### ST. MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

I am the vine and you are the branches. you remain with me and I with you, then you will bear much j Love one another as I have loved you.

John 15

Dear Parents and Carers,

We were delighted to welcome children's poet Roger Stevens to our school last week. The children were captivated by his lively poetry performances. Year 4 pupils also enjoyed taking part in special poetry-writing workshops with Roger, developing their own creative pieces and sharing them with pride. We were thrilled to celebrate poetry competition winners and to see our Learning Council involved in the event as well. A selection of poems was sent home, and we hope that you enjoyed reading them as much as the children enjoyed writing them!

We had a very different type of visit this week - the mounted police trotted onto the S. Mary's playground! This was a fantastic opportunity for the children to engage in discussions about the role of the police, caring for animals, and the importance of community. It also provided another exciting chance for pupils to learn about a different profession as part of our ongoing project to broaden children's understanding of the world of work.

Our school councils have made an inspiring start to the year, each showing great enthusiasm and commitment to their roles. The School Council has been especially active, bringing thoughtful ideas to their meetings and representing the voices of their classmates with pride. They have played an important role in promoting Black History Month across the school and in classrooms, helping to ensure that key messages about equality, respect and shared history are heard. Council members are also preparing to meet a special visitor soon and have been busy coming up with some insightful questions to ask. In addition, they have been discussing three potential charities for the whole school to vote on supporting this year. Everyone is eagerly awaiting the arrival of the new School Council blazers, which will make our young representatives even easier to spot around school!

The Nutrition Council has already held its first meeting, discussing their new roles as lunchtime monitors and giving feedback on which school meals pupils enjoy most, with apple crumble and custard proving to be a continued favourite! The Worship Council has had a wonderful start too, leading whole-school assemblies with growing confidence and taking an active role in our Harvest Church service by reading Bible passages, leading prayers and helping collect generous donations for the Holy Trinity Foodbank in Leytonstone. The Learning Council began the year creatively, taking part in a poetry workshop that explored how language, rhythm, and imagery can inspire learning across the curriculum.

As you know, regular attendance is vital to every child's learning and progress - each day in school builds knowledge, confidence and friendships. This week our school attendance stands at 98.46% bringing our overall attendance for the academic year to 97.9% - thank you for your continuing support.

Finally, I would like to close this newsletter with a quote from Ecclesiastes 3:1 which beautifully mirrors the sense of change that autumn brings:

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."

Best wishes, Joe Pitchford

### <u>Attendance</u>



Our whole school attendance for Week 6 was 98.27%. Our whole school attendance for Week 7 was 98.55%.

Well done St Mary's!

Our whole school attendance for this academic year is: 97.87%

#### **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.

### <u>Reflection</u>

This month, our school has been celebrating two very special themes – Harvest and Black History Month.

Our Harvest Festival service was a wonderful occasion, full of joy and thankfulness. The children sang beautifully and shared thoughtful readings reminding us of the importance of gratitude and generosity. A huge thank you to all our families for your generous donations of food and essential items. These will make a real difference and be much appreciated by the Holy Trinity Leytonstone food share. If you would still like to contribute, there is one more week to bring in donations - every item helps.

Harvest reminds us of God's goodness and provision. As the Bible says in Psalm 107:1, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." It's a time to be thankful for all we have and to think of others who may be in need.

During Black History Month, we have also been learning about the achievements and stories of Black people who have shaped our world for the better. The Bible reminds us in Galatians 3:28 that "You are all one in Christ Jesus." This verse encourages us to celebrate the wonderful diversity in our school and our wider community, knowing that we are all loved equally by God.

Together, Harvest and Black History Month remind us to be thankful, generous, and united – values that make our school such a special place to be.



### School Photographs are Ready!

Vancols Photographers are pleased to confirm that the School Photographs are ready to view using the QR code on your proof card.

If you have already scanned the QR code on the Proof and registered you will receive an auto email notification.

If you have not done it yet, don't panic, you can still view by scanning the QR code on your Proof and following the instructions.

If by chance you have not received your Proof or it has been lost you can call Vancols Parent Line on 01206 27371. For individual photographs you will need the pupil's admission number from the school database.

Photos will need to be ordered by the 27<sup>th</sup> of October for them to be delivered into school.



### Important Messages

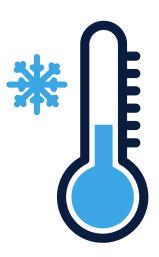
### Medication

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.

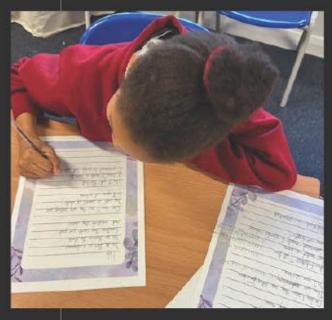


#### **Cooler Weather**

As the temperature are getting cooler, we would like all children to bring a light jacket that is labelled with their name however still continue to bring in their own water bottle.

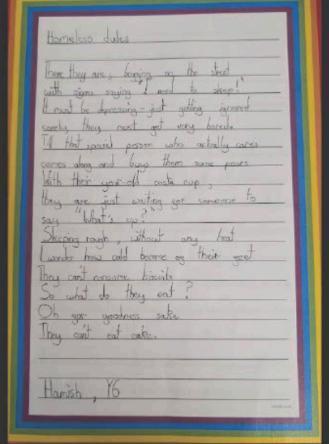


## World Poetry Day



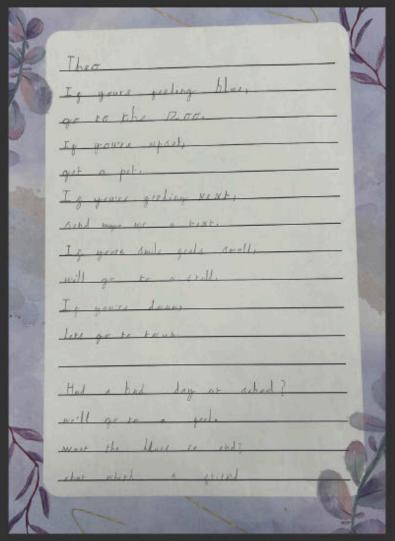
Children across St Mary's took part in National Poetry Day, drawing inspiration from the works of Roger Stevens. They took great care and joy in crafting their own poems, exploring rhythm, language, and imagination. We hope their poems made it home safely for you to enjoy and celebrate

For the past 3 weeks, the children have also been listening to poems read aloud at the end of each day, discovering how poetry can both inspire and soothe as we share words together.





## World Poetry Day







## Poet Visit









## Poet Visit





# THE MOUNTED POLICE VISIT ST. MARY'S

WE WERE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME THE MOUNTED POLICE

BACK TO OUR SCHOOL THIS WEEK. THE CHILDREN WERE



THRILLED TO MEET THE HORSES. WITH MANY GROWING IN CONFIDENCE AROUND THESE MAGNIFICENT ANIMALS. THE OFFICERS SPOKE TO US ABOUT THEIR IMPORTANT ROLE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND HOW THEY CARE FOR THEIR HORSES. OUR RECEPTION CHILDREN ALSO HAD SOME EXTRA TIME TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HORSES, ASKING **WONDERFUL QUESTIONS AND DISCOVERING WHAT IT TAKES** TO LOOK AFTER THEM. IT WAS A FASCINATING AND **MEMORABLE VISIT FOR EVERYONE!** 



### PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2026

Do you have a child who was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022?

If so, your child is eligible to start primary school in September 2026.

To make an application, please apply online at www.eadmissions.org.uk by 15 January 2026.

For more information, visit the Waltham Forest Primary Admission page: https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/schools-education-and-learning/apply-primary-school where you can download a copy of the Starting Primary School 2026 brochure with full details on how to apply.

# SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2026

Do you have a child who was born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015 or who is currently in Year 6?

If so, they are due to start Secondary School in September 2026.

To make an application please apply online www.eadmissions.org.uk by 31 October 2025.

For more information visit the Waltham Forest Secondary admission page https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/content/applying-secondary-school-place where you can download a copy of the Starting Sccondary School 2026 brochure which has full details of how to apply.



### 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 now got a food bank located in our school office foyer. We are welcoming 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 our local community.

### Parent Workshops

We have online workshops for parents that cover a variety of topics. This can be located under the Parents Tab on our school website. We offer these workshops to support learning at home.



### Term Dates: 2025-2026

### **Autumn Term 2025 First Half (37 Days)**

INSET - Mon 1st, Tues 2nd and Wed 3rd September 2025

Start - Thursday 4th September 2025

End - Friday 24th October 2025

Half Term: Monday 27th October -31st October 2025 Second Half (34 Days)

Start - Monday 3rd November 2025

End - Thursday 18th December 2025

Holidays: Friday 19th December 2025 to Friday 2nd January 2026

### Spring Term 2026 First Half (30 Days)

Start - Monday 5th January 2026

End - Friday 13th February 2026

Half Term: Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February 2026 Second Half (25 Days)

Start - Monday 23rd February 2026

End - Friday 27th March 2026

Holidays: Monday 30th March 2026 to Friday 10th April 2026

### Summer Term 2026 First Half (29 Days)

Start - Monday 13th April 2026

End - Friday 22nd May 2026

Half Term: Monday 25th May 2026 - Friday 29th May 2026

Holidays May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 4th May 2026

Spring Bank Holiday: Monday 25th May 2026 (during Half Term)
Second Half (35 Days)

Start - Monday 1st June 2026

End - Friday 17th July 2026

