

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,

As we begin a new month, and Spring gets ever closer, I want to celebrate the numerous achievements of the term so far. Last week, the school community raised over £600 for the charity Eat or Heat. Eat or Heat is a charity established to support people experiencing economic hardship, people who have to make an impossible decision between eating, or heating their home. A guest from Eat or Heat led an assembly at St. Mary's recently and it is clear that their message truly inspired the children. Our school vision, "Love one another as I have loved you" has love and compassion at its heart so it was inspiring to see the school community coming together in this spirit to help others in need. On behalf of everyone at St. Mary's I would like to thank all parents and carers for their generous contributions. Later in the newsletter you can find photographs from the day.

Last week we visited St. Mary's Church for a special Ash Wednesday service. The children learned about Ash Wednesday and its significance in the Christian calendar. Central to the service was the worship council. Anyone who has spoken in front of a large audience will know that it can be a frightening experience, the worship council, however, took it in their stride and spoke with confidence and conviction. Well done to them!

On Thursday 7th March we will celebrate World Book Day at St. Mary's. Dressing up for World Book Day is of course a huge amount of fun and we are excited to see the children celebrating their favourite books and characters. As well as being huge fun, the day reminds us all of the benefits of reading. If you are able to, reading for just 10-15 minutes a day with your child will develop their vocabulary, knowledge and love of reading.

This week you will have received a reminder about the forthcoming science workshop. Given the success of last year's event, we have decided to split the event over two days. On Wednesday 20th March, Reception, year 1 and year 2 will have the opportunity to display their projects; on Thursday 21st March it will be the turn of year 3, 4, 5 and 6. Last year was a truly exceptional showcase of the ingenuity of our children – and parents and carers – and I am sure that this year will be even better. If you are struggling for ideas, please refer to Miss Jackson's letter from earlier this week. It contains some helpful suggestions and websites.

As part of our vision we are committed to transforming ourselves, others and our community. An example of this is of course the work we have done to support refugees within our local community. Given the large number of refugees in our community, there is a clear need for a place of welcome and refuge. As part of our work to provide such a space, we will soon apply to become a School of Sanctuary. There is a growing network of schools within this programme and they share one thing in common: a commitment to creating a culture of welcome, understanding and belonging for those forced to flee. I will provide an update on our application in the coming months.

I would like to close this edition of the newsletter with a quote from Psalm 111:

"His work is honourable and glorious: and his righteousness endureth for ever. He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the Lord is gracious and full of compassion."

Kind Regards
Mr Pitchford
Headteacher



Attendance



Our whole school attendance for Week 1 was 96.66%.

Our whole school attendance for Week 2 was 95.84%.

Well done St Mary's!

Our whole school attendance for this academic year is: 96.26%

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.

Our Celebration Assembly takes places every Friday at 10am. All parents are welcome to join. For Attlee House, please enter via the main office on Brooke Road and for Morris & Wilson House, please enter via Chestnut Avenue South.

Collective Worship

This week we have been focusing on dreams and aspirations.

Psalm 37:4

“Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.”

God wants us to dream and aspire to do and be something that is great; something that can make a difference. This is clear throughout the whole Bible. Achieving a dream is not easy. Cristiano Ronaldo had a dream when he was younger. It wasn't easy. He had a tough upbringing and had to move countries in order to make his dream happen. He also works relentlessly every day to be fitter, stronger and more skillful, so that he can achieve his dream. Sometimes we face obstacles, but with the help of God and others, we can overcome them.

Thank you for the message today. God please help us to achieve our dreams and aspirations. Firstly, help us to ensure that our dreams are good-natured and beneficial to ourselves and others. Secondly, help us to work hard to get the skills we need in order to achieve our dreams. Thirdly, we pray that you would help us to overcome the barriers that we might face. In your mighty name, Amen.



Dress Up like Teacher Day





Dear St Mary's community,

We are hugely proud to say that our **'Dress Like a Teacher'** fundraiser day raised an incredible **£681.20 plus food donations** for our **local 'Eat or Heat' charity!** A big thank you for your generosity and creative costumes. It was a very fun day in school; please enjoy some photos from the day.

I'd also like to thank 'School Council' for their dedication in helping vote and promote for this charitable event.

My warmest,
Mrs Valiquette
Deputy Headteacher



WORLD BOOK DAY

WORLD **BOOK** DAY®

7 MARCH 2024





BritishRedCross

**St Mary's supports
the
British Red Cross's
humanitarian work.**

Donate here:

<https://www.redcross.org.uk/>





Parent Call Out!

Are you a native or fluent French speaker?

Do you have a job or qualification involving French or another foreign language?

Do you have any links to any French speaking countries?

We would love to hear from you and potentially arrange for you to be involved in a French themed week we are having in the summer term, where the children will get to experience a variety of French themed lessons, talks and activities!

Please respond via the office email, with for the attention of Mrs Williams, and I will contact you directly to discuss further.



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 Young Transformers



**SPRING
TERM**

YR

CREATIVE

Mindful Movement Class

Y1

CARING

Cards for our unsung Hero's

Y2

CREATIVE

Bollywood Dancing

Y3

CARING

Charity project

Y4

CREATIVE

Making suncatchers for elderly

Y5

CONFIDENCE

West End musical workshop

Y6

CARING

3D printing gifts

St Mary's Courageous Advocacy

Courageous Advocacy



Spring Term

YR

During the Spring term, the Reception children will continue to enjoy the 'Equality curriculum.'

Equality

The children will be considering what is important to them and creating 'Dear World...' statements.



Y1

Respect

Year 1 children will build upon their previous craftivism project. Having sent the letter and project to the local MP they will focus their efforts on a TfL campaign.

Y2

Caring

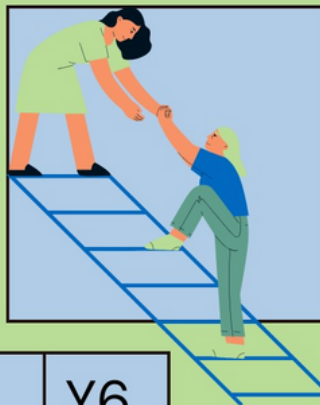
Having advocated about the throwaway culture of fast fashion through to the unethical pay and working conditions of ready-made garment workers. The Year 2 children will be writing to CEOs about their concerns and continuing their clothing drive.



Y3

Truth

Following a moving speech from a Y3 child, on 'Why going to school is a Privilege,' the children would like to do more. This term, they are focussing their efforts on the 'Send my Friends to School' campaign.



Y4

Respect

Year 4 will create lesson plans based on their courageous advocacy work for schools around the world to use. The plans will be shared and uploaded onto TES website so they can be accessed around the world.

Caring

Y6

Following the Year 6 teacher visit to a Kenyan School, the St.Mary's children want to learn from the Kenyan children. They are learning how to create less waste and how to live with a smaller carbon footprint. They hope to create viral content by comparing our lifestyles.



Y5

Wisdom

The Year 5 children continue to show an interest in food waste, hunger and food production's carbon footprint. They will advocate for grocers to sell in smaller quantities so there is less household waste.

GET LISTENING

GENESIS PODCAST



First Episode

1:29



Listen Now!



GENESIS
EDUCATION TRUST

Follow the link below:

<https://open.spotify.com/show/3n1bmtjruGx46tSAenDCdR>

St. Mary's Christian Vision

I AM THE VINE AND YOU
ARE THE BRANCHES. IF
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I WITH YOU, THEN YOU
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LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I
HAVE LOVED YOU.
(JOHN 15).

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