



Parent Newsletter

St Mary Magdalene Secondary

Issue No 12 | February | Monday 1st. February 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

I hope you are all well and keeping safe.

Last week, the Prime Minister announced that it will not be possible to resume face-to-face learning immediately after the February half term and instead there are hopes it will be safe to commence the reopening of schools and colleges from Monday 8th March, at the earliest. What this means in the short term is that we will continue our remote learning package for the entire school and continue with learning at school for parents who are key workers for at least the next four school weeks. Please note, the week beginning Monday 15th February is officially half term and there will be no online learning set.

I would like to thank parents/carers for their continual support of our students with home learning. Our submission rates are higher than at any point during any version of lockdown over the past year. Miss Brady would like to share the following:

Following a very successful start to delivering live lessons we would like to thank those students who have taken part and provided such positive feedback. We will continue with live lessons for the remainder of this half term and would encourage all students to take part in these. Remote learning will still be uploaded onto Satchel for these lessons.

Please note, it is of utmost importance that all students submit their completed work on Satchel. Any problems in doing so need to be clearly communicated with either family group tutors or the main office.

TikTok and disrupting remote learning

Please see enclosed letter from Mrs Pett.

SafeCall - Missing People Charity

Please find attached two posters from a UK charity called SafeCall. They work with schools, young people and parents/carers who have worries, concerns and questions about possible gang exploitation and involvement. They are keen to remind secondary schools and their community of the work they do.

Children's Mental Health Week

An annual week-long campaign run by children's mental health charity [Place2Be](#), begins today and will run until Sunday 7 February. This year's theme is "Express Yourself" with the focus on children finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas through creativity. Mentally Healthy Schools have created a [toolkit of resources](#) for children, staff and parents to use during Children's Mental Health Week.

School Library – Miss Mnatsakanyan

Our interactive [SMM Library Web App](#) is full of great opportunities for our pupils. It has several useful links with a huge number of available titles including audiobooks, downloads, podcasts, free educational audio and video titles. Students also have an opportunity to meet virtual authors / illustrators, watch exclusive videos and access activity packs.

The SMM Library Web App is also directly linked to our eLibrary where pupils can read ebooks anywhere, any time, on multiple devices. They can even read offline. Pupils can sign in to [eLibrary](#) using their normal computer logins.

Christmas story competition:

I am pleased to announce the winner of the whole school library Christmas Short Story competition - Moses Etemewei 11EBA, with his wonderful and inspiring with a moral story called "The Perfect Present" - Well done Moses!

Alex was dreaming.

He was in a white room, which had a door in the middle of it. "Hello? What is this place?!", Alex exclaimed. What followed was a lump of extremely foul words and curses which ~~he~~^{Alex} roared which I dare not write on this paper. After Alex's ranting, he began to walk over to the door in a rather boisterous and confident way, he knocked the door. BAM! BAM! BAM! Yet, there was no reply. Again, Alex knocked, however, in even more frustration. BAM! BAM! BAM! Alex exhaled through his nose, and attempted to unlock the door and go through - it opened. Within the room, there reminisced the smell of dampness - despair unlike any other. Alex could see grey walls, tall and broad round the room and, towards the far left corner sat a lanky and lean old man.



"So, another spoilt adolescent was cowered up the courage to open my door aye? Come on in then!"

Alex, hesitantly, tip-toed to the old man in his chair, he was sat next to a fire - only, it was blue. And, for some ominous reason, it was actually - wild...

"Look Gramps," the youngster started, "I'm really not in the ~~mood~~^{mood} for any nonsense. So, since I know I'm dreaming, do you

mind waking me up - or, you know, showing me the way out?" The Old Man grinned - and, slowly let out a cold and sinister chuckle, then he stood, practically towering Alex. He wore black, tight trousers, and a grey, fishy vest. He had heavy bags underneath his light blue eyes and a big, sharp nose. He bent over and glanced straight into the eyes of Alex, he placed his palm in front of him and within it was a transparent globe. The Old man exhaled, "Do you know what this is, Alex?"

Here are some further examples of excellent work, produced via distance learning, that some teachers have asked to share:

I Remember

I remember when I first learnt to swim
I remember the almighty splash as I jumped in
I remember the shiny blue water clean and still
I remember how it gave me a chill
I remember the colour of fish so bright
I remember they would even be seen in the dark
I remember the smell of crystal salt water
I remember the waves crashed my feet
I remember the beautiful memories of the sea and me

Maisey Holland

Year 7

The mansion of choice

Choice is a complex blueprint for an elaborate mansion
each door of decision leads us to a room with its own stories and experiences
making choices can be overwhelming
who knows what lies behind each door?

We wander the hallways cautiously
Hesitant to pick a door
Hesitant to make a choice
Taking a peek inside may provide relief
Or grief
or maybe satisfaction that we are okay with the choices we make.

Choices are tests
Tests bring results we may not like these results
But they define us for who we are.

Abraham Bruce

Year 9

Sincerely

Mr R Hussain
Principal