

# 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,

With Christmas fast approaching, I want to start this edition of the newsletter by extending our warmest wishes to you and your families. St. Mary's has been a very festive place over the last week and the school has been full of Christmas cheer, song and laughter. The end of the year is always a time for reflection, and as we look back at all that the children have achieved in the last year everyone at St. Mary's is terribly proud of the childrens' amazing successes.

The children at St. Mary's have shown tremendous resilience, determination and enthusiasm for their learning this year. Their achievements - big and small - have been a joy to behold. This week we were able to celebrate some of these achievements at St. Mary's Church where we held the Star of the Term. This event is always an exciting one and it is a privilege to be able to recognise those children who have been truly exceptional this term. It was especially pleasing that the childrens' successes covered a huge range: some children were recognised for amazing improvement, others for fantastic effort; some children have worked tirelessly to improve their handwriting, while others have pushed themselves to improve their spellings. Children were recognised for the transformational work they have undertaken as part of Young Transformers, too. The celebration didn't end at church; I hosted a cupcake party today for the winners!

Of course Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a Nativity performance. This week Year 1, and Reception, performed at St. Mary's Church and they put on a truly memorable performance. Over the years I have seen many Nativity performances and I cannot recall a series of performances at which the singing was so enthusiastic! The adults involved in preparing the children for the performance did a wonderful job - thank you to the Y1 and Reception teams. It was wonderful, too, to see so many of you in attendance for the event. Throughout the year we have held a number of events - the science fair, the cultural festival, the BHM event, the cheese and wine evening - and everyone at St. Mary's is grateful for your continuing attendance at, and support for, these events.

Finally, on behalf of the whole school community, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thank you for your continuing support and we look forward with eagerness to another year of joy, happiness and success at St. Mary's.

I would like to close with a verse from 1 John 4:16:

"And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him."

Yours faithfully,

Mr Pitchford

# Attendance



**Our whole school attendance for Week 7 was 94.86 %.**

**Our whole school attendance for Week 8 was 93.28 %.**

Well done St Mary's!

Our whole school attendance for this academic year is: 96.37%

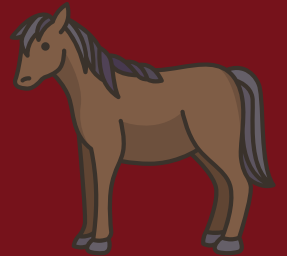
## **Gentle Reminder:**

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.**

# Year 1 Mounted Police Visit



# Safari Pete





# ONLINE PARENT/CARER DROP-INS

strengthening  
families  
strengthening  
communities

**ARE YOU A PARENT/CARER IN WALTHAM FOREST?  
IS YOUR CHILD AGED 3-18?**

Attend when its convenient for you and seek advice from our family practitioners on any of the following topics:

- Explore safeguarding and risks
- Explore the fundamentals to relationship building with your child
- Explore the benefits of positive discipline methods
- Gain and build parenting confidence
- Build a support network and meet other parents to create new friendships



**NO NEED TO BOOK  
DROP-IN ANYTIME BETWEEN  
1 - 2.30PM  
ON MONDAY 4TH AND 11TH  
DECEMBER**

**ZOOM LINK:  
HTTPS://US06WEB.ZOOM  
.US/J/89916997945?  
PWD=1DHTYJOLY2JMAP  
PBFLPAQQEX7NW0DU.1  
MEETING ID: 899 1699  
7945  
PASSCODE: 462035**

# 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  
YOU REMAIN WITH ME AND  
I WITH YOU, THEN YOU  
WILL BEAR MUCH FRUIT.  
LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I  
HAVE LOVED YOU.  
(JOHN 15).



# 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