



HEADLINES 22ND OCTOBER 2021

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter (Issue 7 2021-22)

Have a Safe Half-term Break

Acting Heads of School Update
Mr Johnston & Miss McHugh



Dear Parents,

Today's Headlines are a bumper 'end of half term' edition with a number of very important pieces of news and information, so I would urge you to read this carefully.

There are two requests for actions, and one important reminder:

1. Link to the School Rules—please click the link and both parent and student agree to these rules, which are in place to keep our school learning culture happy and safe.
2. Complete an LFD test ahead of the return to school after half term—link to be sent on 31st October by email.
3. Homework will be set exclusively on the SIMS app after half term. More details below.

Black History Month assemblies this

RETURN TO SCHOOL
LFD TEST REPORTING

You will receive an email link to submit an LFD test result on 31st Oct 2021 before the return to school

Please can ALL students complete a test. DO NOT ATTEND school if it is positive or they have any symptoms.

Students who do not reply to this link will be asked to take an LFD at school on Monday 1st Nov.

Thank you for your continued vigilance which is helping to keep our school safe

week were uplifting and inspirational—prepared by our students, for our students. I have been very impressed by their efforts, words of wisdom and insight into this important issue.

Our student leader 'Team Utopia' has been focussing on the impending COP26 conference in Glasgow. The Geography Department is making this a focus for lessons after half term and we have linked activities into the St. Mary's Award, too.

Have a safe half term break with your families. God Bless.

Tom Johnston, Acting Head of School

Sacred Heart and St Mary's

This week, we were delighted to welcome Sacred Heart's Key Stage 2 classes and staff, together in our T Block and front of school, to ensure the continuity of their education.



Reminder: Homework is moving to SIMs Parent APP from 1st November!

Years 7-13 (ALL YEARS) Daily Homework notification via SIMs

Parent App supported with additional material on MS Teams.

If you have not already downloaded the Sims Parent App please look in your emails for the invite. If you have any questions please direct these through info@stmarys.net

SIMS Parent App

Follow your child's progress

UPCOMING EVENTS

1st November

Students return **WEEK B**

11th November

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

SAVE THE DATE

@StMarysPost16





Utopia! Earth's future is in your hands!



COP26 and the Earthshot Prize – What do you know about these two things?

The UK Government will host the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in November 2021 – COP 26. This will define the course of political action to address climate change in the UK and around the globe.

The Earthshot Prize – Prince William, David Attenborough and leading scientist have teamed up to award five prizes of £1million every year for a decade for solutions to tackle issues facing our planet

"The Earth is at a tipping point and we face a stark choice: either we continue as we are and irreparably damage our planet, or we remember our unique power as human beings and our continual ability to lead, innovate and problem-solve. People can achieve great things. The next ten years present us with one of our greatest tests – a decade of action to repair the Earth."

Prince William



How can I earn my 'Utopia' aspect of the St Mary's award?

- ◆ Watch all of the Earthshot programmes.
- ◆ Research the Earthshot prize winners (announced Sunday 17th October <https://earthshotprize.org/>) summarise one of the prize winners' innovations – what problem is it tackling and how?
- ◆ Come up with your own solution to one of the issues facing our world – create a design / leaflet / plan explaining how your innovation will help to tackle the issue.

In your Geography lessons after half term you will hold your own mini-COP26, get thinking about how we can tackle climate change together!

The Piano Recital



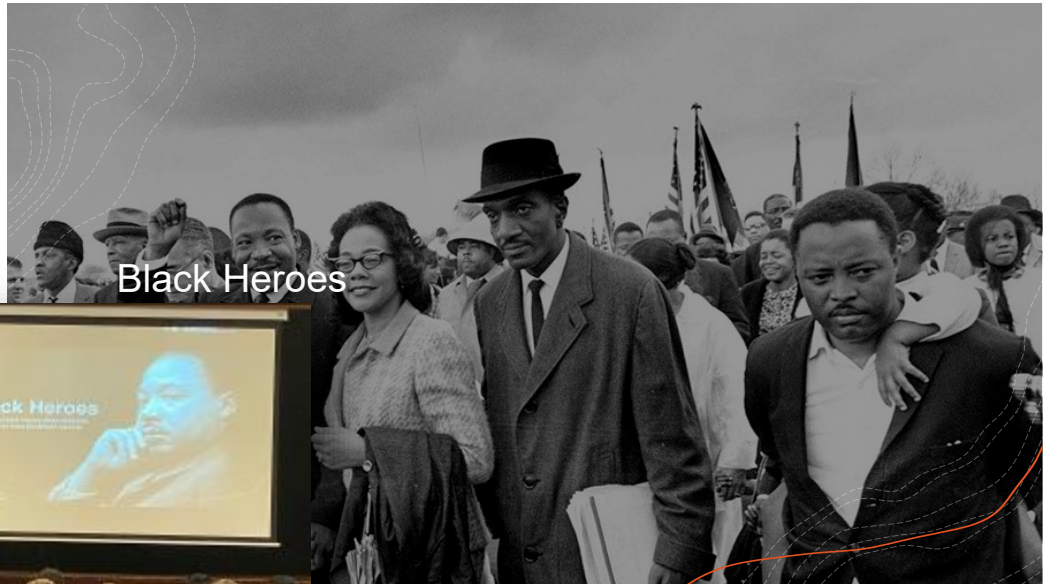
Do you play the Piano?

We have our first Piano Recital coming up on 16th November and there are some spaces still available if you would like to perform a piece.

Please see Miss Matthews to put your name down or drop her an email at info@stmarys.net



Black History Month—Assemblies this week



LEFT: Students give a rendition of 'Blinded by your Grace Part 2' by Stormzy

Our assemblies this week have been led by the students, including Ugo, Vivian, Patricia, Bakima, Makena, Temi and Daniela who presented their celebration of an number of lesser known people who, have had a positive influence on black history. They also touched upon independence from British colonial rule.

This included information about:

Nnamdi Azikiwe—First President of Nigeria

Wangari Matthai—a relentless advocate of environmental protection, human rights and women's rights, from Kenya.

Michael Essien—a Ghanian former Chelsea footballer, and 'Footballer of the Year 2006'

Senge Pieh—from Sierra Leone (died 1879). Known for triggering the start of the end of slavery, and freeing slaves who were being shipped to America to work on sugar plantations.

Usain Bolt—not just an athlete! He has inspired many disadvantaged youngsters from Jamaica to accomplish their goals.

Lego Club News!

Year 7 and 8 Lego club runs on Tuesdays and is on the look out for new members!

We have two large boxes of Lego where the students can design and build their own creations!

Mrs Knight





Year 13 Geographers in Hatfield Forest

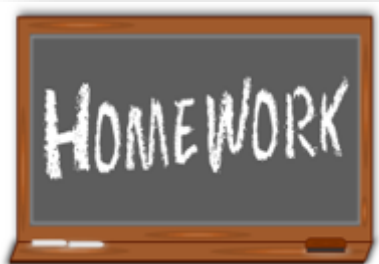


Monday 18th October was an exciting day as Year 13 Geographers were able to complete the first offsite fieldwork day of their A Level course. We spent the day in beautiful Hatfield Forest collecting primary data to compare the carbon content of two different areas of the forest. Students gained some valuable data collection skills in preparation for completing their Independent Investigation next half term and were able to explore concepts that they had learnt in the classroom (and at home!) last year. A brilliant day was had by all.

Charlotte Hughes, Subject Leader: Geography



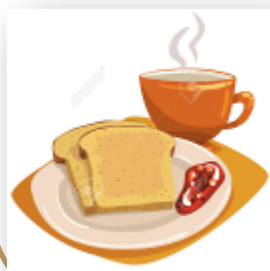
BREAKFAST HOMEWORK AND REVISION CLUBS



After Half Term we will be trialling having the canteen open for breakfast on Tuesdays and Thursdays with a view to opening daily at 8.15am if there is sufficient demand. For £1.00, students can buy a bacon roll, or they could have a piece of toast with butter and jam plus a hot chocolate, piece of fruit or fruit juice.



On Tuesdays there will be a supervised breakfast club, where students can get themselves ready for a positive start to their learning, finish off homework, ensure they have all the necessary equipment, read a book or chat to friends.



On Thursdays the breakfast club will run in the same way for Years 7-9 but for Year 10 and 11 students there is also the opportunity for revision and study support from 6th Form students. We have a team of Sixth Formers keen to support students and we feel sure there will be huge benefits both academic and emotional to this wonderful initiative they suggested themselves. Students attending the 6th Form or breakfast club sessions may be registered by the member of staff on duty and remain in the canteen through to 9am.

Catherine Wilkin, Assistant Headteacher, Personal Development & Welfare



Ideas for Half Term Enrichment



This week's Black History Month assemblies looked at prominent black mathematicians, including those featured in the **2016 PG film, Hidden Figures**. Hidden Figures is an inspiring movie based on the true story of three African-American women working for NASA. It's currently streaming on DisneyPlus and is highly recommended family viewing for half term as a follow up to the assembly.

If the weather is a bit disappointing, why not head to a museum where you will find most of them have special half term activities for children of school age. The **British Museum**, for example, has Japanese print and mask-making and Roman arts and crafts, or you could head for something different such as the DeHavilland Aircraft Museum in London Colney or the extraordinarily atmospheric **Secret Nuclear Bunker** in Kelvedon Hatch near Ongar.



Why not expand your experience of Live Music? There is a **free live jazz concert in Enfield** market on Saturday 23rd October. Hertford Castle has an Autumn Trail in its grounds, and also in Hertford, 'West End Story' runs drama workshops every day in half term for children aged up to 16.

For aspiring footballers there is a Goalkeeper camp on Tuesday 26th October at Goff's Academy.



Another idea is to head down to your **local library**, join for free and take out a wide variety of books to try? Or **bake some traditional Yorkshire Parkin** to get in the mood for Bonfire Night?

Even though we seem to be nearly back to normal with the range of activities on offer to excite and stimulate young minds over half term, there is still lots that is being offered online. Have a look at the wide range of online events for all the family on [list.co.uk/events/kids/online-events/](https://www.list.co.uk/events/kids/online-events/)



If your child takes part in a half term event of any sort, do remind them to share what they have been doing by writing about it within their **St Mary's Award! Bronze Badges will be presented in the third week of November** and we really want to see most blazers collecting a good array of badges this year, plus there will be special prizes for the most impressive St Mary's Award sheets.

Mrs Wilkin, Assistant Headteacher

Half Marathon Runner Y10

I'm very proud that Elizabeth (Y10) has decided to take on this excellent challenge. She is a committed member of our school community who always looks to help and support others. As a PE teacher I know full well the challenges that come with running a half marathon so Elizabeth is showing brilliant commitment to take on this particular challenge. It would be great if we could come together as a St Mary's community to help support Elizabeth with a donation – however big or small – to help her raise money for this excellent cause.



<https://www.iustgiving.com/fundraising/strongyoungminds>

Mr Eddleston, Year 10 Learning Coordinator

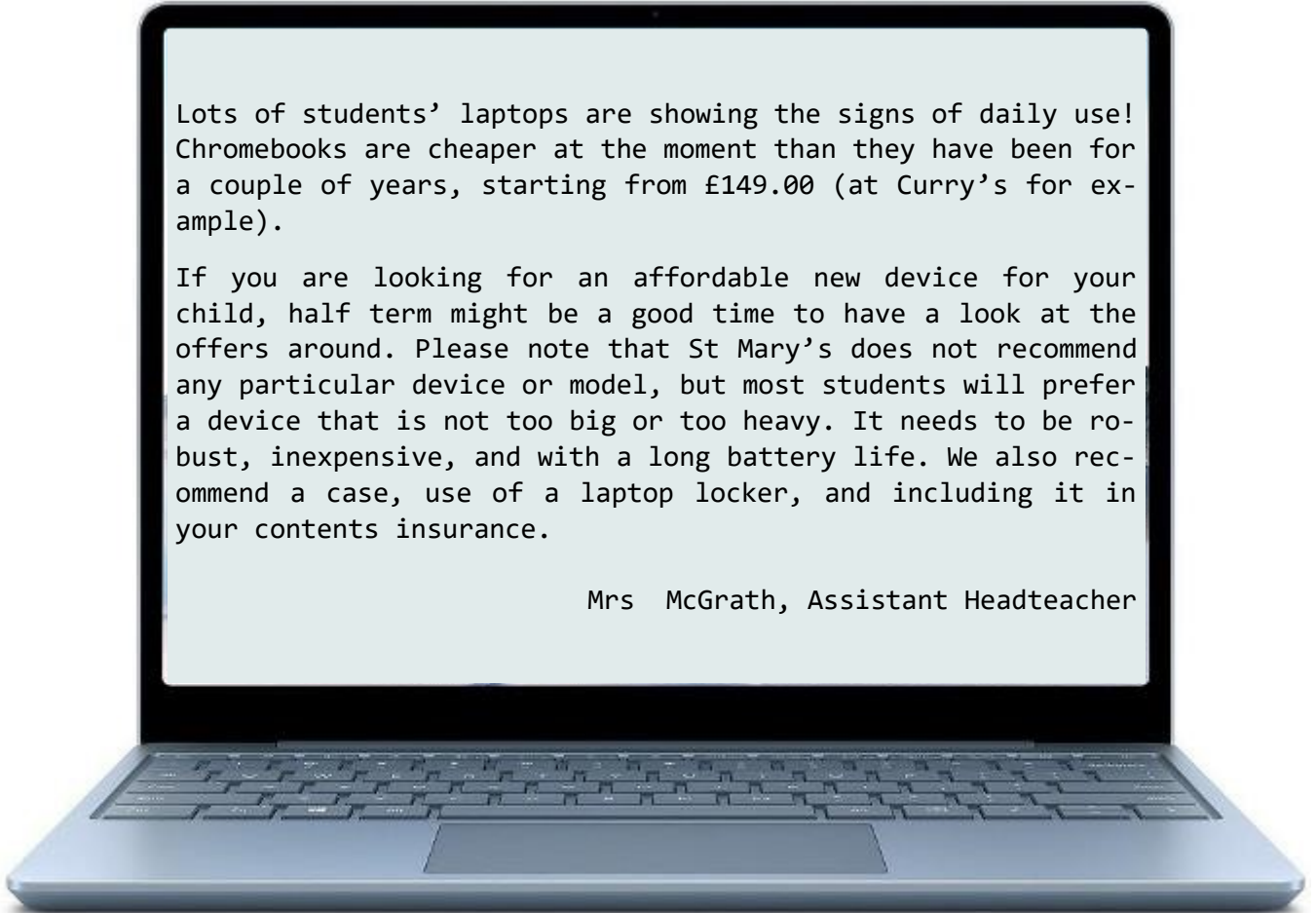


BYOD—Well priced Chromebooks!

Lots of students' laptops are showing the signs of daily use! Chromebooks are cheaper at the moment than they have been for a couple of years, starting from £149.00 (at Curry's for example).

If you are looking for an affordable new device for your child, half term might be a good time to have a look at the offers around. Please note that St Mary's does not recommend any particular device or model, but most students will prefer a device that is not too big or too heavy. It needs to be robust, inexpensive, and with a long battery life. We also recommend a case, use of a laptop locker, and including it in your contents insurance.

Mrs McGrath, Assistant Headteacher



School Rules: Keeping your child safe and healthy

ACTION REQUIRED PLEASE:

We regularly review and reflect on our School Rules in order to maintain good order on site and ensure everyone is learning in a safe and enjoyable environment.

Please find below a link to our school rules, which we would like you to review with your child over the half term break, and click the box to state that you have read and understood these.

In order to access these please ensure **your child is signed into their Office 365 account** (this is their school email and password). Read through these with your child and ensure that both you and your child have ticked the boxes to state that they have been read and understood before submitting. Please could we ask this to be done for 1st November.

[Click Here to Sign
the School Rules](#)

Georgina Tatman, *Assistant Headteacher, Pastoral*



Chaplaincy News:

HALLOWEEN! – A REMINDER THAT WE ARE ALL CALLED TO BE SAINTS

Halloween has become a highly commercialised event which distracts us from the true meaning of the event. During his visit to the UK, Pope Benedict reminded us all that we are all called to be saints. During his meeting with young people at St. Mary's University, Twickenham, he said:

"I invite you to become saints, I am asking you not to be content with second best. I am asking you not to pursue one limited goal and ignore all the others. Having money makes it possible to be generous and to do good in the world, but on its own, it is not enough to make us happy. Being highly skilled in some activity or profession is good, but it will not satisfy us unless we aim for something greater still. It might make us famous, but it will not make us happy. Happiness is something we all want, but one of the great tragedies in this world is that so many people never find it, because they look for it in the wrong places. The key to it is very simple – true happiness is to be found in God. We need to have the courage to place our deepest hopes in God alone, not in money, in a career, in worldly success, or in our relationships with others, but in God. Only he can satisfy the deepest needs of our hearts."

This Halloween, let us be reminded of this message and take a moment to ask God to help us to seek him on our journey to sainthood.

Eyes of the World

Climate change affects us all. But the poorest communities are suffering the most. Next month, leaders from across the globe are gathering in Glasgow, faced with the opportunity to take a significant step towards resolving the current climate crisis and improving the lives of millions of people around the world now and the lives of future generations.

The eyes of the world are on us this year as Britain hosts world leaders for the United Nations' climate change talks – COP26. Join CAFOD's campaign to call on the Prime Minister to support the world's poorest communities on the front line of the climate crisis. Watch the video for this campaign and access additional resources at <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-and-youth-resources/Eyes-of-the-World>.



PRAYER TO POPE JOHN PAUL II

Today, the 22nd of October, is the feast of Saint Pope John Paul II. Throughout his life, he had a great devotion to Our Lady. Let us ask his prayers and intercessions for us and our communities at this time.

Oh, St. John Paul, from the window of heaven, grant us your blessing! Bless the church that you loved and served and guided, courageously leading it along the paths of the world in order to bring Jesus to everyone and everyone to Jesus. Bless the young, who were your great passion. Help them dream again, help them look up high again to find the light that illuminates the paths of life here on earth.

May you bless families, bless each family! You warned of Satan's assault against this precious and indispensable divine spark that God lit on earth. St. John Paul, with your prayer, may you protect the family and every life that blossoms from the family. Pray for the whole world, which is still marked by tensions, wars and injustice. You tackled war by invoking dialogue and planting the seeds of love: pray for us so that we may be tireless sowers of peace.



Oh St. John Paul, from heaven's window, where we see you next to Mary, send God's blessing down upon us all. **Amen.**



HEADLINES 22ND OCTOBER 2021

#DedicatedtoExcellence

Supermarket voucher via Edenred for children entitled to FSMs for October half-term holiday 2021

County councillors have decided to provide a **£15 supermarket voucher for every child entitled to FSMs** for this **October half-term** holiday period. We will also be providing vouchers for the Christmas holiday and we will be in touch nearer the time to confirm the total amount per voucher.

Each entitled child (not family) will receive a digital supermarket voucher to the value of £15 and there will be eight major supermarkets and shops to choose from;



ASDA

MARKS & SPENCER

McColl's

M

MORRISONS

Sainsbury's

TESCO
Every little helps

WAITROSE
& PARTNERS

Please check your junk mail as well as your inbox and if you change your email address be sure to let the school know immediately. Thank you. **Mrs Wilkin, Assistant Headteacher**

Black History Month—Mrs Frino's 'Theme of the Month'



Black History Month has been the library theme for October. Students have been borrowing fiction books by a range of authors, as well as reading non-fiction books about Black History.

The process of making sure the library stock represents all our students, which was set well underway by Mrs McMillan the previous librarian, is ongoing. It is not just for one month a year.

Here is a selection of the new titles which have been added to the library so far this term. Some tell the real-life stories of people often forgotten by traditional history books. Some are about modern-day figures and how they have got where they today. Some are fiction books which make the reader think through telling a really good story!

Next month's theme at the library will be '*Non-fiction November*'.



Covid Update—IMPORTANT—please read

Covid measures will remain in place after half term.

Ahead of the start of half term all students need to complete an LFD test Sunday evening/Monday morning before they arrive onsite on Monday 1st November. Please look out for a survey link which will be sent out Sunday afternoon for all students to log their LDF test result.

Continue Routine LFD Testing

The new Lateral Flow Device tests (LFD) are nasal swab only and are in the process of being distributed to the students, meaning everyone should have enough tests until after the half term break. It is important that they complete a test the day before they return and inform the school via a SurveyMonkey link which will be distributed next week. If a reply has not been sent on the link, then we will ask those students to undertake an LFD on site upon their return prior to returning to class. Routine testing, and getting a PCR if there are signs of ANY symptoms (even if an LFD returns a negative result), is CRUCIAL to our control measures on site.

A reminder of the main Covid-19 Common Symptoms:


- * High temperature
- * New, continuous cough – coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- * Loss or change to sense of smell or taste

What to do if you or your child has symptoms. If your child has any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, even if they're mild, and even if the LFD is negative—PCRs catch early signs where LFDs do not:


1. Get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) as soon as possible: Get a PCR test to check for COVID-19 on GOV.UK
2. Your child should stay at home and not have visitors (self-isolate) until you get a negative test result – they can only leave home to have the test.

Covid Measures. Every student must bring the following to school EVERY DAY:

⇒ X2 Masks


⇒

50ml Hand sanitiser





We must keep on protecting each other.





HANDS



FACE



SPACE

Please look for forgotten Library Books!

FINAL CALL for overdue books. Please can students, especially those in Year 9 and above, return overdue library books. Some students have three or more books at home which they might have forgotten about. We need those books back in the library, in order for younger students to benefit from our resources. After half term Mrs Frino will be issuing notes to form tutors and, if necessary, contacting parents / carers.



Mrs L Frino, Librarian



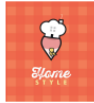




Menu for after half-term in our Aspens Refectory

Autumn
Winter
2021

STREATERIES

Aspens
🍴🍴🍴🍴🍴

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
					
STREET	Spicy Andhra Chicken Curry	Sweet Potato & BBQ Pulled Jackfruit Burger	Roast Chicken & Stuffing Bap Gravy-naise	Mongolian Lion's Head Beef Meatballs	Hand Battered Fish & Fricke
VEGGIE	Keralan Egg Molee Curry	Veg Chilli Nachos Homemade Salsa	Quorn Roast & Stuffing Bap Gravy-naise	Korean Spicy Rice Bowl with Fried Egg	Homemade Fishless Cake Lemon Yoghurt
SIDES	Turmeric Rice Masala Roasted Cauliflower	Garlic & Herb Wedges Rainbow Slaw	Fennel Seed Roasties Roasted Carrots	Beggar's Noodles Sweet Chilli Broccoli	Chips Peas

WEEK 1

We are hiring!

Current Vacancies—Teaching Staff:

Food and Nutrition Teacher (Part-time) required from January 2022

Click [HERE](#)

Art Teacher (Maternity Cover, Part-time) Closing date of 1st November 2021

Click [HERE](#)

Current Vacancies—Support Staff:

Finance Manager—Closing date 1st November 2021

Full-time, to oversee all aspects of St. Mary's Finance alongside a talented and supportive team, and working with our Trust Chief Financial Officer. Salary £25-£35,000. Click [HERE](#)

Exam Invigilators—Closing date 30 October 2021

Click [HERE](#)

For all enquiries, contact:
Recruitment@stmarys.net

WE ARE
HIRING!