

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 4th April 2025

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

I attended an Easter Service in St George's Cathedral on Tuesday with our Y6 children and the Chamber Choir. I felt fortunate to be able to come together for this beautiful church service 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.

On Thursday, 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 - *Catholic Social Teaching Principles of the Common Good and Subsidiarity*

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

<https://x.com/StMarysEltham>

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.

God Bless

J Hansen
Head of School



Nurturing Our God-Given Talents

WEEK BEGINNING 22nd APRIL

Tuesday 22nd April

Children return to school in summer uniform

Wednesday 23rd April

St George's Day

DEBATE CLUB

We are so proud of our Debate Club, who, this week, took part in a competition at Hampstead High School for Girls. St Mary's came first, an amazing achievement considering there were 55 teams taking part. The children showed exemplary manners, behaviour and speaking skills.

Well done to all the members of the Debate Club, who have only been working together for a short time- the teamwork, confidence and passion they showed was a credit to them.

Many thanks to the parents who were able to help on the day and to Miss Brophy for coaching and preparing the children.



Catholic Social Teaching Principle of Subsidiarity

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

NURSERY AND INFANT EASTER SERVICES

This week Fr John came on site to remember the Easter story. The children from Nursery – Y2 listened to the stories of Holy Week and prayed. They reflected on how the sad news of Jesus's death turned into good news after He rose on Easter Sunday.

The Nursery children waved palms and re-enacted Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, marking the beginning of Holy Week.



EASTER EGG COLLECTION

Message from Sr Geraldine

"Thank you so much to the families of St Mary's for your kind donation of Easter eggs. The eggs will be distributed to children who will be so excited to receive them, knowing that people are thinking about them, giving them joy and hope".



Catholic Social Teaching Principle of Preferential Option for the Poor

. LITERACY

This week Ms Gannon recommends a poem....

*Spike Milligan
My Sister Laura*

*My sister Laura's bigger than me
And lifts me up quite easily
I can't lift her, I've tried and tried
She must have something heavy
inside*

CHILDREN'S CORNER

This week.....

Jack Saunders, 3G, earned his first orange stripe at Ju Jitsu after a successful grading.

Well done to Jack!



Charles Godson, 6M, and Daniele Marchini, 4I, both attend the same swimming club and have achieved their 1500m badge.

Well done to both boys!



PA NEWS

Many thanks to the PA for organising the Easter bunny visit to St Mary's today. The children were very excited! Each child has received a little Easter gift which they will enjoy.

SCHOOL MAGAZINE 2025

Each year the Parent's Association publishes a school magazine. It is a lovely memento of the school year and celebrates the children's hard work and achievements.

We would like to invite all the children to submit contributions to the magazine. These can include:

- ❖ artwork
- ❖ awards
- ❖ achievements
- ❖ recipes
- ❖ photography
- ❖ poems
- ❖ quizzes and word searches
- ❖ pet news
- ❖ interesting places that you have visited

Please send your entries, with your child's name and class, to stmaryrcmagazine@gmail.com by Wednesday 30th April. Use the lovely Easter break to gather things together.

Can you help with the school magazine?

The PA is looking for some extra help with this year's magazine. Specifically, someone to help with the design. If you have design skills and some time to help during May/June, please email stmaryspaeltham@gmail.com as soon as possible. Thank you!

Have a business or service to advertise?

The PA is also looking for advertisers to take space in the magazine. Please email them for information about rates and how to book your advert.

Catholic Social Teaching Principle of Participation.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The children would like to create an art project inspired by their learning about recycling and caring for God's creation. They want to make a mural using plastic bottle tops and buttons to raise awareness about plastic pollution and how we can protect our oceans.

This project reflects important *Catholic Social Teachings, especially Caring for Creation and Working Together for the Common Good*. It is a great way for the children to put their faith into action by turning waste into something beautiful and meaningful.

Please start collecting clean plastic bottle tops and buttons of all colours and sizes (from milk bottles, juice bottles, etc.) and send them into school with your child.

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**. Children are invited to write a short story, no more than 500 words, preferably typed, on the theme of **HOME**.

All entries can be emailed to the office by Friday 18th April. Please include your full name and class.

Catholic Social Teaching Principle of Participation.

PRE LOVED BICYCLES

Please see below details of a preloved bicycle sale that will take at St Mary's on Thursday 8th May. What a brilliant initiative!

The poster features the 'Peddle My Wheels' logo at the top, which includes a bicycle icon. Below the logo is a green banner with the text 'SECOND-HAND BIKE MARKET'. Underneath the banner, it says 'ST MARY'S PRIMARY THURSDAY 8TH MAY'. There is a photograph of several bicycles parked together. To the right of the photo, there is text: 'Our second hand bike markets are an excellent way to create affordable bike stock for your community and to help everyone to experience the joys of cycling. Donate your outgrown, unwanted bikes in the morning - Peddle My Wheels will spend the day getting them ready. Proceeds from the sale of donated bikes will go back to your school. After school you can buy a serviced, affordable, used bike (you can pay by cash or card)'. At the bottom left, there is a QR code and text: 'The bike markets are run by Peddle My Wheels. For more information visit peddlemywheels.com @peddlemywheels'. At the bottom right, there is a logo for 'Partnership with ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH'.

Catholic Social Teaching Principle of Stewardship.

END OF HALF TERM AWARDS
CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Class A	Enrico, Nancy
Class B	Rory, Arabella
Class C	Dexter, Grace
Class D	Atharva, Mabel
Class E	Lara, Naga
Class F	Franco, Ava
Class G	Noah, Sienna
Class H	Albert, Fenella
Class I	Oscar, Beatrice
Class J	Zion, Cora
Class K	Kevin, Raessa
Class L	Philip, Alyssa
Class M	Jacob, Orlagh
Class N	Nicholas Holly & Isabella

END OF HALF TERM AWARDS
CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

Class A	Johnny, Claudia
Class B	Roman, Mimi
Class C	Fox, Alice
Class D	Raphy, Edie
Class E	Ava, Luella
Class F	Jack, Isabelle
Class G	Ralph, Olivia
Class H	Joshua, Raven
Class I	Teddy, Rose
Class J	Connor, Aoife
Class K	Myles, Lena
Class L	Logan, Titi
Class M	Ralph, Neve
Class N	Benas, Evelyn

END OF HALF TERM
AWARDS PSHE

Class A	Chibueze
Class B	Mia
Class C	Miah
Class D	Ava
Class E	Cyprian
Class F	Eile
Class G	Ella
Class H	Jarlath
Class I	Joshua
Class J	Leon
Class K	Lukas
Class L	Henry
Class M	Grace O
Class N	Alvin

ATTENDANCE

TUESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2024 - FRIDAY 4th APRIL 2025

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

Well done to classes 1D, 3H and 4I for achieving 98% attendance at the end of this half term! Many thanks for all your support.

WRAPAROUND SUNSHINE OF
THE MONTH

The Wraparound 'sunshine of the month' is Onyeka Ezeadi, 5K, for always coming to club with a big smile and for being polite, helpful and kind to everyone.



Catholic Social Teaching Principle of The Common Good and Distributive Justice.

CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS

The class photo proofs have been sent home with the children. The closing date for ordering is Wednesday 23rd 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 3)

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!

An email was sent during the week confirming that 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.

Our uniform policy can be viewed [here](#) so please take a look.

Catholic Social Teaching Principle of The Common Good.

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

ECO EXPLORERS CLUB

The Eco Explorers Club have been looking for signs of Spring around the school. They found lots of buds, blossoms and insects. The children are already planning what they would like to investigate next term and will inform us of all that is happening in nature in our grounds.



Catholic Social Teaching Principle of Stewardship.

EASTER TIMETABLE FOR HOLY WEEK IN CHRISTCHURCH

Sunday 13th April

Palm Sunday: 9.30am & 11am Mass

Wednesday 16th April

Chrism Mass in Southwark Cathedral:
11.30am. Live streamed

Thursday 17th April - Maundy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper: 8.30pm

Friday 18th April – Good Friday

Stations of the Cross: 10am
Children's Good Friday Liturgy: 12noon
Solemn Liturgy: 3pm

Saturday 19th April – Holy Saturday

Blessing of Food: 10am
Reconciliation: 11am -12noon
Easter Vigil: 9pm

Sunday 20th April

Children's Mass: 9.30am
Sung Mass: 11.30am
Said Mass: 6.30pm
All Masses on Easter Sunday have the renewal of Baptismal Promises.

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