Weekly Newsletter
Friday 9th October 2026

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MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY HEADTEACHERS

What a wonderful week it has been at St Mary's! From exciting learning opportunities and sporting activities to music and our Open Mornings, it has certainly been a week to celebrate and one we can all be incredibly proud of. It has been a joy to see our children embracing every opportunity with such enthusiasm, confidence and happiness.

Across the school, there has been so much fantastic learning taking place. Reception have been making the most of our beautiful school grounds, enjoying autumn walks and discovering the wonderful changes that this season brings. Year 2 have been travelling back in time to explore the Great Fire of London, while Year 5 led a beautiful and reflective Class Mass, reminding us of the importance of faith and coming together as a school community.

As part of Black History Month, Year 4 have been exploring the work of the inspirational artist Alma Thomas, whose vibrant, colourful artwork has sparked some wonderful creativity. Did you know that Alma Thomas became the first Black woman to have a solo exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, at the age of 81? What a wonderful reminder that talent, determination and creativity have no age limit!

Throughout October, we will continue to celebrate Black History Month by recognising the achievements, contributions and lasting influence of Black individuals and communities, both past and present. Through art, music, literature, history and storytelling, our children will have opportunities to deepen their understanding, appreciate different perspectives and celebrate the rich diversity that makes our world, and our school community, so special.

We would love our families to be part of these celebrations! If you would like to visit your child's class to share your culture, heritage, traditions, music or personal experiences, please speak to your child's class teacher. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a wonderfully diverse school community, and we would love to learn even more from the families who make St Mary's so special.

An Exciting Opportunity – Become a Parent Governor!
We are looking for a parent governor to join our wonderful governing body. This is a fantastic opportunity to play an important role in the life of St Mary's, contribute to our school's continued development and help shape an exciting future for our children. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact our school office team, who will be happy to provide further information.

As always, thank you to our children, staff and families for making St Mary's such a special place to learn and grow. Every day, we see our children nurturing their God-given talents, showing kindness to one another and living out our school values.

Miss Brophy & Mrs Pita

WEEK BEGINNING 12th OCTOBER

Saturday 10th October
World Mental Health Day

Tuesday 13th October
Road Safety Workshops Y2 & Y6

Y4 Class Mass. Christchurch.10am

Y5 & Y6 Blackheath Rugby Festival

Wednesday 14th October
Y3 & Y4 Blackheath Rugby Festival

Parent's Evening 3.30pm – 6pm

Thursday 15th October
Road Safety Workshops Y3 & Y4

KS2 Football - Charlton Athletic FC

Parent's Evening 3.30pm – 6pm

Friday 16th October
Rosary 8.30am. Gym hall

Y2 Great Fire of London Workshop

Show Racism the Red Card Wear Red Day

FAITH FRIENDS

The Faith Friends led the rosary for the Infant children today. The children were taught how to hold their Rosary Beads correctly and focus on each bead as they said their prayers.

The younger children joined in beautifully.

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

OCTOBER – THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY

Many thanks to all the families who attended the Rosary this morning. We had a wonderful attendance. I hope it helped start your day in a positive mindful way.

The Faith Friends spoke about the Second Joyful Mystery – The Visitation. Mary was told she would become the mother of Jesus but she made the journey to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who was also expecting a child. Mary put the needs of others before herself.

Lord,
Help us to be more like Mary, help us to notice people who need our help and be generous with our time and kindness.
Amen.

Parents and family members are invited to join the Faith Friends again on Friday 16th October at 8.30am in the gym hall. The children will continue to lead this prayer service.

Y5 CLASS MASS

Y5 children took part in a wonderful Mass, in Christchurch, on Tuesday. They heard readings about the covenants God made with His people, and Fr John helped us to understand how these promises led to Jesus, the New Covenant.

During the Offertory, we presented our class promises, which were placed on the altar as a symbol of our commitment to living out our faith and caring for one another. It was a lovely opportunity for us to reflect on our relationship with God and the promises we make to Him and to each other.

PARENTS EVENINGS WEDNESDAY 14TH/THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER

All parents and carers should have already booked a meeting to see their child's class teacher. Mrs Jeffrey has been calling parents to make sure they have booked their timeslot. Please ensure you have taken a note of the times you have booked. The system will be open until Monday 12th October for parents to check. You will also get reminder emails for your information.

The appointments will run from 3.30pm – 6pm on both days. Each appointment is 10 minutes long and we encourage all parents to keep to their allotted time.

Nursery and Infant teachers will be based in the dining hall and Junior teachers in the gym hall. Children in Y5/Y6 are encouraged to accompany their parents to their meeting. They are required to wear school uniform.

Mrs Henderson, our SENCO, will also see parents on both days.

The children will finish at the slightly earlier time of 3pm on Wednesday and Thursday to give teachers time to prepare for their meetings. Please ensure your child is collected promptly.

Children who normally walk home on their own cannot leave unaccompanied by an adult before 3.15pm. Please inform us if another adult is collecting your child.

After school clubs will not take place on either day. Parents and carers have not been charged for clubs on these days.

Wraparound care will take place as normal.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Alexander Birtchnell-Winter, 2E, was awarded a certificate for Player of the Week from Chelsea Academy. He showed tremendous resilience and determination.

Well done Alexander for mirroring our school values in your football team.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY SATURDAY 10th OCTOBER

World Mental Health Day, which takes place tomorrow, is a reminder of the importance of looking after our mental health and wellbeing.

At St Mary's, we encourage the children to talk about their feelings, look out for one another and remember that it is always okay to ask for help. Small acts of kindness, spending time with friends and talking to someone we trust can all make a difference.

We will continue to look after ourselves and each other.

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

SCIENCE WEEK
MONDAY 19TH – THURSDAY 22ND OCTOBER

We are looking forward to celebrating Science Week, with lots of fun and exciting science-related activities planned for the children. Children from Nursery – Y6 will take part. More details will be sent to parents and carers nearer the time.

To help towards the cost of these activities, we are asking for a voluntary contribution of £1 per child, which can be paid through WisePay, under General Payments.

Y5 GEOGRAPHY

Y5 children got creative this afternoon as they explored how different types of mountains are formed. Each group was given a different type of mountain to create using recycled materials. The children then had to explain how their mountain was formed.

Here are some examples of a fold mountain, plateau mountain and dome mountain.

SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD – WEAR RED DAY
FRIDAY 16th OCTOBER

Wear Red Day is a chance to show our support for standing up against racism. It reminds us of the importance of treating everyone with kindness and respect, celebrating our differences and making sure everyone feels welcome and included.

Here at St Mary's, we encourage our children to be proud of who they are, respect others and always stand up for what is right. Together, we can help make a difference by showing that racism is never acceptable.

Children will wear their normal school uniform on this day but we encourage them to wear something red, or something with red in it. This could be a pair of red socks, wristband, a red hairband, tie or scarf. Please do not go to any expense…. I am sure there is some little red item at home that your children can wear.

SPORTS EVENTS

We have a number of sports events taking place next week. The children who have been selected to take part have already been contacted by email.

Many thanks for the offers of help so far. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the main office so we can carry out the appropriate checks.

Spectators are not allowed at the rugby events. The gates will be locked as soon as all the teams have arrived.

SIGNING PRIMARY/SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATION FORMS

Fr John in Christchurch is signing supplementary forms for both primary and secondary applications every Friday and Saturday in October from 3pm – 5pm.

Applications for secondary schools must be submitted by Saturday 31st October. Please contact the main office if you require help with the application process.

If you, or if you know someone who is applying to St Mary's for a place in Reception or Nursery 2027, please refer to the website for application details. Parents are required to complete a Certificate of Catholic Practice and an information form, and return them to the main office with your child's baptism cert and a proof of your address by Friday 15th January 2027. You must also apply to your local authority.

We have two open mornings for parents and carers to come and visit – Tuesday 10th November and Tuesday 5th January. Please phone the main office to book onto the tour.

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