

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



Dear Parents and Carers,

How wonderful it was to welcome everyone back from the holiday, and begin yet another exciting half-term at Saint Mary's. Rested and recharged, the children have begun the half-term with their customary enthusiasm and determination to be the best they can be.

The cheese and wine evening, held last week, was a terrific success and it was wonderful to see so many of you at the event. Led by Ms Ford, parents were taken on a tour of Saint Mary's during which they were able to see the learning environments and displays which make Saint Mary's such a distinctive, special and unique school. Staff at Saint Mary's take great pride in the learning environments, so it is always a great pleasure to share them with parents and carers alike.

This week the children have been learning about British black history. From year one to year six, children learned about the enormous contributions made to our country and society by black Britons. In EYFS, children learned about influential black Britons and their contributions. In key stage one, year one learned about Notting Hill Carnival, while year two learned about the Windrush Generation and where they came from. In key stage two, year three learned about the Ivory Bangle Lady and Roman York, while year four learned about racism in football and efforts to banish it from the game. In upper key stage two, year five focused on the British Empire and the impact it had on black Victorians, while year six learned about the Bristol Bus Boycott: its cause, its impact and its legacy.

Parents' evening this week was well attended and reminded me how fortunate we are to have such a supportive parent body. Your continuing support, and willingness to work with teachers, is a crucial factor in our success and your children's successes. Thank you.

I am delighted to announce that Saint Mary's has a new caterer. The new company - Edwards and Ward - will begin at Saint Mary's on the 28th November. Another letter, with additional information on the new company, was sent to you today. Overleaf is a small welcome note with some testimonials from children.

Finally, as the weather grows colder and the nights longer, I am reminded that winter is a difficult time for many, so I would like to close this newsletter with an inspiring passage from Philippians chapter 4 verse 8:

"Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Best wishes,

Mr Pitchford

# Attendance



**Our whole school attendance for Week 1 was 96.25%.**

**Our whole school attendance for Week 2 was 96.23%.**

Well done St Mary's!

Our whole school attendance for this academic year is: 96.59%

## **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.

*Please ensure this message includes 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.**

# Important Messages

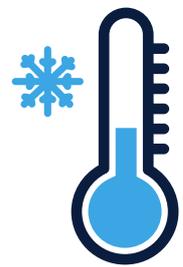
## Medication

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 temperature are getting colder, please ensure your child comes to school with a warm winter coat that is labelled. The temperature is dropping fast and we want the children to be dressed appropriately. However still continue to bring in their own water bottle.



## Lost Property

We have a large amount of lost property in the bag at our Chestnut Avenue South Gate. A large amount of the uniform is not named, if your child is missing any of their items, please could you check the bag for any missing items.



## School Nurse Drop In

Our School Nurse will be visiting the second Monday of every month. If you would like to book a slot with our school nurse to discuss any concerns that you may have, please email the school office. Please see the details below:

- 14th November 2022
- 12th December 2022



## Large Bags

Unfortunately, many children are bringing very large backpacks to school. There is little storage space available for such large bags and they pose a trip hazard. Please send your child to school with the smallest bag possible - ideally a bookbag.



# Values

## Forgiveness

### Luke 15: 11-24

#### The parable of the lost son

This week our school value is forgiveness. Our school vision is: "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. We have been thinking about 'bearing much fruit' as being productive and having a positive impact. Holding on to a grudge, rather than forgiving, can stand in the way of this productivity and impact, because it can preoccupy our thoughts and make us feel sad, resentful or angry. If we are able to forgive those who have wronged us, we let go of these negative feelings and have more space in our hearts and minds for the work God wants us to be doing.

In one of our favourite school songs, 'Blinded by your Grace,' Stormzy talks about being forgiven by God and feeling that he has a second chance at life:

Lord I've been broken  
Although I'm not worthy  
You fixed me  
Now I'm Blinded By Your Grace  
You came and saved me

We also thought about the story of the Lost son. In this well-known parable, a son who has returned to his father's house after a period of absence and rebellion, is feted with a big celebration. "My son was dead, but now he is alive again! He was lost, but now he is found!" His brothers are resentful at how quickly he is forgiven and at the celebration, but Jesus teaches his followers that God is so thrilled every time someone returns to Him from a period of being 'lost', he celebrates us in this way.

Forgiveness is often hard, but it brings peace to us, as well as to the person who has done wrong and repented. Jesus teaches that, through his sacrifice, we can all forgive and be forgiven, as it says in the Lord's Prayer. The children have reflected this week on how they could forgive and make up with someone, or say sorry themselves for anything they may have done to hurt others.

This week we also mark Remembrance Day, with a minute's silence at 11am on Friday. We reflect on the efforts of world leaders to reconcile and work towards peace.



# 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!**



# Parent Prayer

Parent Prayer is on Wednesday evenings at 8.30pm 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](mailto:jacintha@stmaryswalthamstow.org).



## Flu Vaccinations

This winter, now that life is back to normal, there is a very high risk that the NHS could be overwhelmed with illness caused by influenza, as we have not been mixing with others as much over the past few winters.

Children who have the flu vaccine are less likely to pass the virus on to friends and family, especially those who may be at greater risk from flu, such as young babies, elderly people or friends and relatives with a serious health condition.

The school nurse team will be visiting St Mary's on Flu Catch up session: - Friday 25th November 2022

If your child has received a paper consent, please complete this form and return back to school before Friday 25th of November.

Types of vaccine available: Flu Nasal Spray Flu Injection – does not contain porcine gelatine  
For parents who want their child to have the vaccine that does not contain porcine gelatine, you can contact the vaccination team and they can arrange this.

# Cheese and Wine Evening



Thank you for all the parents and carers who joined us for our Cheese and Wine Evening, it was lovely to seeing you all there.

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# Our New Catering Company.

“Overall the choice and the quality of the food has been well received by my daughter ! So thank you! “



*Smile*

food that makes you happy

I just wanted to let you know that Raphael is very much appreciated by the school. He really does care about his job and the children



Hello from everyone at Edwards and Ward to everyone at St Mary's Church of England Primary School! We are going to be your new caterer and we are so excited at the prospect of getting to know you and learn everything there is to know about what you like to eat! We have a wonderful menu designed just for you as well as delicious menus for those of you who have special dietary needs and we look forward to hearing what you think!

Throughout the contract we look forward to meeting you at Parents' Evenings as well as having Themed Lunches! We will be sending out a Newsletter soon so please keep an eye out for it and we look forward to seeing you on the 28th November 2022!

Here are some comments we thought you might like to read from some of the parents of the lovely children we provide school meals for at other schools as well as Head Teachers.....

The food is so much better than before “

The children really appreciate the opportunity to talk to you about future dishes. Thank you for taking on their suggestions and for taking the time to explain the reasons behind some of the menu choices,



# Young Transformers

## Our Autumn Curriculum



### **EYFS - Caring**

Together with our church, Reception children will rehearse and sing some of our favourite Christmas Carols. Of course parents and carers get the treat to see them performed in church; however, the children will also perform these carols at the town hall for everyone in our community to enjoy. By sharing the gift of songs, we hope to transform an audience into joyful listeners.

### **Year 1- Community**

Our emergency services are there to keep us safe. Year one will meet real firemen/ women who will tell them how to become a fire worker and what work they do in London. They also learn that women can be become a firewoman and that is a really exciting career choice. By knowing who keeps us safe, we feel protected and reassured.

### **Year 2 – Curiosity**

Space is big – infinitely so. We have invited a theatre company to visit our school to take the pupils on an incredible journey into space. There, children will get a sense of 'awe and wonder' about planets, stars, galaxies and everything in between. By reflecting about space and time, we are overawed by God's incredible Creation.

### **Year 3- Confidence**

Year 3 will be climbing to great heights this term - literally. All pupils will work with a professional climbing instructor to ascend and descend climbing walls at our local climbing centre. Children will learn how to use bouldering techniques to scale challenging routes.

Through embracing challenges we become confident. By facing new physical challenges, we endeavour to transform our own self belief.

### **Year 4 - Community**

With the winter months setting in, we know that some families appreciate a little support. Year 4 pupils will organise a Harvest Festival like no other before by personally putting together high quality hampers to share with our community. By giving to joy others, we share the best of ourselves.

### **Year 5- Caring**

During the autumn term, Year 5 will organise an ambitious charity project in conjunction with Christian Aid to raise money for some of the most vulnerable communities in the world. All the money raised, will be used to create reliable sources of water in drought hit areas. By raising awareness, we know we can affect major global causes.

### **Year 6- Creative**

A visit to the Royal Academy to see David Hockney's: the arrival of spring will inspire us to use our tablets to create art with a similar theme and skill set. By embracing new technologies, we learn to explore other ways of creating something beautiful.

### **Home- Mandatory Creative**

Young Transformers across the year groups are invited to use cameras, tablets and phones to take photos around the theme of 'Transformation'. Photographers are encouraged to consider how they see transformations in nature, art, architecture, communities and beyond. Everyone is invited to send their best photo to enter for the Autumn Term Young Transformers award. By viewing the world around us, we aim to change the way we see.

# 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).