

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 27th March 2026

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MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

I attended an Easter Service in St George's Cathedral on Wednesday with our Y6 children and the Chamber Choir and again on Thursday with the Y5 Faith Friends to celebrate the feast of St Oscar Romero. I felt fortunate to be able to come together at this beautiful church with the other schools in the St Oscar Romero Trust. These special services provide moments of reflection, unity, and joy that remind us of the strength and spirit within our school family.

The students leading the service did so with grace and confidence, their words, voices and actions echoed the values we hold dear: kindness, faith, gratitude, and hope for the future.

Many thanks to all who joined us, and to St George's Cathedral for welcoming us so warmly. Moments like these strengthen the bond between school and community, and remind us of the importance of taking time to come together, support one another, and celebrate all that we have.

Please take a look at some photos on X.

<https://x.com/StMarysEltham>

On Monday, the staff and children from Reception – Y6 took part in the Lenten Walk in Eltham Park South, in aid of CAFOD. It was a wonderful mindful way to start our day, a shared sense of doing something meaningful together. Walking through the park in the fresh air and beautiful sunshine gave staff and students a chance to think on the importance of helping others.

We are very grateful for your continued support through donations. Together, every step we take, brings hope to those in need.

On behalf of all the staff at St Mary's, I wish you all a restful Easter break and I look forward to the next term, the last one of this academic year.

Best wishes

Mrs J Hansen
Head of School

HOLY WEEK AT CHRISTCHURCH

Sunday 29th March

Palm Sunday

9.30am /11.30am. Masses begin with the blessing of the palms and a procession into the Church led by a donkey. Please come early to join the procession from the start.

Thursday 2nd April

Maundy Thursday

8pm - Mass of the Last Supper.

Friday 3rd April

Good Friday

10am - Stations of the Cross

12 - Children's Good Friday Liturgy

3pm - Solemn Liturgy, including the Reading of the Passion, Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion.

Saturday 4th April

Easter Vigil – Holy Saturday

10am- Blessing of Food.

11am - Reconciliation

9pm - Easter Vigil Mass.

Sunday 5th April

Easter Sunday

9.30am - Children's Mass

11.30am - Sung Mass

6.30pm - Said Mass

WEEK BEGINNING 13th APRIL

Monday 13th April

Children return to school wearing full Summer uniform

Thursday 16th April

Parents and carers receive primary school offers to start school in September 2026.

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

PRAYER AND LITURGY

Ada Grasso and Goldie Hooper, RA, made some beautiful Easter artwork for prayer and liturgy. These special pieces of work were used at the Easter service this week.



Y3 STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Y3H visited Christchurch to meet with Fr John and reflect on the Stations of the Cross. The students demonstrated fantastic knowledge throughout the session, answering all of Father John's questions with confidence and insight.



Y5 SHAKESPEARE WORKSHOP

Y5 children recently enjoyed an exciting and engaging Shakespeare workshop based on A Midsummer Night's Dream.

The children explored the story through drama, movement, and interactive activities, bringing the characters and magical setting to life. They showed fantastic enthusiasm and creativity as they acted out scenes and learned about Shakespeare's language in a fun and accessible way. It was a wonderful experience that helped deepen their understanding and appreciation of this classic play.



ROYAL BOROUGH GREENWICH SHORT STORY COMPETITION

In line with World Book Day, Royal Borough Greenwich has launched this year's **500 Word Short Story Competition**, inspired by the theme **THE UNEXPECTED**. Children are invited to write a short story, no more than 500 words, preferably typed, on the theme of **THE UNEXPECTED**.

All entries can be sent to Mrs Thaxter by **Thursday 23rd April**. Please include your full name and class.

LITERACY

Mrs Thaxter, our Literacy Coordinator, would like to share this link with all families as a guide to selecting suitable children's reading books.

<https://www.thereaderteacher.com/year-groups>

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Many thanks to the PA for organising Easter gifts for the children. Members of the PA presented the school council with the gifts to deliver to all the children.



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Ava Desbruslais, 1D, completed her swimming stage 2 and is now loving the challenge of stage 3. Well done Ava!

Pedro Gouveia, 2E, achieved *Best Player of the Match* after his football game last Sunday. A happy Pedro!

Jack Birtchnell-Winter, 3H, scored a hat-trick for his football team and was voted Man of the Match. Excellent news Jack!

Noah Rozwood, 1C, recently achieved his 25m badge in swimming. Good swimming Noah!

Daniela Zingales, 4I, completed her stage 9 in swimming and feels very happy with her achievement. Well done Daniela!

Archie Prater, RB, was awarded 2 swimming badges, 5m and 10m, so understandably very pleased with himself!



PA NEWS

School Magazine - Children's Content Needed!

Our wonderful annual school magazine is distributed every year. We would like the magazine to feature content from as many of the children as possible so please share it with us!

Contributions we're looking for are:

- Creative corner: artwork, poetry, photography, recipes etc
- Achievements: photo with any awards or achievements they'd like to share
- Talent showcase: photo showing any skills or talent they're proud of

Please send your child's content (with their name & class) to stmaryrcmagazine@gmail.com by Friday 24th April.

Advertising – We're looking for individuals or businesses to advertise and please also email us if you are interested in advertising in the magazine.

Fundraising Events

Thank you to everyone for their contributions and help in our fundraising events this term - Mother's Day Sale and St Patrick's night. We had a wonderful evening last Friday in the gym hall.

Today the Parents Association organised small Easter gifts which class counsellors handed out to their classes. Nursery and Reception children were supported by the Head girl and Head boy.

Thank you for your ongoing support of fundraising activities for the school and wishing you all a Happy Easter.

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

END OF TERM AWARDS CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Class A	Adam, Goldie
Class B	Max, Ruby Rose
Class C	Francis, Isabella
Class D	Enrico, Honora
Class E	Thomas, Ava
Class F	Tommy, Maggie
Class G	Jools, Laura
Class H	Jendrick, Amelie
Class I	Alexandria, Daniela
Class J	Jago, Emily
Class K	Max, Leah
Class L	Jacob, Viola
Class M	Anton, Margot
Class N	Archie C, Titi

END OF TERM AWARDS CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

Class A	Felipe, Lavanya
Class B	Eduardo, Felicity
Class C	Jack, Nkem
Class D	Chibueze, Cara
Class E	Atharva, Cece
Class F	Pedro, Amelia
Class G	Herbie, Joana Grace
Class H	Gabriel, Eile
Class I	Annabelle, Annie
Class J	Arnie, Helen
Class K	Dristan, Kisabelle
Class L	Elliot, Aya
Class M	Samuel, Dotty
Class N	Kenechi, Alyssa

END OF TERM AWARDS PSHE

Class A	Morgan
Class B	Matilda
Class C	Mimi
Class D	Emily
Class E	Raphy
Class F	Quinn
Class G	Harry
Class H	Alex
Class I	Erin
Class J	Florence
Class K	Sienna
Class L	Anya
Class M	Antonio
Class N	Kaison, Mimi

ATTENDANCE

WEDNESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2025 - FRIDAY 27th MARCH 2026

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

Well done to classes 2E, 4I and 5L for sustaining 98% attendance at the end of this term! Keep up the good work.

Spring is on the way so we can look forward to warmer weather in the summer term. Take the Easter holiday to rest and recharge 😊

WRAPAROUND SUNSHINE OF THE MONTH

The Wraparound 'sunshine of the month' is Isaac Shallice! Isaac is a ray of sunshine when he comes to wraparound with his happy personality!



CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS

The class photo proofs have been sent home with the children. The closing date for ordering is Thursday 9th April. This will ensure free delivery to St Mary's.

Ordering can be done online by using the unique link on the proofs or you can visit www.tempest-orders.co.uk

If you have any problems, please phone Tempest Photography on 01736 751555 (option 5)

SUMMER UNIFORM

The children are asked to return to school after the Easter break in Summer uniform. The weather should be better by then and the children look forward to wearing less layers!

Summer hats should be plain navy or navy with a school badge, girl's socks should be white and hair accessories must be size appropriate.

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