

ST. MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

It was absolutely delightful seeing the children return to Saint Mary's yesterday. The children bounded into school with great enthusiasm and excitement. The childrens' eagerness to see their friends, get to know their new teachers and resume learning was palpable. The start of a new academic year is always a special time not least because it is the time of year we welcome a new cohort of children into Reception. Our wonderful Reception team was on hand to greet the new starters, and I am confident that the children will make a great start to their time at Saint Mary's.

As ever, we have an action packed term ahead of us. We are particularly excited about this term's Young Transformers projects. As you know, Young Transformers is our unique programme designed to provide the children with opportunities to live out our school vision: Love one another, as I have loved you. Young Transformers sets out to challenge the children across 5 branches: creativity, community, curiosity, caring and confidence. In the next newsletter, I will be able to confirm all of the amazing projects taking place this term.

We will continue to teach our children to speak out on matters they're passionate about as part of our Courageous Advocacy projects this term. The children drove some amazing projects last half-term: Reception wrote letters to a care home; Year 1 walked to school to reduce emissions; Year 2 donated toys to refugees; Year 3 planted plants in the playground; Year 4 donated old clothes; Year 5 wrote a letter to the home office about children who have gone missing since coming to this country; and finally, Year 6 recorded a performance for a local care home. Such is the childrens' passion for expressing themselves, we will soon hold a speech competition and plans are afoot to launch our own podcast!

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that children should only bring to school a small book bag, or a small school backpack for a lunchbox. Some children have returned to school with very large backpacks, which we do not have space in classrooms for.

Our school vision drives everything we do - our determination to transform ourselves, others and our community - and so, as we begin a new term at Saint Mary's, it seems fitting to close with John 15:

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.

Kind Regards
Mr Pitchford
Headteacher

Attendance



Our whole school attendance for Week 1 was 97.59%.

Well done St Mary's!

Our whole school attendance for this academic year is: 97.59%

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.



Hot Weather

As the temperature are still warm , we would like all children to bring a water bottle and a summer hat to school.



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.



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



Individual & Sibling Photos

Our individual and siblings photos will be taken
place on **Wednesday 11th of October 2023.**

Please ensure your child is in full school uniform.



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!



Food Bank



We have a food bank located in our school office foyer. We welcome 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 to our local community.

Parent Workshops

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



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 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 TERM DATES 2023-24

Autumn Term 2023

First Half (33 Days)

INSET – Wednesday 6th, Thursday 7th & Friday 8th September 2023

Start – Monday 11th September 2023

End – Friday 20th October 2023

Half Term: Monday 23rd October 2023- Friday 27th October 2023

Second Half (38 Days)

Start – Monday 30th October 2023

End – Wednesday 20th December 2023

Holidays: Thursday 21st December 2023 to Friday 5th January 2024

Spring Term 2024

First Half (25 Days)

INSET – Monday 8th January 2024

Start – Tuesday 9th January 2024

End - Friday 9th February 2024

Half Term: Monday 12th February 2024 – Friday 16th February 2024

Second Half (29 Days)

Start - Monday 19th February 2024

End – Thursday 28th March 2024

Holidays: Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April 2024

Summer Term 2024

First Half (29 Days)

Start – Monday 15th April 2024

End - Friday 24th May 2024

Half Term: Monday 27th May 2024 - Friday 31st May 2024

Holidays May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 6th May 2024

Spring Bank Holiday: Monday 27th May 2024 (during Half Term)

Second Half (40 Days)

Start - Monday 3rd June 2024

End – Friday 26th July 2024

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).