Weekly Newsletter
Friday 26th June 2026

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HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Pride in Our Children
I want to begin by saying how proud I am of all of our children this week. In extremely warm conditions, they have shown outstanding resilience, maturity and self-discipline. They have adapted, supported one another and continued to approach their learning with positivity and focus.

I would also like to recognise our staff, who have gone above and beyond to ensure children remained safe, calm and able to learn. A range of practical measures have been put in place across both schools – regular water breaks, shaded activities, adjusted timetables and opportunities to cool down. Today even included Mr Benstead providing some welcome relief by hosing the children down, which was thoroughly enjoyed and brought a lot of smiles. These small moments, alongside careful planning, have made a real difference.

Thank you to all the parents who sent supportive emails to the school. Altogether, this reflects the strength of our school community.

School Trips
It has been a real highlight to see the children out on their recent trips, including visits to the Horniman Museum and the British Museum. Despite the heat, they represented both schools exceptionally well – their behaviour, curiosity and engagement were excellent throughout. They approached every opportunity with enthusiasm and made the most of these important experiences.

Outstanding Maths Achievement
We are delighted with our Year 4 pupils, who placed in the top 3% nationally in the Multiplication Tables Check. This reflects consistent hard work and strong teaching. Securing this foundational knowledge is crucial – when times tables are fully embedded, it unlocks success across the wider mathematics curriculum and supports pupils not just now, but for the rest of their education and beyond.

Primary Language Bee and French Experience
We have also seen fantastic success in French through the Primary Language Bee, where children memorise and recall 120 common words. Two of our pupils placed 2nd and 4th nationally in the competition, which was held at the University of Cambridge – an amazing experience and a memorable way to celebrate their achievement. This opportunity, alongside the wider participation of our pupils, really helps to bring language learning to life and raise aspirations.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Summer Fayre

Jonathan Sims
Executive Headteacher

WEEK BEGINNING 29th June

Monday **29th June**
Feast of St Peter and St Paul. Y3 to lead Mass in Christchurch.

Wednesday 1st July
Y2 Visit National Maritime Museum

Y4 Cricket Festival. Avery Hill Park

Thursday 2nd July
Heritage Day/Food and Fellowship

Friday 3rd July
Y6 Football Presentation

Y6 PRODUCTION

The Y6 children are busy practicing for their performance, ***Oliver Twist***, which will take place on Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th July. Please encourage your child to practice all their songs and lines.

Y5 classes provide the backing music for all performances.

Performances will take place at 1.30pm and 6pm on both days. Please ensure you request your tickets. You will receive a reminder email to prompt you!

Once we have ensured that all families have requested tickets, we will upload to Wisepay for parents and carers to make payment. Tickets will cost £3.50 each.

We will send emails to alert you about spare tickets. These will be available on a first come, first serve basis.

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

PRAYER AND LITURGY

Last week Matilda, RB, lead Prayer and Liturgy so beautifully with the story of Moses and this week Indie and Eduardo, RB, lead with the story of the important man.

All the children created beautiful images and models.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME AT CHRISTCHURCH

Please note that the application portal for the children receiving First Holy Communion, in Christchurch, in 2027 is now open. Please click on the link below to access the information.

https://www.christchurcheltham.org.uk/First-Holy-Communion-Courses/

FRENCH COMPETITION

Four year 6 students, accompanied by Mrs Flynn and Mrs Sims, travelled to the University of Cambridge last Monday for the national final of the Primary French Bee. This is a competition organised by Routes into Languages at the University of Cambridge to promote language learning and enjoyment. All of our year 5 and 6 students competed in the first round, with 16 progressing to the second round. Our three finalists were Hugo, Gianluca and Arlen, and they were supported by our reserve team member Donata. They worked very hard to learn 120 French words; the goal was to recall as many of these words as possible in one minute on demand. We were extremely proud of how brilliantly all four of these students represented St Mary's and their families. Here, Gianluca and Arlen share their success:

"First of all, we arrived at the Eltham train station and boarded our train to London Bridge and switched trains to get to Cambridge. When we arrived, we were greeted by Mr Sims' cousin who gave us a tour of Cambridge and the university campus. Did you know that Cambridge was founded in the year 1209? We learnt about some of the colleges and different tourist attractions such as the mathematical bridge and the punts, which are boats that travel up the river! We said goodbye and headed to the languages department where we had our lunch. Because there were so many competitors, the French section was divided into two groups- we were in group 2! Arlen, Gianluca and Hugo participated, while Donata, Mrs Sims and Mrs Flynn cheered us on. We all had a mix of emotions when we competed. The venue was a large auditorium, and after a brief break the top 4 students were announced in the Grand Finale. Our hearts were pounding when the judges called two Gainluca and Arlen to compete again in the grand final of just four students from a total of 42 French competitors! Two from the same school! More drama as Gianluca was involved in a tie breaker round! After all the excitement Gianluca was announced as fourth and Arlen second in the whole country! We learned a lot from this experience and hope we can use our language talent in the future!"

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TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Battle of the Bands is coming to TTRS! 🎸

To help enhance children's times tables knowledge, build confidence in maths and improve rapid recall skills, we are excited to be launching our Times Table Rock Stars Battle of the Bands Tournament!

From 29th June – 5th July, children in Years 2–6 will be competing in our exciting Times Table Rock Stars Battle of the Bands Tournament. Every correct answer earned while playing TTRS, in any game mode, will score points for their class.

Points will be combined to create class totals, with winning classes crowned our Battle of the Bands champions!

There will also be certificates awarded to our highest-scoring pupils. So please encourage your child to get practising, rock those times tables, and help their class climb to the top of the leaderboard!

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Lottie Meyer, 3G, sat her ABRSM Grade 1 Piano exam last week. She received a distinction! Well done, Lottie…the hard work was worth it!

CAREER'S DAY

As part of our annual Careers Day, St. Mary's is looking for parents, family members, and friends of the school who would be willing to speak to our Year 6 pupils about their career.

We would love to hear from people working in any profession, trade, business, or industry. By sharing your career journey and what your role involves, you can help to inspire our pupils and broaden their understanding of the opportunities available to them in the future.

The event will take place from 1pm on 10th July.

If you would be interested in taking part, please contact the school office at office@stmaryseltham.org

Thank you for supporting our school community and helping to make Careers Day a memorable experience for our pupils.

HERITAGE CELEBRATION DAY
THUSRDAY 2nd JULY

We are looking forward to celebrating the different cultures at St Mary's on Thursday 2nd July. Children are invited to come to school dressed in the colours of the flags that represent their family heritage, OR, if available, a traditional outfit or costume that represents their culture.

After school on this day, we will hold our annual **Food and Fellowship Event**. This is a very special event where we invite families from our school community to bring in dishes from their country of heritage. Families can come to the gym hall from 3.15pm to taste and savour the delicious food on offer.

So that we can plan, please ensure you complete the form to give us an idea of numbers and the country that your food will represent. If you are not contributing, please do not worry about filling in the form. It is only for those that are able.

FIX A BIKE WORKSHOP

Children in Y5 attended a workshop today to learn how to fix a bike. It was a brilliant session and everyone enjoyed learning these important skills. The children also discussed why cycling is such a great form of transport.

PA EVENTS

Summer Fair, 12:00-16:00 - tomorrow!

The gates for the fair will be open from 12:00pm and we are so looking forward to seeing many families for a fun afternoon. The hot weather is forecast to continue and we will provide as much shade for everyone as we possibly can. This is a huge fundraising event for the school and all monies raised will benefit all the children at St Mary's.

You can look forward to:

🎶 School Choir Performance (12:15pm)
📕 Books and Uniform
🧸 Teddy Tombola
🧉 Bottle Tombola
🪀 Pocket Money Toys
🍰 Cakes, Tea and Coffee
🖼 Portraits Stall
🫐 Carnival Games
🍔 Hot Food
🥤 Bar

Come along to spend some time with friends and family. Children love it!

Upcoming PA Event – Year 6 Leaver's Party. Saturday 11th July. Volunteers will be needed so please look out for information next week.

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