

ST. MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with a sense of great excitement that I write to you this week: the term has begun and we have our wonderful school back. Tirelessly, we worked over the summer holidays to prepare the school for the return of the children and seeing their faces on the first day of term certainly made it worthwhile. At Saint Mary's, we pride ourselves on our amazing learning environment - an environment which inspires and excites - and I am happy to be able to share with you some photographs of the displays which adorn the walls of our corridors. They truly make every journey around Saint Mary's an inspirational one.

We began the term with a whole school assembly on Monday 12th of September with a visit from Revd Vanessa Conant from Saint Mary's church. Vanessa spoke about Queen Elizabeth II and her life of service and how we can commit ourselves to the service of others.

We also started the new term with a round of fantastic educational visits. We had Y1 visit Walthamstow Wetlands and learn about the beauty and fragility of the environment; while years 2,3 and 4 visited the Nuclear Mudrun and learned about tenacity, courage and mud - lots of mud. Year 5 had a great time visiting Suntrap and, finally, year 6 had a very successful residential. Starting the term with educational visits is a great way to enthuse the children and allow them to forge new friendships, and these trips were no exception. I heard many stories and anecdotes from the children and I hope they were quick to tell you about their adventures, too.

Finally, I have wonderful news about Mrs Matthews: on the 28th of August she gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Olivia Rose Matthews. I am happy to let you know that mother and baby are very well. I know you will join me in wishing Mrs Matthews, and Olivia, the very best of wishes.

Kind Regards
Mr Pitchford
Head of School



Welcome

We would like to say a warm welcome to the new teachers who have joined St Mary's this term.



Ms Ali



Miss Bryant



Mr Van Wyk



Ms Grange



Ms Ampenh

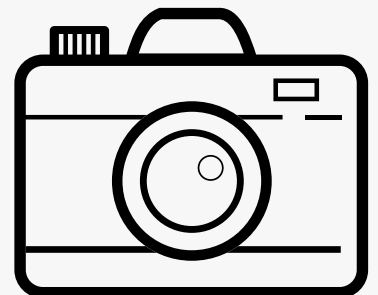


Mr Lee

Welcome

School Displays

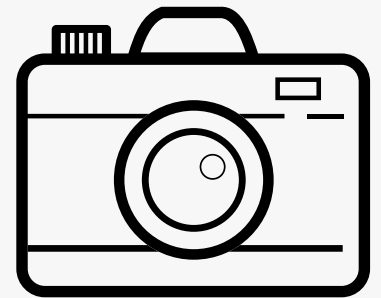
We have some exciting new displays around school showing off the children's amazing hard work!



Trips



Our St Mary's children were out and about last week on exciting trips to the Nuclear Mud Run, Suntrap & Walthamstow Wetlands!



Attendance



Our whole school attendance for Week 1 was 96.55%.

Our whole school attendance for Week 2 was 96.56%.

Well done St Mary's!

Our whole school attendance for this academic year is: 96.2%

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.

Please ensure this message includes the reason your child is off sick - i.e. sore throat, temperature or stomach bug.

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.

Important Messages

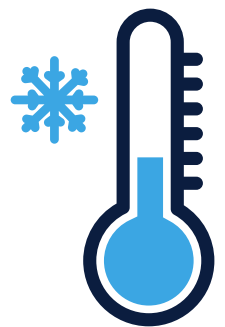
Medication

If your child has medication in school, please ensure that you have noted down the expiry dates to ensure we have the correct medication in school. If your child's doctor has made any changes to their medication or the procedure for caring for your child, please ensure the office is informed in writing of any changes and receives a copy of the documents from the GP.



Cooler Weather

As the temperature are getting cooler, we would like all children to bring a light jacket that is labelled with their name however still continue to bring in their own water bottle.



Lost Property

We have a large amount of lost property in the bag at our Chestnut Avenue South Gate. If your child is missing any of their items, please could you check the bag for any missing items.



Individual Photos

Carmel Jane Photography will be visiting us on Monday 3rd of October 2022. Please ensure your child is in full school uniform and you have registered using the link that will be emailed out shortly.



Values

Caring

Proverbs 31:8

‘Speak up for people who cannot speak for themselves. Protect the right of all who are helpless.’

We have been focusing on the value of caring this week. This value has been reflected in recent events this week; we considered how Queen Elizabeth cared for all her people and how the public have shown how much they cared for her too through their vigils and gifts of flowers. We can show how much we care for others in many different ways. We learnt that we can also show caring towards our environment, through nurturing living things and helping them to grow. We

studied the story told by Jesus in the Bible of the Good Samaritan, where several people pass by a man in need as if they do not care, until finally an unexpected passer by showed compassion and stopped to help. We can learn from this story that Jesus wanted mankind to care for everyone and that everyone should be treated as a neighbour, regardless of background. This

story inspired us to think about how we can help those in need today, through our acts of courageous advocacy. Speaking to protect those who do not have a voice, as the verse from Proverbs suggests, is important to us at our school as we are always considering how we can help others. We can do this through prayer, through donations to charities and food banks, and by looking out for everyone in our own school community. We look forward to planning more acts of courageous advocacy in our R.E. lessons later this term. The bible says that we should give our worries to God, because He cares for us. If God cares for us so much, we should follow his example and also care for those around us.



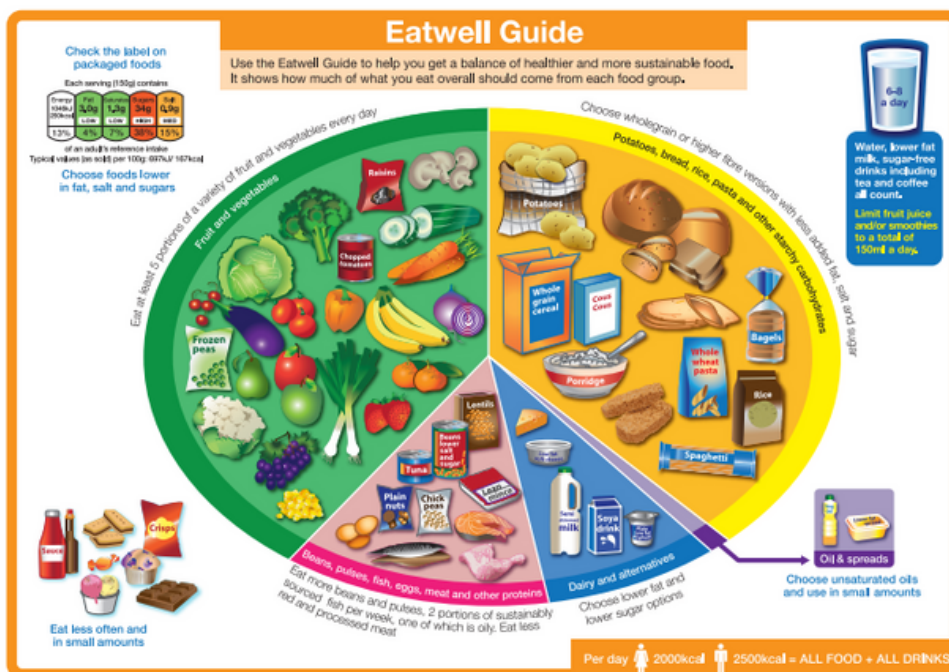
Healthy Snacks



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!



Parent Prayer

Parent Prayer is on Wednesday evenings at 8.30pm 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 Church Quiz Night

Quiz Night to fundraise for St Mary's Church - Sat 8th October 7.30pm, all welcome (including children aged 10 and above). Tickets £10 for adults and £7.50 for children aged 10-17.

You may know that recently St Mary's Church has launched a fundraising campaign to raise £50,000 for the new chairs which are key to creating a welcoming, accessible space for worship, arts and community activities. There is more about the project, the chairs the church is buying and how this will help us serve our community here. St Mary's Church has secured over £3million funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, other grantmakers and through the sale of properties. For this final part of our project, we are asking the church congregation and wider community for support as each chair costs £250 (a reflection of the fact that they need to be high quality, easily stacked and hard-wearing). Ways to support this are:

Buy a ticket and attend our Quiz Night -

The Quiz Night will start at 7.30pm and will be suitable for children aged 10+. Tickets for the Quiz Night are on sale at <https://ticketlab.co.uk/series/id/557#/and> include a platter of cheese and biscuits to share on your table for your team of 8 people. There will be a paid bar, an auction of promises in the interval, and raffle tickets on sale with a top prize of tickets for a family of 4 to attend a top West End show.

Host an estate agent board -

Another way to support the project is to host an estate agent board advertising our fundraising quiz on 8th October. The board is up for 2 weeks before the quiz and 1 week afterwards. You simply need to provide your name and address. You can sign up for a board here. Deadline to sign up for this is this Friday, 16th September.

Sponsor a chair -

You might want to sponsor a chair as an individual, group of friends or family and, if you choose to do so, you can opt to have a dedication plaque added in your own name, in memory of a loved one or dedicated to someone important to you. There is no obligation to sponsor a whole chair - donations of any size will make a huge difference to the campaign. You can give very simply through this dedicated website (you will need to have mobile or online banking): <https://wonderful.org/fundraisers/NqyeN> or you can give by card through the Parish website (please write 'Chairs' in the notes section so we can track your donation): <https://www.stmaryswalthamstow.org/donate-to-st-marys-church/>

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).