Weekly Newsletter
Friday 19th June 2026

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

It has been a fantastic week at St Mary's, with so much to celebrate. I am incredibly proud of our Year 1 children, whose phonics screening results place them within the top 3% nationally - an outstanding achievement. This reflects not only their hard work and enthusiasm, but also the dedication of our staff and the strong support from families in helping children to read with confidence and fluency.

Our commitment to broadening horizons has also been evident this week. Twelve Year 6 pupils visited King's College as part of an outreach programme, an inspiring opportunity that helps raise aspirations and connects learning to future possibilities through links with higher education. We are also delighted that four pupils will be travelling to Cambridge University with Mrs Flynn to take part in the Primary Bee French competition - an exciting chance to showcase their language skills.

Finally, we extend our sincere thanks to Gary Farrelly, our Vice-Chair of Governors, whose twenty years of dedicated service have come to an end. Gary has served as Chair, represented the school at local authority panels, and been a source of personal support to me. We are delighted that he was recognised this week, receiving his medal from Archbishop John Wilson at St George's Cathedral. He leaves with our deep gratitude and best wishes.

Enjoy your weekend.

Best Wishes

Mr Sims
Executive Headteacher

WEEK BEGINNING 22nd June

Monday **22nd June**
French Primary Bee Competition in Cambridge. Mrs Flynn and Mr Sims to accompany.

Wednesday 24th June
Nursery Bug Walk in Eltham Park South

Thursday 25th June
Non-Uniform Day. Bring a Bottle for the Bottle Stall at Summer Fayre

Y5 Bike workshop

Friday 26th June
Y1 Educational Visit to Horniman Museum

Y3 Educational Visit to British Museum

Y2 Workshop on Fossils and Dinosaurs

Saturday 27th June
PA Event. Summer Fayre

CHANGES TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS FOR 2026/2027

There are important changes taking place to Free School Meals eligibility from September 2026. Please refer to the email which has been sent separately to ensure you are aware and up to date with the new application system.

Royal Borough of Greenwich have asked that we send some information to parents and carers. Please read the letter which is attached to this newsletter.

Please read more guidance from the Department of Education here.

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

PRAYER AND LITURGY

Dusty and Arthur, Reception class A prepared a wonderful Prayer and Liturgy this week on the Prodigal Son. Dusty prepared a song and made a piece of artwork and Arthur made a 3D model with a piece of artwork. It was so lovely and the class loved it.

Y6 PRODUCTION

The Y6 children are busy practicing for their performance, ***Oliver Twist***, which will take place on Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th July. Please encourage your child to practice all their songs and lines.

Y5 classes provide the backing music for all performances.

Performances will take place at 1.30pm and 6pm on both days. Details of the ticket process will be emailed to parents and carers on Monday 22nd June so please look out for this information.

MUSIC SUCCESS

Connie York, 6M, passed her Grade 2 Clarinet exam this week and was awarded a Merit. The practicing has all paid off connie! Keep up the good work!

HERITAGE CELEBRATION DAY THUSRDAY 2nd JULY

We are looking forward to celebrating the different cultures at St Mary's on Thursday 2nd July. Children are invited to come to school dressed in the colours of the flags that represent their family heritage, OR, if available, a traditional outfit or costume that represents their culture.

After school on this day, we will hold our annual Food and Fellowship event. This is a very special event where we invite families from our school community to bring in dishes from their country of heritage. Families can come to the gym hall from 3.15pm to taste and savour the delicious food on offer.

So that we can plan, please ensure you complete the form to give us an idea of numbers and the country that your food will represent.

Please refer to the email sent this week for more information and for completing the form.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Thomas Smith, 2E, has really enjoyed his first season training and competing with his cycling club. He has participated in several races over the past year, improving and growing in confidence with each event.
His last race is taking place this weekend at Herne Hill velodrome.

Good luck Thomas! Maybe a future Olympian!

Evelyn Kovacs, 4I, rode in her first dressage show last weekend achieving 3rd place. Very well done Evelyn! You must be so proud!

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Y6 SCIENCE VISIT

This week, Mrs Woodhouse, our Science lead, took twelve Y6 children to King's College London for a science outreach programme. This was a very exciting opportunity for the children, who thoroughly enjoyed the experience and was kindly facilitated by one of our parents.

The staff were very impressed with the children who, they said, were polite, bright and eager to learn. Mrs Woodhouse's curiosity and enthusiasm rubbed off the children!

Many thanks to Mrs Blackburn and to all the staff at King's College for welcoming St Mary's and for making the day so special and to Mrs Hilliard for helping out on the day.

ETHNICITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

WINDRUSH DAY

National Windrush Day is an annual UK celebration observed on June 22 to honor the Windrush Generation and their descendants. It commemorates the arrival of the HMT Empire Windrush at Tilbury Docks in 1948, marking the beginning of post-war Caribbean migration to Britain.

The National Maritime Museum in Greenwich is celebrating Windrush Day on Saturday 20th June. Please click on the link below to find out what interesting events will be taking place during the day.

https://www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/national-maritime-museum/windrush-day

CAREER'S DAY

As part of our annual Careers Day, St. Mary's is looking for parents, family members, and friends of the school who would be willing to speak to our Year 6 pupils about their career.

We would love to hear from people working in any profession, trade, business, or industry. By sharing your career journey and what your role involves, you can help to inspire our pupils and broaden their understanding of the opportunities available to them in the future.

The event will take place from 1pm on 10th July.

If you would be interested in taking part, please contact the school office at office@stmaryseltham.org

Thank you for supporting our school community and helping to make Careers Day a memorable experience for our pupils.

PA EVENTS

Summer Fayre:

The Summer Fayre takes place on Saturday 27th June from 12 - 4pm - only 1 week away! Let's pray that the weather holds out so that a great day can be enjoyed by everyone.

We need further volunteers and cake donations!* 🎟

If you are planning to attend the fayre, can you consider volunteering for 1 hour either welcoming people, helping set up or clear up or, taking kitchen food orders, or at any of the stalls:

📕 books and uniform
🧸 teddy tombola
🍾 bottle tombola
🪀 pocket money toys
🍰 cakes, tea and coffee
🎳 carnival games
🥤 the bar

Please visit this link volunteersignup.org/EE4DL to sign up for a slot (or more than one if you have time, please!) And remember to share with any friends or family who might be able to lend a hand on the day. There are more stalls than year groups, so if your year groups are full or you have extra time to spare, please look out for the 'general' slots too!

Calling all star bakers!
We need sweet treats for the cake stall which is always very popular. Donations can be dropped at the main office on the Friday or on the Saturday morning of the fayre. It is important to provide a list of ingredients.
Please email stmaryspaeltham@gmail.com if you can make a cake donation.

We cannot run the fayre without dedicated volunteers as it takes many hands to make this a great day out for St Mary's families.We really value help from many families on the day.

NON UNIFORM DAY

On Thursday 25th June the children are invited to come to school wearing their own clothes and bring a bottle for the bottle stall at the Summer Fayre on Saturday. This bottle can hold any liquid, from washing up liquid to wine! Please ensure it has been unopened and it is in date.

Many thanks for your support.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

All after school clubs will finish for the term on week beginning Monday 6th July. Clubs will resume in the new academic year. Wraparound care will be available until the last day of term.

The children attending the gymnastics club will take part in a display for their parents on Tuesday 7th July at 4pm (Gym Hall).

The children attending Creative Stars will perform for their parents on Friday 10th July in the gym hall at 4pm.

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