

ST. MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

Spring term has been and gone in a flash; it seems like only yesterday that we were getting ready for the Christmas break. It has been a great joy to be a part of the amazing events, experiences and achievements that have taken place over the term.

As part of our ongoing Young Transformers work, children in years 3 to 6 demonstrated one of the five Cs - confidence - when they braved dreadful weather and raced to the top of a mobile climbing wall which visited Saint Mary's a few weeks ago. The children overcame their fears and bravely rose to the challenge of climbing the wall. In another exciting event as part of Young Transformers, we had a visit today from a falconry expert. The childrens' curiosity - another of our five Cs - was piqued today and if they demand to go birdwatching over the Easter break, you will know why.

Ghostcloud and Nightspark author, Michael Mann, delivered a brilliant assembly, sharing his journey from writing hobbyist to published author. This was truly inspiring and it was great to see the excitement on the faces of our children - we certainly have some budding authors in our ranks. He then went class-to-class and spoke directly with children and signed copies of his book.

Our RE topic of Salvation has developed our pupils' understanding of the story of Easter. This culminated with our three Easter services that took place at St Mary's church. We were delighted to celebrate our Stars of the Term and reflect on Jesus's gift of life. It was lovely to see so many of you attend and we thank you for your continued engagement with the school and church; we also thank Vanessa Conant, the St Mary's reverend, and the team around her. We are blessed to have a church body so committed to the school and the wider community. Please do feel free to join them in some of their upcoming Easter services and events. Find out more at <https://www.stmaryswalthamstow.org/holy-week-and-easter-2023/>

On the final Wednesday of term, we had an extremely well-attended Easter Fayre. Thank you all so much for your generosity - we raised over £1500 to support refugees in our local community. One of the highlights was the African Drumming performances of Year 3 and Year 4. The children did a wonderful job and didn't let the pressure get to them! Thank you to all of those of you who took the time to bake cakes and for your generous donations, too.

Finally, continuing our work to help refugees in Waltham Forest, children in Year 3 and Year 5 wrote Easter cards and provided Easter eggs for children housed in local hotels. It is incredibly valuable that our pupils recognise that they can transform the lives of others within our community.

I wish you all restful and joyous Easter holidays and leave you with our biblical vision, taken from John 15:5:

I am the vine and you are the branches.

If you remain with me, and I with you, then we will bear much fruit.

Love one another as I have loved you

Kind Regards,
Mr Pitchford

Attendance



ur whole school attendance for Week 5 was 94.80%.

Our whole school attendance for Week 6 was 93.95%.

Well done St Mary's!

Our whole school attendance for this academic year is: 95.08%

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

Our value for this week is kindness towards others.

We have been thinking about the Bible verse from Luke chapter 6: do to others what you would want them to do to you.

We are always thinking about how to treat other people the way we would want to be treated.

We learnt about a spiritual figure called Confucius.

Confucius (born 51 BC, died 479 BC) was an important Chinese educator and philosopher.

Confucius wanted people to think hard about problems and to learn from others, especially from history. Confucius also thought that people should get power because they were good and skilled, and not just because they came from powerful families.

Confucius said that people should only do things to other people if they would be okay with other people doing those things to themselves. This is sometimes called the Golden Rule and was also taught by Jesus Christ, who left his disciples with a new commandment when he ascended into heaven:

Love one another as I have loved you.

As we wish all our families a wonderful and happy Easter holidays, we encourage the children to think about how they can show their love for others and treat each other well during the break.

Many children have already started completing their 20 acts of kindness and this will be another great way to focus on our school values and on Jesus' new commandment. We look forward to hearing about everybody's kind deeds when we return!



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!



Edwards and Ward Food Hygiene Rating

We are pleased to inform you that a recent inspection of the Edwards and Ward kitchen resulted in a 5 star rating.





Falconry



Hawkeye Falconry visited us and showed the children some incredible birds of prey.

Easter Fayre



Thank you to everyone who attended our Easter Fayre, we raised over £1500 to support refugees in our local community! We appreciate everyone's kind donations!



Eco Council



Our fantastic Eco-Council have been working really hard and planted our flower beds in our story garden.

Worship Council



Our brilliant Worship Council donating lots of Easter Eggs and many other treats!

Food Bank



We have now got a food bank located in our school office foyer. We are welcoming donations of tinned goods and non perishable items.

The food bank is open for any families struggling with the cost of living crisis. You are welcome to come into the office at any time to collect items that you may need.

Any extra donations will be donated to local food banks to provide support our local community.

Walthamstow Cafe

WALTHAMSTOW WELCOMES

DROP IN COMMUNITY CAFÉ & PAPERWORK SUPPORT

**To book available appointments
send an email to:**

E17welcomecafe@stmaryswalthamstow.org



ST MARY'S WELCOME CENTRE

8 CHURCH END, E17 9RJ | 10:00—12:00



Saturday: 18/03 | 01/04 | 15/04 | 29/04 | 13/05 | 27/05

Wednesday: 22/03 | 05/04 | 19/04 | 03/05 | 17/05 | 31/05

Family Easter Services



Family Easter Services

02/04 - Palm Sunday Service -10.30am

04/04 - Drop-in Gaming & Easter Egg Hunt -2-5pm

07/04 - Messy Good Friday - 10am

09/04 - Easter Day Family Communion - 10.30am

For more information on all our Easter Services visit
stmaryswalthamstow.org/easter

Parent Workshops

We have online workshops for parents that cover a variety of topics. This can be located under the Parents Tab on our school website. We offer these workshops to support learning at home.



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).