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28<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Families,

A warm welcome back to you all following the half term break. We hope you had a wonderful time and enjoyed some glorious autumn sunshine.

**James 5:7-8: "Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near."**

Thank you to the many families who donated Harvest produce. This was taken to the local charity 'Re:dish' and they were overjoyed and indeed overwhelmed by the sheer amount of food donated. This will be put to very good use and showed tremendous generosity.

An exciting date in addition to my previous letter is, Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December. Mrs Beer will be in touch regarding booking this if your child usually has a packed lunch. This is a wonderful event here at St Mary's where the staff and children all enjoy their Christmas lunch together. Mrs Beer updates our online calendar so please check this regularly for school events.

Our Christian Value this half term is, 'Hope' and this will be central to our collective and in class worship.

Staffing updates, Mrs Langley will be returning from her maternity leave at the end of this half term. She will teach Reception class 2 days a week on a Thursday and a Friday. Please be assured Mrs Langley will meet all parents and children before the end of term and work closely with existing staff. Mrs O'Mahony-Leach is expecting her third child and will be beginning her maternity leave in March. I know you will all join me in congratulating her.

You will notice that the highway department has fulfilled our request to repaint the fading zigzags markings outside school. I wanted to make sure these are fully visible to ensure the restrictions are adhered to at all times. Unfortunately, I have had further complaints from residents regarding inconsiderate parking and blocking driveways. We only have a very small number of drivers who can access the 'School street' at the specific times however, some drivers are parking before Mr Moores closes the road. We respectfully ask you do not do this. Please support us in working with our whole school community and keeping our children safe by parking and striding. Ample parking is available at the Carousel and St Mary's Church.

**The aim of the School Streets scheme is to help create a pleasant, child-friendly environment, whilst ensuring residents, local businesses and blue badge holders can still maintain access to the streets. As well as improving the air children breathe, it also aims to reduce traffic and parking pressures outside schools during term time, whilst encouraging more sustainable and active forms of travel to schools.**

Andy Burnham is in full support of the 'School Street' initiative and expanding this around Greater Manchester. St Mary's was a pioneer in this so thank you to the majority of families who support us and share our commitment. The following link provides further information:

<https://beeactive.tfgm.com/support-for-schools/school-streets/>

Finally, the children and Mrs Moran collected Poppy's to sell for Remembrance Day. These are available from the school office before and after school.

Wearing a poppy is a show of support for the service and sacrifice of our Armed Forces, veterans and their families. It represents all those who lost their lives on active service, from the beginning of the First World War right up to present day. It also honours the contribution of civilian services and the uniformed services which contribute to national peace and security and acknowledges innocent civilians who have lost their lives in conflict and acts of terrorism.

If you have any questions or concerns raised about anything in this letter please come and speak to me.

With the warmest wishes,

Mrs Faryniarz