

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 7th February 2025

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Glenure Road, Eltham. SE9 1UF
020 8850 7835

office@stmaryseltham.org

Twitter: @stmaryseltham

Visit us online at www.stmaryrc.org.uk

Instagram: @selcatacademytrust

X: @SelcatTrust

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MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

Miss Gannon, Mrs Osei-Mensah and Mr McGrath accompanied the athletics team to Redbridge on Tuesday to compete in the London Youth Games Athletics Competition. St Mary's came fourth, just missing out on progressing to the next stage. The children were brilliant, showing resilience and sportsmanship. I was very proud of them. Many thanks to Mr McGrath and Miss Gannon for their excellent preparation and to Mr Young and Mrs Garrity for accompanying the team.

This week, we celebrated Children's Mental Health Week. At our assemblies and workshops, we elaborated on the theme "Know Yourself, Grow Yourself, emphasising the importance of self-awareness in nurturing personal growth and resilience among our children and young people.

Have a restful weekend

Mrs Hansen
Head of School



Nurturing Our God-Given Talents

WEEK BEGINNING 10th
FEBRUARY

Tuesday 11th February

Safer Internet Day

Reception Superhero Day

Friday 14th February

Closing Date for Nursery Applications for September 2025.

Last Day of this Half Term (3.15pm).

All clubs take place as normal.

FAITH FRIENDS

The Y5 Faith Friends shared the story with the Infant children of how the fishermen left their boats and nets to follow Jesus. They all shared ideas about how we can follow Jesus in our lives.

God of Love

*Give us strength and courage to follow your Son Jesus in all that we do and say. May our words and actions spread your message of love for all people.
Amen*



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

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

The theme this year has been "Know Yourself, Grow Yourself". We had special assemblies focusing on well-being and building relationships.

Children joined staff at lunchtime for calming activities like yoga.

OpenView Education came on site on Wednesday to perform a show for the children in Reception – Y4. Children in Y5/Y6 attended workshops.

We all looked happy on Thursday wearing clothes that made us feel happy and the sun shining boosted our happiness factor!



HEALTH ADVICE

The school nursing team has asked us to send the following link to parents and carers regarding information about norovirus. This is the time of the year for this nasty virus so we all need to be vigilant to stop the spread.

Please ensure the children wash their hands regularly.

[Norovirus: Information for parents, schools, and early years providers if a child is sick – The Education Hub](#)

Y4 MAYAN DAY

The children in Y4 really enjoyed their Maya Day today. Our visitor made the day really interesting for the children by getting into the role of a Mayan person.

The costumes were marvellous. Many thanks to parents and carers for supporting and for making good use of items they already had at home.



LITERACY

This week Ms Gannon recommends a poem....

Shel Silverstein
Hat

*Teddy said it was a hat,
So, I put it on.
Now Dad is saying,
"Where the heck's
The toilet plunger gone?"*

CHILDREN'S CORNER

This week.....

Rae McFarlane, RA, has passed level 1 swimming lessons and has progressed to the next stage. Well done Rae!



DYSLEXIA WORKSHOP

Please put Tuesday 4th March in your diary for the Dyslexia Coffee Morning.

Mrs Henderson would like to invite parents and carers to attend to learn about:

- The signs of dyslexia and how it can present
- How it can impact the life and education of children
- Ideas and strategies to support your child at home

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served.

COMPETITION TIME

Marks and Spencer are hosting a competition with YoungMinds, UK's leading charity fighting for a world where no young person feels alone with their mental health.

The details of the competition can be accessed [here](#).

Please encourage your child to enter....one never knows, their design may one day be seen on the shelves of Marks and Spencer!

APPLICATIONS TO NURSERY

If you are applying to Nursery for your child, to start in September 2025, please ensure you hand your application to the main office before Friday 14th February. Please note there will only be all day places available in the Nursery from September 2025. Fees will apply. Morning/afternoon places will no longer be an option.

The application forms are available to download from our website and you can also come to the office to collect them.

<https://www.stmaryrc.org.uk/Admissions-04122019150956/>

Children born between September 2021 and August 2022 are eligible to apply. The Certificate of Catholic Practice must be completed and signed by your priest and returned to us with your child's baptism cert and a proof of your address.

PA NEWS

The Parent's Association are working behind the scenes organising their next two events. Please put these dates in your diary:

Friday 14th March – St Patrick's Day family event (PM).

Friday 28th March – Mother's Day gift sale (during the school day)

NATURE DETECTIVES

Wednesday 29th January marked the beginning of the Chinese New Year and this year is the year of the snake!



This month's Nature Detectives Challenge is to find out about the diet and habitat of Britain's snakes. Please email your photographs and nature notes to the main office and we will pass them to Mrs Evans.

HALF TERM CYCLE TRAINING

Mulgrave Primary School is hosting a half term Cycle Training Courses for children aged 7+ during February half term. The training is open to children across the borough.

There are two separate types of sessions to choose from depending on ability.

LEARN-TO-RIDE: Children's Complete Beginner cycle training for age 7 years and over. Suitable for those who have never ridden a bike or would like to come off stabilisers.

INTERMEDIATE: Children's Intermediate (Level 1) group cycle training for age 7 years and over. Suitable for those who can cycle without stabilisers but are not yet fully confident on the bicycle.

Bookings are now live. Please follow the link below.

<https://www.cycleconfident.com/events?area=greenwich&course=child-group>

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY!
FRIDAY 14TH MARCH
7PM - 10PM

Join us for St. Mary's annual St. Patrick's Day celebration!
A fabulous family evening with live Irish music and dancing.
Bar and bar snacks available on the night, sweets and fun for the kids.

Tickets available online
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stmaryspa/1551035>

Adults: £7.50
Children: £4.50 (under 3 years old free)
Volunteers: free
<https://volunteersignup.org/TKJKJ>

CREATIVE WRITING IN Y3

The children in Y3 are studying *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes. They have written some wonderful pieces of creative writing based on the book. Mrs Bone would like to share this amazing piece of writing by William Burley, 3G.



The Iron Man escapes from the pit

I got buried for no reason. I was ferociously slashing at heaps and heaps of brown soil that rapidly toppled down on me whenever I tried to dig my way out of my inescapable prison cell. Eventually, after hours and days and weeks, I had finally created a slight crack, just bit enough for me to see and hear beautiful nature. But suddenly, it was blocked off by a spotty picnic blanket and I couldn't hear because all I could hear was loud iron clangs and plates crashing and the munching of human food, which just made me hungrier and hungrier for delicate metal, bronze and aluminium, cars, buses and even double decker buses. Suddenly, I had the awesome feeling of great strength and I was able to make the crack even BIGGER! I reached out my enormous right hand and took the blanket down with everything else. I climbed out of my giant crack and watched a normal sized family run away from me and hop into some delicate car like a jacket potato. I didn't want to eat them, what were they running from? "I'm so hungry," I thought. I was starving for just a single piece of metal (or may be a whole scrap yard!) I searched the filed for any delicious snack lying around on the ground. I found some food – cars, cars, a lorry, two buses (one was a double decker bus). After a super fun and delicious hour of searching for food, the farmers and Hogarth saw me and I stared back at the Iron Man buriers, right in the eye.

By William Burley

Age 7