

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 17th October 2025

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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WEEK BEGINNING 20th OCTOBER

Monday 20th – Thursday 23rd
Book Week at St Mary's

Monday 20th
Pre loved Uniform Sale. 2.30pm

Wednesday 22nd
Y4 Mass in the Convent

Thursday 23rd
Book Week Costume Parade

End of this half term. Children will finish school at 3.15pm. After school clubs take place as normal.

Friday 24th
Inset Day. Children should not attend school on this day

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

It has been a busy week!

It was lovely to see so many parents attend Parents' Evening. Thank you for taking the time to come in, meet with teachers, and support your child's learning. Should you have any questions following on from your meeting, please do not hesitate to contact the main office.

I hope you enjoy reading about the brilliant sporting news featured in this newsletter! It makes me so proud to see the children participating with such enthusiasm and energy.

Everyone here at school is really looking forward to celebrating Book Week next week! It is always a highlight of the school year!

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs J Hansen
Head of School

Y2 GREAT FIRE OF LONDON WORKSHOP

Children from Y2 travelled back in time with the Freshwater Theatre Company for a fantastic Great Fire of London workshop. Through drama and movement, the children brought the sights, sounds and events of 1666 to life - and had a wonderful time learning along the way!



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

OCTOBER – THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY

Many thanks to Helena McGinnes, 4I, for sending a picture of the altar she has created in honour of the Black Madonna of Częstochowa. This revered icon of the Virgin Mary and the Child Jesus, housed at the Jasna Góra Monastery in Częstochowa, Poland, is one of the most important and beloved religious images in Polish Catholicism and Eastern Christianity, often associated with miracles, national identity, and spiritual protection. Helena has decorated the picture with a crown of Autumn leaves.

Thank you Helena for sharing this with us.



Many thanks to everyone for supporting the Faith Friends as they prayed the Rosary every Friday throughout the month. We hope that all who attended felt a sense of peace and mindfulness during these special times of prayer throughout the month of October.



BOOK WEEK

Monday 20th – Thursday 23rd October

The details of our upcoming book week are attached once again. Please read them so you know what is happening next week. We are all looking forward to celebrating this special week with the children.

The Travelling Book Fair will be open all week (gym hall). Children will be able to look at the books at lunch times and parents will be able to come to the hall after school to take a look at the books. Children will be able to purchase the books; the more books that are sold, the more money we will be able to spend on books for the school. All the children will benefit from this.

On **Monday**:

- **Christian Foley**, poet, rapper and freestyle artist will be on site to inspire the children with his incredible talent with words.

On **Tuesday**:

- **Jonathan Sellars** (author) will share his story with the children. His workshops are designed to encourage the children to be adventurous in the writing.

On **Wednesday**:

- **Clare Luther** (author) will join us on Wednesday. Clare writes books for younger children that help them understand their feelings and emotions.

On **Thursday 23rd October**, the children can come to school dressed up as a character from their favourite book. Please do not go to great expense; see what you can make at home.

Weather permitting, parents will be able to see the children parade around the Infant playground in their costumes (9.05 am). The parade will last approx. 30 minutes.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Sofia and Jessica Demmon-Calvo, Y3, performed a dance show at The Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks with The Harlequin Theatre School. This annual show was called "All You Need is Love". The girls and their families loved the performance.



Charlotte Ross Harding, 3G, is a member of the Eltham Junior Parkrun. She recently achieved a personal best, running the course in just over 10 minutes, coming 23rd out of 87 runners! That is amazing Charlotte....keep up the good work.



Y1 GEOGRAPY TRIP

As part of their geography topic, children from Y1 enjoyed a trip around Eltham. They looked at the names of the different roads and talked about which roads were quiet and which were busy. They pointed out the different buildings that they recognised in Eltham such as Christchurch and the fire station.



BOOKSHOP

St Mary's Book Shop will reopen for Infant children after half term. The *Book Shop* has a lovely variety of books for sale.

Children can bring a small amount of money each week (amounts such as 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1 etc.) and save up to purchase a book they would love to read at home. The books are varied in price but are discounted from the cover price and often no more than £3. Children do not have to bring money but will still get the opportunity to browse and read the books.

Book Shop will run every Wednesday during the school day. Reception children will receive a *Book Shop Savings Card*. Children in Y1 and Y2 are encouraged to continue with their *book shop card* from last academic year. If your child needs a replacement, please speak to their class teacher.

SIGNING PRIMARY/SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATION FORMS

Fr John in Christchurch is signing supplementary forms for both primary and secondary applications on the following dates:

Date	Time
17 October	3pm – 5pm
24 October	3pm – 5pm
25 October	3pm – 5pm

Applications for secondary schools must be submitted by **Friday 31st October**.

If you, or if you know someone who is applying to St Mary's for a place in Reception or Nursery 2026, please refer to the website for application details. Parents are required to complete a Certificate of Catholic Practice (which can be collected from the main office) and an information form, and return them to the main office with your child's baptism cert and a proof of your address by Thursday 15th January 2026. You must also apply to your local authority.

<https://www.stmaryrc.org.uk/Admissions-04122019150956/>

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

This October, we are celebrating Black History Month! It is a special time to learn about amazing Black people from history and today — people who have made a difference in art, science, sports, and so much more.

On Wednesday, the children enjoyed a delicious menu inspired by Africa and the Caribbean — a fun way to explore new flavours while learning about different cultures.

Please look out for details of an exciting project that children can work on over the half term break.

MESSAGE FROM THE PA

We would like to inform parents and carers that we are holding the Annual General Meeting of the Parents' Association on Monday 3rd November at 6pm. The members of the committee must step down and a new committee elected. This year, the entire committee is stepping down from their roles. We are, therefore, looking to fill these positions. Being a registered charity, we must fill the roles. The current committee will ensure a smooth handover.

Chairperson – the Chairperson's role focuses on community-building and communication. The person/people chair all PA meetings, plan and co-ordinate the events, liaise with the school and ensure decisions are made fairly.

Secretary - this can be a role shared by 2 individuals. The secretary is in charge of daily communication between the PA and school/parents, as well as various administrative duties such as taking notes during PA meetings, renewing licences and keeping volunteer lists for various events.

Co-Treasurer - this role will be shared by 2 individuals. Treasurers are jointly responsible for control and management of PA funds and bank accounts, completing end of year reports, ordering cash floats for events and paying suppliers.

If you would like more information or to put yourself forward for any of these roles, please let us know at stmaryspaeltham@gmail.com and come along to the meeting when the date is confirmed.

St Mary's Catholic School Parents Association (PA) contributes significantly to the school. We organise various events at our school with the aim of building a community and raising funds for the children - all proceeds of our events go directly to the school so that the students benefit from new items and maintenance of safe play and sporting areas.

SPORTS NEWS

It's been a fantastic week of sporting achievement here at St Mary's! Many thanks to the Blackheath rugby coaches, Mr McGrath our PE co-ordinator, volunteers on the day, teachers and families for their support.

A total of 80 pupils proudly represented the school at the Tag Rugby Festival held at Blackheath Rugby Club. Our teams showed great teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship throughout the day — with Years 3, 4, and 6 crowned champions in their respective categories!



In the Greenwich Cross Country event, 24 pupils from Years 5 and 6 took part, displaying incredible effort and determination. Anna (Year 5) impressed everyone by winning the individual girls' race, while Daniel (Year 5) ran brilliantly to finish second overall.

Their performances contributed to an outstanding team result — Year 5 Boys and Year 5 Girls were both named Greenwich Cross Country Team Champions.

A huge congratulations to all our young athletes for their hard work, dedication, and the wonderful way they represented St Mary's.

