

ST. MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

Though it is finally becoming more like winter, and though the temperature has dropped, it was warming indeed to see so many of you yesterday at our Black History Month assemblies. Excitement was running high amongst the children before the event and I know that each and everyone of them enjoyed the opportunity to show their work and sing for you. There was some wonderful singing - including an impromptu acapella chorus from year 5 - and some terrific audience participation. For those of you able to attend, thank you - it meant a lot to children, and staff, to share such an important event with you.

Although it is still November, it will soon be Christmas and preparations are afoot at Saint Mary's. Throughout the week, I have caught sight of rehearsals for the Nativity which will be performed by Reception and year 1. The rehearsals are going well and there is growing excitement for the performance. I am delighted to announce that the Nativity will be performed at Saint Mary's Church in Walthamstow Village. Saint Mary's Church has undergone significant building work in the last 12 months and so we have been unable to visit. As such, we are all especially happy that the Nativity will be performed there this year. A number of other christmas events are being planned - a christmas jumper day, a christmas movie evening and carol singing - and I will write to you about these events shortly.

Last week was anti-bullying week. To mark this, we held an anti-bullying assembly and in PSHE lessons children learned about the harmful effects of bullying; how to deal with bullying and how bullying contravenes our values. This was an important opportunity for children to reflect on our Christian values - in particular caring and respect. Saint Mary's vision is based upon John 15:12 "Love each other as I have loved you" which is something everyone at Saint Mary's embodies and is of course a sentiment completely antithetical to bullying.

Winter is a difficult time for many. I was reminded of this in a recent year 6 lesson I was fortunate to observe. As part of our Young Transformers project, children in year 6 wrote to people in care homes. The letters are moving and will, I am sure, be gratefully received. With these letters in mind, I would like to end this edition of the newsletter with a verse from Hebrews chapter 13: "But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased"

Best wishes,
Mr Pitchford

Attendance



Our whole school attendance for Week 3 was 95%.

Our whole school attendance for Week 4 was 91.37%.

Well done St Mary's!

Our whole school attendance for this academic year is: 95.88%

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

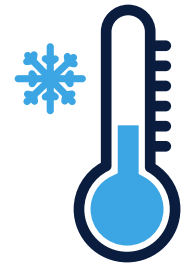
Medication

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.



Cold Weather

As the temperature are getting colder, please ensure your child comes to school with a warm winter coat that is labelled. The temperature is dropping fast and we want the children to be dressed appropriately. 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. A large amount of the uniform is not named, if your child is missing any of their items, please could you check the bag for any missing items.



School Nurse Drop In

Our School Nurse will be visiting the second Monday of every month. If you would like to book a slot with our school nurse to discuss any concerns that you may have, please email the school office. Please see the details below:

- 12th December 2022



Large Bags

Unfortunately, many children are bringing very large backpacks to school. There is little storage space available for such large bags and they pose a trip hazard. Please send your child to school with the smallest bag possible - ideally a bookbag.



Values

Respect

This week we have been reflecting on the theme of forgiveness. We have looked at a passage from Jeremiah Chapter 2 Verse 7: "I brought them into a fertile land, to respect and enjoy its harvest and its other good things. But instead they disrespected the land and defiled the country I had given them".

In Autumn 1, all classes studied creation in their R.E. lessons and thought a lot about whether God would be satisfied with the way humans have treated his creation. It seems pertinent to return to this question now as the whole world reflects on our own impact on the environment and climate change, off the back of Cop27. As Christians, we believe that part of our purpose on earth is to be custodians of God's creations and yet there are numerous examples of how humans continue to pollute and destroy the world. The children have been thinking of ways in which to protect the environment, from making posters to encourage recycling and reusing, to our eco-councillors designing their own manifesto for making our school more sustainable.

Respect is also something we show to our community. During Cop27, it was significant that many countries agreed to support those less well off in shouldering the financial burden of the effects of climate change. When we all work together, perhaps there is a greater chance of reversing some of these effects and returning to God's Creation. In the Bible, God teaches that we should respect Him above everyone else; in the story of Daniel, Daniel puts his faith in God above the respect he owes to the King. He is punished by the King, but ultimately saved by God. This is an example of someone standing up for their beliefs, knowing that in the long run, it is the right thing to do, even if it costs them in the short term. We continue to be inspired by the example of courageous advocates like Daniel, like Nelson Mandela and Greta Thunberg, among others, who stand up for what is right and who respect God and His creations above everything even when it means repercussions for them in their own lifetime.



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.



Christmas Performances

Christmas Nativity

Year 1 and Reception classes will be performing their Nativity, 'Hey Ewe' at St Mary's Church on Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th December.

Reception and Year 1 Atlee: Monday 12th December 9:30 am – 10:30 am

Reception and Year 1 Morris: Monday 12th December 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Reception and Year 1 Wilson: Tuesday 13th December 11:00 am – 12:00 pm



Christmas Carols

Year 2 have undertaken a courageous advocacy project this half term, which is to sing carols in Walthamstow village to raise money for a charity of their choosing, the Mill Grove children's home.

On the afternoon of Friday 9th December, we will walk to Walthamstow village, where we will sing from 2:15 pm to 2:45 pm, before walking back to school.



Edwards and Ward

A little bit about Edwards & Ward

Our History

Smile
food that makes you happy

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Edwards and Ward were formed in 1999 by Michael Edwards and Mike Ward, who recognised the need for a viable alternative to the 'Large Nationals'. As an owner driven business, they ensure **total commitment** in everything we do.

Michael and Mike regularly visit our contracts to meet with the clients, talk to the catering staff and sit and enjoy dining with our customers. Being visible enables them to see what you experience at the frontline and to maintain a customer focus, they **recognise customer service starts at the top**.

Over the past year we have begun to invest considerably in our central support team, including a Managing Director Nick Clegg, to continue on our **positive course of controlled growth and retention**.

Ultimately, we work hard from day one to build **honest** and **respectful** relationships that lead to long term partnerships whilst providing a service you can be **proud of** and want to shout about!

Nutrition and Special Diets A very important part of our school meals service is making sure those children who require a special diet are looked after and in charge of this is Clare Rose, our company nutritionist. Clare is a registered Nutritionist, who heads up Edwards and Ward's special diets team to ensure safe/effective delivery of menus. Clare supports chefs on recipe and menu development, ensuring that guidelines are met; She oversees the nutritional analysis and allergen management system for all recipes and menus and will work with Henry to ensure that schools individual requirements are met... please see over the page for more on our suppliers, wastage and food sourcing!

Looking forward to our journey together!

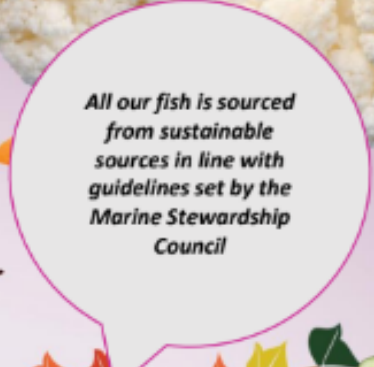
edwards and ward
a recipe for success




All fresh meat is Red Tractor certified and from the UK, supplied by authorised butchers and fully traceable to source



Smile
food that makes you happy



All our fish is sourced from sustainable sources in line with guidelines set by the Marine Stewardship Council

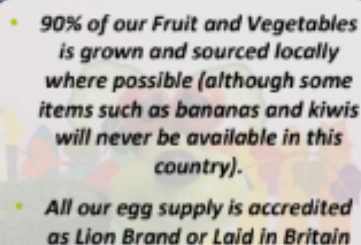


Food Suppliers Edwards and Ward are proud to be at the forefront of using sustainable local suppliers wherever possible. We have the ability to be flexible in our approach to food purchasing throughout our contracts because of our size, structure and in the way in which we are not bound to a list of national, nominated supply chains. Our suppliers include the following:

- Meat – William White Meats Ltd, Purfleet Industrial Park, South Ockendo, RM15 4YA
- Dairy - Freshway Milk, 16 Eastman Road, Acton, London, W3 7YG
- Bakery - All our fresh bakery products for example are made on site or by local bakers. For other Bakery requirements we use Howis Bakery, Thames Gateway Park, Choats Rd, Barking, Dagenham, RM9 6RH
- Fruit and Vegetables – Oliver Kay Produce, 3 New Covent Garden Market, Nine Elms, London SW8 5EL
- Fish - Direct Seafoods, Bermondsey Trading Estate, Rotherhithe New Rd, London, SE16 3LL

Our food is purchased in a responsible and ethical manner, and we are proud to state that we buy from British farmers and producers. This enables us to invest in local communities, reduce our food miles and get a great range of seasonal produce to incorporate into our menus for our customers to enjoy. *Our commitment to the highest quality of ingredients on our menus can be seen in the bubbles around the page...*

Zero waste policy. Because of the nature of a pre-ordering system we are able to accurately produce our meals on a daily basis based on the parents choice. We always prepare a small amount of additional food in case of spillages, orders not on the system etc. however the waste at the end of the day is minimal, and will only be carried over if it falls within Food Safety guidelines.

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- 90% of our Fruit and Vegetables is grown and sourced locally where possible (although some items such as bananas and kiwis will never be available in this country).
 - All our egg supply is accredited as Lion Brand or Laid in Britain



edwards and ward
a recipe for success



Walthamstow Cafe

WALTHAMSTOW WELCOMES

DROP IN COMMUNITY CAFÉ & PAPERWORK SUPPORT



ST MARY'S WELCOME CENTRE
8 CHURCH END, E17 9RJ | 10:00—12:00
E17welcomecafe@stmaryswalthamstow.org



Saturday: 12/11 | 26/11 | 10/12 | 24/12
Wednesday: 02/11 | 16/11 | 30/11 | 14/12

Opportunities in Little Learners' Nursery

LITTLE LEARNERS
NURSERY GROUP
ST MARY'S
BROOKE RD
WALTHAMSTOW
LONDON
E17 9HJ



Little Learners
NURSERY GROUP

LITTLE LEARNERS
NURSERY GROUP
ST SAVIOUR'S
33 VERULAM
AVENUE
WALTHAMSTOW
LONDON
E17 8ER

WE ARE HIRING!

OPEN POSITIONS

BANK STAFF

(WORK WHEN IT'S SUITS YOU!)

APPRENTICESHIPS AVAILABLE

MUST BE 17 YEARS OLD PLUS

APPLY NOW

SEND YOUR CV TO

alison.brown@genesistrust.net

020 8521 1066 Extension 2

[HTTPS://STMARYSNURSERY.NET/NURSERY-GROUP/](https://stmarysnursery.net/nursery-group/)



Young Transformers

Our Autumn Curriculum



EYFS - Caring

Together with our church, Reception children will rehearse and sing some of our favourite Christmas Carols. Of course parents and carers get the treat to see them performed in church; however, the children will also perform these carols at the town hall for everyone in our community to enjoy. By sharing the gift of songs, we hope to transform an audience into joyful listeners.

Year 1- Community

Our emergency services are there to keep us safe. Year one will meet real firemen/ women who will tell them how to become a fire worker and what work they do in London. They also learn that women can be become a firewoman and that is a really exciting career choice. By knowing who keeps us safe, we feel protected and reassured.

Year 2 – Curiosity

Space is big – infinitely so. We have invited a theatre company to visit our school to take the pupils on an incredible journey into space. There, children will get a sense of 'awe and wonder' about planets, stars, galaxies and everything in between. By reflecting about space and time, we are overawed by God's incredible Creation.

Year 3- Confidence

Year 3 will be climbing to great heights this term - literally. All pupils will work with a professional climbing instructor to ascend and descend climbing walls at our local climbing centre. Children will learn how to use bouldering techniques to scale challenging routes.

Through embracing challenges we become confident. By facing new physical challenges, we endeavour to transform our own self belief.

Year 4 - Community

With the winter months setting in, we know that some families appreciate a little support. Year 4 pupils will organise a Harvest Festival like no other before by personally putting together high quality hampers to share with our community. By giving to joy others, we share the best of ourselves.

Year 5- Caring

During the autumn term, Year 5 will organise an ambitious charity project in conjunction with Christian Aid to raise money for some of the most vulnerable communities in the world. All the money raised, will be used to create reliable sources of water in drought hit areas. By raising awareness, we know we can affect major global causes.

Year 6- Creative

A visit to the Royal Academy to see David Hockney's: the arrival of spring will inspire us to use our tablets to create art with a similar theme and skill set. By embracing new technologies, we learn to explore other ways of creating something beautiful.

Home- Mandatory Creative

Young Transformers across the year groups are invited to use cameras, tablets and phones to take photos around the theme of 'Transformation'. Photographers are encouraged to consider how they see transformations in nature, art, architecture, communities and beyond. Everyone is invited to send their best photo to enter for the Autumn Term Young Transformers award. By viewing the world around us, we aim to change the way we see.

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).