**St Mary’s Catholic Primary School**

**Newsletter**

**22nd September 2014**

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Dear Parents,

Term is well and truly underway now as the classes are all settled and used to their new teachers and rules and routines of their new classes. Even Mr Talbot is getting used to using the class names and manages to get them right most of the time! I have been observing in classrooms for the past two weeks and have been impressed by the calm, colourful environments that I’ve seen. We now have a prayer and friendship tree in the school hall and I’m waiting for the children to produce the first pieces of work to adorn their branches – it will look lovely when it’s underway. Our assembly today was on the subject of peace and some of the Year 6 pupils from Ouse class helped me discuss the different symbols we see around the world which symbolise peace. We also took the opportunity to share the sign of peace with each other and discussed how and why we do this.

We will soon be starting to celebrate ‘Super Pupils’ in school, where each half term I will be asking teachers to nominate two or three pupils who have caught their eye for consistently doing the ‘right thing’ and we will share their achievements in a special assembly. I have just returned from a walk around school where I saw the new laptops being used with some very excited pupils – it was lovely to see the pupils given the opportunity to learn in a new way. The iPads are currently at King James High school being readied for use by their IT department – hopefully we will have them back with us and ready to use this week!

**Helpers in School**

At St.Mary’s we are extremely lucky to be blessed with many kind helpers, who come into school to assist with jobs and to work with children. This is all voluntary work and (like most schools), we would be lost without them! For your information, we have placed a list of the volunteer helpers on the school website.

**McMillan Coffee Morning**

Please keep 9.15am on the 29th September free in your diary – it is the new starters assembly in school, followed by the McMillan Coffee Morning. All are welcome – it would be great to see you there!

**Fire Alarm Test**

We had a very successful first Fire Drill of the academic year last week. The new children and new staff were guided well by those who have been here longer and everyone took the drill very seriously. Well done everyone!

**Staying Green**

If there is anyone who hasn’t signed up for the electronic newsletter, please see Mrs Smithells or Mrs Moore in the office and they will add you to the list.

**Family Mass**

There will be a family Mass in church on **Sunday 19th October**. This is another wonderful opportunity for the school and parish to show unity and it would be lovely to see as many families there as possible on this date.

**St Mary’s Church Singers**

Will be performing on Saturday 11th October at 7.30pm at Gracious Street Methodist Church – please show your support!