

ST. MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*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

Dear Parents and Carers,

I want to begin this edition of the Newsletter with a huge thank you to those of you able to attend our recent Black History event. It was wonderful to see so many of you at the event enjoying the work on display and, of course, sampling Ms Bailey's jerk chicken and goat curry. The children were rightfully proud of their work and I know it meant a lot to them for their parents and carers to see it exhibited in such a creative and engaging way. I look forward to writing to you soon about other exciting events taking place at St. Mary's.

I wrote to you before half-term about St. Mary's 'Courageous Advocacy' speech writing competition. The key stage two competition took place last week and was a tremendous success. The mayor, a member of the clergy and a member of the governors joined us for the competition and had the difficult task of judging it. The children spoke with passion, conviction and courage about topics from chess to animal rights; from speaking up for oneself to homelessness. It was a truly inspiring event and all of the children received a well-earned medal for participation. Florence in year 5 won the competition with a stirring speech about food and food production. Well done, Florence, and to all of those children who took part.

As part of our Young Transformers project we have been encouraging children to apply for 'independence' awards. These awards are given to children who have done something to transform themselves, others or their community outside of school. Jasmin in year 6 won a very special Young Transformers award this week for donating all of her birthday money to Children in Need. This remarkable act of generosity is a testament to her thoughtfulness and kindness and we are terribly proud of her.

This week, it was a great honour and privilege to be recognised for services to faith and belief communities in Greater London by the Faith and Belief Forum. We were invited to attend the FBFs 7th annual awards ceremony for the amazing work our school community has done to support refugees within our community. The work done by all of us - children, teachers, parents and carers at other schools in the Genesis Trust - is something to be proud of. Thank you for your part in it.

Christmas is fast approaching and the sense of excitement and anticipation at St. Mary's is growing fast. Ms Valiquette wrote to you last week about forthcoming events but I wanted to take the opportunity to remind you of the following events. We will have a pantomime in school on Monday 4th December and on Thursday 7th December we will have a Christmas Jumper Day. Friday the 8th will be the final day for donations to our 'Warm Clothing' and 'Toys for Children' drives. Finally, on Tuesday 19th December we will have class party day. If you have any questions about these events, please contact the school office.

Finally, I would like to close this edition of the newsletter with a quote from Isaiah 40:29-30

"He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength."

Kind Regards,
Mr Pitchford
Headteacher



Attendance



Our whole school attendance for Week 3 was 96.29 %.

Our whole school attendance for Week 4 was 95.97%.

Well done St Mary's!

Our whole school attendance for this academic year is: 96.67%

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.

THE LONDON FAITH & BELIEF COMMUNITY AWARDS 2023

Genesis Education Trust

Are recognised for services to and
for faith and belief communities
in Greater London



Phil Champain
Director of the Faith & Belief Forum

**The
Faith
& Belief
Forum**



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.



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.



Walthamstow Cafe

WALTHAMSTOW WELCOMES

DROP IN COMMUNITY CAFÉ & PAPERWORK SUPPORT

No appointment necessary, just drop in.

Alternatively, to book a timed appointment email:

E17welcomecafe@stmaryswalthamstow.org



ST MARY'S WELCOME CENTRE

8 CHURCH END, E17 9RJ | 10:00–12:00



Saturday: 28/10 | 11/11 | 25/11 | 09/12 | 06/01 | 20/01

Wednesday: 01/11 | 15/11 | 29/11 | 13/12 | 10/01 | 24/01

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



We have a food bank located in our school office foyer. We welcome donations of tinned goods and non-perishable items.

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.

Any extra donations will be donated to local food banks to provide support to our local community.

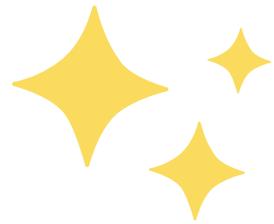
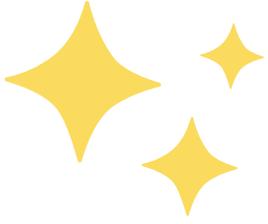
Parent Workshops

We have online workshops for parents that cover a variety of topics. These can be located under the Parents Tab on our school website. We offer these workshops to support learning at home.



Parent Workshops

PFA



Hello,

We are pleased to announce the PFA (Parents Friends Association) is back up and running!

Our goal is to raise money to fund extra curricular activities like art, music and fun seasonal events for the children, as well as build a sense of community around the school and connect parents.

We have only just reformed but hope to hold an event very soon, so please keep a lookout!

We'd love as many parents or carers as possible to be involved so if you'd like to get in touch or join the group, please email: stmaryspfa23@gmail.com



Events

DECEMBER

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1st
Catch up Flu
Vaccinations



4th
KS1 & KS2
Panto



7th
Save the Children:
Christmas Jumper
Day



8th
Falconry



Deadline for warm
clothing amnesty and
toys for children

12th
Young Transformers:
Year 1 Mounted
Police Visit



13th
Young Transformers:
Year 2 Safari Pete
Visit



14th
Young Transformers:
Year 3 Archery
Workshop



15th
Y5 Christmas Carols
in Walthamstow
Village Square



18th
Nativity
Attlee: 10-11am
Morris: 2-3pm



19th
Class Parties
Nativity
Wilson: 10-11am



20th
Final Day of
Term
(2pm finish)



Worship

This week we have been reflecting on Remembrance day and the importance of this. We had a special assembly at St Mary's Church where Vanessa and our worship councillors developed a really insightful assembly.

Our worship councillor Clara in year 3 Wilson wrote an amazing prayer. I would like to invite you to have a read.

Please help the people who are in wars or have been in wars, protect those in danger and heal those who are injured. Help us to remember the people who have died in wars, those who are missed or unknown. Please bring harmony to all the places of war and conflict. We pray we gather those affected by war into your peaceful presence. As we remember, help us to plant peace into the world. Help us to protect those who need it and care for people fleeing conflict and wars. Guide us with your faithfulness and love so we can be people of peace.

This prayer is really thought-provoking. Similarly, when looking at the passage from the Corinthians 13:4–8a (ESV) Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.

We want this week to reflect on following Jesus' example of love thy neighbour and restoring peace. In such a terrible time across the world, thinking of those innocent people who long for peace. Our prayers are with them.



ONLINE PARENT/CARER DROP-INS

strengthening
families
strengthening
communities

**ARE YOU A PARENT/CARER IN WALTHAM FOREST?
IS YOUR CHILD AGED 3-18?**

Attend when its convenient for you and seek advice from our family practitioners on any of the following topics:

- Explore safeguarding and risks
- Explore the fundamentals to relationship building with your child
- Explore the benefits of positive discipline methods
- Gain and build parenting confidence
- Build a support network and meet other parents to create new friendships



**NO NEED TO BOOK
DROP-IN ANYTIME BETWEEN
1 - 2.30PM
ON MONDAY 4TH AND 11TH
DECEMBER**

**ZOOM LINK:
HTTPS://US06WEB.ZOOM
.US/J/89916997945?
PWD=1DHTYJOLY2JMAP
PBFLPAQQEX7NW0DU.1
MEETING ID: 899 1699
7945
PASSCODE: 462035**

ST MARY'S TERM DATES 2023-24

Autumn Term 2023

First Half (33 Days)

INSET – Wednesday 6th, Thursday 7th & Friday 8th September 2023

Start – Monday 11th September 2023

End – Friday 20th October 2023

Half Term: Monday 23rd October 2023- Friday 27th October 2023

Second Half (38 Days)

Start – Monday 30th October 2023

End – Wednesday 20th December 2023

Holidays: Thursday 21st December 2023 to Friday 5th January 2024

Spring Term 2024

First Half (25 Days)

INSET – Monday 8th January 2024

Start – Tuesday 9th January 2024

End - Friday 9th February 2024

Half Term: Monday 12th February 2024 – Friday 16th February 2024

Second Half (29 Days)

Start - Monday 19th February 2024

End – Thursday 28th March 2024

Holidays: Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April 2024

Summer Term 2024

First Half (29 Days)

Start – Monday 15th April 2024

End - Friday 24th May 2024

Half Term: Monday 27th May 2024 - Friday 31st May 2024

Holidays May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 6th May 2024

Spring Bank Holiday: Monday 27th May 2024 (during Half Term)

Second Half (40 Days)

Start - Monday 3rd June 2024

End – Friday 26th July 2024

St Mary's Young Transformers



As part of our Young Transformers vision, we want our pupils to be confident, independent learners with enquiring minds and a life-long love of learning which happens in school and out.

We welcome children to bring in certificates that have been achieved outside of school. For example, achieving a piano grade, a swimming stage certificate or drama distinction. These will be celebrated during one of our weekly assemblies.

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).