will be holding a small competition for the class with the most 'downloads'.

