

ST. MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents/Carers,

As ever there has been an enormous amount happening at Saint Mary's over the last two weeks, and there are lots of exciting events coming soon.

As part of our young transformers curriculum, we are launching a kindness project: 20 acts of kindness. Each child will receive a record form onto which they can record 20 acts of kindness they have performed in half-term and in the lead up to Lent. Small acts and large acts alike are encouraged: from telling your family and friends why you appreciate them, to organizing games for younger children at breaktime. Kindness is one of the ways we put our school vision into action so we are hugely passionate about this project and we know the children will be, too. All of the money raised by this project will go towards the work we are doing to support refugees in Waltham Forest.

With rising food and fuel costs, we know that there are many families struggling at the moment. As such, we have started our own food bank. The food bank can be found in the foyer by reception which is on Brooke Road. We will regularly donate food from the food bank to local charities and any family that requires assistance. Time and time again I have been struck by the remarkable generosity of parents and carers at Saint Mary's, and I am sure that many of you will wish to support our foodbank. We ask that donations are non-perishable. Canned soups, fruit and lentils, as well as pasta and rice, would be gratefully received.

Next week, budding scientists of Saint Mary's will get their opportunity to shine at our science fair. The fair will be held on Thursday after school. The children are thrilled about the event and I have heard many of them discussing their projects with great enthusiasm. I know that many of you will be working on projects at home with your child and would like to thank you for this.

I would like to end this edition of the newsletter with a quote from John 10:10 which reminds us that we should be committed ensuring that everyone flourishes, and is able to live life in all its fullness:

"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Kind Regards,
Mr Pitchford
Head of School

Attendance



Our whole school attendance for Week 3 was 93.28%.

Our whole school attendance for Week 4 was 96.42%.

Well done St Mary's!

Our whole school attendance for this academic year is: 95.06%

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.

Presentation Awards

Year 1: Ria & Louis

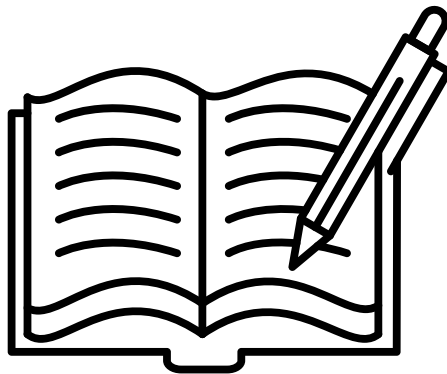
Year 2: Abike & Orla

Year 3: William S & Jacob C

Year 4: Lewis & Grace

Year 5: Io & Poppy

Year 6: Eleanor G & Avis



Important Messages

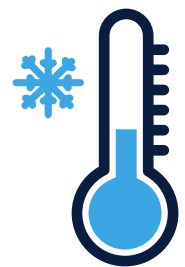
Medication

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

Dignity

This week we have been reflecting on the theme of dignity and protecting the dignity of others. We have looked at this Bible verse from Titus 2:7:

“Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity and dignity”

There are many stories in the Bible where Jesus protects the dignity of those who have been often rejected or shunned by their own community. One example of this is in Matthew 8: 1-4: “When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. 2 A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.” 3 Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. 4 Then Jesus said to him, “See that you don’t tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”

Likewise, in Luke 19: 1-10, Jesus visits with a tax collector, who everyone in the community believes to be a sinner. “19 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. 7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.” 8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.” 9 Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” In these stories, by spending time with those who others have cast out, Jesus restores dignity and value to the lives of these people and, in the case of Zacchaeus, helps the tax collector to change his life and show more dignity and respect to others in the future. In our class assemblies, with the help of our worship council members, we have been writing prayers to ask God to help us protect those who might have had their dignity taken away. We have been thinking a lot in school about how to show love and kindness to all kinds of people and make our school into a safe and welcoming place for people who may be struggling, such as refugees and the homeless. We have hosted events in school especially for refugees and are setting up a permanent food bank donation in school. We want to think this week about following Jesus’ example in extending love and kindness to those who may be marginalised and helping to change their lives, realising that the smallest acts of kindness can go a long way to restoring the dignity of others.



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!



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



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.



Year 2 Hindu Workshop



Year 2 took part in a Hindu Dance workshop where they learnt some amazing dance moves !



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/)



Come in!
For tasty food
and good company



Free meals
Thursdays
6.30pm



FoodCycle
Walthamstow
St Mary's
Welcome Centre
Church End
E17 9RH



Sit and eat with us

Come inside for a warm, tasty meal.

Please do not attend if you are unwell or have COVID symptoms.

Website: www.foodcycle.org.uk
Email: walthamstow@foodcycle.org.uk
Phone: 02077 292 775
Registered Charity Number 1134423



WORLD
BOOK
DAY

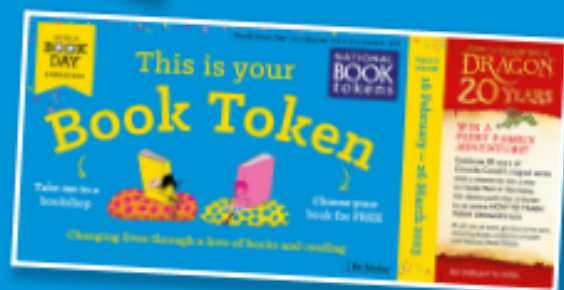
2 MARCH 2023

NATIONAL
BOOK
tokens

Celebrate

WORLD BOOK DAY
2 March 2023

Swap your Book Token
to get a **World Book
Day** book for **FREE** at
your local bookseller



How to exchange your £1/€1.50 book token
for a FREE World Book Day £1/€1.50 book

World Book Day
£1/€1.50 book
tokens distributed
by schools/nurseries
and community
partners

Child goes to
bookseller with
their book token

Bookseller gifts a
£1/€1.50 book in
exchange for
their token

Child chooses
and owns
a book

Changing lives through a love of books and reading

World Book Day® is a registered charity sponsored by National Book Tokens

Registered charity number 1079257 (England and Wales) | Registered company number 03783095 (UK).

Allen Fatimaharan

RED NOSE DAY

DRESS UP IN YOUR BEST
FANCY COSTUME

FRIDAY 17TH OF MARCH
2023



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).