

# 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,

To begin this newsletter, I wanted to thank you all for your part in making World Book Day such a wonderful day at St. Mary's. There was a real buzz of excitement around the school as the children spoke about their favourite books and heard from their teachers about their favourite books, too. From Harry Potter to the Gruffalo; from Little Red Riding Hood to Cinderella, the creativity, imagination and ingenuity that was on display in the costumes was fantastic. It was heartening to see our children embrace their favourite characters and books with such eagerness.

I want to share with you some exciting news about our work to support refugees. We are in the process of applying to become a School of Sanctuary. There are over 370 Schools of Sanctuary in the UK at present – from nurseries, to primary schools; secondary schools to sixth form colleges. Schools within this growing network, aim to raise awareness about forced displacement and migration and to support newly arrived children and all people seeking sanctuary. Schools of Sanctuary are enormously important as they ensure that provision effectively supports and meets the needs of children who have often experienced great challenges. As part of our effort to become a School of Sanctuary we have of course already done a huge amount: we have held two cultural festivals, taught a unique series of lessons, worked to support refugees within our community and, through our work, helped a family resettle in the U.K. This important work is of course an outgrowing of our school vision – “Love one another as I have loved you” - and a wonderful example of our commitment to transform others, ourselves and our community.

It was a great pleasure to see so many of you at the recent quiz night organised by the newly founded Parent Friend Association (PFA). The event was a huge success and I am looking forward to future events organised by the PFA. There are a few photographs from the event later in the newsletter.

Next week will see the return of the Science Fair to St. Mary's. Spread over two days this year, the event promises to be an inspiring showcase of the amazing talents of our children. The range of experiments on show last year was incredible and I am sure the fair this year will only build on the success of last year's fair. I know that our budding scientists are hugely excited for the event and having heard from some of them about their projects, they have every reason to be. I hope to see you all at the fair.

Finally, Ms Valiquette had the pleasure of presenting a number of children with Young Transformers awards in assembly today. If your child has transformed themselves, others or their community, please do encourage them to apply for the award.

I would like to end this edition of the newsletter with a quote from Romans chapter 12 verse 2: “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Kind Regards  
Mr Pitchford  
Headteacher



# Attendance



**Our whole school attendance for Week 3 was 95.56%.**

**Our whole school attendance for Week 4 was 95.79%.**

Well done St Mary's!

Our whole school attendance for this academic year is: 96.25%

## **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.**

Our Celebration Assembly takes place every Friday at 10am. All parents are welcome to join. For Attlee House, please enter via the main office on Brooke Road and for Morris & Wilson House, please enter via Chestnut Avenue South.

# Collective Worship

This week in collective worship our theme was role models. We looked at the Bible verse, “You are God’s children whom he loves. So try to be like God. Live a life of love. Love other people just as Christ loved us.” Ephesians 5:1-2. We discussed what a role model is? Who you consider a role model in your life and why? A role model is someone you respect, admire, and want to be like in some way. It might be a famous person, such as a great athlete or an actor. It might be someone you know personally, like your favourite teacher. It could even be your mum, dad, brother, or sister. Whether we realise it or not, we all have role models. For Christians Jesus is a role model. He is a good role model because he is kind, loving, forgiving, patient, obedient, respectful, and truthful. During in class collective worship this week, we wrote a role model pledge for ourselves. We thought about what we could do to be a good role model for others. What did you write for your pledge?

How can we be role models for others? How can we show our school values in our behaviour to others?





BritishRedCross

**St Mary's supports  
the  
British Red Cross's  
humanitarian work.**

**Donate here:**

**<https://www.redcross.org.uk/>**





# 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.**

# Uniform and Costume Swap



A huge thank you to you and your children, for making this week's clothing and costumes repurposing event a success!

If you were unable to attend and are after any specific items of uniform , please don't hesitate to ask at the school office.



Thursday 7th March will live long in the memory.

A royal birth? A moon landing? No, it wasn't even a full moon. It was something even more novel and auspicious than that: the first event organised by the newly reformed Friends of St Mary's School.

After a number of years hiatus, a new Friends of St Mary's School has been formed and the first event was a quiz night held in the gym at the school. Over 100 parents, carers, and friends assembled to battle it out for the trophy and the honour of being crowned the inaugural winners. Brilliantly and professionally compered by the wonderful Christopher Jenner Cole, there were tears, cheers, and groans as teams pitted their wits against questions nearly as hard as year 6 SATS.

There was much fun and merriment all-round. Of course, the aim of the evening was to promote and encourage the two objectives of the new Friends of St Mary's School, namely to foster relationships and to raise money to support the school. And to that end it was a hugely successful evening with smiles on faces and over £1300 raised.

A huge thank to all who attended, to those that helped, and to all the local businesses that helped support the event. Congratulations to the winning team from year 1 Morris:



The Friends of St Mary's School are now hard at work planning a summer fair - Do keep your eyes peeled for details.

If you'd like to be involved in helping to plan future events, please contact [stmaryspfa23@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryspfa23@gmail.com).



# St Mary's Young Transformers



**Young  
Transformers**  
*MAKERS OF CHANGE*

**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

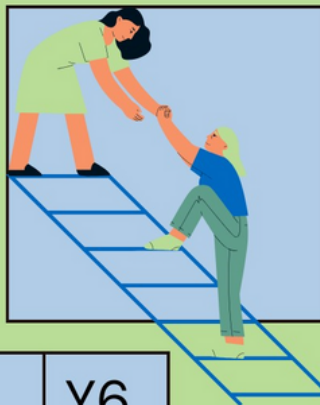
Having advocated about the throwaway culture of fast fashion through to the unethical pay and working conditions of ready-made garment workers. The Year 2 children will be writing to CEOs about their concerns and continuing their clothing drive.



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!



**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