Weekly Newsletter
Friday 25th September 2026

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Glenure Road, Eltham. SE9 1UF
020 8850 7835

governors@stmaryseltham.org
office@stmaryseltham.org

Twitter: @stmaryseltham
Visit us online at www.stmaryrc.org.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY HEADTEACHERS

It has been another fantastic week for the children at St Mary's, with so much exciting learning and celebration taking place across our school.

Our Year 5 children have been exploring history, stepping aboard the magnificent Titanic and investigating the events that led to the sinking of this famous ship. In Year 6, the children stepped back in time to World War II, immersing themselves in their learning and looking absolutely fantastic in their costumes! A huge thank you to all our parents and carers for your wonderful support in helping to make these experiences so memorable.

Some of our wonderful Faith Friends also had the very special opportunity to visit St George's Cathedral for the New Academic Year Mass, joining schools from across the Diocese in prayer and celebration. It was a wonderful occasion, and our children represented St Mary's beautifully. We were incredibly proud of the way they demonstrated the values of our school throughout the day.

This week, we were also delighted to celebrate the appointment of our new pupil leadership team. A huge congratulations to our **Head Boy, Sebastian Quinn, and Head Girl, Ella Schelfhout, alongside Deputy Head Girl, Cora Wilson, and Deputy Head Boy, Samuel Murphy.** This is a fantastic achievement, and we cannot wait to see what these wonderful children accomplish as they take on their new responsibilities and progress through the year.

A big well done to all the children who put themselves forward and participated in the process. It takes courage and confidence to stand up in front of others and put yourself forward for a leadership role, and every child involved should feel incredibly proud.

It has been a week filled with learning, faith, enthusiasm and achievement. We hope you all have a wonderful weekend filled with plenty of rest and special time together as a family.

Kind regards

Miss Brophy & Mrs Pita
Deputy Headteachers

WEEK BEGINNING 28th SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 29th September
Flu Vaccination Nurses on Site

Y5 Class Mass. 10am. Christchurch

Wednesday 30th September
Y6 Educational Visit to Imperial War Museum

Beginning of Year Mass at St George's Cathedral. 10am. Chamber Choir to Participate

PA AGM. 7.30pm. Gym Hall

Thursday 1st October
Phonics Workshop for EYFS/KS1 Parents and Carers.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our annual Harvest Festival Mass took place on Tuesday 22nd September.

As part of Harvest Festival every year, we collect food items for a charity that the Sisters of Mercy work closely with. Many thanks for your support. The donations were delivered, by the Faith Friends, to the Convent this week.

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

PRAYER AND LITURGY

Class D sat together in a lovely circle, holding hands and enjoying their special prayer and liturgy. Arsenio and Everly prepared the prayer area, and Arsenio read the prayer, "**God's Blessing**," aloud.

The children listened to the story of Daniel and the Lions and learnt that Daniel continued to trust and pray to God, even when things were difficult.

They talked about how we can be like Daniel by staying strong in our faith and trusting God, even when we face challenges.

FAITH FRIENDS

Miss Brophy and Mrs McGarry accompanied some Faith Friends to a special Beginning of Year Mass at St George's Cathedral today. It was a beautiful service, celebrated by Archbishop John Wilson.

WORKSHOPS THIS WEEK

Children in Y5 had a fabulous Titanic Day yesterday. Many thanks to Past Productions Theatre Company, who spent the day with the Y5 classes. They participated in drama activities, learnt about the different types of communication aboard the ship and learned how to dance a waltz in the first-class ballroom!

The fun packed day really brought the story to life for the children! Their costumes were fabulous and they put their best effort into everything they did!

Y6 enjoyed their WW2 Workshop today. They used drama, led by Past Productions Theatre Company, to develop their understanding of many aspects of the War, learnt about Alan Turing and how to break ciphers, and played a fabulous 'Air Raid Shelter' game which checked their understanding and knowledge. We were blown away by the costumes and the effort made! Thank you for all your support.

OCTOBER – THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY

The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary falls on Wednesday 7th October. During this month we are invited to say the Rosary as a way to grow in faith and draw closer to Christ.

Parents and family members are invited to join the Faith Friends on Friday 2nd, Friday 9th and Friday 16th October at 8.30am in the gym hall. The children will lead this prayer service.

MUSIC NEWS

The Chamber Choir has been invited to sing in St George's Cathedral on Wednesday 30th September. The Mass will begin at 10am so the children will have been asked to meet at Eltham Station at 8am, in time to catch the 8.14am train. Children are required to wear their school uniform and bring a packed lunch and water bottle.
Please ensure they practise their hymn (The Lord is my Shepherd) over the weekend so that they feel confident singing at the service.

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

SCHOOL FUND

We would like to ask for your support with the St Mary's School Fund. This year, we are hoping to raise money towards replacing the Trim Trail in the Junior playground, which is very popular and enjoyed by our Junior children during playtime.

We are suggesting a voluntary contribution of £50 per family per year. We understand that not every family will be able to contribute this amount, so please give what you are able to.

Contributions should be made via WisePay, under General Payments.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of St Mary's. Your contributions help us to provide the best possible environment and experiences for our children.

PUPIL PREMIUM

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please refer to the email sent this week regarding the changes to Pupil Premium.

If you think your child may be eligible, we ask that you reapply, even if you have applied in the past. Applications now need to be made every year.

If you have any questions or need any help with the application, please contact the school office.

Click on this link to apply:
https://fsm.lgfl.net/app/school/19592

WRAPAROUND AWARD

Timothy Wong is ***Sunshine of the Month*** for his happy personality and willingness to help. Well done Timothy…a great start to St Mary's!

Y4 SCIENCE EXPERIMENT

Children in Y4 went out to use a balloon to understand how gas can be trapped and contained in a solid object. The children enjoyed the experiment.

PA NEWS

The PA are looking forward to the following upcoming events this Autumn term. Please make a note of the following dates:

PA AGM - Wednesday 30th September at 7:30pm at St Mary's. All parents and carers are welcome to come along to the meeting to find out more about what the Parents Association does and to share any ideas or suggestions.

The PA are seeking nominations for committee positions:

- Chairperson
- Secretary (this position is vacant and can be shared by 2 people if needed)
- Treasurer (there is a vacancy for a co-treasurer)

In addition to committee roles, there are lots of other ways to be involved and support the Parent's Association. We would also love to hear from people who would help with:
- sorting pre-loved school uniform and coordinating sales
- seeking sponsorships and raffle prizes
- coordinating grant applications
- organising events.

If you would like more information about the roles, please email: stmaryspaeltham@gmail.com before 25th September.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Upcoming Events for your diary:

Fireworks Night - Friday 6th November. 6.30pm on site at St Mary's

Wreath Making - Friday 27th November. Gym Hall

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