



# St Maria Goretti Newsletter

4th November 2016 Autumn 5



Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to a busy and exciting half-term of the school year. We are already preparing (behind the scenes) for Christmas events so please make a note of the dates for your diary.

Included in the newsletter is some really useful information regarding teaching your child about safety around use of electrical equipment. I found this very interesting and thought it was worth sharing. We do teach the children about all types of safety and this has some useful tips.

During the half-term Mrs Cooper and I had the privilege of working in schools in Vancouver. This was a wonderful opportunity to work alongside other headteachers and we will be developing some new approaches in lessons and around the teaching of reading. I have produced a presentation and intend to arrange a session for parents which I hope you will consider attending. As a teacher and grandparent I am looking forward to sharing some of the exceptional ways in which we can develop our children's independence and resilience in preparing our children's confidence, independent research and leadership skills. Details will be sent shortly.

Roy Gilbert (Father John's Father) passed away today. Please remember Father John and his family in your prayers at this sad time.

Next week, year 6 pupils will be experiencing a residential visit to Wales for the week. They are so excited and we look forward to hearing about their learning experiences. I will be in school, alongside Mrs Riddell, acting deputy, for most of the week.

Congratulations to Georgina Stokes - one of our academy representatives - and her husband, who have been blessed with two beautiful baby daughters. It was wonderful to see them attend their first PTFA meeting at St Gregory's this week!

Finally... something to make you smile.

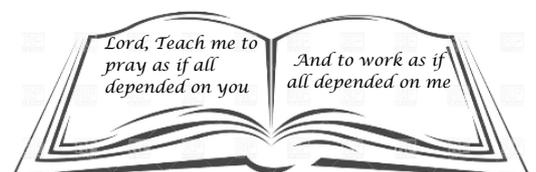
*Whilst talking with some of our younger children this week, I realised just how well our staff teach phonics; also, how much I rely on my spectacles. With great pride, a small boy approached me, eagerly wishing to show me his writing.*

*'Oh dear, I'm struggling to read this,' I said softly.*

*'Don't worry, Mrs Yates... just sound it out!' he advised.*

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs M Yates  
Executive Headteacher



**BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO YEAR 3 WHO ARE LAST WEEK'S  
WEEKLY ATTENDANCE WINNERS WITH 100% - FANTASTIC! WOW!**



**CONGRATULATIONS TO YEARS 3 AND 4 FOR BEST ATTENDANCE  
FROM 7TH SEPTEMBER 2016 TO 21ST OCTOBER 2016**

**WITH 98.5%**



**THE OVERALL SCHOOL  
ATTENDANCE FIGURE IS 97.1%**

**It is essential that you ensure your child gets to school on time.**



**The school doors open at 8.45 and close at 8.55**



**Registration is taken at 8.55am prompt**

**School finishes each day at 3.15pm**

Healthy Lunch box.



As part of the school policy we promote healthy lunchboxes. Please ensure that your child's lunchbox contains healthier options such as sandwiches, fruit, non-fizzy drinks and a small snack/cereal bar.



My Baby Time

We are now running  
sessions in school

9:45–10:45 Thursdays

£3.00

per family



School Gates

The office will open the school gates at 3:10 each day providing the children are all back in class after Assembly

St Maria Goretti RC Church



Present their pre-'Christmas Market'

Friday November 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm



St Maria Goretti School Hall  
£2 ticket admission includes  
refreshments

Journey in Faith  
2016-2017

- for a deepening of our Catholic Faith
- for those who want to know more about the Catholic Faith
- for those who wish to become Catholic

Thursdays 7.30–9.00pm

Beginning on Thursday 29th September 2016

In the Parish meeting room at St. Gregory's Longton  
Entrance facing Matalan Car Park entrance with free  
parking for the journey in Faith course  
For further information contact: Father John 313796

**DINNER MONEY FOR  
SEPTEMBER 2016**

School Meal prices from September are

Nursery — £2.30 (£11.50 per week payable on a Monday)

Key Stage 2 — £2.40 (£12.00 per week payable on a Monday)

## Diary Dates

Monday	7th	November	Y6 Residential Trip , the Kingswood Centre, Wales
Tuesday	8th	November	Y5 Visit to Stockport Museum and Air Raid Shelter
Friday	11th	November	Parish Fashion and Christmas event—7pm, school hall.
Monday	5th	December	Y2 City Songbirds Concert—6pm Victoria Hall
Tuesday	6th	December	FS2/Y1 and Y2 Forum Theatre Hanley—Pantomime
Wednesday	7th	December	KS2 Christingle—2pm, school hall
Thursday	8th	December	FS/KS1 Concert—2pm, school hall
Monday	12th	December	FS/KS1 Concert—6pm, school hall
Thursday	15th	December	KS2 Celebration Assembly—1.30pm, school hall
Friday	16th	December	FS/KS1 Celebration Assembly—9.15am, school hall

## Parent Masses for First Holy Communion

Sunday	20th	November 2016	Feast of Christ King
Sunday	11th	December 2016	3rd Sunday of Advent
Sunday	22nd	January 2017	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday	12th	February 2017	6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday	19th	March 2017	3rd Sunday in Lent
Sunday	9th	April 2017	Palm Sunday
Sunday	30th	April 2017	3rd Sunday of Easter
Sunday	18th	June 2017	Feast of Corpus Christi





# Keeping children safe from electric

- 3-5
- 5-7
- 8-11
- Babies
- Toddlers
- Burns and scalds
- Electric shocks
- Home safety

The good news is that children are at very little risk from electric shocks. But electrical appliances can be dangerous in other ways. Old appliances and children playing with electric appliances can cause burns and fires.

## Did you know...?

- You can often tell if your appliances or sockets are dangerous just by looking at them. Keep an eye out for frayed wires, or scorch marks on the socket or wire.
- Sockets are designed so that it's almost impossible for your child to stick their fingers, or even a knitting needle in. But it is quite easy for children to 'play grown-up' and plug in your hair straighteners or iron. Heating appliances like electric fires and kettles tend to use a lot more power than things like TVs and lights. Too many plugged into one socket could cause a fire.

## Safety reminders - how to keep children safe from electrical dangers

### General electrical safety tips

With electrical appliances there are some tips that will be relevant no matter how old your child is. Whether you have a baby, toddler, or seven-year-old, the steps below can help you to prevent electrical fires.

**Unplug** any electrical devices that get hot, like hair straighteners and irons, as soon as you've finished with them. That way there's no risk of fire.

**Safety-check** your appliances to see if they're up to the job. If there are any problems then you'll probably see frayed wires or scorched sockets.

**One plug per socket.** Extensions can help you to run more appliances at once, but they can be dangerous. Try not to overload plug sockets, especially with more power-hungry appliances like kettles and irons.

**'Bar' vs 'block'.** If you're using a socket extension, some are better than others. The 'bar' type, where plugs sit in a line, puts less strain on the socket than a 'block' type. 'Block' types, where plugs are all attached in a clump, are more likely to strain the socket and cause fires.

**Turn appliances off** before you go to bed. Did you know that mobile phone chargers, if left plugged in, can overheat and cause a fire? Unless it's designed to stay on overnight (like a freezer) turn it off and unplug it at the mains.

### Toddlers

They're old enough to understand simple instructions, but toddlers don't really understand the idea of 'danger'. This, plus the fact that they're very inquisitive, means that it's best to keep dangerous electrical objects well out of their reach.

**Electrical devices** can be fascinating, especially if Mum and Dad use them! Put devices away in a cupboard or on a high shelf so they won't be able to reach them and plug them in.

**Electric sockets** are less dangerous than you might think. They're designed to prevent toddlers (and anyone else) getting shocks, so they're quite safe. You do not need socket covers to make them safe, but they might stop young children plugging in appliances that can cause a fire. However, it's much safer to put appliances away rather than rely on socket covers.

### **3-5 year olds**

**As children get older, they get more adventurous! The difference with slightly older children, though, is that they can start to learn what is and isn't dangerous.**

**Keep up the good habits!** 3-5 year olds are at a similar risk from electrical burns and shocks as younger children and babies. So if you found the reminders for babies and toddlers useful, they're still relevant as your children get older.

**Good habits are hard to break.** 3-5 year olds can learn basic safety messages. Telling them to stay away from electric sockets and not to play with appliances can be helpful. They won't remember all the time, but it can get them into good habits for the future.

**Water and electricity don't mix.** Although a survey done in 2007 showed that 1 in 3 parents don't think their children know this! If you let children know about the danger they're less likely to make mistakes.

### **5-7 year olds**

**Children between 5-7 can be given a bit more responsibility. Giving them safety lessons can be fun for them as well as for you, and it helps them to develop their memory skills. Don't expect them to remember everything, but they should be able to understand common dangers, if they're taught.**

**Teaching** children how they can keep themselves safe can be really rewarding. They should still be supervised if they're using electrical appliances, but you can expect them to understand some of the risks.

**Responsibility** can be a scary word even for adults! Although young children can start learning how their actions affect others, they're not quite ready for the responsibility of looking after their brothers and sisters, especially if there are electrical appliances in the room.

**Toys** that are electrically operated are designed to ensure that there is virtually no danger of electrocuting anyone.

### **8-11 year olds**

**At this age, all children should be ready for more responsibility. Most can decide whether a situation is 'safe' or 'dangerous.'**

**Learning by doing.** Older children can practise using appliances on their own. Why not ask them to warm something in the microwave, make toast, or even cook a simple meal? If they can do it safely under your watchful eye they'll know how to do it safely on their own.

**For further information on a wide range of accidents please go to**

**<http://capt.org.uk/safety-advice>**

### **Or Contact**

Child Accident Prevention Trust  
PO Box 3588  
Barnet  
EN5 9QU

safe@capt.org.uk  
t. 020 7608 3828  
f. 020 7608 3674