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Each week, either Fr. Stephen or Fr. Jamie come into our school to say Mass with one of our year groups. This is a spiritual experience and a lovely way for those children to start their day.

We thank them very much for their time and commitment to our lovely school.

Winter Weather

As we go through T3 and T4, the school keep a close eye on the weather forecast in order that we can respond to difficult weather conditions that could impact on the children coming to school or getting home from school.

The school will always make every effort to stay open in difficult weather to ensure parents can continue to go to work.

If a closure is necessary, it is important that we can communicate with you quickly. In the rare event we have to close the school we would always :-

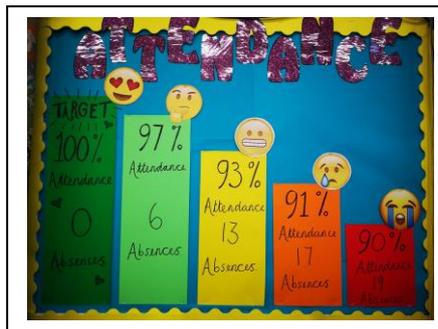
- 1) Put a message on Ourschoolsapp

- 2) Email all parents from ParentPay to confirm closure details
- 3) Log onto KCC and log with Kent Closures

Please ensure the School Office have current contact details for you and all your emergency contacts.

Attendance Table

At Stella Maris, we aim for 100% attendance for the school year. We are currently at 96.2%. The children are working hard to improve this target; whilst seasonal illness will stop some children coming into school, it needn't stop minor ailments. If your child is just a little under the weather, or needs medicine through the school day, please stop by the School Office and let Mrs Tidd know. We will of course keep you updated through the day should they deteriorate and need to go home.



Punctuality

Please remember that school starts at 8.45 a.m. prompt. Parents are asked to leave the playground promptly in order that the gates are locked at 8.50 a.m. after which your child will need to

come into school via the office. If arriving this way, the children will then be given a late mark on the register. This will affect their attendance figure %. Arrival after 9.15 a.m. is recorded as Unauthorised for the entire morning session. Every effort should be made for children to arrive by 8.45 a.m. Repeated lateness will result in letters being sent home.

National Breakfast Programme



Parents will have no doubt have noticed the brand new Breakfast Programme running at Stella Maris. Hot bagels are available to everyone, Monday – Friday on the playground. A healthy breakfast will help the children start their day well and enable them to concentrate until their lunch.

School Meals

Please remember school meals increased by 5p at the beginning of Term – they are now £2.25 per day. Please remember to book your child's dinner in advance. Meal numbers are submitted to the kitchen at 9.30 a.m. each day, therefore parents **MUST** book these directly through ParentPay. The office no longer have the facility to override these numbers.

Shane Record



Earlier in the term, the children were lucky enough to have a visit from Shane Record (a local artist) who painted for the entire school whilst answering questions from the children. This was a truly wonderful experience for pupils and staff. This beautiful artwork has been given to the school and entitled 'Star of the Sea'. This will be on display in the school hall in the very near future.

Shane was incredibly impressed by the pupils, in particular their creativity and questioning. So much so, he has decided to come back again on Wednesday 13th February to share a slide show of his work with the children and take more of their wonderful questions.

02 Young Voices 2019



Earlier this week, 34 pupils from Y1-Y5 took part in the annual Young Voices choir at The 02. This was a wonderful experience for all involved; seeing over 8000 children come together to perform songs they have been rehearsing since the summer was spectacular. Special thanks to Duncan Moris for his contribution throughout the year with our amazing school choir.

Stella Maris Talent Show



60 children (forming 44 acts!) from across the school have recently taken part in the School Council Talent Show.

Auditions were held over 2 days for a place in our first 'Stella Maris has Talent' Show. The acts were incredibly varied - hoola-hoopers, pianists, singers, dancers, guitarists, comedians, even visual artists. All were wonderfully talented making it extremely difficult to select the 12 acts who were to perform in The SM Talent Show held on Friday 1st February 2019.

The 12 acts were :-

Names	Class	Talent
Poppy	Elves	Singing
Darcey	Elves	Singing
Ava & Sophia	Hobbits	Rock n Roll
Emily & Anya	Hobbits	Art
Millicent & Tianna	Hobbits	Gymnastics
Miley, Vanessa, Amy	Dragons	Dancing
Jake & Ada	Dragons	Guitar/Singing
Ronnie	Griffins	Singing
Alyssa	Unicorns	Singing

Emily, Rose and Molly	Unicorns	Singing and Dance
Jonathan & Murphy	Unicorns	Comedy
Nevin	Unicorns	Piano

The judges: Katherine, Duncan, Martin and George-played a stellar role deciding the winner and runners up. We are delighted to confirm the results as follows:-

<i>Runner Up</i>	<i>Darcey <u>Elves</u></i>
<i>Runner Up</i>	<i>Ronnie <u>Griffins</u></i>
<i>Winner of Stella Maris Has Talent 2019</i>	<i>Ada & Jake <u>Dragons</u></i>

Mrs Huotari would like to take this opportunity to thank our very own School Council for their commitment to the school and for helping to organise this wonderful event. A special thank you to Mrs Truett, Mrs Dickenson and Mr Langley for their efforts in preparing and running this event.

Finally, a huge 'thank you' to George for his generosity in providing the trophies and medals for the show.

Stella Maris needs you - Volunteer Readers

Do you have time on your hands that could help the school? We are always looking for volunteer readers who can come into the school on a regular basis (ideally at least one morning per week) to read with the children. If you are interested, please see Mrs Tidd in the school office in order that we can organise a DBS check for you.