



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

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we begin this new term, it has been a joy to welcome the children back to school. They were absolutely delighted to see the snowfall this week, which brought excitement, wonder and many smiles across the playground. Despite the cold weather, the children have settled back into school life beautifully and have been working tremendously hard in all areas of their learning.

In collective worship and class discussions this week, we have focused on the ways we celebrate one another in our school community, recognising the unique gifts and talents that God has given each of us. We have also taken time to reflect on the wonderful artwork the children produced during the Autumn term and are very much looking forward to the creative opportunities ahead in this term's Art and Design Technology lessons. Copies of this term's curriculum topics were shared just before we broke up for the holidays and can also be found on the school website. We hope you enjoy exploring what your children will be learning in the weeks ahead.

Whole school attendance for the year to date is an excellent 97%. We appreciate all of your support in ensuring the children are at school and learning.

As we journey through the winter season together, we are reminded of God's promise of renewal and hope: "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." — Isaiah 1:18

This verse encourages us to reflect, to forgive and to look forward with hope and fresh beginnings.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to another rewarding term together.

With warm wishes,  
Joe

# Key Dates

## February

W/C 02.02.2026 - Spirituality Lessons

W/C 09.02.2026 - Online Safety Week

Half Term: Monday 16th February -  
Friday 20th February 2026

Friday February 6<sup>th</sup> - Non uniform  
'Dress like a teacher' day  
Brought to you by School Council

## March

Easter Break: Monday 30th March  
2026 to Friday 10th April 2026

## April

Easter Break: Monday 30th March  
2026 to Friday 10th April 2026

## May

Y6 SATS Week  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May to Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>  
May

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

## June

## July

Last day of term: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July  
2026

# School Council

Dear Parent or Carer,

In September 2025, our School Council shortlisted three charities for the children at St Mary's to vote on, ensuring our fundraising efforts would be as meaningful as possible. The three charities were: Heat or Eat, Young Minds, and Save the Children.

Using voting coins, each child placed their vote, supported by our School Council representatives, who explained the purpose of each charity.

We are pleased to announce that the winning charity is Young Minds.

Young Minds supports young people with their mental health, something we regularly teach and talk about in school. We are delighted that the children are showing an increasing awareness of the importance of wellbeing.

To raise funds for our winning charity, the councillors will host a non-uniform "Dress Up Like a Teacher Day" on Friday the 6th of February.

Children are encouraged to get as creative. For example, create a lanyard, wear a "Best Teacher" badge, carry an empty coffee thermos, dress like a famous teacher, a PE teacher and so on. We enjoyed this theme the year before last and the children were enthusiastic to bring it back for more fun and laughter.

Please bring a cash donation to help our pupils reach their charity goal.

Thank you for your support,

School Council



**YOUNGmINDS**  
fighting for young people's mental health



# Attendance



**Our whole school attendance for Week 1 was 94.62%.**

**Our whole school attendance for Week 2 was 97.36%.**

Well done St Mary's!

Our whole school attendance for this academic year is: 96.84%

## Late Arrivals

We are having a rise in the number of late arrivals, this does affect your child's attendance percentage. Please ensure that your child arrives at the gate by 8:55am. If you do not arrive on time, please bring your child to the office to be signed in to school.

## Asbence Messages

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 your child's name and 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.

# Food Bank



Our food bank stock is running low. We are welcoming donations of reusable bags, tinned goods and non perishable items. If you have any you could donate, it would be very much appreciated!

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.

## Community Notices

### WALTHAMSTOW WELCOMES

#### COMMUNITY DROP-IN & PAPERWORK SUPPORT CAFE

**No appointment necessary, just drop-in.**

**Alternatively, to book a timed appointment email:**

**[E17welcomecafe@stmaryswalthamstow.org](mailto:E17welcomecafe@stmaryswalthamstow.org)**

**<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61575129088296>**



**ST MARY'S WELCOME CENTRE**

**8 CHURCH END, E17 9RJ | 10:00—12:00**

**OPEN EVERY Wednesday (except 24/12/25 and 31/12/25) AND**



**Saturday: 06/12 | 20/12 | 03/01 | 17/01 | 31/01 | 14/02 |**

**28/02 | 14/03 | 28/03 | 11/04**



Interested in volunteering with us? Email "Volunteering Opportunities" to: [welcomecafe\\_admin@stmaryswalthamstow.org](mailto:welcomecafe_admin@stmaryswalthamstow.org)

# 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.



## Cold Weather

As the cold weather seems to be sticking with us, we ask that all children have warm coats, hats, gloves and scarves with them.



## 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!





# Term Dates

## 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 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 – 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**

**May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 4th May 2026**

**Spring Bank Holiday: Monday 25th May (during Half Term)**

## **Second Half (35 Days)**

Start – Monday 1st June 2026

End – Friday 17th July 2026



# JOIN OUR DUOLINGO CLASSROOM FOR FREE!

**SIMPLY FOLLOW THIS LINK:  
[WWW.DUOLINGO.COM/CLASSROOM/ZNPDQH](http://WWW.DUOLINGO.COM/CLASSROOM/ZNPDQH)**

**ENTER THIS CODE WHEN PROMPTED: ZNPDQH**

**CHILDREN CAN EARN POINTS FOR THEIR CLASS BY  
LOGGING ON AND COMPLETING A FRENCH  
CHALLENGE!**



**duolingo**



# Courageous Advocacy



## Spring Term

YR

The Reception children will continue to read and age appropriate books about advocacy and equality.

Equality

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



Y1

Respect

Year 1 will read some stories about being eco-friendly and create their own mini-books or story maps with eco messages.

Y2

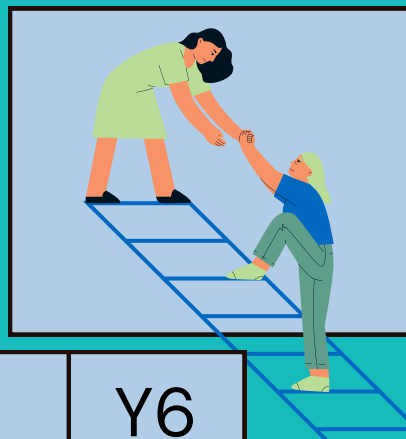
Caring

Year 2 will learn more about the throwaway culture of Fast Fashion through to the unethical pay and working conditions of ready-made garment workers. They will host a uniform swap event in the Spring.

Y3

Truth

This term, the children will be focussing their efforts on the 'Send my Friends to School' campaign. They will create craftivism puzzle pieces which will be sent to those in charge of our country.



Y4

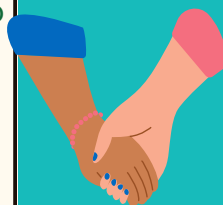
Wisdom

In Year 4, students will collaborate in groups on an engaging oracy project, preparing and delivering their own TED Talks on topics that resonate with them. Leveraging technology and their communication skills, they aim to share their messages with a wide audience. This term, they will focus on researching and developing their chosen topics.

Caring

Y6

The Year 6 pupils will be delving into the United Nations 17 Goals for sustainable development. They will focus in on the goal to end poverty learning about poverty, exploring biases linked to poverty and develop thier own thinking into a Ted Talk outline.



Y5

Wisdom

Year 5 will be learning about the United Nations Goals for sustainable development focussing in on the goal of zero hunger. They will present their learning and ideas for the future.

**YR**

**CREATIVE**

**Mindful Movement Class**

**Y1**

**CARING**

**Cards for our unsung Heroes**

**Y2**

**CARING**

**Litter Picking**

**Y3**

**CONFIDENCE**

**Bollywood Dancing**

**Y4**

**CREATIVE**

**STEM workshop**

**Y5**

**CREATIVE**

**West End musical workshop**

**Y6**

**CARING**

**3D printing gifts**



# 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).