



# St Mary's News

St Mary's Catholic Primary School  
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## School Mission Statement

Following Christ's teachings while respectfully learning, playing and working together.

Our parish website is <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/kilburn/>  
Please log on to this site to read the newsletter and stay up to date with parish news.

## Half Term

Hope you have a wonderful break this week and we look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 2nd November.

## End of Term—own clothes Dress up for Halloween (All Souls Day)



Catholic Agency for  
Overseas Development

Thank you for your contributions. **The school has raised £169 for CAFOD** to help people in poorer countries

than ours cope with the effects of Covid-19. If you did not contribute, please do if you can.

## Anti-Bullying

Instances of bullying are rare in our school. We have a zero tolerance for bullying and when we become aware of it we will deal with it promptly and firmly. We trust that parents will always support us as we deal with issues, as we must always think, 'what if it was my child.'

Our message to the children is that if they or someone else is being bullied they must tell an adult.  
If any parent

## Safeguarding

Our school takes the safeguarding of children very seriously. If we have concerns about a child we will speak to you, and if children make a disclosure or show any signs of being hurt we always report it. We are required to do this and will always follow our policy and try to support you.

As children are spending the next week at home, can I remind you to supervise what your children do on Social Media and with technology. This includes being careful not to allow your children to play games or watch videos intended for older children.

## Use of Phones by pupils

Phone use—be aware of the kind of messages and interactions your children are making. Teasing, swearing, inappropriate content are not permitted and any such instances will be followed up in school if they come to our attention.

## Parents Evenings—Calls from teachers

These will continue after half term. If you did not have a call you can expect one early in the next half term.

## Donations

If you have any of the following items that you are able to donate for the school to use we would be most grateful:

- Empty small boxes or tubes for use in early years for construction
- Old tracksuit bottoms (navy blue)
- Knex or lego for wet lunch-times
- Small world toys for reception (e.g. playmobile or small dolls, cars e.t.c.)
- If you have an old laptop or tablet (in good working order) that you no longer need that we could wipe and use for children who don't have access to technology.

## **How Can I Improve My Child's Reading?**

Parents are more concerned about their child's progress in reading than in any other subject taught in school, and rightfully so.

In order for students to achieve in math, science, English, history, geography, and other subjects, reading skills must be developed to the point that most of them are automatic. Students cannot struggle with word recognition when they should be reading quickly for comprehension of a text.

Since reading is so important to success in school, parents can and should play a role in helping their children to become interested in reading and in encouraging their growth in reading skills.

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### **What can parents do to help their preschoolers in the learning-to-read process?**

Research shows that children learn about reading before they enter school. In fact, they learn in the best manner—through observation. Young children, for example, see people around them reading newspapers, books, maps, and signs.

Parents can do a lot to foster an understanding of print by talking with their preschoolers about signs in their environment and by letting their children know they enjoy reading themselves.

When reading to your preschooler, you should run your index finger under the line of print. This procedure is simple and helps children begin to notice words and that words have meaning. They also gain an awareness of the conventions of reading (e.g., one reads from left to right and from the top of

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### **What can I do for my school-age child who doesn't like to read?**

In the early elementary years, from first through third grades, children continue learning how to read. It is a complex process, difficult for some and easy for others. Care must be taken during these early years not to overemphasize the learning-to-read process.

Reading for pleasure and information develops reading interests and offers children the opportunity to practice their reading skills in meaningful ways. Parents of elementary-age children should provide reading materials in the home that arouse curiosity or extend their child's natural interest in the world around them.

### **What does research say about ways parents can help their children with reading?**

The following suggestions have been beneficial to many parents:

- Provide a good role model — read yourself and read often to your child.
- Provide varied reading material — some for reading enjoyment and some with information about hobbies and interests.
- Encourage activities that require reading — for example, cooking (reading a recipe), constructing a kite (reading directions), or identifying an interesting bird's nest or a shell collected at the beach (using a reference book).
- Establish a reading time, even if it is only ten minutes a day.
- Write notes to your school-age child; encourage written responses.
- Ask your child to bring a library book home to read to a younger sibling.