

ST. MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a wonderful start to the Spring Term here at St Mary's!

Last week we had very special visit from a Bird of Prey Falconry company. The organisation comprises forty display birds: Owls, Hawks, Falcons and Eagles and has over 20 years experience visiting schools. They came highly recommended; in fact they have appeared on numerous TV programmes, including Game of Thrones, Sky Atlantic and the amazon original, The Grand Tour. The children really enjoyed seeing these magnificent creatures and finding out all about them. Jason, who led the session at St Mary's, was also on hand to answer any questions and queries that the children had about the birds.

We are also very excited to continue on with our Young Transformers Programme here at St Mary's this term! As you are already aware, our programme is made up of five branches: Caring, Confidence, Creativity, Curiosity and Community. This term, we are delighted to be able to introduce another branch to the programme: Public Services.

Children across all year groups have been nominated to actively contribute to the school community in the way of a range of councils and activities. This week these children have recieved a special badge to reflect the team they are part of to wear proudly!

Next week, Y2 will be taking part in a Bollywood dance workshop, as part of our Young Transformers programme. The children will be introduced to the various dance styles that are incorporated into the Bollywood genre and will be exposed to this important and traditional part of Indian culture.

Yours Faithfully,
Mrs Matthews

Young Transformers



Our Spring Curriculum

EYFS - Creative

Mindful Movement origins can be found 5000 years ago in Northern India. Yoga is more popular than ever before. It is not only brilliant for your physical health but also for your mental health. Reception children will learn what yoga is and see that yoga can be performed by people of all ages (yes, even babies). They will work with a yoga teacher on simple yoga techniques. By nurturing our bodies, we look after the mind as well.

Year 2 - Creative

Dancing is not only a way to keep fit, but also a form of art. In Year 2. Children will learn why people enjoy dancing and how dance is expressed in different parts of the world. They will work with a professional dancer to devise a dance for performance. With their peers they will learn to keep to the beat, execute dance moves and find joy in dancing. By dancing together, we celebrate our bodies just the way they are.

Year 4 - Creative

The drum is the oldest musical instrument. Year 4 children will learn where the drum originated and how it is played in different parts of the world. They will work with professional drummers in a workshop to create their own drumming piece which will be performed to the school. By beating the drum, we get into the rhythm.

Year 6 - Caring

In computing, Year 6 will use the Tinkercad programme to design and print key rings for our new autumn term pupils in EYFS. A welcome gift from our oldest pupils. By reaching out your hand with a gift for someone new, you show true friendship.

Year 1 - Caring

We are lucky enough to have three alpacas at St Saviours: Captain, Marshall and Marvin. In year 1, the children will learn about these amazing creatures and have the opportunity to visit them. They might even want to be taken for a walk (only if you give them a snack). Afterwards, children will get to visit the Forest school to build fires, shelters and bug houses. By being gentle and showing care to animals, we show true love to God's Creation.

Year 3 - Caring

Bake to educate: education changes lives but many girls around the world do not have the same opportunities. Children will learn how young girls in some parts of the world miss out on education and how this affects their life chances. Pupils will plan, prepare, bake and sell cakes to support girls around the world in less fortunate circumstances. By educating all children, we offer them the opportunity to make a positive change.

Year 5 - Community

Children will learn where the idea of an English afternoon tea came from and what afternoon tea includes. This knowledge will be used for pupils to prepare their own class afternoon tea including cups and saucers. Of course Year 5 will need to dress up in their best clothing. By studying our traditions, we strengthen our own identity.

Home - Mandatory - Confidence

At the start of a new year, it is important to take another step into independence. Pupils are encouraged to learn how to change their bedding at home, including pillowcases and duvet covers. There is no harm in working together on this. By taking charge of day to day routines, we learn how to step with confidence into the world

For more information on our Young Transformers Project, please visit our Young Transformers pages under the Pupils tab on the St Mary's website.

School Council



This year the School Council has played a vital role in leading our school in an exciting direction with our new Reading initiative: Star books. Reading engagement is high as children are eager to fill out their Star Book bookmark/loyalty card. We now have our bespoke book vending machine in place and children who complete their loyalty card will achieve the right to use the machine and win/choose a book to keep! None of this would have come into fruition without the invaluable input of the School Council.

Furthermore, in our final meeting before Christmas, we discussed charities the school could look at supporting in our future "Young Transformers" projects. These were narrowed down to three: a local charity (Eat or Heat), a national charity (Refugee Action) and an international charity (Action Against Hunger). Over the coming Spring term, the school will select one of the three charities to support; the School Council will help lead on the implementation of the projects.

Furthermore, the School Council will work closely on future projects with Ms Rowlatt and Ms Koabo, who have some exciting ideas which will see our School Council and wider school community engage with one another in even more exciting, informative and innovative ways. Watch this space!

Parent Prayer



Parent Prayer is on Wednesday evenings at 8pm on Zoom- twenty minutes of prayer and reflection. A relaxing space for parents to come together at the end of the day. All are welcome!

If you would like the zoom link, please email Jacintha Danaswamy at: jacintha@stmaryswalthamstow.org.

Upcoming Events

Spring Term 2022

- **Tuesday 4th January 2022**

Children return to school

- **Thursday 13th & Friday 14th January 2022**

Falconry Workshops

- **Tuesday 25th January 2022**

Year 3 Green Drumming Performance

- **Friday 28th January 2022**

Year 2 - Bollywood Dancing + Performance

- **Friday 28th January - Tuesday 1st February 2022**

Scholastic Book Fair

- **Monday 31st January 2022**

Year 6 - Steel Pan Workshop

HALF TERM

Monday 14th February - Friday 18th February 2022

Class Corner



Year 2 have begun the new year and new term with an exciting new book: Paddington. The children have already written about Paddington, his adventures and, of course, marmalade. In maths, we have reviewed place value and addition; in science, we have learned about materials and elasticity. It has been a great start to the Spring term!

Attendance



Our whole school attendance for Week 1 was 94%.
Our whole school attendance for Week 2 was 96%.

Well done St Mary's!

Our whole school attendance for this academic year is: 93%

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.

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.

Head Teacher Drop- Ins

Mrs Matthews holds a Tuesday morning drop in-session, which takes place between 10:30-11:30 each week, please send an email to **st-marys-school@genesistrust.net** to make a 15 minute appointment.

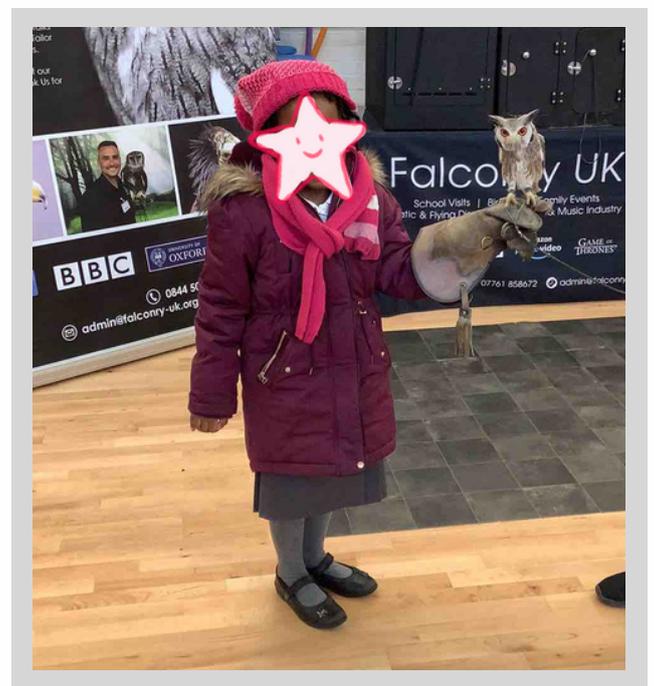
Jason Ashcroft

**FALCONRY UK
OWNER**



Falconry Visit

We had an exciting treat to welcome us back to school. Jason from Falconry UK came to visit and we got to meet his impressive birds! Jason had an amazing range of owls that the children were so excited to meet and learn about. We were blown away with how intelligent the birds were and how well trained they were. Some of the children even got to hold them and meet our favourite bird, Bailey, a white faced owl. He was very cute!



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).