



Glenure Road, Eltham. SE9 1UF

020 8850 7835

[jsims@stmary-rc.greenwich.sch.uk](mailto:jsims@stmary-rc.greenwich.sch.uk)

[governors@stmarys-catholic-primary.org](mailto:governors@stmarys-catholic-primary.org)

[office@stmary-rc.greenwich.sch.uk](mailto:office@stmary-rc.greenwich.sch.uk)

Twitter: @stmaryseltham

Visit us online at [www.stmaryrc.org.uk](http://www.stmaryrc.org.uk)

#### HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

The Feast of Saint Joseph is observed tomorrow, March 19<sup>th</sup>. St. Joseph was the legal guardian of Jesus Christ and the patron saint of workers.

Sunday is the third Sunday of Lent. A representative from the Catholic Children's Society came on site to talk to the children about their work and how they help disadvantaged children. Children have received Lenten boxes to fill with any spare pocket money during Lent, which will be collected when the children return to school after Easter. One box per family is sufficient.

I will be attending a special Mass, with some of St Mary's children, in St George's Cathedral on March 24<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the Feast of Oscar Romero. St Mary's has achieved Participator Level Award for the Oscar Romero Award, which recognises the school's commitment to Catholic Social Teaching. Oscar Romero was an Archbishop of San Salvador who spoke out against social injustice and political turmoil through his popular radio sermons. He was tragically killed while celebrating Mass in 1980.

Our thoughts and prayers must continue to be with the people of Ukraine.

The weather this weekend is promised sunny and dry. Ensure you spend some time outside with your family, enjoying quality time.

Have a nice weekend.

Kind regards  
Mr J Sims  
Headteacher

#### WEEK BEGINNING 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

Feast of St Joseph

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

Y2 visit Christchurch for Stations of the Cross

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

The Walking Bus

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March**

Y3 visit Christchurch for Stations of the Cross

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March**

PA Event – Mother's Day Gift Sale

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

Mother's Day

#### IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FOR THIS TERM

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March/Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

Easter Services at school

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

Last day of the term  
Easter egg hunt at school

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April**

Palm Sunday

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April**

Maundy Thursday

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April**

Good Friday

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April**

Easter Sunday

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

Ruby, Poppy and Hope Salter (4I) took part in the Bromley Festival of Drama and Speech on Saturday 12 March. All three girls received honours and Ruby was awarded 3rd place bronze medal in her group.

Very well done to the girls!



## PARENT'S EVENING

Thank you to all the parents who arrived promptly for parents' evening. I realise some had to leave work early and travel from various work locations, but I trust the sessions with the teachers were informative.

If parents feel they need further clarification about any point raised, always follow it up with a short meeting. The office staff can arrange these for you. It is always better to follow things up straight away, especially if you have concerns.

Miss Brophy will inform parents of their rescheduled meetings when she returns to school.

Parents of SEND children will be contacted by Mrs Lopez so please look out for information.

Many thanks for your understanding.

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

All after school clubs, except art, will finish next week – week beginning Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March.

The final art club will finish on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March.

Y6 booster classes will continue until the end of term.

Please look out for information about the clubs restarting after Easter. Mrs Jeffrey from the main office will be sending enrolment letters to parents over the next two weeks. Some of the clubs are very popular so if you wish to enrol your child please be quick!

If your child is in receipt of pupil premium, please speak to the main office for information about clubs.

## CHAMBER CHOIR

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March, Mrs McGarry and the Chamber Choir performed at an event in Woolwich Town Hall. Councillor Linda Bird, the previous Mayor of Greenwich, ran the event, to launch a book commemorating the pandemic.

***Together in Spirit*** is a book of poetry written about the pandemic and features poems written by some children at St Mary's.

The Chamber Choir sang two songs beautifully and received high praise from Councillor Bird as well as many other people in the audience. We were very proud to part of the evening and look forward to similar evenings in the future.

Councillor Bird is coming to St Mary's next week; to talk to the children and to give some signed copies of the book to the children whose poetry was featured.

Many thanks to Mrs McGarry for arranging the event and for accompanying the children.



## NATIONAL DAY OF REFLECTION WEDNESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH

Please spare a thought, on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, for all the families who lost a loved one during the pandemic. This National Day of Reflection is a day to remember, to reflect and take some quiet time to say a prayer for all the families who have been affected.

<https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/get-involved/day-of-reflection>

## E-SAFETY

Parental controls are designed to help protect children from inappropriate content online. These controls can be used in a number of ways, e.g. to help ensure that your children access only age-appropriate content, to set usage times and to monitor activity.

There are four main places you can find parental controls, and it can help to set up a combination of these:

**Internet provider:** You can set up filters to help block access to inappropriate content on any device that connects to your home WiFi.

**Mobile operator:** Filters are often automatically set up on mobile contracts, especially if the user is under the age of 18, but you can double-check with your provider.

**Devices:** Many devices have parental control settings, for example, to help restrict spending in apps, reduce screentime, or disable location functions.

**Online Services:** Sites like BBC iPlayer and YouTube have parental control settings to help restrict access to inappropriate content.

For more information please click the link below:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

## WALK TO SCHOOL WITH THE WALKING BUS

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, parents and children are invited to leave the car at home and join the walking bus to come to school. We are encouraging families to take part and to enjoy some exercise, company and fresh air on their way to school. It is very important for children to know the positive impact walking to school has, both for themselves and for the environment.

Many thanks to Mrs Turpin for organising.

## PA NEWS

The PA are really looking forward to the St Patrick's Day event this evening, let's hope it is a resounding success. Have a good time if you are attending.

Please note that no-one will be allowed in without a ticket as there is a limit to the number of people who can be in the dining hall. Ensure that you bring your proof of ticket purchase with you.

For last minute tickets: [please follow the link below \(adults £5, child £2.50\)](#).

<https://buytickets.at/stmaryspa/652041>

### Dates for the diary.....

***Mother's Day gift sale on Friday 25th March.*** The PA will be selling small gifts that the children can purchase for Mother's Day. Children can bring their money to school (50p - £3), in a purse/envelope with their name on and choose a gift of their choice. The sale takes place during the school day.

### ***Easter Egg Hunt for the children on Friday 1st April.***

All children will take part in the Easter Egg Hunt on the last day of term. The children love hunting for the eggs and, of course, eating them afterwards! All children will require an egg basket/container to collect the eggs so please send it to school with your child on that day.

The annual school magazine requires a new editor. Ideally, this is someone with graphic design experience so if anyone in the St Mary's community can help with this please contact the PA. It is approximately 1-2 days' work in total. Failing this, the PA will have to outsource the work to a professional graphic designer and pay full price for the service. Ultimately, this will affect the cost of the magazine and the price that parents pay.

A volunteer is also required to collect the advertising for the magazine. There are some well-established contacts from over the years, so this task involves the relatively simple job of sending emails and collating the ads in a folder.

The same parents have done both of these roles for many years but as their children are leaving St Mary's this year they would like to hand over to new volunteers.

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