

SMA News

Upcoming Events

| Month | Sacramental and Parish linked activities | School trips/visits | In School events | Additional Parental support | Extra curricular events |
|-----------------|--|---|---|---|---|
| January | | | Wk beg 6/1 Induction Week 10/1 John Mc Corkell- Disability Awareness speaker in today 16/1 Banish the winter "blues" Themed Lunch 17/1 Y5 prayer service 2.45pm 24/1 School Council "Lunchbox watch" 20/1 Y6 "Safer Me" programme recommences | 27/1 @7.30pm Confirmation/E safety meeting for Y6 parents | 15/1 PTA Meeting 7.30pm Wk beg 13/1 Football(Yx & x) And Multi Skills(Yx & x) recommence (Bryan Small) Wk Beg 13/1 Dance Class commences for Y1 and 2 |
| February | 9/2 - 9.30am Family Mass/Y3 Mass of Commitment 24/2 - Confessions for Y6 27/2 - Y6 Confirmation 7pm 26/2 Ash Wednesday KS2 children to Mass am KS1 children penitential service in school pm | 5/2 Reception trip to the Sea life Centre | 1/2 Y2 Class led assembly 9.15am 7/2 Y3 prayer service 2.45pm 11/2 Safer Internet Day assemblies and lesson focus today 14/2 -St Valentine's day themed School lunch (see Newsletters and flyers) 14/2 - Art exhibition in school am (details to follow) 28/2 Y3 class led assembly | 12/2 Y3 Reconciliation Parents' talk 6.30pm | |
| March | 20/3 2pm in church Sacrament of Reconciliation for Y3 22/3 -9.30 am Mothering Sunday Mass (Y1 & Y2) 6/3 Y4 Sacrament of Reconciliation 1.30pm 13/3 Y5 sacrament of Reconciliation | 6/3 - Fitness and Wellbeing day in School 25/3 Stations of the Cross Walsall Catholic Cluster schools service at St Mary the Mount Church 1.30pm 18/3 Y4 trip to Gladstone Pottery | 6/3 Y4 prayer service 2.45pm 9/3 School Council "Lunchbox watch" 2 13/3 Y2 prayer service 2.45pm 20/3 Y1 prayer service 2.45pm 27/3 - Y2 Class led Assembly 9/10am 27/3 - EYFS prayer service 2.45pm 30/3 - INSET Day – No Pupils in School Wk beg 31/3 - R.E through Literacy | 3/3 Phonics workshop for EYFS 2.45-3.15pm 31/3 and 1/4 Parents' Consultations after school | 20/3 - Mothers' Day Gift Shop (PTA) Details to follow |

And Finally ...

There have been a couple of amendments to the Spring calendar— just check that you have the most recent version!

Hello again to Mrs Heenan and to Mr Marsh. Rest, both of you.



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Recognising and celebrating the presence of Christ in one another



Our School Council, mid lunch box check. Children helping children... we are proud of them. Please support them with your choices in lunchboxes.



Issue
17
January 20



WHAT'S NEW?

There is much to share under this heading, this week, parents.

Firstly, cast your eyes over the attached document from our pupil voice recently. It shares their unanimous decision to pitch for the new play equipment to be as pictured. Fortunately, the PTA and SLT and staff all agree with their choices too.

We aim, very soon, to be the proud owners of two very lovely new play areas.

Thank you very much to ALL who have contributed in whatever way over the last 3 years; this money is a culmination of your effort, vision and genuine care for the children here at SMA. PTA—thank you, on the children's behalf. I have also enclosed a bigger picture for your perusal also.

The School Council were impressive in their reasons for selecting this particular type of equipment – have a read!

We have also received information regarding the proposed adaptations to the entrance to the school. They are due to commence during the Easter Holiday; again this is good news—a long awaited freshen up and move into the 21st Century.

A prayer for today

Living God,
 you walk alongside us
 and speak to us throughout the Scriptures.
 Your Son, Jesus Christ, listens to our hopes and fears
 and shows us how to live for one another.
 Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds
 so that we may be your witnesses throughout the world.



Proposed play equipment for KS1/2

Reminders

Uniform

Please can parents remember that all long hair should be tied back, for health and safety reasons. Can children be in full school uniform, also, and can we really encourage our older children to move away from elasticated ties, Mums and Dads. They are preparing for secondary school – where ties are commonplace—it is a life skill. Thank you in anticipation for your support on this one.

Snacks and Drinks

Please can I remind parents that milkshakes are available each day, for 20p. They can be paid for via the School Gateway at the beginning of each half term OR, once the deadline has passed, by bringing 20p each day or £1 each week.

Also, "Fruity Fridays" is up and running, once more. Children can bring 20p for a slice of fruit each Friday. We are aiming to move away from sweets and cakes. Help us to help your children.

Pupil Voice

Mrs Smith and the School Council are delighted to feedback their findings on the most recent Lunchbox Watch. (Please find attached). They are positive in almost cases, with a little bit of "food for thought" (excuse the pun).

Mrs Smith and the School Cooks trio are also pleased to share that they have almost secured the Bronze "Food for Life" Award and are pretty secure in their quest for the Silver Award, also. This reflects the high level of service and expectation available via our school kitchens. Well done to all involved, including Mrs Lee and Mrs Joyce, too.

Other News

We are currently investigating plans to rebuild our school entrance; increasing access to the office staff and generally making the entrance a little more 21st Century. We hope you like the outcomes, when they happen.

We are also looking into improving the fencing around the playground. Again, we will keep you informed.

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School Council

Play Equipment Pupil Voice

Representatives from Yr2, Yr3, Yr4 and Yr6

Pictures for the three options of equipment were shown.

Votes were taken: 8 out of 8 voted for the wooden equipment.



Pupil's reasons.

- "More children will be able to play safely without crashing into one another." (YR6)
- "The climbing walls will help children to learn to climb." (YR3)
 - "It looks more like an obstacle course; it is more varied." (YR6)
 - "It has more space to play, it is more open too so can see everyone." (YR2)
 - "It will last well, like the one we have already." (YR4)
- "We won't get as dirty because we won't need to crawl on the floor so much." (YR3)
- "If you are big, like Year 6 you might get stuck in the tunnel based equipment, Year 6 will be better in the wooden equipment." (YR6)
 - Wood is better for our environment, anyway (YR6)

SMA Lunchbox Questionnaire feedback - 10/1/20

46 children from Year 2 to Year 6 who bring in their lunch from home were interviewed by St Mary of the Angels School Council.

When asked if the children try to make better choices in their food; at least 66% said they do, a huge improvement on the last questionnaire in January 2019 where 37% said they made better choices.

Results found this time that there has been a huge improvement in the choices of food that is now packed in the children's lunchboxes. It is evident that more choices from the green group of foods are eaten and less red group foods; especially in Year 3 and Year 4. Well done!

Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6 need continue to be more conscious of not packing red food group choices as more than 60% of the children in these classes had red group foods in their lunch box. We hope for this statistic to reduce next time round.

Everyone at SMA need to continue to improve on having no red group foods in our lunch boxes. Parents can support this by ensuring that the lunch boxes are healthy. Remember to refer to the colour chart posted in and around school in the bulletin boards.

Some children when interviewed by the school council rightly pointed out that the choices for the dinner menu have foods that are on the red group list such as cake. It should be noted that the Kitchen has strict guidelines which they have to adhere to regarding sugar and fat content. These are prepared to specific guidelines set out by British Standards Guidelines. If cakes or biscuits in a packed lunch box are of a low sugar and fat content, they would be classed as being on the yellow food group list. This has also been shared with the children.

We hope to continue to support children in making good decisions regarding their wellbeing and impact on their healthy future with food choices. Together both at school and at home we can endeavour to provide new opportunities to taste different foods and become more aware of the physical attributes food have on our bodies.

