

ST. MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

With February half term nearing, we can see the first beginnings of spring showing up this week. I have noticed the daffodil bulbs and snowdrops coming up and the days are getting longer. These are all welcome spring signs as we look forward to spending a week with our families during the February break.

This term, we have managed through very challenging circumstances in regards to significant staff absence due to high rates of Covid within our community. We have been committed to ensuring that children remain in school, learning remains face to face as much as possible and to mitigate the educational and mental health implications of the pandemic. We are pleased that we have been able to avoid closures. I know that this has not been the case for a number of other schools. However, rates in children aged between 2 and 11 years continue to rise. We will therefore be continuing to operate our mitigation strategies to help protect all children, staff and our community.

I would like to congratulate all our pupils on their fabulous work, it has not only been a very busy and exciting half term but also a very successful one. There have been so many fabulous events over the last few weeks which I hope will be remembered by the children for a long time to come. Not only have the children experienced some wonderful events, they have also been able to engage with solid and consistent learning. I would like to wish you all a restful and peaceful half term break and I am looking forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 21st February 2022.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs Matthews
Headteacher

Class Corner

In Reception, we have been reading the book Jack and the Beanstalk. We planted our own beans and have been observing them sprout this week. We received a letter from the Giant expressing his upset over Jack stealing his precious items. In response, we all wrote letters on behalf of Jack to say sorry!

We have also been using our brand new roadway in our EYFS playground. We have all learnt how to ride our bikes correctly around the road, stopping at zebra crossing and waiting at the red lights!



Head Teacher Drop- Ins

Mrs Matthews holds a Tuesday morning drop in-session, which takes place between 10:30-11:30 each week, please send an email to
st-marys-school@genesistrust.net to make a 15 minute appointment.

Healthy Snacks



We would like to remind parents and carers that St Mary's is a

Healthy School. Children should not bring chocolate bars, crisps or fizzy drinks as morning snacks, if your child does bring these in, they will be replaced with a piece of fruit and sent home with them at the end of the school day. Please ensure that should you like to provide your child with a snack that it is a healthy option. Nut free cereal bars, yoghurt bars or fruit bars are recommended.

All children are encouraged to drink water regularly – please ensure that your child is bringing in their own water bottles, these can be refilled during the school day.



**We are proud
to be a nut free
school!**

Young Transformers



Our Spring Curriculum

EYFS - Creative

Mindful Movement origins can be found 5000 years ago in Northern India. Yoga is more popular than ever before. It is not only brilliant for your physical health but also for your mental health. Reception children will learn what yoga is and see that yoga can be performed by people of all ages (yes, even babies). They will work with a yoga teacher on simple yoga techniques. By nurturing our bodies, we look after the mind as well.

Year 2 - Creative

Dancing is not only a way to keep fit, but also a form of art. In Year 2. Children will learn why people enjoy dancing and how dance is expressed in different parts of the world. They will work with a professional dancer to devise a dance for performance. With their peers they will learn to keep to the beat, execute dance moves and find joy in dancing. By dancing together, we celebrate our bodies just the way they are.

Year 4 - Creative

The drum is the oldest musical instrument. Year 4 children will learn where the drum originated and how it is played in different parts of the world. They will work with professional drummers in a workshop to create their own drumming piece which will be performed to the school. By beating the drum, we get into the rhythm.

Year 6 - Caring

In computing, Year 6 will use the Tinkercad programme to design and print key rings for our new autumn term pupils in EYFS. A welcome gift from our oldest pupils. By reaching out your hand with a gift for someone new, you show true friendship.

Year 1 - Caring

We are lucky enough to have three alpacas at St Saviours: Captain, Marshall and Marvin. In year 1, the children will learn about these amazing creatures and have the opportunity to visit them. They might even want to be taken for a walk (only if you give them a snack). Afterwards, children will get to visit the Forest school to build fires, shelters and bug houses. By being gentle and showing care to animals, we show true love to God's Creation.

Year 3 - Caring

Bake to educate: education changes lives but many girls around the world do not have the same opportunities. Children will learn how young girls in some parts of the world miss out on education and how this affects their life chances. Pupils will plan, prepare, bake and sell cakes to support girls around the world in less fortunate circumstances. By educating all children, we offer them the opportunity to make a positive change.

Year 5 - Community

Children will learn where the idea of an English afternoon tea came from and what afternoon tea includes. This knowledge will be used for pupils to prepare their own class afternoon tea including cups and saucers. Of course Year 5 will need to dress up in their best clothing. By studying our traditions, we strengthen our own identity.

Home - Mandatory - Confidence

At the start of a new year, it is important to take another step into independence. Pupils are encouraged to learn how to change their bedding at home, including pillowcases and duvet covers. There is no harm in working together on this. By taking charge of day to day routines, we learn how to step with confidence into the world

For more information on our Young Transformers Project, please visit our Young Transformers pages under the Pupils tab on the St Mary's website.



Our amazing pupils bake for Ukraine!



We also would like to say a big 'Well Done!' to a group of St Mary's students from Year 1, Year 3, and Year 4, who along with their parents organised a Charity Bake Sale for Ukraine. Stella Creasy, MP for Walthamstow, publicised the good work taking place by our students and the bake sale took place last Friday. It was extremely successful, and I was lucky enough to visit and see our pupils taking action. I was so impressed with the St Mary's pupils and can see them becoming great changemakers of our future.

Attendance



Gentle Reminder:

If your child is going to be absent due to illness, please leave a message for the office team on the school absence line by calling 020 8521 1066 and dialling 1.

If you need to collect your child for a medical appointment during the day or they are late to school due to a medical appointment, you will need to provide the school office with an appointment letter/record.

Our whole school attendance for Week 5 was 95.6%.

Our whole school attendance for Week 6 was 95.8%.

Well done St Mary's!

Our whole school attendance for this academic year is: 94%

Parent Prayer



Parent Prayer is on Wednesday evenings at 8pm on Zoom-
twenty minutes of prayer and reflection. A relaxing space for
parents to come together at the end of the day. All are
welcome!

If you would like the zoom link, please email
Jacintha Danaswamy at: jacintha@stmaryswalthamstow.org.

St. Mary's Christian Vision

I AM THE VINE AND YOU
ARE THE BRANCHES. IF
YOU REMAIN WITH ME AND
I WITH YOU, THEN YOU
WILL BEAR MUCH FRUIT.
LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I
HAVE LOVED YOU.
(JOHN 15).