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HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

It was lovely to welcome back our children this week, after the Easter break. I hope you all enjoyed a well-earned rest and some special family time together.

Today is Stephen Lawrence Day. This day marks the young life that was taken away in a racist attack in Eltham 29 years ago.

Students in KS1 were informed about the day, in an age appropriate way, earlier this week. In the Junior assembly today, I spoke to KS2 students about the attack that happened in our community and the subsequent institutionalised racism that occurred afterwards. After the assembly, I stayed to answer additional questions or address any concerns the children had. The students impressed me with their maturity and commitment to anti-racism.

As a school community, it is important that we remember this tragic event but also use Stephen's legacy to educate our students so they remain committed to ensuring our society is as inclusive as possible.

Please find a link below to the website that has additional resources should you wish to discuss this further with your children. Thank you for your continued support to ensure that our children are well prepared for life as citizens of South East London.

<https://stephenlawrenceday.org/>

I would like to welcome Mrs Rose Pampling as our new Business Manager. She started with us this week and we wish her the best of luck in her new role.

Kind regards
Mr J Sims
Headteacher

WEEK BEGINNING 25th APRIL

Thursday 28th April

Chamber Choir performing at The Oval for Challenge Partners

Samba concert for parents and family members of Y5 children. This will take place at 3.15pm in the Gym Hall.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 2nd May

May Day Bank Holiday

Monday 9th May

SATs week begins

Friday 13th May

Pyjamarama Day

Saturday 21st May

PA Event – Dad's football match in Eltham Park South

Tuesday 17th May

Y5 Educational Trip – Greenwich Planetarium

Tuesday 24th May

Crowning of Our Lady

Wednesday 25th May

Reception children will visit Christchurch

Friday 27th May

Jubilee Day

Last day of the half term

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We got a little taste of summer over the Easter holiday and although the weather may still be a bit changeable please encourage your child to wear their summer uniform.

Boys should wear short trousers and grey socks with their summer shirts. Girls should be wearing a striped blue dress and white socks. They should not be wearing tights with their summer dress. Jackets must be navy blue.

Please ensure you have labelled your child's uniform. Items go missing and unless they can be identified, it is impossible to find them. Check lost property as many items there are unclaimed.

Please note that hairstyles should be neat and tidy, not severe. Boys and girls with longer hair must wear their hair tied back, away from their faces. Hair gel should not be used.

The children must not wear earrings to school. If they come to school wearing earrings, parents will be notified and asked to come to school to remove them.

St George's Day Saturday 23rd April

Happy St George's Day to all families.

The anniversary of St George's death on April 23rd is seen as England's national day.

According to legend, he was a soldier in the Roman army who killed a dragon and saved a princess.

Children who belong to any of the following organisations (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides) will be celebrating with different events.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

All after school clubs will resume next week, week beginning **Monday 25th April**.

Please ensure your child brings the correct kit to school with them for their activity. Parents and carers should be on time when they collect the children at the end of the day.

Y6 football will not be continuing in Eltham Park this term.

MUSIC NEWS

All music tutors will be on site next week (from Monday 25th April).

We welcome our new violin teacher, Venesa Narvilaite, who will start lessons next Friday.

The school orchestra started practicing on Wednesday. The first rehearsal went very well! Mrs McGarry and Mr Wilkes (flute teacher) are overseeing the group and any child that is currently playing an instrument, either at school and outside school, can join in. Children who are learning the piano cannot join in yet.

The musicians will meet every Wednesday in the Gym Hall, from 12.15pm – 12.45pm. Please make sure our child has their instrument with them for rehearsals.



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Leon Golebiewski, 5K, achieved his level 6 swimming certificate.

Well done to Leon!



EARTH DAY

Today, Friday 22nd April, is Earth Day. Our planet is an amazing place but it needs our help to thrive. Earth Day takes place each year on 22nd April to raise awareness of the damage that is affecting our earth. We can all do our bit to protect our world and make it a happier, healthier place to live.

Things we can do include:

- Plant a tree.
- Turn off the lights when not required
- Recycle
- Create a compost heap
- Be mindful of the amount of water you use
- Leave the car at home and walk/cycle
- Use bags for life all the time
- Shut your computer off when not in use
- Do not waste food

It is up to everyone to make changes and it is very important to get children involved.

LENTEN BOXES

The Catholic Children's Society Lenten boxes should now be returned to school. Please send them with your child.

The CCS is a very worthy organisation that helps families in need so please do your best to support.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Mrs White and the School Council is busy organising a special "board games" day for the children. At lunchtime on Friday 29th April, the children will be able to join in, playing a variety of board games in the Junior playground.

A fun activity to do at lunchtime!

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN MESSAGE FROM THE NSPCC

Parents of children in Y6 will currently be thinking of letting their child walk to and from school on their own, in preparation for secondary school.

The NSPCC have an informative guide to help parents make decisions about letting their child take this step towards independence. Please take a look at the guide and only make decisions that will work with your family.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/2614/home-or-out-alone-guide.pdf>

If your child is going to be walking to and from school on their own, please email the main office so we are aware.

PA NEWS

The PA are holding a meeting on **Wednesday 27th April** at 6pm in the Dining Hall. Please come along to hear about the work currently taking place and the events due to take place this year. Your opinion matters so come along and have your say.

Members of the PA are currently compiling articles for the annual magazine. They would like children to submit some poems, pictures, interesting photos, sporting or other talent achievements, a description of an interesting holiday or a piece of writing about something they are grateful for. This could be about a person, pet or thing that has helped them; somebody or something that your child is very thankful for.

All photos should be in JPEG format.

Entries should be sent to stmaryspaeltham@gmail.com by **Sunday 1st May**.

Details about ordering the Queen's Jubilee tea towel have been sent home with your child. The children created their vision of Queen Elizabeth, which parents can purchase online. The deadline for ordering is **Wednesday 4th May**.

Forthcoming dates:

Saturday 21st May – Dad's football match in Eltham Park South

Friday 17th June – Father's Day gift sale

Saturday 25th June – Annual Summer Fayre

SCHOOL DINNERS

The summer menu has been uploaded to the website. Please take a look.

https://www.stmaryrc.org.uk/docs/Menu_Summer_2022.pdf

The cost of school dinners for this half term is £72.52. Please make payment through Wisepay.

MOTHER AND TODDLER GROUP AT CHRISTCHURCH

The Mother and Toddler group at Christchurch is up and running, each Monday morning between 9.30am – 11am. If you have a younger child please go along to meet other parents and children. It restarts after the Easter break on Monday 25th April.

There is a small cost involved - £2 per family with an extra 50p for each additional adult.

The children can have a play with children their own age and enjoy craftwork, roll play, stories and singing.

Fruit, biscuits, tea, coffee, water and juice are all served.