

# 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,

On Thursday 5th October we hosted an evening of cheese and wine at St. Mary's. It was fantastic to have so many of you join us for the evening. I hope you all enjoyed meeting our teachers and having a tour of the school. Thank you for making the event a memorable and enjoyable experience for all. If you were unable to attend the event, fear not - we have a number of exciting events planned for this year.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank those of you who have been able to donate to our Harvest collection. Given that there is a cost of living crisis at present, your generosity and kindness is especially appreciated. The children have been learning a number of Harvest themed songs, and I know they're looking forward to the harvest service which will be led by Vanessa.

Despite the evenings growing darker, despite the weather growing colder, the Worship Council recently spent an evening serving food to the local community at St. Mary's Church. The Worship Council is a very special part of everything we do at St. Mary's and we are terribly proud of the work they do to live our vision: Love one another, as I have loved you. The event was just the most recent example of them transforming themselves, others and their community through acts of servitude. Well done, Worship Council.

As part of our Young Transformers projects, year 1 had a special visit from the local constabulary. The children both enjoyed meeting the police officers, and playing football with them at breaktime! This was a great way for the children to think about community and their place in it. In the next newsletter, I will write to you about some more of our Young Transformers projects.

Finally, after half-term, we will teach a series of lessons to celebrate Black History Month (BHM). These lessons will be a special opportunity for the children to learn about - and celebrate - the achievements and the contributions of Black people to our society. This year, we will have a special focus on the positive influence of Black women. Our aim is for the children to understand more about prominent Black women - historical and contemporary - who have had a positive influence on society. Literacy lessons, Topic lessons and assemblies will be given over to learning all about some amazing women: Mary Seacole, Celia Cruz and Maya Agenlou to name but a few. You will receive a letter with further details about BHM this week.

I would like to close this edition of the newsletter with a quote from Hebrews 11:1

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen"

Yours faithfully,

Mr Pitchford

# Attendance



**Our whole school attendance for Week 5 was 96.48 %.**

**Our whole school attendance for Week 6 was 96.94%.**

Well done St Mary's!

Our whole school attendance for this academic year is: 97.08%

## **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.



## 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**



# Exciting visit from our Local Police



Young Transformers got off to an exciting start this week in Year 1. The children were learning about the work of the local police within our community. As you can see from the photographs, it was a great opportunity for the children to think about their community, and ask the police officers any questions they had.



# 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

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).