

Weekly Newsletter  
Friday 30th September 2022

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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#### MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHERS

What a week in school!

We welcomed parents on site for our **meet the Headteachers** this week. It was great to see so many families in school.

Thank you to all who contributed to the Food and Fellowship Day. It was such a successful event that was so well attended. Events like this remind us how lucky we are to have such a diverse and welcoming community.

This morning the school choir visited St George's Cathedral, Southwark as they were invited to sing at the Beginning Of Year Mass. They were amazing! In a congregation of around 800 people including headteachers, governors and other pupils; the choir lifted everyone's spirits. They were even asked by Archbishop John to sing acapella outside the cathedral! Photos will follow on Twitter next week.

Have a restful weekend.

Mr J Sims and Miss C Phipps  
Headteachers



WEEK BEGINNING 03/10/2022

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>**

Open morning for prospective new parents

Y5 Class Mass

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>**

Parent's Association AGM – 6pm  
This meeting will take place in the dining hall. Refreshments will be served.

#### FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP EVENT

Mrs Whitewood would like to say a huge thank you to the parents who contributed, made and served food for our wonderful food and fellowship event, which took place yesterday.

The children and parents who came were able to enjoy a huge range of food celebrating the cultural heritage of our school.

I think everyone left with a full tummy having experienced food they had not tried before.

Please have a look at the photographs on Twitter

<https://twitter.com/StMarysEltham>



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## MUSIC NEWS

### CHAMBER CHOIR

Mrs McGarry and Mr Slms are accompanied the Chamber Choir to St George's Cathedral, Southwark, today, to sing at a special **Beginning of the Year Mass**. It was a wonderful occasion to be part of. Many thanks to all the parents who helped by accompanying the children.



### October is the month of the rosary.

Praying the rosary is a special way of letting Jesus and Mary into our lives, asking for their help to grow in faith and a powerful way of praying for others. It is a wonderful way of families getting together and making time for prayer.

### PA NEWS

Our Parent's Association is holding their AGM (Annual General Meeting) on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm. This meeting will take place in the dining hall.

The roles of PA Chair/Co Chair and Treasurer/Joint Treasurer are becoming vacant. Parents can put their names forward, to be voted in at the AGM on 6th October. The Parents' Association depends on the assistance of the parents to keep it running. The events we host directly affect the facilities and tools that your child has access to within the school. We endeavour to keep this association active but without volunteers, events will not be able to take place.

If any parent is interested in stepping forward and would like to know more about these exciting roles, please contact the PA by emailing [pastmaryseltham@gmail.com](mailto:pastmaryseltham@gmail.com).

### PARENTS EVENINGS

TUESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup>/WEDNESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup>  
OCTOBER

Parents will be able to book their timeslot on Wisepay next week. An email will be sent to parents to say when the appointments are live. Please ensure your child's Wisepay account is active to book your appropriate time.

The appointments will run from 3.30pm – 6pm. Each appointment is 10 minutes long. When booking timeslots for more than one child, please allow time in between appointments. Mrs Lopez, our SENCO, will not be booking appointments on these two evenings. She plans to see parents at another time. She will contact parents separately.

### SEN NEWS

Mrs Lopez would like to thank the parents who attended the SEN coffee morning today.

Karen Russell, our speech and language therapist delivered a short introductory session on Speech and Language acquisition and development from early years stage by showing parents the communication tree. She shared some strategies to improve communication and develop language skills in young children.

Mrs Lopez will be organising more events like this and she looks forward to seeing more parents take advantage of these opportunities to interact and learn from the professionals we have onsite.

### STAFF VACANCY

We would like to appoint a new member of support staff, working as part of a team including teachers and other support staff, to promote the learning and welfare of pupils by providing practical and learning support to pupils.

The post will be from **8.45am-3.15pm, Monday to Friday, term time only**. This position will be on a fixed term contract starting **ASAP until July 2023**, when it will be reviewed.

More details are attached.

### PE NEWS

We have many fun and active things going on at school currently. Children are playing a variety of different sports and keeping active. Year 4 are enjoying their swimming lessons and making progress. The Blackheath Rugby program has been a huge hit!

It is so important to keep active at home. Here are some fun things you could do as a family to keep active;

- Spend time outside doing some gardening
- Give your body a boost by laughing or making someone laugh.
- Try some bird watching or wildlife spotting on a woodland walk.

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## CHILDREN'S CORNER

Fionn Doyle, IC, has achieved stage 3 swimming badge and has progressed to stage 4. Well done Fionn!



## Y6 SECONDARY TRANSFER

If anyone requires help completing their application form for secondary school please do not hesitate to call the school. The deadline for submitting the forms is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022. Supplementary Forms must also be completed when applying to Faith schools such as St Thomas More Comprehensive School

If you are getting your form signed with Fr John at Christchurch, please refer to his timetable on the church newsletter.

[https://www.christchurcheltham.org.uk/docs/newsletters/Newsletter\\_2022\\_10\\_02.pdf](https://www.christchurcheltham.org.uk/docs/newsletters/Newsletter_2022_10_02.pdf)

## MEDICAL NEWS

### POLIO VACCINATION – MESSAGE FROM ROYAL BOROUGH GREENWICH

All children aged 1-9 in London are being offered a polio vaccine. For some children this will be an extra dose, for others it will bring them up to date with their routine vaccinations.

There are signs the virus may be spreading in London and the number of children vaccinated in Greenwich is lower than it should be. Boosting immunity in children should help protect them and reduce the risk of the virus continuing to spread.

If your child is aged 1 to 4 local NHS services will be in contact to book your vaccine

If your child is aged 5 to 9 you can book your appointment now at [selondonics.nhs.uk/polio-vaccination](https://selondonics.nhs.uk/polio-vaccination).

### FLU VACCINATION

Details of the vaccination have been sent to parents so please refer to the email sent this week. Consent can be given by following this link - <https://app.schoolscreener.com/Portal/#/Oxleas/imms/Oi41/144091> or if you would prefer a printed copy please let us know. The nursing immunisation team would like all parents to complete the form, whether you wish your child to be vaccinated or not.

## 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 The Imperial War Museum. They have a schedule of very interesting events taking place throughout the month. <https://www.iwm.org.uk/sites/default/files/press-release/Black%20History%20Month%20at%20Imperial%20War%20Museum.pdf>

## WELLBEING

### Go Green!

There is always room for a plant or two! Whether you have a garden or a windowsill, tending plants has health benefits. The calming effects of plants, as well as the purifying effects of their foliage, lowers anxiety levels and blood pressure and improves your general wellbeing, leaving you feeling calmer and more optimistic.

Today is the final day of self-care in September. To mark the end of it, make time for a fun or relaxing activity, focus on sleeping, eating well and exercising and spend some family time focusing on precious memories.

## WORLD SPACE WEEK

This year World Space Week runs from Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October – Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October. The theme this year is “Space and Sustainability”. The aim is to celebrate the contributions of space science and technology to the betterment of the human condition.

<https://www.worldspaceweek.org/>

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