

**Weekly Newsletter**  
**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**St Mary's Catholic Primary School**

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**WEEK BEGINNING 18<sup>th</sup> May**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May**

Class 6N Visit Bank of England Museum

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

Class 6M Visit Bank of England Museum

Crowning of Our Lady (9.05am)

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

Chamber Choir in Singing Spectacular in Blackheath Halls. 6.30pm

Coffee Morning. Autism Outreach on Site to talk about **Girls and Autism**. 9am.

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

Faith Friends lead Rosary in gym hall. 8.30am. Families welcome.

### MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

A huge well done to all of our Year 6 children for finishing their SATs this week. We are all really proud of the effort, resilience and determination they have shown.

The children came in each day with a calm attitude, worked hard and tried their best — and that is all we could ask for. They also loved coming into school early for breakfast each morning, which helped them settle in and get into the right mindset for their exams.

Now it's time to celebrate all of their hard work and look forward to the exciting things still to come in Year 6.

Thank you as well to the Year 6 staff team for all of their support and hard work in helping the children prepare so well.

On Wednesday, we will come together as a school family to celebrate the Crowning of Mary and honour Our Lady.

This is always a lovely and special celebration in school, where we reflect on Mary's love, kindness and faith. As we crown Mary's statue, we are reminded of the importance of showing kindness, humility and care for others in our own lives too.

Weather permitting, we look forward to seeing many families celebrate with us.

Have a nice weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs J Hansen  
Head of School

### FAITH FRIENDS

Many thanks to our Faith Friends for leading Rosary in the gym hall this morning for our families and the Infant children at lunchtime.



**SCHOOL VALUES: FAITH, MERCY, TRUTH, RESPECT, RESILIENCE, LOVE**

## MAY IS A SPECIAL MONTH!

Our Faith Friends would like to invite parents, with their children, to join them saying the Rosary every Friday during May, at 8.30am in the gym hall. The next Rosary will take place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

The **Crowning of Our Lady** will take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May at St Mary's, so please save the date. The Y4 children lead this ceremony and weather permitting, families will be able to attend.

Traditionally, we collect flowers as a symbol of our love and honour for Our Lady. This year, we kindly ask that children from Nursery to Y5 donate flowers, while children in Y6 donate a small potted plant. These plants will be planted within the school grounds to create a special Garden of Memories for our Y6 leavers.

Please do not feel that you need to spend a great deal of money; a small plant will be greatly appreciated and together with other small plants a beautiful floral area can be created. Likewise, flowers do not need to be large bouquets — a single flower is also a beautiful offering.

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Congratulations to all the children who will receive their First Holy Communion on Sunday, in Christchurch and all the other churches.

This is a very special and memorable time for the children and their families. We hope you have a wonderful day of celebration and that the weather is kind to you!

## PRAYER AND LITURGY

Children in 2F focused on the story of Noah's Ark in prayer and liturgy. Jesse, Fox, Thomas and Noah did a marvellous job retelling the story to their class. They decorated the prayer table with blue cloth and made their very own ark to display.



## CHAMBER CHOIR

We would all like to wish the Chamber Choir good luck in their next event - *Singing Spectacular 2026* on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May in Blackheath Halls.

The concert will begin at 6.30pm. Children will need to arrive at the venue by 6pm. If you are not attending the concert, please note that you can drop the children at 6pm and the estimated finish time is 8.15pm for collection.

There is a rehearsal scheduled during the school day on that Thursday. Mrs McGarry, with some parent volunteers, will accompany the children to Blackheath by train from Eltham and return back before the end of the school day. Children will require a packed lunch on this day.

Please ensure the children continue to practise their songs as we want to make sure we give a top-class performance!

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

Recently, the School Council suggested the idea of introducing a school mascot. Mrs Hansen was delighted to agree, and together we began designing a special teddy to represent our school community.

The School Council got to work creating ideas and designs, and we were very fortunate to work closely with one of our parents, Maryna Mozharovska, who runs the Crochet Club to help bring the mascot to life.

We are very excited to introduce our new school mascot! Here is a photograph of the mascot with our Head Boy and Head Girl.



## COFFEE MORNING

Please put Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May (9am) in your diary for a coffee morning run by Autism Outreach. Parents will receive information about the symptoms of autism in girls and how it can present differently to autism in boys. Please come along if you can. Tea and coffee will be served.

If you have any specific questions for the Outreach team please email them to the main office and we will endeavour to answer them at the meeting.

## Y4 RIVER TRIP

As part of their Geography topic on rivers and their Science topic on habitats, the Y4 children enjoyed an exciting visit to Lullingstone Country Park. They had an interesting time exploring the area, including going knee-deep into the River Darent to investigate river life and study the surrounding habitats.

It was a fantastic hands-on learning experience that brought their classroom studies to life.



## THE CHILDREN'S BOOKER PRIZE

Please read the details below about a very exciting competition for children!

*This is a prize, to be awarded annually from 2027 and supported by AKO Foundation, which will celebrate the best contemporary fiction for children aged eight to twelve years old. Uniquely, the Children's Booker Prize will be judged by a mixed panel of adult and child judges. Frank Cottrell-Boyce, Lolly Adefope and Sanchita Basu De Sarkar will select a shortlist of eight books. Then three child judges – who must be aged between eight and twelve years old and living in the UK – will then join the adult judges in choosing the winning book. The process will give children a direct voice in the outcome, ensuring the winning book is a recommendation from young readers to their peers.*

*The competition is looking for imaginative and curious children who love to read; who are passionate about stories; confident to talk about what they have read; consider other people's points of views; and work together in a group.*

*The successful child entrants will each get: the eight shortlisted books to read and keep; a judges' medal; a trip to London for a fun day choosing the winner with the adult judges; a bespoke portrait by Beano illustrator Nigel Parkinson; a Beano comic strip capturing their judging experience; and another trip to London for the ceremony at Young V&A, which will feature a red carpet with VIP guests, entertainment stations, and the chance to present the winner/s their trophy on stage.*

**Entries close on 2nd June 2026:**  
<https://thebookerprizes.com/the-childrens-booker-prize>.

## Y5 LEGO LEARNING

Children in Y5 have been using the new Lego sets to follow instructions, work together, code the figures, and create a game! The children had so much fun with this task.

