

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 1st May 2026

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

Today, 1st May, we celebrate the Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker. This special day reminds us of the dignity of work and the importance of perseverance, humility and care in all that we do. St Joseph is a wonderful role model for everyone, showing how faith can be lived out through everyday actions.

As we move into the month of May, a time traditionally dedicated to Mary, you will notice our focal points in school changing to blue. This helps us to reflect and celebrate this important time in the Church's year together as a school community.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful kitchen staff for introducing sandwiches as a lunchtime option. The children are really enjoying having this choice. Our kitchen team work incredibly hard every day, and in the spirit of Saint Joseph the Worker, we value and appreciate this.

With the Bank Holiday weekend ahead, I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable time with your families.

Best wishes

Mrs J Hansen
Head of School

WEEK BEGINNING 4th May

Monday 4th May

May Bank Holiday. School closed.

Tuesday 5th May

Y5 trip to London Docklands Museum

Wednesday 6th – Friday 8th May

Class 5K Cycle Training

Wednesday 6th May

Peddle My Bikes Bike Market

Friday 8th May

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

Vision Screening Reception Children

Y4 River Trip to Lullingstone Country Park.

FAITH FRIENDS

Our Faith Friends led Rosary this morning for families and again at lunchtime for the Infant children. They showed the Infant children how to hold their Rosary beads and say Hail Mary.



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

MAY IS A SPECIAL MONTH!

During May, many families take part in Marian devotions such as:

May Crownings: placing a crown of flowers on statues of Mary, symbolising her as Queen of Heaven.

Praying the Rosary more frequently.

Creating home altars with flowers and candles.

This connection between Mary and May links to themes of new life, purity and beauty—just like we see in Spring.

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 8th May. To pray as a community, led by wonderful children, at the start of the day, is a special thing.

Maybe make a May altar at home with your children. A few flowers around a picture or statue of Mary would be a lovely way to honour Our Lady. Take pictures of your home altar and email them to us and we will upload them to the school Twitter account and share them with our families.

The Crowning of Our Lady will take place on Wednesday 20th May at St Mary's, so please save the date. Weather permitting, families will be able to attend this lovely ceremony.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

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

This special sacrament is part of their spiritual growing up, receiving the Body and Blood of Christ.

I hope the weather stays dry for everyone.

PRAYER AND LITURGY

Aoife and Eliza, 5K, led Prayer and Liturgy in their class this morning.

They spoke about the road to Emmaus and how the disciples didn't recognise Jesus until they shared a meal together and he broke the bread.

The girls asked the class to write their own Grace (a short prayer or thankful phrase said before or after eating) which the whole class then shared before lunch.



Prayer and Liturgy this week in class RA was led by Anaya and Adam. They chose the story of Jesus Ascending Back to Heaven.

Anaya read a beautiful prayer and Adam made a wonderful piece of moving art work.



LONDON MINI MARATHON

Many congratulations to our pupils who proudly represented St Mary's in the London Mini Marathon last Saturday. It was our very first-time taking part!

Thank you to the parents who supported and prepared the children every step of the way.



PRE LOVED BICYCLES

Please see below details of a preloved bicycle sale that will take at St Mary's on **Wednesday 6th May**. This is a brilliant initiative that was very successful last year so we are excited to do it again this year

Please bring your old bikes to school on that morning, where they will be collected and serviced by Peddle My Wheels.

There will be a collection of preloved bikes for sale on the afternoon of Wednesday 6th so if you are interested, please take a look.



SECOND-HAND BIKE MARKET

ST MARY'S PRIMARY WEDNESDAY 6TH MAY



Our second hand bike markets are an excellent way to create affordable bike stock for your community and to help everyone to experience the joys of cycling.

Donate your outgrown, unwanted bikes in the morning - Peddle My Wheels will spend the day getting them ready. Proceeds from the sale of donated bikes will go back to your school.

After school you can buy a serviced, affordable, used bike (you can pay by cash or card).

The bike markets are run by Peddle My Wheels
For more information visit peddlemywheels.com
@peddlemywheels

Partnering with
ROYAL Greenwich

CLASS K CYCLING PROFICIENCY

Next week, Cycle Confident will be on site to help the children in 5K achieve Levels 1 & 2 Cycle Training.

If your child owns a bike and helmet, please bring them to school on Wednesday morning for your child to use during the week. There will be some spare bikes but not enough for every child.

Parents and carers are required to consent so click on the link below to provide your authorisation.

[Course Details & Booking](#)

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>.*

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Samuel (1D) and William (Nursery) De Thibault De Boesinghe were delighted to meet the Mayor of Greenwich this week as their dad received his British Citizenship!

What a lovely special occasion for the family.



COFFEE MORNING

Please put Thursday 21st May (9am) in your diary for a coffee morning run by our Autism Outreach. Parents will receive information and talk about the symptoms of autism in girls and how it can present differently to autism in boys.

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.

WEATHER WARMING UP

With warmer weather here, please ensure your child arrives at school wearing sunscreen and a sun hat. We appreciate your support!

Y5 DAY TRIP TO FRANCE

Year 5 went on a fantastic day trip to France last Friday. We were lucky to have wonderful weather to enjoy our excursions to the aquarium, a chocolate factory and a hypermarket to do some shopping before returning home. We had opportunities to learn some French and to experience some French culture. The children were all excellent representatives of our school and their families. We even had compliments from some of the passport control staff about our lovely children! We very much enjoyed our adventure.

This is what some children had to say:

"It has transformed my feelings about learning French: I'm much more enthusiastic about learning it now!" (Matthew 5L)

"The France trip helps prepare you for secondary school, as normally at secondary school you might go to a different country for a week without your parents." (Jessica, 5L)

"The landscape around us in France was completely different from here and we could see fields of daffodils and daisies." (Eliza, 5L)

"It was great bonding time with our friends." (Florence, 5L)

Last Friday Y5 went to France. This was an unforgettable experience for all the students and the teachers. First we drove to the Eurotunnel which took us thirty minutes to go under the English Channel. After that was a twenty minute drive on the coach to the aquarium. There we saw manta rays, sea lions and even sharks. Next we came to the chocolate factory where we learned how chocolate was made. Lastly after a long day it was time to go to what the French call a "hypermarket", which is basically a massive supermarket. This was a great place to visit, then we took off, home to England! (Dristan 5K)

My favourite part was the aquarium because there were so many cool fish! We were so lucky when we saw the sea lions being fed! It was extraordinary because none of us had ever seen that before!

I learnt lots of French, for example at the chocolate factory, they taught us all of the ingredients of chocolate in French! They also taught us a song about chocolate in French! When we went to the supermarket, we saw labels of lots of everyday items in French and we practised using our euro currency when we paid. I would definitely recommend this trip to others as it was extremely fun AND educational! It was the best, most fun trip ever! (Winnie 5L).



PA UPDATE

The PA are planning the next event - the Summer Fair, which will take place on **Saturday 27th June**.

Robinson-Jackson Estate Agents have agreed to sponsor our fair this year. We are looking for families willing to display **Robinson-Jackson advertising boards** outside their homes for a period of 4 weeks leading up to the Summer Fair.

Robinson Jackson will donate £15 per board to our school.

Please spread the word to any family members who may be willing to display a board too.

Ideally, we are looking to have two boards up per class to try and raise enough money for the fair.

Your support will greatly help our fundraising efforts for the Summer Fair which is the biggest event for the school community.

If you would be willing to have a board, put up outside your home, please email your name and home address to stmaryspaeltham@gmail.com by Friday 15th May

Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

SUNSHINE OF THE MONTH

Janelle Obawe, 4I, was awarded the April Sunshine of the Month award in Wraparound for helping and encouraging the younger children and for leading by example. Well done Janelle!

