

**Weekly Newsletter**  
**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**St Mary's Catholic Primary School**

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WEEK BEGINNING 4<sup>th</sup> May

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May**  
SATS Week for Y6 Children

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May**  
Ascension Mass at Christchurch

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May**  
Faith Friends lead Rosary in gym hall.  
8.30am. Families welcome.

Y6 Picnic in Eltham Park South

### MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

Today, we join people across the country in celebrating the 100th birthday of David Attenborough. For many years, Sir David has inspired generations to appreciate, respect, and care for the natural world through his remarkable documentaries and environmental work.

At St Mary's, we encourage our children to become responsible stewards of God's creation, and Sir David's message about protecting our planet closely reflects our school values and Catholic Social Teaching. His passion, curiosity, and dedication remind us all that even small actions can make a big difference to the world around us.

We hope our children continue to be inspired by his example and grow into young people who value and protect the beauty of our world for future generations.

Today is the 81<sup>st</sup> anniversary of VE Day. While it may feel like a distant event, VE Day is a reminder of the courage, sacrifice, and resilience shown by so many during one of the most challenging times in history. It is also a time that we should appreciate peace and the freedoms that were so hard-won.

I would like to wish all our Year 6 students the best of luck for their SATs papers next week. I know that they will do their very best as they have worked so hard with a determined spirit.

Best wishes

Mrs J Hansen  
Head of School

### FAITH FRIENDS

Faith Friends led rosary for children at lunch time in the prayer garden.

They also led the Rosary for families this morning.



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

## MAY IS A SPECIAL MONTH!

Our Faith Friends would like to invite parents, with their children, to join them saying the Rosary every Friday during May, at 8.30am in the gym hall. The next Rosary will take place on Friday 15th May.

Maybe make a May altar at home with your children. A few flowers around a picture or statue of Mary would be a lovely way to honour Our Lady. Take pictures of your home altar and email them to us and we will upload them to the school Twitter account and share them with our families.

The Crowning of Our Lady will take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May at St Mary's, so please save the date. Weather permitting, families will be able to attend this lovely ceremony.

Many thanks to Kisabelle Alvaro, 5K, for showing us her beautiful homemade May Altar. It looks very special.



## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Congratulations to all the children who will receive their First Holy Communion on Sunday in Christchurch and other churches.

This special sacrament is part of their spiritual growing up, receiving the Body and Blood of Christ.

I hope the weather stays dry for everyone.

## PRAYER AND LITURGY

This week, Amelia and Enrico led a lovely Class D Prayer and Liturgy all about Mary, to celebrate the Month of May.

They decorated the prayer table with blue and white cloths to match Mary's dress and added rosary beads and beautiful flowers. They also placed a special crown of flowers on the statue of Mary and shared a special prayer for the Month of the Rosary.

At home, they worked hard to make a beautiful picture of Mary, which they proudly displayed on the prayer table. During the liturgy, they were very happy to answer lots of questions from their friends and explained clearly why they had chosen all of the special items for the prayer area.

Well done, Amelia and Enrico, for leading such a thoughtful and prayerful celebration!



## CHILDREN'S CORNER

Sophie Saunders (1C) took part in her first clear rounds jumping event at her riding school and received her first rosette.



## Y6 SATS

Y6 children will begin their SATs (Standard Assessment Tests) on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

The children are well prepared so please support the school by ensuring your children have plenty of sleep and have a healthy breakfast in the morning. We know the children will do their best.

School will start at 8.30am for the Y6 children, from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>, so please make sure they are on time. This earlier time is to help them feel relaxed before beginning. We will also provide them with a small breakfast treat.

Weather permitting, the children will have a celebratory picnic on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> in Eltham Park South. We ask that all children bring a packed lunch on this day. Please inform the main office if you would like the school kitchen to make a lunch for your child.

## COFFEE MORNING

Please put Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May (9am) in your diary for a coffee morning run by Autism Outreach. Parents will receive information and talk about the symptoms of autism in girls and how it can present differently to autism in boys.

If you have any specific questions for the Outreach team please email them to the main office and we will endeavour to answer them at the meeting.

## CHILDREN'S FUNDRAISING

One of our Y6 pupils, Orla Hilliard, recently took part in the Children's Marathon. Orla was very proud to represent St Mary's in such a special event during her final year at the school.

As part of her challenge, Orla chose to raise money for a charity that is very close to her heart – The Childhood Tumour Trust. So far, she has raised an amazing £844!

This is a wonderful achievement and a commendable act of kindness, demonstrating the Catholic Social Teaching principles of Participation and the Common Good. Well done to Orla and the compassion, determination, and generosity she has shown.

## BIKE MARKET

A huge thank you to all the families that generously donated bikes to our bike market this week. The bikes were checked by a mechanic before being put up for sale. All of the children at St Mary's will benefit from the funds raised when these bikes have been sold at other markets. We hope to raise over £250 and would love to welcome Peddle My Wheels back again next year.

## THE CHILDREN'S BOOKER PRIZE

Please read the details below about a very exciting competition for children!

*This is a prize, to be awarded annually from 2027 and supported by AKO Foundation, which will celebrate the best contemporary fiction for children aged eight to twelve years old. Uniquely, the Children's Booker Prize will be judged by a mixed panel of adult and child judges. Frank Cottrell-Boyce, Lolly Adefope and Sanchita Basu De Sarkar will select a shortlist of eight books. Then three child judges – who must be aged between eight and twelve years old and living in the UK – will then join the adult judges in choosing the winning book. The process will give children a direct voice in the outcome, ensuring the winning book is a recommendation from young readers to their peers.*

*The competition is looking for imaginative and curious children who love to read; who are passionate about stories; confident to talk about what they have read; consider other people's points of views; and work together in a group.*

*The successful child entrants will each get: the eight shortlisted books to read and keep; a judges' medal; a trip to London for a fun day choosing the winner with the adult judges; a bespoke portrait by Beano illustrator Nigel Parkinson; a Beano comic strip capturing their judging experience; and another trip to London for the ceremony at Young V&A, which will feature a red carpet with VIP guests, entertainment stations, and the chance to present the winner/s their trophy on stage.*

**Entries close on 2nd June 2026:**  
<https://thebookerprizes.com/the-childrens-booker-prize>.

## Y5 CYCLE PROFICIENCY

The Y5 children have been taking part in cycling proficiency lessons for the last 2 weeks. The children learned new skills and gained confidence in this life skill.

Many thanks to Cycle Confident for coming on site to deliver the lessons.



## Y2 TOPICS

As part of their Science topic, Class E explored how easily germs can spread. Using red and blue powder paint to represent germs, the children shook hands and quickly saw how far the "germs" travelled! They then investigated which methods were most effective for cleaning their hands, thinking carefully about how to make their test fair. It was a wonderfully messy way to understand just how easily germs can pass from person to person!



Year 2 took their Geography learning to the park as part of their local area mapping topic. Before setting off, the children carried out a simple risk assessment, thinking carefully about how to stay safe. On the walk, they put this into practice - watching out for things like stinging nettles and uneven surfaces - while also mapping permanent features in the local area.



## GREEN FINGERS IN CLASS D

The children in Class D helped with planting flowers and plants in pots outside our classroom door this week. They worked together carefully to help make the area bright, colourful and welcoming for everyone to enjoy during the Summer months.



## PA UPDATE

The PA are planning the next event - the Summer Fayre, which will take place on **Saturday 27th June**.

Robinson-Jackson Estate Agents have agreed to sponsor our fair this year. We are looking for families willing to display **Robinson-Jackson advertising boards** outside their homes for a period of 4 weeks leading up to the Summer Fair. They will donate £15 per board to our school.

If you, or any family member, would be willing to have a board, put up outside your home, please email your name and home address to [stmaryspaeltham@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryspaeltham@gmail.com) by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May

Thank you so much for your ongoing support.