

ST. MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

To begin this edition of the newsletter I would like to wish you all a happy new year. I hope that you all had a restful and enjoyable Christmas. Having spoken with many of the children about the holiday, and having heard about all of the exciting things that they did, I know that the children certainly enjoyed the Christmas break. It was, however, with great excitement that we returned to school for the spring term. Each year group has begun a new topic, a new reading text and new topic in science, RE & Music.

Plans are underway for this term's Young Transformers projects. We firmly believe that the children have the power to transform themselves and the community in which they live. The projects for this term are as follows: EYFS will get creative and learn about mindful movement; year 1 will learn about caring by visiting the alpacas at Saint Saviour's; year 2 will get creative and learn a Bollywood dance; year 3 will hold a bake sale with the money raised going to charity; year 4 will hold a drumming performance; year 5 will share their favourite stories with children in EYFS; and, finally, year 6 will use the 3D printer to make keyrings to welcome children joining Saint Mary's. I am particularly keen to see how the children develop through these exciting projects.

The start of a new term is especially noteworthy at Saint Mary's because the children all receive a copy of the book upon which their reading and writing lessons are based. We have found this to be an enormously effective way to motivate children to read at home: the children love discussing the books with their classmates; sharing their reviews; and even producing artwork based on the class book. Please encourage your child to read the book they have been given this term.

Finally, please ensure that your child has an appropriate PE kit in school. Children need the correct PE kit so that they can feel proud of their school and feel a sense of belonging. There are, of course, practical reasons why appropriate kit is required. As a reminder, PE kit is a white t-shirt, black shorts, black plimsolls, black trainers for outdoor PE. If it is cold, black joggers are permissible for outdoor PE.

While it may still be winter, we are close to the end of January and we can, I think, look forward to spring in the not too distant future. With that in mind, I would like to end this edition of the newsletter with a quotation from Psalm 96:

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof.

Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice

Mr Pitchford



Attendance



Our whole school attendance for Week 1 was 93.28%.

Our whole school attendance for Week 2 was 96.42%.

Well done St Mary's!

Our whole school attendance for this academic year is: 95.07%

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

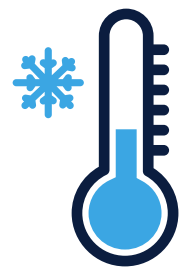
Medication

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.



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

Humility

This week we have been reflecting on the theme of humility. We have looked at a passage from Philippians 2:3

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves”.

In our whole school assembly, Vanessa helped us to think about what humility really means. It does not have to mean thinking less of yourself, but rather thinking about yourself less! We can come to value ourselves based on how we can be of service, rather than how we can serve our own interests. We thought together about the stories of King Nebuchadnezzar in the Bible and how he learnt to trust in God to help him have a humble heart.

There are several stories about King Nebuchadnezzar in the book of Daniel, and the story of Daniel 4 is a really powerful testimony about humility. In this story, Nebuchadnezzar has a dream that he doesn't understand, and so he asks Daniel to interpret it for him. Daniel tells him that in the dream, King Nebuchadnezzar is the tree who is chopped down and made to live with wild animals. Daniel says he will have to live this way for 7 years, until he learns that God is in control of everything. Nebuchadnezzar was not a humble king! He was very proud of his kingdom and his palace.

One day, Nebuchadnezzar was walking and surveying his kingdom and bragging about it, when all of the sudden he could no longer speak and had to go live with wild animals. He spent 7 years away from his kingdom, just like in his dream. At the end of 7 years, he praised God and knew that God was in charge. He wrote a letter to his people and said, “Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.” Daniel 4:37

In class, we have been thinking about putting others first and the children have written pledges to their friends and family members of how they are going to help and be kind this week, to ensure doing good deeds for others will be at the forefront of their minds, even when the week gets busy with other things. Our song for the week, This Little Light of Mine, reminds us to share our light, our skills, talent and kindness with others. We are all blessed with the light of Jesus and we can focus this week on using that light to help others first.



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

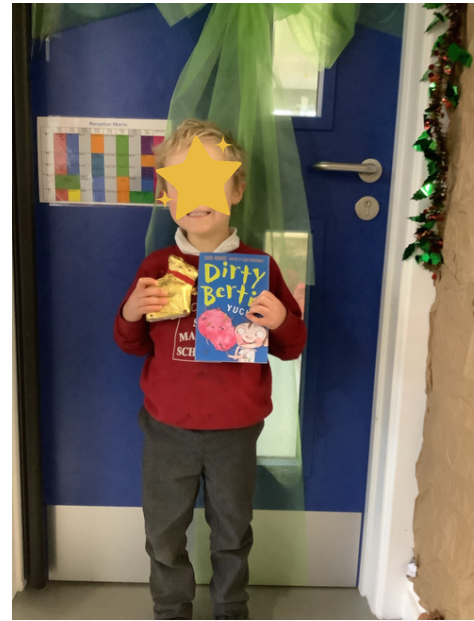
Parent Prayer is on Wednesday evenings at 8.30pm on Zoom- twenty minutes of prayer and reflection. A relaxing space for parents to come together at the end of the day. All are welcome!

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



Black History Reading Review

We were really impressed with all of the entries for the Black History Reading Review competition. It was clear the children worked incredibly hard to complete their review, making it difficult to pick winners. Well done to our winners: Imani (Year 4), Jonty (Year 2) and Jack (Reception). The children have received a token for our book vending machine.



Congratulations to all of the children that completed our Autumn term bingo challenge. We were overwhelmed by the number of entries. Our chosen young transformer for Autumn term was year 2.



Spelling Frame

We are pleased to announce that Year One will now have access to SpellingFrame.

Teachers are scheduling differentiated word lists for individual students, or groups, in their class.

The children earn 'Spelling Points' by playing games and activities. When a student gets a word wrong in a test, it is added to their own 'Tricky Word' list which they can then practise with those words they find tricky until they get them right.

On a Friday, the child with the highest points in their year group will receive a certificate and those classes with 100% usage, will receive extra-play!



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 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 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 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 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 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 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.

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.

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

ST MARY'S TERM DATES 2022-23

Spring Term 2023

First Half (29 Days)

Start – Tuesday 3rd January 2023

End - Friday 10th February 2023

Half Term: Monday 13th February 2023 – Friday 17th February 2023

Second Half (30 Days)

Start - Monday 20th February 2023

End – Friday 31st March 2023

Holidays: Monday 3rd April to Friday 14th April 2023

Summer Term 2023

First Half (29 Days)

Start – Monday 17th April 2023

End -Friday 26th May 2023

Half Term: Monday 29th May 2023 - Friday 2nd June 2023

Holidays May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 1st May 2023

Spring Bank Holiday: Monday 29th May 2023 (during Half Term)

Second Half (37 Days)

Start - Monday 5th June 2023

End – Tuesday 25th July 2023

This calendar gives a total of 195 (189 pupil days 1 building closure day, 1 resource and environment day and 3 inset days – Staff to work twilight sessions to make up 1 inset day).

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).