

# 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,

I hope that you all had a restful and relaxing half-term break. Excited and seemingly indefatigable, the children have come back with their usual enthusiasm for school and learning. Though the clocks may have turned back, and the Summer has certainly gone, seeing the children stride into school on the first day back was truly inspiring.

Parents' evening was very well attended and a huge success. Thank you so much to those of you who were able to make the event. If you were unable to do so, but would like an appointment, please contact the school office as soon as possible. Meeting with your child's teacher is the best way to hear about your child's achievements and how they might be supported to be even more successful in the future.

As you will no doubt be aware, during half-term, children at St. Mary's were asked to write speeches for a forthcoming speech competition. The competition is part of our work to equip the children with the skills and confidence they need to be Courageous Advocates for change. I have heard a number of speeches and have been particularly impressed by the range: some children have spoken about transforming themselves, while others have spoken about transforming their community. Hearing the children - their passion, their conviction and their determination - has been genuinely heartening. The future may be uncertain, but I feel more confident having listened to the children at St. Mary's talk about their determination to make the world a better place.

We presented the first of our Young Transformers awards at the start of the term. Rafe and Doug in Y4 won a Young Transformers award for the work they have done to transform their community. When the boys decided that they wanted to establish a sports club for their friends, they did not wait for a club to materialize: they acted. Together, they organised a club for their friends to join and play football. For setting up this club, for transforming others and their community, the boys won the first of many Young Transformers awards. Well done, Rafe and Doug!

Finally, Ms Ford spent half-term visiting a school in Kenya. This was part of a project in collaboration with the Diocese of Chelmsford. You can read more about this trip in the newsletter. We would like to foster links with a school in Kenya and I hope to be able to update you on this soon.

There is, unfortunately, much pain and suffering in the world at present. As such, I would like to close this edition of the newsletter with a quote from Ephesians 4:32 which emphasises the importance of kindness and compassion.

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Yours Faithfully,  
Mr Pitchford

# Attendance



**Our whole school attendance for Week 1 was 96.77 %.**

**Our whole school attendance for Week 2 was 97.47%.**

Well done St Mary's!

Our whole school attendance for this academic year is: 96.88%

## **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**

**No appointment necessary, just drop in.**

**Alternatively, to book a timed appointment email:**

**[E17welcomecafe@stmaryswalthamstow.org](mailto:E17welcomecafe@stmaryswalthamstow.org)**



**ST MARY'S WELCOME CENTRE**

**8 CHURCH END, E17 9RJ | 10:00–12:00**



**Saturday: 28/10 | 11/11 | 25/11 | 09/12 | 06/01 | 20/01**

**Wednesday: 01/11 | 15/11 | 29/11 | 13/12 | 10/01 | 24/01**



# 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*

# Stella Creasy's Card Competition

Hi All,

The competition is to design the card that I, as MP for Walthamstow, will send to over 4,000 local and national people to celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah and the coming New Year. I'm therefore inviting every child under the age of 12 at the date of this letter who lives in my constituency, to enter the competition.

Participants are encouraged to use their creativity to express the celebrations of Christmas, Hanukkah and the coming New Year in Walthamstow. The winning design will be professionally printed on cards in full colour in A5. In addition to having their design reproduced, the young person whose design is selected will be invited, along with their family, for tea in Westminster. This card is kindly supported and sponsored by local businesses and would not be possible without their support.

Please note the following guidelines for successful entries:

- Do not stick anything to the card nor use glitter
- Use lots of bright colours (felt tip or paint work best)
- Local references are encouraged

The closing date for entries is Thursday 30th November 2022 at 5pm.

All entries can either be posted to my office (23 Orford Road, E17 9NL) or emailed as a jpeg or PDF to [office@workingforwalthamstow.org.uk](mailto:office@workingforwalthamstow.org.uk).

Entries should include the name, address, telephone number, school and age of the young person.

If you have any questions about this competition, please feel free to get in touch with my office on 020 8521 1223 or [office@workingforwalthamstow.org.uk](mailto:office@workingforwalthamstow.org.uk).

I hope you will support your pupils to participate so that we can celebrate both this special time of year and showcase the creative talent of our local pupils.

Kind regards,

Stella





# Miss Ford visit

Some of you with long memories may remember that I was meant to travel to visit a primary school in Embu (Kenya). This was supposed to happen in March 2020 but certain world events put a stop to the trip!

However, in the October half term, I visited Kenya along with 11 other school teachers and leaders from schools in the Chelmsford diocese. St Mary's is coupled with Lower Sagana primary - a school with 1300 pupils from between the ages of 3 and 14. I spent 4 days at Lower Sagana Primary School, observing lessons and hearing about their plans for the future. I was also lucky enough to learn how the children (and their teachers) grow food in the school both to eat and supplement the school's income. Although they are on their 'summer holiday' at the moment, when they return to school, we hope that the children of Lower Sagana can teach our children a little bit more about the agriculture which is a staple of daily life in Embu. We also visited St Monica's Special School and St. Stephen's Children's Home - both of which were experiences I will never forget. In the future, St Mary's would like to build links with all three schools and explore how we can learn from each other and develop in the future.

Ms. Ford

# PFA



Hello,

We are pleased to announce the PFA (Parents Friends Association) is back up and running!

Our goal is to raise money to fund extra curricular activities like art, music and fun seasonal events for the children, as well as build a sense of community around the school and connect parents.

We have only just reformed but hope to hold an event very soon, so please keep a lookout!

We'd love as many parents or carers as possible to be involved so if you'd like to get in touch or join the group, please email: [stmaryspfa23@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryspfa23@gmail.com)





# Worship

This week we are focusing on equality. There are many passages in the Bible which remind us that God would want everyone to be treated equally.

We focused on the Luke: The good Samaritan

25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

26 "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

27 He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'[c]; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'[d]"

28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii[e] and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

During our collective worship, we discussed how we should treat people equally. We then celebrated all our differences but realised we all have similarities. One similarity we all have is that we are part of St Mary's School. We discussed how our courageous advocacy projects are helping many in our community.



# Food Share



Holy Trinity & St Augustine of Hippo  
Leytonstone - [Follow](#)

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Huge thanks to St Mary's Primary School, Walthamstow and our friends at [St. Mary's Church, Walthamstow](#) for donating the school harvest collection to the Community Food Share. Our pantry has been getting low and with more families accessing each week this is an answer to prayer. THANK YOU 🙏🙏

Food Share runs every Tuesday at 11am, no referral needed, no questions asked, all welcome.



# 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).