

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Newsletter No. 1 - September 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the children and their families who have joined St. Mary's this term, both in our Reception Class and throughout the school - we look forward to a happy and successful future together. Welcome back to those who are returning this year, I hope that you all had a happy and restful summer and enjoyed all the sunshine. I would also like to wish every success to our new teachers and teaching assistants who have made an excellent start and are already "part of the family".

We have had a busy summer in relation to alterations within the school. I am pleased that we have at last been able to replace the hall windows and we are delighted with the new double-glazed unit that is now in place, it should mean the hall is a warmer place during the winter and cooler in the summer months. Our new outdoor area for the Reception Class children has been finished and the children are enjoying using all of the equipment. Unfortunately, as you may have read in the local paper, the bikes for use on the little ones' roadway were stolen during the holidays but we have had such a wonderful response from our local community that the children will soon be mobile again! Mr. Hutchings from South Street is donating 3 tricycles to us, Barclays are donating money towards the cost of replacing the bikes and a gentleman who recycles bikes has given us a couple as well. Such kindness!

KS1 and KS2 also have wonderful new climbing equipment and the children love using it at playtime and lunchtime. We are asking the children not to use the equipment before and after school as they are not always supervised and we have already had one child suffer a broken elbow after school. Thank you for your support and understanding in this matter.

'Pass the Passion - The Dover, Deal and Sandwich Olympic 'Torch' Relay

'Pass the Passion' is the young people's element of Kent's Campaign for the 2012 Olympic 'Torch' to arrive in the UK at Dover, just as it did in 1948. For the past two years, KCC and its partners have generated a great deal of support for this concept, at local, county and regional levels. 'Pass the Passion' exists within the wider Kent 2012 campaign, which is led and managed by KCC's Sport, Leisure and Olympics Service.

The 'Pass the Passion' week will commence on Friday, 25th September when a contemporary Olympic Torch, designed by local secondary school children, will arrive at the Prince of Wales Pier in Dover. Just as it did for the 1948 games, the Torch will land be passed to a local relay team, this time comprising of representative children from all 53 schools in Dover, Deal and Sandwich. This will signify the beginning of the Dover, Deal and Sandwich Schools Torch Relay. Our representatives will be James Davis and Natalie Allsopp from our Year 6 class. They will take part in various events throughout the week.

During the week commencing 28th September, the Schools Olympic Torch will be passed by children through all 53 schools in the Dover, Deal and Sandwich district. Every school will be involved in the relay with the Schools Olympic Torch coming to St. Mary's on Thursday, 1st October, when it will be handed to our representatives and then taken from here to Hornbeam School. The journey of the Torch finishes on Friday, 2nd October when it will arrive at the Sandwich Guildhall. In 1948 the arrival of the Torch signified the start of the London Games. KCC, the participating schools and the Dover District Council all hope that through "Pass the Passion" Dover might demonstrate that we are passionate about having the chance to welcome the Olympic Torch for London 2012.

As Thursday, 1st October is our day to receive the Torch, we have decided to have an 'Olympic Day' finishing with our annual Autumn Fair which will start at 2.30 pm.

A Message from the PTFA re Welcome Meeting and Autumn Fair

The PTFA are keen to celebrate "Pass the Passion" by giving our Autumn Fair an Olympic theme so as well as the usual stalls there will be a few Crazy Olympic activities for you to have a go at! As always, we will have a non-uniform day on Monday, 28th September so that the KS2 children can bring a bottle for the Bottle Tombola Stall and the Reception and KS1 children can bring a toy/game for the Children's Tombola Stall. Thank you, we really appreciate your support!

It is important that we have people to help us make this a success so with this in mind a meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, 22nd September at 3.30 pm to discuss ideas and to allocate jobs! We would like this to be a "Welcome Meeting" to encourage both new and existing parents to help to make PTFA events successful in bringing us together as a whole school family. Money raised by the PTFA goes directly to enhance the children's learning experience. The most recent purchases have been the screen and projector in the hall, digital cameras for the KS2 classes and we are soon to have professional basketball posts installed! Please come and join us with your ideas or offers of help! Tea and coffee will be available.

Important Message from Father Dawson at St. John's re Parking

We have had notification from Father Dawson that there is asbestos removal work being undertaken at the Presbytery from Monday, 28th September until Thursday, 8th October. Parking in the Church car park will be unavailable during this time due to the location of the decontamination van, other vans and skips that need to be on site for the work to be carried out. In the interests of health and safety please use the road side for parking during this time and park away from the school entrance, leaving the way clear for our road crossing patrol lady. It may mean walking a little further but we ask for your co-operation and understanding with this in order to keep the children safe when arriving at and leaving from school. Thank you.

May I also respectfully remind you that parking on the school grounds is for staff only and that the only other vehicles coming onto the premises at the beginning and end of the school day are taxis who are collecting unaccompanied children from the office. Thank you.

And finally

We want to ensure that we have a strong partnership with you as parents, so that together we can nurture and develop your children's learning. Your child's teacher will keep you informed about what your child is learning and their progress. This term we will be inviting parents in to give you the opportunity to meet your child's new teacher, visit the classroom and maybe join in an activity! Details will be sent in a separate letter.

We look forward to a happy and successful year.

Yours sincerely,

**Annie Keane
Headteacher**

