

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,

Welcome back to the Spring Term at St Mary's, which, despite the name, is most unspring like and very cold. As we endeavour to give the children as much fresh air and exercise as possible, please ensure that your child has warm outdoor clothing, including a hat and gloves. I also ask that children bring in small rucksacks or book bags that can easily be hung on coat hooks in the classroom. Currently, there are some very large ones that take up a lot of space and can not be easily be stored. These are not necessary as the children are only required to bring in their reading book and reading records.

Last week, we had a visit from a member of our local diocese who met some of our children in years 3 and 4. She was most impressed by the work in their RE books and the way they expressed their ideas and opinions with such confidence. Well done children!

Our Spirituality Day will take place in March when children will be able to explore their spiritual moments within themselves, others, in beauty and beyond. Last term, children and members of staff were asked to define what spirituality meant to them. Using over 600 responses, a definition for spirituality was created at St Mary's.

Spirituality is a sense of awe and wonder at everything that exists and a sense of connection to something greater than oneself.

This will be displayed around our school with the aim of encouraging thought and discussion around life's big questions.

In the following weeks, there are a number of exciting events coming up for the children to enjoy and learn. Year 3 will be visiting Wood Street, conducting a field study as part of their topic on the local area. Years 2, 3 and 4 will be visiting a local Hindu Temple or Mandir to experience first-hand Hindu worship practice and explore symbols. As part of their duties as members of the Worship Council, they will be visiting St Mary's Church for a morning service with Vanessa.

Finally, I am very pleased to share that our Podcast, GET listening, is now live and ready to be listened to on Spotify. With more episodes on the way, it's a family friendly show the whole family can listen to and recognise some familiar voices.

Yours faithfully,
Ms Tolliday
Deputy Head

Attendance



Our whole school attendance for Week 1 was 95.99 %.

Our whole school attendance for Week 2 was 96.42%.

Well done St Mary's!

Our whole school attendance for this academic year is: 96.41%

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.

Collective Worship

This week we are focusing on respect. There are many passages in the Bible which remind us that God wanted us to respect each other.

Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. Exodus 20:10.

Our elders have so much experience and wisdom and they can share it with us. There are so many things we need to learn and we can learn from the successes and mistakes of our elders. Many of our elders may have helped shape the world we live in today and we should be thankful to them for that. Just think about all the army veterans (those who served in the war). Without their bravery and experiences, we would not be here today.

We discussed what we can do to show gratitude (thanks) to our elders and senior citizens.

How can we give dignity and respect to our elders?

Our worship council wrote a prayer:

The bible tells us to love our enemies and pray for those who disagree and persecute us. God, help us to disagree well with others and help us to be loving, kind and respectful in all situations. We pray that we can forgive, just as you forgive us. Help us to learn from today's message. In your mighty name, Amen.

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.



WORLD BOOK DAY

WORLD **BOOK** DAY®

7 MARCH 2024



Message from Westminster



Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP
Minister for Schools

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/contactus/dfe

Mr Joe Pitchford
St Mary's CofE Primary School
Brooke Road
London
E17 9HJ

08 January 2024

Dear Mr. Pitchford,

I am writing to congratulate you on your school's outstanding achievement in the 2023 Phonics Screening Check.

We want to ensure every child develops a firm grasp of phonics as the basis on which to improve standards of reading. As such I was delighted to see your results.

With 98 per cent of pupils in Year 1 at St Mary's CofE Primary School meeting the expected standard in the check, your school is in the top 2 per cent of all primary schools in the country.

The latest figures show that 83 per cent of pupils who met the expected standard in the check went on to achieve at least the expected standard in reading at key stage 2 in 2023, which underlines the importance of developing the ability to decode words effectively at an early age.

Your particular success in teaching phonics and early reading so effectively means your pupils are developing a firm foundation, from which they can become increasingly fluent and develop a lifelong love of reading.

I would like to thank you for your commitment and success in this vital area of a child's early education and congratulate you, your staff and pupils again on all you have achieved.

Yours sincerely,

Damian Hinds

Damian Hinds
Minister for Schools

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 Young Transformers



**SPRING
TERM**

YR

CREATIVE

Mindful Movement Class

Y1

CARING

Cards for our unsung Hero's

Y2

CREATIVE

Bollywood Dancing

Y3

CARING

Charity project

Y4

CREATIVE

Making suncatchers for elderly

Y5

CONFIDENCE

West End musical workshop

Y6

CARING

3D printing gifts

St Mary's Courageous Advocacy

Courageous Advocacy



Spring Term

YR

During the Spring term, the Reception children will continue to enjoy the 'Equality curriculum.'

Equality

The children will be considering what is important to them and creating 'Dear World...' statements.



Y1

Respect

Year 1 children will build upon their previous craftivism project. Having sent the letter and project to the local MP they will focus their efforts on a TfL campaign.

Y2

Caring

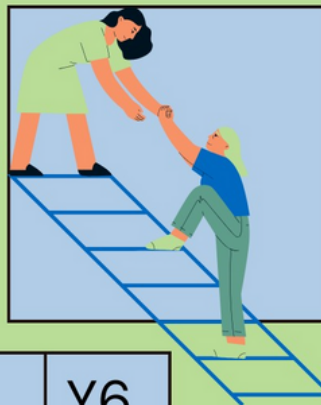
Having advocated about the throwaway culture of fast fashion through to the unethical pay and working conditions of ready-made garment workers. The Year 2 children will be writing to CEOs about their concerns and continuing their clothing drive.



Y3

Truth

Following a moving speech from a Y3 child, on 'Why going to school is a Privilege,' the children would like to do more. This term, they are focussing their efforts on the 'Send my Friends to School' campaign.



Y4

Respect

Year 4 will create lesson plans based on their courageous advocacy work for schools around the world to use. The plans will be shared and uploaded onto TES website so they can be accessed around the world.

Caring

Y6

Following the Year 6 teacher visit to a Kenyan School, the St.Mary's children want to learn from the Kenyan children. They are learning how to create less waste and how to live with a smaller carbon footprint. They hope to create viral content by comparing our lifestyles.



Y5

Wisdom

The Year 5 children continue to show an interest in food waste, hunger and food production's carbon footprint. They will advocate for grocers to sell in smaller quantities so there is less household waste.

GET LISTENING

GENESIS PODCAST



First Episode

1:29



Listen Now!



GENESIS
EDUCATION TRUST

Follow the link below:

<https://open.spotify.com/show/3n1bmtjruGx46tSAenDCdR>

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
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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