



ST MARY'S

Church of England Primary School

Dear Parents and carers,

Building on the achievements of last week, it is a pleasure to be able to share more successes this week. Year 5 have been applying their CAD skills to engineer bespoke 3D robots, Year 2 have been exploring the continent of Africa through virtual reality headsets and Y6 have been getting their heart rates going during their 'Run a Mile' sessions.

I'm very excited to let you know that next week the children will be working together on a collaborative piece of art. Each year group will be given a key colour scheme and technique to create their unique canvas fabric piece. These will be woven together to create a year group piece of art to display in school. The concept of weaving evokes unity, with all of the children's diverse, vibrant strips of canvas coming together to complete an indivisible, complete artwork. We look forward to posting pictures of the finished pieces soon.

Communication between the school and our parent/carer community is an area that we highly value at St. Mary's and has always been an effective platform to support our children. As you are aware, due to current guidelines, we are not able to have parents on site at present so this means the more informal ways of communication with teachers on the playground proves more challenging which is why it is important to highlight the range of ways you are able to get in touch. Many of the systems below you will be familiar with already however, you will also notice the new and important role of our Designated Parent Liaison Lead.

-Weekly Newsletter: Our newsletter is sent out every Friday. It is an essential part of our connection with parents. Each week, key information, updates and events happening in school are shared on this platform fostering a connection between the classroom and home.

-Year Group Curriculum Letters: On Monday, all year groups will receive their Autumn Term curriculum letters. You will find out what learning is taking place in your child's year group. You will also notice a new addition to our curriculum letters this term with a range of engaging and exciting projects that can be enjoyed and completed together as a family linked to learning that takes place in school.

-Senior staff at entrance and exit points: On each entrance and exit point, there is a senior member of staff who are situated on the gates and main entrance in the mornings and after school. We will be able to answer any queries or questions you may have.

-Class teacher call back requests: If you would like to speak with your child's class teacher prior to parents evening, you can contact the school office, who will be able to arrange a date and time for the teacher to contact you.

-Designated Parent Liaison Lead: Ms Haworth, is often greeting children and parents on Chestnut North/Chestnut South at the beginning and end of the day every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. She can also be contacted via our school email st-marys-school@genesistrust.net.

-Parents Evening: This term we will be holding a virtual Parent's evening will take place on the 21st and 22nd October. A letter will be sent out to confirm the times and arrangements in place for this event.

I will end with a verse from 1 Peter 2:17 which reflects this week's value of respecting each other: 'Respect everyone, and love your Christian brothers and sisters.'

Yours faithfully,
Mrs Matthews

Y6 Run a Mile

Year 6 have been improving their physical, social and emotional health and wellbeing by taking part in 'Run a Mile'.

Jogging at their own pace outside, they have enjoyed their 15-minute mile!



St Mary's CADets!

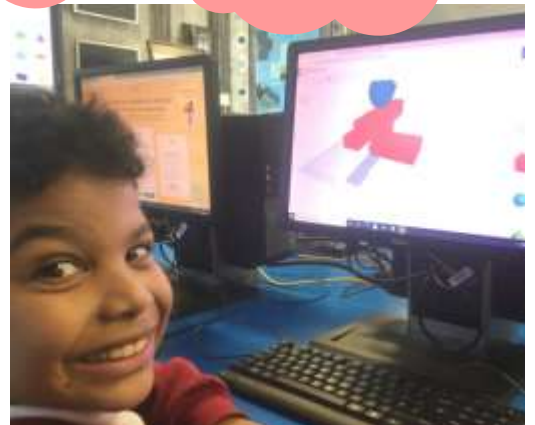
This week, Year 5 children put their engineering skills to the test with TinkerCAD. After exploring the process of designing a pawn piece, they began engineering their own robots applying the CAD skills that they have gained.

Keshawn: "You can create anything you like."

Holly H: "You get to create different things with your"

Marcus: "It's really good! You can make anything you"

Amanda: "I think that it's cool because you can draw"



Class Corner Year 2

We have had a fantastic first week back in Year 2! We have delved into our new book about Anansi the spider and we loved finding out about his wild adventures. In particular, we have enjoyed discussing the various morals in each story. You don't always have to be the biggest to be the strongest!

We have also begun to explore our new topic of Africa and we have thoroughly enjoyed using the VR headsets to explore physical and human features of landscapes in different African countries. We already feel inspired by this experience to produce some brilliant descriptive writing and are excited to explore the continent of Africa in even more detail.



Value of the Week

This week we have been thinking about our school value of respect. In lessons, at lunchtime and on the playground, it has been wonderful to see the children demonstrating this value so clearly to each other and to staff.



Why is respect important? How can respect be seen?



St Mary's Superstars of the Week!



A huge congratulations to our very first 'Stars of the Week' for Autumn Term.



Reception

Attlee – Talia
Morris – Max
Wilson – Amaya A



Year 1

Purple – Isaac
Yellow – Donnan
Blue/Green – Leilani

Year 2

Purple – Freddie H
Yellow – Feranmi
Blue/Green – Remy

Year 3

Purple – Darragh
Yellow – Eden
Blue/Green – Leroy

Year 4

Purple – Ethan
Yellow – Charles
Blue/Green – Isabelle

Year 5

Purple – Sophia
Yellow/Green – Amanda
Blue – Destinee

Year 6

Purple – Jacob J-W
Yellow – Aria
Green – Grace W
Blue – Joshua

Reception Newsletter

St Mary's C of E Primary school



Welcome to all of our new parents and carers!

We have been so delighted at how well our Reception classes have settled into school life here at St Mary's! I'm sure you'll agree they've shown great resilience and independence coming into school this last week or so.

Moving forward, our newsletter will outline what the children will be learning about the following week. We will link our story of the week so you can become familiar with the vocabulary we will be using as well as our focus for Maths and our Big Write sessions. We will also use the newsletter to keep you updated with any key information or messages relevant to Reception!

2Build a Profile Observations

The children have been excitedly engaging in lots of learning activities. The teachers have been capturing lots of lovely observations on our '2Build a Profile' programme ready to send out to you via 'Parent Share'. This will start from this week and be shared with you every Friday. This feature lets you receive reports (complete with photos) via email, showing you what your child has been learning and the new skills they are developing. We hope these will brighten up your day! Please let your child's teacher know if you have not received an invitation to view the profiles via your ema





TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos much in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. It's main draw, however, is that users can record and upload bite-sized looping videos of themselves lip-syncing and dancing to popular music or soundbites, often for comedic effect, which can then be further enhanced with filters, emojis and stickers. TikTok has been designed with the young user in mind and has a very addictive appeal. At the beginning of 2019 it skyrocketed in popularity to become the iOS store's most downloaded app with over 33 million downloads. Estimates suggest that it now has anything between 500 million and over 1 billion monthly active users worldwide.

AGE RESTRICTION
12+
If under 18, supervision of a parent or legal guardian required.



What parents need to know about

TIKTOK



MATURE CONTENT

On the iOS store, TikTok is listed as 12+. On the Google Play Store it is rated as 'Parental guidance recommended'. When signing up for the app, it's possible to lie about your age without any form of verification. As children scroll through their feed, most of the videos they're likely to come across are lighthearted or funny takes on dance routines which are designed to make people laugh. However there has been a slew of videos which have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and sexual content, including young teens dressing overtly sexually and behaving suggestively. Given the deluge of material uploaded to TikTok every day, it's impossible to moderate everything and it can be quite common to come across explicit content on the 'for you' feed when logging into the platform.



INAPPROPRIATE MUSIC

TikTok revolves around creating music videos through lip-syncing and dancing. Inevitably, some of the music featured by users will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the undeniably young user base, there is a risk that children may look to imitate the explicit language they hear or the suggestive actions they see when viewing others user's videos on the app.



TIKTOK FAME

TikTok is very image focused and there is a notable preoccupation with appearing cool and attractive. Many teenagers now attempt to go viral and become what's known in-app as 'TikTok famous'. TikTok (and its predecessor musical.ly) has spawned its own celebrities - social media stars Loren Gray and Jacob Sartorius have been catapulted to fame through their initial exposure on the app. Obviously, most budding influencers looking to become the next big thing will be disappointed, but this may have the knock-on effect of making them go to more and more drastic lengths to get noticed.



ONLINE PREDATORS

As a social network, TikTok makes it easy to connect with other users. This includes the ability to comment on and react to other user's videos, follow their profile and download their content. Be aware that by default, any user can comment on your child's video if their account is set to public. Most interactions are harmless enough but as an app, TikTok is prone to predators because of the abundance of younger users.



ADDICTIVE NATURE

Social media is designed to be addictive and TikTok is no different. It can be fun and hugely entertaining. However, it is also because of this that it can be hard to put down. In addition to the short, punchy nature of the looping video format, the app's ability to keep you guessing what will come on screen next makes it easy to turn a five-minute visit into 45-minute visit.



IN-APP PURCHASES

Aside from the content, there's also the option to purchase in-app extras called 'TikTok coins'. Prices range from £0.99 for 100 coins to an eye-watering £93.99 for 10,000 coins. TikTok coins are used to purchase different emojis to reward content creators that a user finds funny or entertaining. In the iOS version of the app you can disable the option to buy TikTok coins but this sadly doesn't seem to be a feature in the Android version.



Key Term Dates and Pick up / Drop off times

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Start	9:00	8:50	8:45	8:40	8:35	8:30
Finish	3:10	3:15	3:30	3:40	3:50	4:00
	Purple- Chestnut South Yellow-Chestnut North Blue/Green- Main entrance		Purple- Main entrance Yellow-Chestnut North Blue/Green- Chestnut South		Purple- Chestnut South Yellow/Green-Chestnut North Blue- Main entrance	Purple- Main entrance Yellow-Chestnut South Blue/Green- Chestnut North

Autumn Term 2020

First Half (34 days)

INSET- Thursday 3rd, Friday 4th, Monday 7th September Start- Tuesday 8th September 2020 End- Friday 23rd October 2020

Half Term: Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October 2020

Second Half (35 days) Start- Monday 2nd November 2020 End- Friday 18th December 2020

Christmas Holiday: Monday 21st December to Friday 1st January 2021

Key Reminders

Useful Contacts

St. Mary's C of E Primary School
Brooke Road, Walthamstow, E17 9HJ

Phone: 02085211066

Website: www.stmaryscofe.org

Email: st-marys-school@genesistrust.net

Tea Time Club: 07542 193499

Nursery: stmarysnursery.net

Church: www.walthamstowchurch.org.uk

- Scooters and bikes will have to be taken back home by yourselves after drop off as they cannot remain on site.
- The only items pupils should be bringing into school is their water bottles and/or pack lunches. Please remember no large rucksacks are to be brought in. A school bookbag or other small bag that can fit under their chair is all that they need.
- Homework will be set every Thursday and be due in the following Tuesday.
- Our Parent Liaison Officer is Mrs Haworth and your first point of contact for any questions or concerns.

P.E kits and school uniform

Children are welcome to start to bring in their P.E kits which we will keep at school. The children need to have a white t-shirt, black shorts or trousers and black plimsolls. Please ensure these are all clearly named and labelled.

Also please ensure all jumpers, cardigans and other pieces of clothing are clearly named and labelled.

School lunches

Just a gentle reminder that children will be having picnic in the classroom until the 28th September. Therefore, when ordering their lunch through the pantry please do not select a hot meal.

If you have any questions or anything you'd like to discuss please let your class teacher know and we can arrange a telephone meeting.

We hope you have a lovely weekend.

Warm wishes,
Miss Crawford
EYFS Phase Leader