

ST. MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a term it has been! It doesn't seem too long ago that we welcomed the children back from the Christmas holidays and yet here Easter is. At last the weather appears to have cottoned on to this too; may it continue throughout the upcoming two-week break. May I take this moment to remind you that we will return on Tuesday 19th April, as Monday 18th is a Bank Holiday.

Looking back at the Spring term, we've been lucky enough to have several visitors and special events which have really inspired and motivated our pupils. Towards the beginning of the term, each year group showcased their talents with outside performances which included African drumming, Bollywood dancing and even a Disney Medley! World Book Day was a great success, with the vast array of wonderful outfits documenting both the children (and your!) creativity as well as their passion for books and reading.

Michael Coppelov, a local artist, met with our Eco-council to formulate a very exciting idea for an eco-friendly art installation in the playground: more to follow in the Summer term! Priest, scholar and writer, Father Jarel Robinson-Brown, gave a fantastic assembly which covered the topic of inspirational figures as well as teaching the children more about Lent and the build-up to Easter. Deputy Mayor of London for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, spoke about her work in her role at supporting communities and bringing about meaningful change and how important children are in shaping our future. She was mightily impressed with our Young Transformers projects and met with our School Council to further discuss the impact that they can have.

Have a blessed Easter break and we look forward to an exciting Summer Term.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Matthews.

Stars of the Term

Molly, Aneurin,
Lyra, Taim,
Ayla & Luca

Reception

Talia, Leo, Atta
Ariel,
Nusaybah &
Fabian

Year 1

Liv, Aidan, Daniella,
Idris, Phoebe
& Simon

Year 2

Mahi, Freddie H,
Anneliese,
Sophie
Asher & Albert

Year 3

Lilia, Rafferty, Sofia,
Arlie, Shaunda
& Viggo

Year 4

Eloise, Arlo, Ellie,
Miles, Eden
& Dominik

Year 5

Tito, Penny, Zion,
Deborah, Tate
& Jaysha

Year 6

**Well done to
our amazing
stars!!**

Farewell & Thank you!



We say goodbye to our fantastic SENCO, Frank Crawford, who has worked extremely diligently with children and families across all three schools in the Genesis Education Trust over the past five years: he will be sorely missed.



We also wish Ms Gibbons (Year 3 Purple) well as she begins her maternity leave. We look forward to a visit from her and her new arrival in the not too distant future.



Finally, we wish Mrs Donovan a happy retirement after many years with St Mary's and the trust. We hope she enjoys some well deserved time to relax with her family!

Attendance



**Our whole school attendance for Week 11 was 95.6%.
Our whole school attendance for Week 12 was 95.8%.**

Well done St Mary's!

Our whole school attendance for this academic year is: 94%

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.

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!

School Nurse Drop In



Our wonderful School Nurse, Caroline, will be holding some drop in sessions for parents to pop in and meet her. If you would like to meet with Caroline, she will be in school for around an hour at the times below. No appointment is necessary as these are drop in sessions, we would just ask that you please wear a mask and complete a lateral flow test before attending.

May 9th 2022 - 9:15 - 10:15
June 6th 2022 - 14:30 - 15:30
July 4th 2022 - 9:15 - 10:15

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.

Our Councils



This week, the School Council, the Learning Council and the Eco Warriors met up to formally introduce themselves to one another, established the role of each council/team, how we carry ourselves as councillors/representatives and our areas of responsibilities. Over the next few weeks, the children engaged with these Public Services will endeavour to uncover how their peers feel about a range of topics and issues and will come together to create action plans going forward to benefit the entire school community. We are very excited to see how enthusiastic each member of the Public Services is and cannot wait to share the impact of their actions with you soon!

We will meet again soon and will keep you updated.



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.

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).