

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,

As we reach the end of the half-term, I want to reflect on the last 5 weeks and thank you for your continuing support.

To begin, I want to celebrate the commitment, eagerness and enthusiasm of the children at St. Mary's. Their willingness to learn and to develop their wisdom, knowledge and skills is truly inspiring – they embody our vision and values in all that they do. The Spring term is always a time of renewed energy and it has been a pleasure to watch them rushing through the gate each morning. It has been especially exciting to see those children who have earned Young Transformers awards for their work transforming others and transforming their communities – well done! It is not just teachers and adults at St. Mary's who are impressed by our children, I was recently contacted by a member of the public who saw Y2 while they visited a Hindu temple in Whipps Cross. He wrote, "They were quiet but obviously engaged, questioning well and with intelligence, and sat impeccably" and "I just wanted to say that their behaviour was absolutely perfect."

I also wanted to thank each and every one of you and your steadfast support. Whether it is completing reading records and homework with your child; attending school events and assemblies; or encouraging your child each and every morning to do their best, your support makes all the difference.

Of course the staff at St. Mary's have worked tirelessly this term to provide the children with both amazing academic provision, as well as memorable enrichment activities and events to ensure that the children of St. Mary's flourish. I am sure you will join me in thanking them for their efforts.

Looking ahead to the next-half term, there will be many exciting activities taking place as part of our Young Transformers programme in Spring 2: reception will have a mindful movement class; year 1 will make cards for unsung heroes; year 2 will take part in a Bollywood dance class; year 3 will lead a charity project; year 4 will make sun catchers for people in care homes; year 5 will take part in a West End musical workshop; and Year 6 will use the 3D printers. As you will be aware Young Transformers is a project unique to St. Mary's. It is a programme designed to give children enriching experiences and the opportunity to be makers of change and we are looking forward to next term's events already.

In anticipation of the next-half term, I wanted to remind you of a few key events. We will attend Church for Ash Wednesday on the 21st February; the Science Fair will return to St. Mary's in week 5; and, finally, parent consultations will take place in week 6. We will write to you with further information in due course.

Finally, to close this edition of the newsletter, I would like to close with a quote from Psalm 62:

"Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation.

He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence; I shall not be greatly moved."

Kind Regards,
Mr Pitchford
Headteacher

Attendance



Our whole school attendance for Week 3 was 94.01 %.

Our whole school attendance for Week 4 was 96.42%.

Our whole school attendance for Week 5 was 95.78%.

Well done St Mary's!

Our whole school attendance for this academic year is: 96.15%

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 have been looking at disagreeing well. We focused on Proverbs
18:13

If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.

We looked at Matthew 22 'The greatest commandment'

34 Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. Now, they knew all the ten commandments and that they were all very important. 35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 36 'Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?' 37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." [c] 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: "Love your neighbour as yourself." 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.'

They did not agree with Jesus and he knew this and disagreed with their understanding of the commandments, but instead of arguing or boasting of his knowledge, he spoke respectfully and with wisdom.

In the Bible, the Pharisees (religious leaders) felt threatened by Jesus and tried to get him to argue with them on multiple occasions. They wanted to make him angry and to get him to respond badly, so that he would show weakness.

However, Jesus always remained loving, kind and respectful. He managed to disagree well during his time on earth and he serves as a great example for how we should manage disagreements.

Let's end with 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.

We look forward to seeing parents for the Ash Wednesday service at St Mary's church.



QUIZ NIGHT



Hello!

We are excited to announce our first event as the new reformed Friends of St Mary's School group (aka PFA).

We are hosting a quiz night at school for parents and carers of children at St Mary's with a raffle and paid bar, Thursday 7th March 7-9pm. Please save the date. More information will follow shortly including a link to buy tickets.

All money raised at this event will go towards supporting future events, the school and the children.

We'd love as many parents or carers as possible to be involved. If you'd like to get in touch or join the group, please email: stmaryspfa23@gmail.com

WORLD BOOK DAY

WORLD **BOOK** DAY®

7 MARCH 2024





Parent Call Out!

Are you a native or fluent French speaker?

Do you have a job or qualification involving French or another foreign language?

Do you have any links to any French speaking countries?

We would love to hear from you and potentially arrange for you to be involved in a French themed week we are having in the summer term, where the children will get to experience a variety of French themed lessons, talks and activities!

Please respond via the office email, with for the attention of Mrs Williams, and I will contact you directly to discuss further.



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

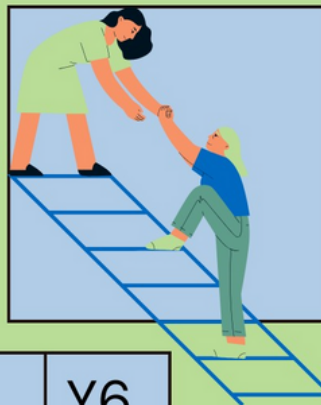
Having advocated about the throwaway culture of fast fashion through to the unethical pay and working conditions of ready-made garment workers. The Year 2 children will be writing to CEOs about their concerns and continuing their clothing drive.



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
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