



ST. MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our final newsletter of the Spring 1 term.

My job was made far easier for me this week, with our children writing their own version of the school newsletter. Their excellent, thoughtful edition can be found overleaf.

Last week, we enjoyed our Spirituality Day, where lessons focused on exploring our own spirituality, revisiting our school definition, and reflecting on our theme of Random Acts of Kindness. Some of the children's creations may have made their way home, while others were very kindly donated to school staff. Please have a look at some photos from the day.

We also had the great privilege of seeing the children dressed as teachers, which was truly one of the best days to be in school! Teachers loved seeing their creativity and shared many laughs throughout the day. Please enjoy a few photos below, including those of our staff, who also surprised the children by donning uniforms. The celebrations continued on Wednesday, when local councillors visited to thank the children for their Kindness Kit donations and to present an award to the three children who came up with the idea.

This week, children in Years 1-6 have also been learning about and discussing how to stay safe online, with some excellent conversations about how the media can influence us and how to identify real news.

We are reminded:

“Be kind and compassionate to one another.”

Ephesians 4:32

Attendance for the year to date is an excellent 96.85%.

Kind Regards

Joe

Headteacher

Key Dates

February

- W/C 09.02.2026 - Online Safety Week
- Half Term: Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February 2026

March

- Thursday 5th - World Book day (non-uniform) and PARENTS QUIZ NIGHT
 - Friday 20th - Cultural Day (non-uniform)
- Science Symposium
- Tuesday 24th March (Rec. - Y2) and Wednesday 25th (Y3-Y6)
 - Thursday 26th Church Services

April

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

May

Y6 SATS Week: Monday 11th May to Thursday 14th May

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

June

July

Last day of term: Friday 17th July 2026

S.T MARY'S

NEWSLETTER

no. 2

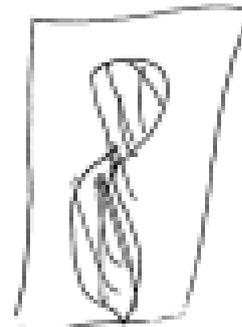


Teacher
Inbaria



One of the handwriting heroes

**DRESS UP LIKE
A Teacher!**



News flash:
New tie to be
introduced



Nutrition
ambassadors

F1: VENOMOUS Vipers!!!

**KINDNESS
KITS!**

5 people
from Year 5
doing F1!!!

VENOMOUS
VIPERS



by  Newsletter / Main, Sophia and Abita from Y5M

NUTRITION AMBASSADORS:

Today we interviewed Lewis Hayes from nutrition ambassadors. He said 'I like that we get to taste test the food and that the food makes people happy. I like everything about it.' Without the nutrition ambassadors and chefs, we wouldn't have lovely food.



HANDWRITING HEROES!



Mr Pitchford said we must try to maintain legible handwriting. Now we are interviewing a handwriting hero! Michael Fiorenneso, said 'The cupcakes were great, and I love my handwriting!'

Teacher interviews

Miss Rachel, Y5 M's teacher is / will go on maternity leave, said ' I love that I get to work with so many amazing children, and the interesting conversations. Everyone has been very welcoming. I was inspired to become a teacher because my mother was, and she taught me. Before being a teacher, I worked for **Charity** which helps people make businesses*. I also worked for a LEGO store. We would get it delivered and try it out. Right now, my favourite subject to teach is history.

Kindness Kits:

Gia, Elias and Gabriella from Y1, Y5 and Y3 Morris had the idea of making 'Kindness Kits', which are utility packs for people in need. They were even recognised by Waltham forest council! Gia said...

' Kindness Kits are important for poor or homeless people. I feel proud and happy.'

DRESS UP AS A TEACHER DAY!

This day was last-week Friday and we had the opportunity to dress up as teachers. Some chose teachers from St Mary's whilst others chose Miss Honey or Miss Trunchbull.

F1 2026!!! V V

5 people from Year 5 have been working on a car for an F1 competition this Friday! Miss Shah, the leader of F1 said, 'I am excited but nervous about the event. It's lovely watching the children take every lunchtime for 6 weeks of sketching and making presents - us!' by newsletters, managed by Miss Valique

Last Thursday, our school buzzed with a different kind of energy as students from Reception through to Year 6 stepped off-timetable for our dedicated Spirituality Day.

It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to pause, reflect, and explore the "big questions" of life. Spirituality at our school isn't just about one set of beliefs; it's about developing a sense of awe and wonder, understanding our place in the world, and learning how to look inward.

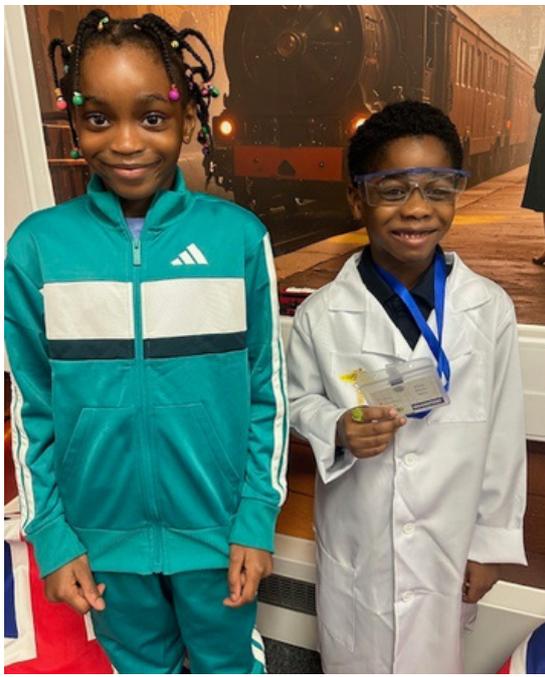
The highlight of the day was seeing the children put their thoughts into words. We asked every student to produce a final Reflection Piece, answering the question: "What does spirituality mean to me?" These beautiful, honest reflections have shown true growth and understanding of what spirituality means to them.



Dress Like a Teacher!

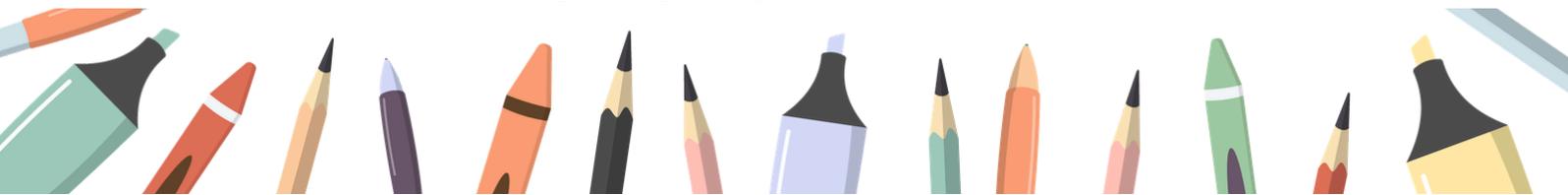
Well done to our fantastic 'teachers', who raised over £300 for the charity Young Minds, which was chosen by the children through a school vote.

It was a fun-filled day with lots of laughter and we are so proud to support such an important cause.



We're fundraising for
YOUNGMINDS
Fighting for young people's mental health

👏 Brought to you by: 🌟 Student Council 🌟



Challah Bread



In year 6, we made Challah Bread. It is a sweet bread that is typically eaten on the Jewish day of rest, Shabbat. We worked together to weigh the ingredients and observed how the dough changed when we left it to prove.

STEMazed



April Art Project

Hello, young artists! 🌸🎨

Spring is just around the corner and soon we'll begin to notice the world slowly changing after winter. As the days start to get longer and the air feels a little warmer, nature begins to wake up - and this is the perfect time to get creative with a new art project!

For this project, we'd like you to think about what you might see as winter turns into spring. Look out for early signs of the new season: tiny buds appearing on branches, fresh green shoots pushing through the soil, brighter skies, gentle rain showers and animals and insects starting to return. Even small changes, like puddles on the ground, birds building nests, or the first colourful flowers, can be great inspiration.

You can use paints, crayons, pastels, collage materials, or natural items such as leaves, twigs, or pressed flowers to create your artwork. Take your time to observe what's happening around you - step outside, look closely and think about how spring feels as it begins. Is it calm? Bright? Hopeful? Full of new life?

Your artwork can show what spring looks like now, or what you imagine it will look like in the coming weeks. Be as creative as you like and don't be afraid to try something new.

We can't wait to see how you capture the changing season and bring the beginning of spring to life through your art.

Bring in your artwork during the first week back in APRIL!

Let your ideas grow and bloom! 🌸🌟

Daffodil Creations

Spring is a time of growth and renewal and nothing captures this better than cheerful daffodils! Using a variety of materials - tissue paper for soft petals, card for bold flower shapes and pipe cleaners for texture - young artists have created a bright and beautiful collection of daffodils. Each one is unique, just like real flowers in nature. Look closely at the different shades of yellow, white and green, as well as the patterns and materials used to bring these joyful spring blooms to life.



Tree Creations

After a long, cold winter, spring trees are ready to burst into colour and new life. In this artwork, young artists have used card and paper to create strong tree shapes and branches, while tissue paper adds soft blossoms and fresh leaves. Pens and pencils bring in fine details, patterns and vibrant colour. Each tree is unique, just like those in nature, celebrating the arrival of spring and the beauty of new growth.



Spring Scene Creations

In this artwork, young artists have made bright and colourful spring scenes full of life. Using card, paper and tissue, along with pens and pencils, they have added trees, flowers, animals, bugs and blue skies to show what spring looks like. Each picture is different and tells its own spring story. Spring is a time when the weather gets warmer and the days get longer. Rain helps plants grow and animals and insects start to appear again after winter. These artworks show how busy, happy and exciting spring can be as the world comes back to life.



Spring Shower Creations

Spring showers help the world around us grow and they can be full of colour and creativity too! In this artwork, young artists have explored spring rain and umbrellas using both 2D and 3D techniques. Card and paper have been used to create umbrella shapes, while tissue paper adds texture and movement to falling rain. Pens and pencils bring bright colours, patterns and details and some umbrellas have been made in 3-D to pop out from the page. Each piece is unique, showing how spring showers can be playful, imaginative and full of life



Bug Creations

In this artwork, young artists have explored the colourful and fascinating world of bugs. Using bright colours, patterns and careful details, they have created a lively collection of insect-inspired artwork. Each bug is unique, just like those found in nature. We often associate bugs with spring because warmer temperatures, longer days and increased moisture after winter cause a surge in insect activity. As the world begins to grow and bloom, bugs reappear everywhere, making them a perfect subject to celebrate the arrival of spring.



SCIENCE FAIR

It is almost that time of year again where we celebrate The British Science Week!

Science is all about transformation, discovery, adaptation and evolution—and this year, Science Week 2026 is celebrating exactly that with our thrilling theme: "Curiosity: What's Your Question?"

All children in our school are invited to enter the Science Fair competition by creating a science project at home. These projects will be showcased in the school gym for all to view during the event. Winners will be chosen from each key stage and awarded a prize. The deadline for the projects is on Friday 20th March 2026. Please ensure that your child's name and class is clearly displayed on all components of the project.

After the resounding success of last year's fair, the fair this year will be held across two days.

Tuesday, 24th March 2026 from 3:45 PM to 5:00 PM for Reception - Year 2.

Wednesday, 25th March 2026 from 3:45 PM to 5:00 PM for Years 3-6.

Projects

Step 1 – Planning

Pupils will need to decide what it is that they wish to investigate. They can write about why they are interested in that area, what they already know about the topic and, of course, what they wish to find out. Older pupils can plan a fair test and record the variables, aim and prediction.

Below are some ideas!

1. Mini-beast observations – what are their habitats? Which habitat is best? Where can they find the most food?
2. Making bottle rockets – testing how to make a rocket fly the furthest
3. Making a volcano – what mixtures make the largest eruption?
4. Testing how microorganisms affect different foods
5. Testing shadows throughout the day/exploring the lunar cycle
6. Carry out an experiment based on the unit they have been studying in class
7. Exploring how to separate different mixtures
8. Making lemon batteries/ potato clocks

Here are some websites to give you more ideas:

<https://www.iflscience.com/chemistry/unfinished-20-fun-science-experiments-you-can-do-home/>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/science-experiments-you-can-do-at-home-604275>

<https://owlcation.com/stem/top-10-science-experiments-to-try-at-home>

Step 2 – Carrying out the test/experiment

It would be brilliant if you could take lots of pictures of your child carrying out their experiment to show all the steps involved. The children can write down their observations and what the results are.

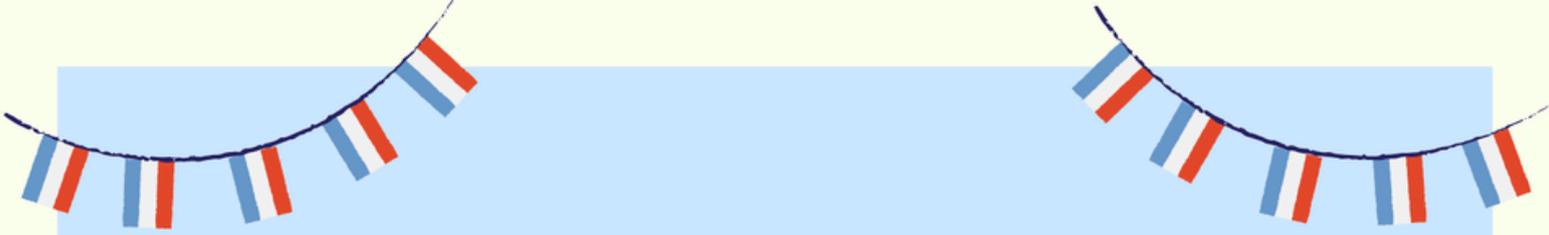
Step 3 – Conclusions

For the final part of the project, we would like children to present what they found out from their experiments. They can produce a results table, graph or simply an explanation of what happened and, importantly, why it happened.

All entries must be submitted by Friday the 20th March.

Here are some images of what the final project might look like:





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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

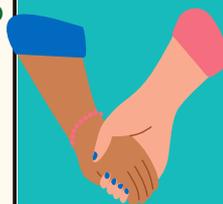
Wisdom

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 their 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.



**Young
Transformers**
MAKERS OF CHANGE

**SPRING
TERM**

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

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!



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

<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

Attendance



Our whole school attendance for Week 5 was 96.45 %.

Our whole school attendance for Week 6 was 96.83%.

Well done St Mary's!

Our whole school attendance for this academic year is: 96.85%

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.

Absence 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.

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

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).