



ST. MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

As usual, it has been a hugely exciting couple of weeks at St. Mary's. The children have enjoyed the unseasonal weather, several exciting events and celebrating World Book Day.

As part of our commitment to STEM we entered a global, competition: STEM Racing. Teams design, manufacture and race miniature air-powered cars. I am thrilled to announce that St. Mary's won the regional competition and will now take part in the national finals. I am sure you join me in congratulating the children who took part and Shaheen who supported them throughout.

As part of our long-standing commitment to having special guests leading assembly, we were fortunate to have a parent talk to the children about the world of publishing. The children found it fascinating and inspiring. This follows on the heels of several assemblies at which we have had guest speakers. If you are interested in telling the children about your career, please do contact the school office. We would love to hear from you.

Creating a culture of reading at St. Mary's is something that we are hugely passionate about. We know how important it is for children to love reading and World Book Day is a wonderful celebration of this. St. Mary's was filled with characters from classic tales to modern favourites and it was a joy to see how much the children enjoyed the event. The effort that went into the costumes was evident for all to see - thank you for making it such a great day. Most importantly, events like this help to nurture a passion for reading and we are already looking forward to next year's event.

I would like to thank all of you for your support in keeping school attendance high. When children attend school regularly, they build in confidence, feel part of the school community and take huge strides in their learning. Every day in school truly matters, and consistent attendance helps pupils develop the confidence, friendships and skills that support their success both now and in the future. To date our whole-school attendance for the academic year is an excellent 96.7%

Finally, as the days begin to grow longer and we start to see the tentative - very tentative - first signs of Spring around us, I would like to close with a beautiful quote from the Song of Solomon that reminds us of renewal and hope: "See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come"

Attendance for the year to date is an excellent 96.9%.

Kind Regards
Joe
Headteacher



Key Dates

March

- Parent's Evening - Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th
- Friday 20th - Red Nose day (Uniform and Red Accessory)
Science Symposium
- Wednesday 25th (Y3-Y6)
Thursday 26th (Rec. - Y2)
- Thursday 26th Church Services

April

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

April 17th Cultural Day (non-uniform)
Please note date change from previous Newsletter due to Red Nose day Clash

May

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

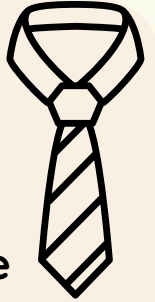
Half Term: Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May 2026

June

July

Last day of term: Friday 17th July 2026

ST MARY'S SCHOOL TIE



Dear Parents and Carers,

The School Council is delighted to announce that we are introducing St Mary's school ties for our pupils. These will be available in both elastic and traditional long-tie options. Some of our older children are particularly keen to learn how to tie a tie as they prepare for their transition to secondary school.

The idea was proposed by our School Councillors, who have taken the initiative to design the ties and organise their sale. Please note that the ties are entirely optional, and there is no expectation for children to wear one. Our uniform policy remains unchanged.

The ties are available to purchase from Victoria 2 Schoolwear. We are also pleased to share that a portion of each sale will contribute to the School Council's fundraising efforts, generously match-funded by Victoria 2 Schoolwear.

As always, we strongly recommend that all purchased ties are clearly labelled.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

St Mary's School School Council

Purchase here:

[St Mary's Tie](#)

RED NOSE DAY



We are excited to be taking part in Comic Relief's Red Nose Day 2026 campaign, on Friday 20th March with a powerful call for the nation to unite through laughter and raise funds for important causes.

Children are invited to bring in a donation and wear a red accessory to school. Please note that it will still be a normal school uniform day.

To help us celebrate, children can also bring along a joke to share with their teacher or class — we're looking forward to lots of smiles and laughter!

There will also be a ParentPay payment option available, as we know it can sometimes be harder to find loose change than it is to find a red nose

Thank you for your support!

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.

Wednesday, 25th March 2026 from 3:45 PM to 5:00 PM for Years 3-6.
Thursday, 26th March 2026 from 3:45 PM to 5:00 PM for Reception - Year 2.

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 – Garrying 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.

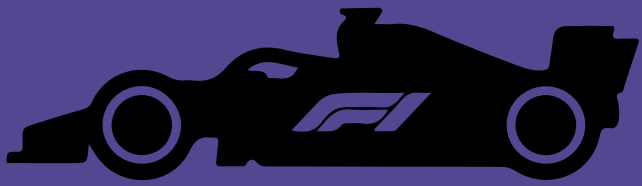
Step 3 – Conclusions

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:





The winning team!



Good luck at
Nationals!





WALTHAM FOREST HOLIDAY ACTIVITY AND FOOD PROGRAMME

EASTER 2026

30 MARCH - 10 APRIL

ARE YOU AGED BETWEEN 5-16
AND IN RECEIPT OF BENEFIT
RELATED FREE SCHOOL MEALS?

Funded by the Department for Education, this easter we have the opportunity for you to try a wide range of free activities, have fun, make friends and enjoy a free meal every day across the borough.

To book your place and find out more scan here:



or visit

WALTHAMFOREST.GOV.UK/HOLIDAYS

Booking is essential on all activities so book early to avoid disappointment

For queries please contact the Waltham Forest Holiday Activity Programme team on:

WFHOLIDAYACTIVITYPROGRAMME@WALTHAMFOREST.GOV.UK



Email: wfholidayactivityprogramme@walthamforest.gov.uk
Direct Line: [est.gov.uk](https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk)
Date: 0208 496 6076
Monday 2nd March 2026

Dear Parent,

Re: Book your child for their free HAF Easter Half Term holiday club

I am pleased to be writing to invite you to book your child onto the free Waltham Forest's Holiday Activity and Food Programme for Easter Half Term.

These free holiday opportunities are funded through the government's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, which enables us to provide a holiday programme across the borough for primary and secondary school aged children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

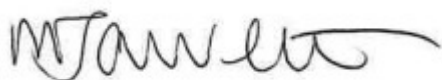
From Monday 2nd March you will be able to visit the website below where you will be able to book your child onto a range of sessions. To ensure all eligible children have access to our programme, your child is able to book up to 4 sessions during the Easter holidays from Monday 30th March Friday 10th April 2026, excluding banks holidays, at no cost to you. The sessions will include a variety of inclusive fun activities, including sports, music, arts and other exciting opportunities to learn and develop skills, alongside a nutritious meal each day.

The HAF programme offers an inclusive programme for all children and young people in attendance. Parents/ Carers can use our booking system to view the provisions available to accommodate and support their child's individual needs.

- To find out more and the places available to book, please visit www.walthamforest.gov.uk/holidays
- If you have any queries regarding the holiday activity programme, please email wfholidayactivityprogramme@walthamforest.gov.uk or call 0208 496 6076.

In addition to this free programme, families who are eligible for Universal Credit may be able to claim back up to 85% of their childcare costs. Please visit <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/universal-credit> to find out more.

Yours faithfully,



Mary Jarrett
Corporate Director for Education

CULTURAL DAY



Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Cultural Day on Friday 17th April

We are pleased to inform you that our school will be holding a Cultural Day on Friday 17th April. This special day will be a celebration of the diversity within our school community and an opportunity for children to share and learn more about one another.

Cultural Day forms part of our wider Belonging Project, which has also included the Write a Ribbon of Welcome event and the Hope Lights Up lessons and artistic creations.

On this day, children are invited to wear clothing that they feel represents them. This will be a non-uniform day. Clothing may reflect a child's cultural heritage, family background, personal identity, or something that is meaningful to them. There is no expectation to purchase anything new.

As part of the celebration, each child will have up to 5 minutes to share a little about themselves and their heritage with their class. They may also bring in an item to support this, such as a book, object, photograph, or they may choose to share a tradition or a story that is important to them and their family. Cultural Day is designed to promote respect, understanding and pride in who we are.

We look forward to celebrating together.

Kind regards,
Leann Valiquette
Deputy Headteacher

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.





JOIN OUR DUOLINGO CLASSROOM FOR FREE!

**SIMPLY FOLLOW THIS LINK:
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

EAT OR HEAT CHILD-FRIENDLY EVENTS

THIS COMING WEEKEND IS THE ANNUAL FUNDRAISER FOR THE WALTHAM FOREST FOODBANK EAT OR HEAT. PLEASE SEE DETAILS OF THE CHILD FRIENDLY EVENTS THAT ARE HAPPENING AT THE RAVENSWOOD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE ON FRIDAY AND SUNDAY.

RAVENSWOOD COLLECTIVE - PILLARS BREWERY / MOTHERS RUIN / REAL AL / MALT HAUS / GODS OWN JUNKYARD / MISFITS AND MORE PRESENT...

WELCOME TO
RAVENSWOOD
THE NIGHT MARKET
BEFORE EAT OR HEAT



FRIDAY
6TH
MARCH
FROM
3-11PM

FOOD TRUCKS, LIVE MUSIC,
DJS AND MORE ALL EVENING
10% revenue donated to Eat or Heat

MOTHERS RUIN - HAPPY HOUR ALL EVENING + DJS - GIN MASTERCLASS ON SALE NOW

SING 17 CHOIR PERFORMANCE LIVE AT 7:30PM - FREE FOR ALL TO ATTEND

RETRO VIDEO GAMES TAKEOVER AT PILLARS BREWERY TAPROOM

LIVE MUSIC IN THE MALT HAUS FROM HERNE HILL HOTTIES FROM 8PM

FOOD FROM ISLAND STYLE, THE CHEESE TOASTER

WALTHAMSTOW DOGS, LIME-FACE + MORE

RAVENSWOODCOLLECTIVE.COM

RAVENSWOOD COLLECTIVE - PILLARS BREWERY / MOTHERS RUIN / REAL AL /
MALT HAUS / GODS OWN JUNKYARD / MISFITS AND MORE PRESENT...

WELCOME TO RAVENSWOOD THE DAY MARKET AFTER EAT OR HEAT,



SUNDAY 8TH
MARCH
11-6

PERKY BLENDERS POP UP COFFEE SHOP.
5K WALTHAMSTOW FUN RUN WITH MISFITS
AMAZING FOOD VENDORS & DAY MARKET.
CRAFTING & UPCYCLING WITH THE CRAFTERNOON CLUB.
GOD'S OWN JUNKYARD'S LEGENDARY JUMBLE SALE.
'CRATEDIGGER PRESENTS 'THE HANGING GARDENS' &
GIN MASTERCLASS AT MOTHERS RUIN.
10% REVENUE DONATED TO CHARITY.
RAVENSWOODCOLLECTIVE.COM

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

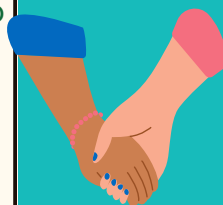
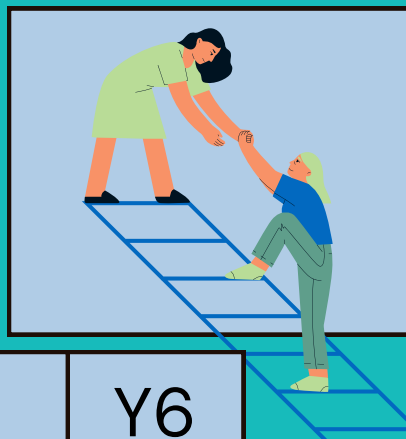
Wisdom

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.

YR

كلاس حركه متفكره

Mindful Movement Class

Y1

كروت لبرواكنا

Cards for our unsung Heroes

Y2

كروت لبرواكنا

Litter Picking

Y3

كلاس رقص باليود

Bollywood Dancing

Y4

كلاس حركه متفكره

STEM workshop

Y5

كلاس حركه متفكره

West End musical workshop

Y6

كروت لبرواكنا

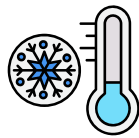
3D printing gifts

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 1 was 97.25 %.

Our whole school attendance for Week 2 was 98.34%.

Well done St Mary's!

Our whole school attendance for this academic year is: 96.9%

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).