

# ST. MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*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

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a terrific start to the new academic year at St. Mary's. It has been a pleasure seeing the children settle into their new classes, get to know their new teachers and make new friends. As part of the start of a new academic year, we always host Meet the Team mornings. Many of you attended a meeting last week, and I wanted to remind parents and carers of children in year 3, 4 and 5 that meetings will take place this week for you. These meetings are a great opportunity to meet your child's new home and stream teacher - we look forward to welcoming you to St. Mary's this week.

When I last wrote to you, I wrote that I would soon update you on the Young Transformers projects for the Autumn term. As you know, it is central to our school vision that children at St. Mary's have the power to transform themselves, others and their community. Our belief in this is so strong that we offer every child amazing transformative experiences during their time at St. Mary's. We have a number of exciting projects in store for the Autumn term. EYFS will sing Christmas carols at the church during the nativity performance. Year 1 will meet the community police officers and get to ask all the questions they've ever wanted to ask a police officer. Year 2 will have a visit from Safari Pete and learn all about interesting animals. Year 3 will get to hone their archery in a special workshop. Year 4 will create food hampers for those in need in our community. Year 5 will stage a drumming performance for parents and carers. Finally, year 6 will go on a walking tour with a local artist. We know that the children will be as excited about these projects as we are.

I am also excited to write to you about a forthcoming speech competition at St. Mary's. We want children at St. Mary's to be inspired to engage in social action and be courageous advocates for change in their local, national and global communities. What better way to promote this than with a speech competition? Children will have the opportunity to write a speech on any cause for which they wish to advocate. There is more information overleaf.

On Thursday 5th October, we will have a cheese and wine evening at Saint Mary's. This event will take place from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm. It will be a great opportunity to visit the school and meet some of the amazing teachers who make St. Mary's such an outstanding school. I hope you will be able to join us for this evening so that we can all get to know one another a little better. For this event, please go to the gate at Chestnut South, not the main entrance at Brooke Road. We understand that you may not be able to arrive at 5pm so there will be someone on the Chestnut South gate throughout the evening.

As Autumn begins, I would like to close this newsletter with a quote from Isaiah 40:8  
"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."

Kind Regards,  
Mr Pitchford



# Attendance



**Our whole school attendance for Week 2 was 95%.**  
**Our whole school attendance for Week 3 was 91.37%.**

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.



## 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](mailto: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**

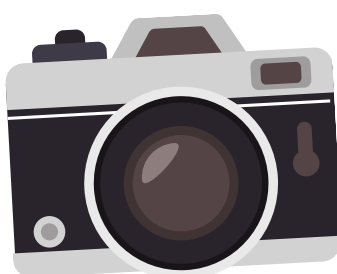
**Wednesday: 22/03 | 05/04 | 19/04 | 03/05 | 17/05 | 31/05**



## 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.**





# Celebrating European Day of Languages 2023



Do you or a member of your family  
speak another language at home?



Are you passionate about your  
French lessons and improving your  
language learning?

We want to hear from YOU!!

We would love you to create a poster, a guide or a digital  
resource about your language of choice to share with the  
school.

This should be given to your class teacher by

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

and will be entered into a competition.

Winners will receive a special prize and a  
chance to apply for Mrs Williams' team of  
Language councillors.





**ARE YOU A CHANGE MAKER ?**

**HAVE YOUR SPEECH  
READY TO PRESENT FOR  
30TH OCTOBER, 2023**



**ROUND ONE**

**CLASS WINNER  
MOVES ON TO...**

**ROUND TWO**

**YEAR GROUP**

**WINNER MOVES ON  
TO....**

**ROUND THREE**

**PRESENT TO  
JUDGES**



# **SPEECH COMPETITION**



**Write a 2-3  
minute speech  
on a  
'Courageous  
Advocacy' topic  
that is  
important to  
you!**

**For example:**

- Looking after our planet
- speaking up for those who can not

**ADVOCATE FOR A  
CAUSE IMPORTANT  
TO YOU**



# 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.



*Parent Workshops*



# 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 Young Transformers



**As part of our Young Transformers vision, we want our pupils to be confident, independent learners with enquiring minds and a life-long love of learning which happens in school and out.**

**We welcome children to bring in certificates that have been achieved outside of school. For example, achieving a piano grade, a swimming stage certificate or drama distinction. These will be celebrated during one of our weekly assemblies.**



# St. Mary's Christian Vision

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ARE THE BRANCHES. IF  
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I WITH YOU, THEN YOU  
WILL BEAR MUCH FRUIT.  
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HAVE LOVED YOU.  
(JOHN 15).