

**Weekly Newsletter**  
**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026**

**St Mary's Catholic Primary School**

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WEEK BEGINNING 1<sup>st</sup> June

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June**

Children return to school after half term.

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

Open Morning for Prospective Parents.  
9.15am

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

Rail Safety Workshop. Y6

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

Y3/4 Charlton Football

**MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL**

As we begin to enjoy the warmer weather, please can I remind all families to ensure that children come to school, after half term, with sun cream already applied and bring a named sun hat with them each day. We want everyone to be able to enjoy playtimes safely and comfortably during the sunny days ahead.

We are also very pleased with the awnings that were installed last year, which are already proving incredibly beneficial in providing much-needed shade for the children during the hot spell. Many thanks once again to the PA for their continued support and generosity in helping to improve our school environment.

The next half term is set to be a very busy and exciting one, with many activities, visits and special events planned across the school. Please ensure you have all the key dates on your calendar. We are looking forward to seeing the children take part in all that is on offer.

This week, we were also delighted to hold our special Crowning of Our Lady celebration. It was a beautiful and reflective occasion.

Enjoy your half term break.

Best wishes

Mrs J Hansen  
Head of School

**FAITH FRIENDS**

The Faith Friends led Rosary for families this morning and the Infant children at lunchtime today. Many thanks to the children and to all the families that joined us for Rosary during May.



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

## CROWNING OF OUR LADY

On Wednesday, the whole school gathered to honour Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Y4 children led the celebration by saying readings from the Bible.

Everyone sang hymns, performed drama, and reflected on Mary as our heavenly mother alongside the love and care of our own mothers and families. The children crowned Mary with the flowers that families kindly donated. This year Y6 contributed seeds, bulbs and plants to create a Garden of Memories for our Y6 leavers.

The celebration ended by singing our school song, reminding us that we are united in faith and love.

Children from St Thomas More Comprehensive joined us for the ceremony.



## PRAYER AND LITURGY

Reception Class A had the most magical prayer and liturgy in class this week.

Gulina and Justin created a piece of artwork based on the story of The Wedding at Cana.



## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

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

This is a very special and memorable time for the children and their families. We hope you have a wonderful day of celebrations.

We will celebrate this sacrament on the Feast of St Peter and St Paul on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June when all the children who have recently received the sacrament will lead the Mass and wear their First Communion clothes. More details will follow nearer the time.

## MUSIC NEWS

### Blackheath Singing Spectacular

Well done to the Chamber Choir for such an uplifting, professional standout performance at Blackheath Halls yesterday evening, at the Singing Spectacular.

The children were just wonderful! It was a privilege to see and hear the breath of talent from all the choirs on the stage, such a wonderful event to be a part of.

Many thanks to Mrs McGarry for preparing the choir so thoroughly, to the children for working so hard, and to all the parents and grandparents for supporting the children at the event.



This week Howard from Front Row Music treated KS2 children to a fantastic assembly showcasing the guitar and ukulele. The children loved singing along while he played a range of songs.

We are pleased that Front Row Music will be working with us from September offering group guitar lessons to Y3-Y6 and group ukulele lessons to years Y1-Y2.

Stevie, our current guitar tutor, will continue to teach lessons as well. We are hoping this will enable us to accommodate lots more children by having an extra tutor.

We will send details of how to book ahead after half term.

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

**Amani Mbilinyi**, 6N, recently competed in the *Play Your Way to Wimbledon* competition and delivered a fantastic performance, winning all four of his matches and securing a place in the County finals. He just has a couple more matches to win to secure a place to play at Wimbledon! That is such an amazing achievement....well done Amani!

**Alexander Birtchnell-Winter**, 1D, played football with his team, Cray Wanders Lions, at Millwall Stadium. They won the U6 tournament without conceding a goal. A happy team!

Congratulations to **Adam Zielinski**, 5K and **Dexen Do**, 4I, for their recent performances at the International Shotokan Karate tournament. Their consistent practice and hard work over many months have paid off, with each boy earning two gold medals. In their respective belt categories, Dexen achieved 1st place in single Kata (forms), while Adam secured 1st place in single Kumite (sparring).

The two then joined forces in the team tournament, working well as a unit to win a gold medal in team Kumite.

Very well done to both Adam and Dexen!

**Cormac and Fionn Doyle** (1C and 4I) have been busy! Cormac completed stage 4 swimming and level 3 in gymnastics while Fionn received his green belt black tip in karate. Great achievements.



## Y3 TOPIC WORK

Y3 children stepped back in time today to explore the ancient art of papyrus making!

Using a homemade glue mixture of flour and water, the students carefully layered and glued strips of paper together before rolling them flat with rolling pins. We followed the original papyrus-making process as authentically as possible, just like the ancient Egyptians did thousands of years ago.

It was a fantastic hands-on history experience, and everyone had a blast creating their very own "papyrus" paper!



## PA EVENTS

### UPCOMING EVENTS – MESSAGE FROM THE PA

#### **Father's Day Sale:**

The PA is holding a Father's Day sale at school on Thursday 18th June. Lots of lovely gifts for Dads!

#### **Can you help on the day?**

We need about 25 volunteers to help at the sale. If you can spare some time we would really appreciate it, please sign up

[volunteersignup.org/Q3CEQ](https://volunteersignup.org/Q3CEQ)

The children will visit the sale during the day with their class. Teachers and PA volunteers will help them select gifts. Gifts are priced between £1 and £6. Please can the children bring their money in a named purse/wallet/envelope. We will sell any remaining stock after school outside the gates.

#### **Summer Fayre:**

The Summer Fayre takes place on Saturday 27 June from 12 -4pm. Please make sure you have the date saved in your diaries!

We will share details after the half term break regarding volunteering.

## WRAPAROUND SUNSHINE OF THE MONTH

This month the award goes to Zane Seeneevassen from Reception A.

Zane is a pleasure to have at wraparound for being so well behaved, for his enthusiasm and for settling in so well into the wraparound family.



END OF HALF TERM AWARDS  
CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Class A	Zane, Laura
Class B	Max, Alice
Class C	Rory, Emma
Class D	James, Ava
Class E	Noah, Mia
Class F	Jesse, Varvara
Class G	Luella, Lottie
Class H	Charlie, Isabelle
Class I	Oscar, Raven
Class J	Noah, Isabella
Class K	Zion, Stella
Class L	Joshua, Florence M
Class M	Jacob, Raessa
Class N	Gianluca, Jessica

END OF HALF TERM AWARDS  
CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

Class A	Louie, Autumn
Class B	Frankie, Gracie
Class C	Sebi, Nia
Class D	Leo, Iyanna
Class E	Elijah, Edie
Class F	Fox, Camara
Class G	Louie, Indie
Class H	Jack, Ava
Class I	Arnie, Albert
Class J	Charlie, Lydia
Class K	Freddie, Chisom
Class L	Frank, Beatrice
Class M	Kevin, Megan
Class N	Alex W, Emily

END OF HALF TERM  
AWARDS PSHE

Class A	Myla
Class B	Everly
Class C	Mia
Class D	Mariella
Class E	Pedro
Class F	Camara
Class G	Rosie
Class H	Franco
Class I	Amelia
Class J	Zachary
Class K	Bella
Class L	Florence CP
Class M	Orla
Class N	Jake

ATTENDANCE

WEDNESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 - FRIDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> MAY 2026

RA	RB	1C	1D	2E	2F	3G	3H	4I	4J	5K	5L	6M	6N
96%	96%	97%	97%	98%	94%	97%	97%	97%	97%	97%	98%	96%	96%

Well done to classes 2E and 5L for achieving 98% attendance at the end of this half term! Many thanks for all your support.

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>.*

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