

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 25th October 2024

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Glenure Road, Eltham. SE9 1UF
020 8850 7835

governors@stmarys-catholic-primary.org
office@stmary-rc.greenwich.sch.uk

Twitter: @stmaryseltham

Visit us online at www.stmaryrc.org.uk



Nurturing Our God-Given Talents

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

As we end the first half term of this year, it has certainly been a busy and successful start to the year.

We welcomed 60 new children into Reception and they have settled remarkably well. We also welcomed children into other year groups and judging by the smiles I see every day; the children are happy to be at St Mary's. It is inspiring to see our students grow in confidence.

Many thanks to the staff and parents for your support.

As we look ahead to the next half term, I encourage everyone to take time to rest and recharge during the week. We return to school on Monday 4th November refreshed and ready for the next half term; an exciting one at St Mary's as we prepare for the season of Christmas!

Wishing you all a wonderful half term!

Mrs Hansen

Head of School

WEEK BEGINNING 28th OCTOBER
AND 4th NOVEMBER

Thursday 31st

Closing date for Application to
Secondary School

Friday 1st November

All Saint's Day

Saturday 2nd

All Soul's Day

PA event – Laser Show at St Mary's to
Celebrate Fireworks Night. Gates
open at 6pm. Please have your tickets
ready to show.

Monday 4th

Children return to school in Winter
uniform

Tuesday 5th

Y4 Class Mass. 10am – Convent

Friday 8th

Tamnost Photography on site to take

Y6 SECONDARY TRANSITION

Applications for secondary school
must be submitted by **Thursday 31st
October**. Please ensure you complete
all the necessary forms for the
different schools.

Fr John will continue to sign forms
today (25th) and tomorrow (26th)
Booking is not necessary.

Date	Time
25 October	5pm-6.30pm
26 October	4pm-5.30pm

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

RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER HALF TERM

The children will return to school on Monday 4th November at 8.55am.

They are all required to wear their full winter uniform. Ties must be worn so please ensure the top button of the shirt is done up. Tights must be navy blue or white. Grey trousers are optional for boys and girls. Please ensure that coats and jackets are plain navy blue.

Our uniform policy is on our website- please click on the link to read.

https://www.stmaryrc.org.uk/docs/UNIFORM/Uniform_List.pdf

PE KIT

Please ensure you include a navy tracksuit in your child's PE bag after half term. The children are outside for some of their PE lessons so need to be warm.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

During the month of October, the UK celebrates Black History Month. There are many events taking place this month across the country, celebrating key figures who have made substantial contributions to this country.

Please have a look to see what exhibitions are taking place in the museums in London, such as Museum of London They have a schedule of very interesting events taking place throughout the month.

<https://www.londonmuseum.org.uk/whats-on/black-history-month/>

This year, the children at St Mary's will focus on black people in dance. Details have already been sent to parents about a project that we would like the children to complete over half term. I attach the details again for anyone that has missed the previous email.

It is not compulsory but the idea is that children enjoy researching the information whilst learning something new at the same time.

LITERACY



This week Mrs Thaxter recommends a poem.....

BUMP! SPIKE MILLIGAN

*Things that go "bump" in the night
Should not really give one a fright
It's the hole in each ear
That lets in the fear
That, and the absence of light!*

LITERACY COMPETITIONS

Encourage your child to get writing during the half term. Here are two competitions they can enter!

RBG POETRY COMPETITION

RB Greenwich have launched their annual poetry competition. This year's theme is *counting*. Children can write any type of poem inspired by the *counting* theme. The maximum number of lines is 20.

Completed poems can be handed to Mrs Thaxter by Friday 15th November, stating your name, year group and class. We look forward to seeing your creative counting!

BBC 500 WORD COMPETITION

The BBC 500 Word Competition is open for entries until Friday 8th November. Children who wish to take part must write a story in 500 words or less. Children should not miss out on this wonderful opportunity – we see some wonderful creative writing here at St Mary's!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>

CREATIVITY IN CLASS B

After his Autumn walk around Eltham Park South, Cormac Doyle, RB, had a great idea and created this wonderful homemade tree at home! He followed the class objectives and labelled his creation perfectly. Many thanks to Cormac for showing his work to his class.



NEW MENU

The new menu for the new half term has been uploaded onto the website. Please take a look. There is a wide selection of food available for the children. As the weather gets colder many children enjoy a hot school dinner so, please encourage them. Children can change their lunch pattern after half term; please inform the main office if this is the case.

We hope that parents enjoyed the food tasting during parent's evenings. We have had very positive feedback so thank you for your support. Many thanks to our kitchen staff for organising this.

All children from Reception – Y6 are entitled to a Universal Free Meal for this academic year.

<https://www.stmaryrc.org.uk/Autumn-Winter-Menu-2019/>

SCHOOL COUNCIL

At the most recent school council meeting, the children proposed fixing/ improving the trim trail. On Monday head girl (Betsy White) and deputy head girl (Maya Harding) went on a walk of the trim trail area with Mr Benstead, our Premises Manager.

It was noted that parts of the apparatus are broken and he is happy to mend it to make it safer for the children.



COFFEE MORNING

Please put Wednesday 20th November (9am) on your calendar as Mrs Henderson, our SENCO, has invited the health advisors from the Young Greenwich School Nursing Team on site to talk to parents. They can help with health advice or any concerns regarding toileting, behaviour, healthy eating, sleep patterns, dental hygiene and headlice advice.

They will give an introduction to their service and talk about what they can offer parents and families.

MESSAGE FROM CHRISTCHURCH

Date for your Diary:

Please put Sunday 24th November in your diary for the Christchurch Christmas Fayre. It will take place between 10am-1pm.

If you have unwanted or unused toys, gifts or bottles, please consider donating them to Christchurch. There are black bins at the end of the church to take donations.

If you would like to rent out a stall, please contact Halina Faratro on halinkagawor@hotmail.co.uk.

ENVIRONMENT UPDATE FROM MRS EVANS

Pumpkins

Can you guess how many pumpkins will be carved out for Halloween this year in Britain? 24 million! Carving pumpkins can be a lot of fun but the insides of the vegetable are often discarded when they could be used in cooking e.g., pumpkin pie, soup or even curry. You can even toast and eat the seeds or leave them outside for the birds.

The outside of the pumpkin can be useful too. You can bury your pumpkin directly in the soil to break down and provide nutrients for your garden. Cutting the pumpkin up first will help it to break down faster. Make sure you have removed the seeds before burying, or you may end up with your own pumpkin patch next Autumn!

Why not make something with your child during half term and let us know what you made. Please send in photographs of your creations. Not only will this be a fun activity, your child can learn about how we should not waste food.

Bonfire Night

Be mindful of small animals if you celebrate Bonfire Night. The branches and leaves in the pile look appealing to small animals, like hedgehogs, to sleep in so make sure you check the pile before lighting.

WRAPAROUND AWARD SUNSHINE OF THE MONTH

Jarlath Pritchard was awarded "**wraparound sunshine of the month**" for his caring nature and the kindness he shows whilst looking out for others. Well done Jarlath!



END OF TERM AWARDS
CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Class A	Jack, Lila
Class B	James, Sophie
Class C	Harry, Varvara
Class D	Samuel, Mya
Class E	Jools, Charlotte
Class F	Rory, Nora
Class G	Anointing, Lydia
Class H	Samuel, Evelyn
Class I	Sebastian, Anna
Class J	Daniel, Sienna
Class K	Bobby, Adrija
Class L	Jake, Isabel
Class M	Peter, Heidi
Class N	Luke, Valentina

END OF TERM AWARDS
CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

Class A	Bobby, Rae
Class B	Jack, Emma
Class C	Asher, Isabella
Class D	Hezekiah, Josie
Class E	Louie, Joana Grace
Class F	Jaden, Freya
Class G	Charlie, Yamen
Class H	Lionel, Lily
Class I	Matthew, Maeve
Class J	Leon, Lola
Class K	Harry, Onyeka
Class L	Arlen, Alyssa
Class M	Luke, Isla
Class N	Sean, Zofia

END OF TERM AWARDS
PSHE

Class A	Emily
Class B	Ivy
Class C	Amelia
Class D	Molly
Class E	Herbie
Class F	Mia
Class G	Jago
Class H	Fenella
Class I	Samuel
Class J	Cora
Class K	Evie
Class L	Kaison
Class M	Amelia
Class N	Alvin

ATTENDANCE

TUESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2024 - THURSDAY 24th OCTOBER 2024

RA	RB	1C	1D	2E	2F	3G	3H	4I	4J	5K	5L	6M	6N
99%	98%	98%	99%	97%	98%	99%	98%	99%	98%	97%	97%	97%	98%

Regular school attendance is essential for children to make good progress in school. If children are not in school, then they are not learning. School attendance is monitored very closely by the local authority and we have a robust system in place to ensure that our students' attendance remains high. One part of this strategy is that parents are written to, on a half-termly basis, when their child's attendance falls below 95%. Mrs Jeffrey in the office oversees this process and we ask that parents are supportive and understand the rationale behind.

Well done to classes RA, 1D, 3G and 4I for achieving 99% attendance this half term! Keep up the good work.

PA NEWS

The Parent's Association are working very hard organising the Laser Show to celebrate Fireworks night on **Saturday 2nd November at St Mary's**. Traditionally, this is a popular family event. This year, due to tighter restrictions and changes in insurance, the PA made the decision to host a Laser Show. The evening is aimed at families so the children can feel safe and parents can catch up with friends. All the new families at St Mary's are encouraged to come along and enjoy this first PA event of this school year. There will be hot food, glowing items on sale for the children and a thrilling laser display. **Gates open at 6pm.**

There are still some tickets available so if you would like to purchase some please click on the link below.

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stmaryspa/1429856>

Volunteers are needed to help with the stalls. All volunteers will get free entry to the event. Please give a little time if you can so the event can run smoothly. Many hands make light work!

<https://volunteersignup.org/7948F>

Please click on the link above to volunteer

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