

Headteacher's Update – 3.10.12

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well. As several of you have commented to me when I've been on gate duty, it's certainly turning colder and I can't believe we're in October already!

This week I wanted to take a moment to let you know about some upcoming events, celebrations, and important reminders.

Book Look – Monday 6th October 3.10–4.30pm

We are really looking forward to welcoming you into school on **Monday afternoon (3.10–4.30pm)** for our Book Look Drop-in. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to come and see the fantastic work your child has been doing in class. The children are always so proud to share their learning and it's a lovely chance to celebrate their achievements together.

For parents of Reception pupils, this is also a chance to see some of the activities your child experiences as part of their learning, which may not always be recorded in books. Observing these activities can give you some great ideas for how you can support your child's development and learning at home.

Parents' Evening – Book Your Slot

A reminder that our online booking system for Parents' Evening goes live on **Monday 6th October at 6pm**. Appointments are allocated on a first come, first served basis, so please do log in as soon as you can to secure your preferred time. Parents' Evening is an important opportunity to speak with your child's teacher, celebrate their progress, and discuss next steps in their learning. Please do book a slot, even if you have no concerns about your child.

A Special Welcome to Reception

Next week, we are very excited to officially welcome our new Reception pupils into the school community. As part of this, they will be joining one of our four houses: Milton, Keats, Wordsworth, and Gray. Each child will receive their special house badge and a certificate to mark the occasion.

An especially memorable part of this tradition is meeting their buddy from the older year groups. Buddies play an important role at St Louis – they are a friend, role model, and support to our youngest children as they begin their school journey. We can't wait for you to see these special friendships grow.

Full details including dates, times and a link to book for each class have been sent to Reception parents.

Save the Date – Phonics Information Evening

We are pleased to give you a heads-up about our upcoming Phonics Information Evening on **Thursday 6th November**, with a session at **9am which will be repeated again at 5pm** for those of you who prefer a later slot. This meeting is aimed particularly at Reception and Year 1 parents, but all families are very welcome to attend. We will share what phonics is, how we teach it at St Louis, and practical ways you can support your child's reading and spelling at home. We will also explain a little about the Phonics Screening Check that takes place in June for Year 1 pupils. Please save the date in your diary and we will send out further details closer to the time- we look forward to seeing you there!

Show Racism the Red Card

On Friday 17th October, our school will once again take part in *Show Racism the Red Card* to demonstrate our commitment to standing up against racism.

On this day, children are invited to add a touch of red to their usual school uniform (for example, red socks, a hair band, or similar) as a visible sign that racism has no place in our school community.

The children will also take part in an assembly to deepen their understanding of the impact of racism and to explore ways in which we can all work together to bring about positive change.

CST Focus – Dignity of Workers

Our CST (Catholic Social Teaching) focus for this half term is the Dignity of Workers. We have been exploring together what it means to show respect, kindness, and appreciation to everyone who works hard in our community – from staff in school, to those who care for us at home, and people who help in our local community such as shopkeepers, drivers, or refuse collectors.

Each Friday in assembly, we will be celebrating children who have shown great examples of valuing the work of others – whether that's saying thank you, lending a helping hand, or showing respect for others' efforts.

Attendance Matters

As a school, we are very fortunate to enjoy a two-week break at half term, giving families time for rest and holidays together. Despite this, we are still receiving requests for additional days of leave during term time. I must remind you that holidays and trips should **not** be booked in term time.

Every lesson matters. Even a small amount of missed learning creates gaps that can affect your child's progress. Every day your child misses school can mean missing up to six lessons, as well as valuable time with friends and participation in extracurricular activities. Being in school regularly not only supports your child's learning but also their social, emotional, and physical wellbeing, helping them build friendships, confidence, and the skills they need to achieve their goals.

Thank you for supporting us in ensuring your child is in school, learning, every day.

Drop-Off Zone Reminders

A big thank you to everyone who helps keep our drop-off zone running smoothly. To make mornings safe and efficient, please ensure that your child has all their belongings ready with them in the car so they can step out quickly and calmly.

Please also avoid parking or blocking the road leading into school. This causes real difficulties for families trying to access the site and creates unnecessary safety risks. With your support, we can keep traffic moving and ensure the start of the school day is a positive one for everyone.

October – The Month of Mary

October is traditionally celebrated as the Month of Mary, a special time when we focus on Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and her example of faith and love. Throughout the month, the children will have opportunities to pray the Rosary, reflect on its mysteries, and learn more about Mary's role in our Catholic faith.

Please see the latest newsletter from Ten:Ten for more information and ways you can pray at home with your child.

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>

Please also see the October newsletter from Aktiva after school club attached.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming events and celebrations, and to continuing our shared work in helping every child reach their full potential.

Best wishes, Mrs Machin



Learning at St Louis
Nursery



We have been learning: some mathematical language from the book 'Hungry Hen' e.g. big, bigger, small and smaller.

You can help at home by: using these words to describe items around the house.

Reception

We have been learning: about God. He created our world. "God saw that it was good."

You can help at home by: talking to your child about how they can look after God's world.

Year 1

We have been learning: about soft and hard objects.

You can help at home by: discussing which objects are soft and hard around the home.

Year 2

We have been learning: to count in 2's, 3's, 5's and 10's, forwards and backwards.

You can help at home by: practising this with your child by counting together and singing counting songs online.

Year 3

We have been learning: how to use inverted commas.

You can help at home by: asking your child to write a sentence including speech.

Year 4

We have been learning: about environmental features of North and South America.

You can help at home by: asking your child to name two features.

Year 5

We have been learning: about Jesus' summary of the law.

You can help at home by: asking your child which two commandments Jesus said were the most important and why.

Year 6

We have been learning: about micro-organisms in science.

You can help at home by: asking your child for the differences between bacteria, fungi and viruses.

