

ST. MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*I am the vine and you are the branches.
If you remain with me and I with you, then you will bear much fruit.
Love one another as I have loved you.*
John 15

Dear parents and carers,

I would firstly like to say a huge thank you to everyone for making me feel so welcome and part of your community. I very much look forwards to speaking to more of you during school events and into next year.

Over the past few weeks many things have happened. Our World Vision concerts took place with wonderful performances celebrating diversity and culture from around the world. Thank you to everyone who attended and gave wholehearted support to all performances. In addition to this, we also have our Cultural Festival, albeit postponed, in which you will be able to see our children's wonderful art pieces, writing and exploration of different cultures.

We are also thrilled to share some wonderful news with you. St. Mary's School has been awarded the prestigious Gold Award in the Transport for London (TfL) Stars program! This accolade is a testament to our school's commitment to promoting safe, active, and sustainable travel. Over the past year, our students and staff have worked tirelessly to implement and participate in initiatives that encourage walking, cycling, and the use of public transportation. The Gold Award reflects our collective efforts and dedication to making a positive impact on our community and environment.

Our achievements include:

- Organising "Walk to School" days to reduce car congestion and promote physical health.
- Hosting road safety workshops and art competitions.
- Implementing travel plans that highlight the safest routes for students.
- Encouraging the use of public transport through informative sessions and incentives.

I would also like to thank Mrs Williams for her ongoing and diligent work in developing our French provision as we were recently awarded the Outstanding Primary Languages award for the development of our French curriculum. This award is given by the Primary Languages Network and is designed to help schools to evaluate, strengthen and celebrate their MLF provision. The children's French has gone from strength to strength over the past couple of years and the outstanding award confirms that French is well-established as a priority subject within our school, that children love their language learning and that languages have a high profile here. We are very proud of all the children have achieved in their French learning this year, from Year 3 in their first year of learning French writing letters to French pen pals, to Year 6 wowing our secondary school visitors with their French skills! The school community all really got behind our recent French curriculum week by enjoying the French cuisine, getting competitive on Duo Lingo and learning about French culture all the way from Reception up to Year 6. A huge thank you to everyone in our school community who played a part in this. The student language council has been wonderful at helping advocate for their subject and it has been incredibly special to see the students share their various home languages with their peers too, through our language assembly and their amazing projects, so a big well done to them too! Thank you for all your continued support as we celebrate this achievement.

Our Year 6 pupils also celebrated the end of their time at St Mary's with a show to our parents and carers. Due to the electrical difficulties last Friday (many thanks for all of your support on that day) we decided to hold this at St Mary's church. Their wonderful showcase was an absolute delight and a fine way to celebrate their time at St Mary's - with this, we will be holding next year's event at the same location.

Thank you also for your understanding, support and flexibility as we tackle the English weather - today it is too hot for Sports Day in the afternoon and rain was expected for our cultural festival earlier this week. New dates have been send to you all and I am very much looking forward to seeing you there!

Again, thank you for such a welcoming start - it is only apt that I finish the newsletter with Samuel 25:6 "And thus you shall greet him: 'Peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and peace be to all that you have.'"

Kind Regards,
Mr Pawley

Attendance



Our whole school attendance for Week 3 was 94.01%.

Our whole school attendance for Week 4 was 97.26%.

Our whole school attendance for Week 5 was 96.57%.

Our whole school attendance for Week 6 was 95.7%.

Well done St Mary's!

Our whole school attendance for this academic year is: 96.23%

Gentle Reminder:

If your child is going to be absent due to illness, please leave a message for the office team on the school absence line by calling 020 8521 1066 and dialling 1.

Please ensure this message includes the reason your child is off sick - i.e. sore throat, temperature or stomach bug.

If you need to collect your child for a medical appointment during the day or they are late to school due to a medical appointment, you will need to provide the school office with an appointment letter/record.

Our Celebration Assembly takes places every Friday at 10am. All parents are welcome to join. For Attlee House, please enter via the main office on Brooke Road and for Morris & Wilson House, please enter via Chestnut Avenue South.

Healthy Snacks



We would like to remind parents and carers that St Mary's is a Healthy School. Children should not bring chocolate bars, crisps or fizzy drinks as morning snacks, if your child does bring these in, they will be replaced with a piece of fruit and sent home with them at the end of the school day. Please ensure that should you like to provide your child with a snack that it is a healthy option. Nut free cereal bars, yoghurt bars or fruit bars are recommended.

All children are encouraged to drink water regularly – please ensure that your child is bringing in their own water bottles, these can be refilled during the school day.

We are proud to be a nut free school!




St Mary's Young Transformers



As part of our Young Transformers vision, we want our pupils to be confident, independent learners with enquiring minds and a life-long love of learning which happens in school and out.

We welcome children to bring in certificates that have been achieved outside of school. For example, achieving a piano grade, a swimming stage certificate or drama distinction. These will be celebrated during one of our weekly assemblies.

St Mary's Young Transformers



Young Transformers
MAKERS OF CHANGE

SUMMER TERM

YR	CURIOSITY Bee Keeper visit
Y1	CURIOSITY Planting our flower beds
Y2	COMMUNITY Understanding Immigration
Y3	CURIOSITY Robotics Workshop
Y4	CONFIDENCE Scootfit
Y5	CURIOSITY What is truth?
Y6	COMMUNITY West End: Lion King

St Mary's Courageous Advocacy

Courageous Advocacy



Summer Term

YR

Following on from their 'Dear world...' statements, it is clear that the Reception children care deeply about our natural world.

Equality

The children will be learning about Bees and making Bee Bombs to grow flowers around or local area.



Y1

Respect

Having sent their letters, craftivism project and video to their local MP, Year 1 will now focus their efforts on reaching a wider audience. The children will be reaching out to the Mayor of London!

Y2

Caring

Year 2 pupils will be continuing to run clothing donation and repurposing events. They will further contribute to our school's application to become a recognised 'Christian Aid, Global Neighbour' by planning a repair event to repurpose or fix clothing so that it can last longer.



Y3

Truth

Having learnt how transformative education is, Year 3 sent off their craftivism project to our MP. This term, the children will advocate to protect children's learning in emergencies and work towards our school becoming an accredited 'School of Sanctuary.'



Y4

Respect

For their final project, the Year 4 children will be working in groups to create a collective worship assembly based on an aspect of 'respect' that is important to them. One group, from each class, will present to the school.

Caring

Y6

Following the Year 6 teacher visit to a Kenyan School, the children have been busy creating resource packs, learning about Kenya and poverty as well as creating advocacy videos. The final Year 6 project will be elevating their voices vox pops style.



Y5

Wisdom

Last term, Year 5 used their learning and wrote excellent letters to CEO's of our countries major food providers. This term, the Year 5 children will be change makers, supporting and understanding the local systems and structures in place for people who find themselves hungry.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S SCHOOL

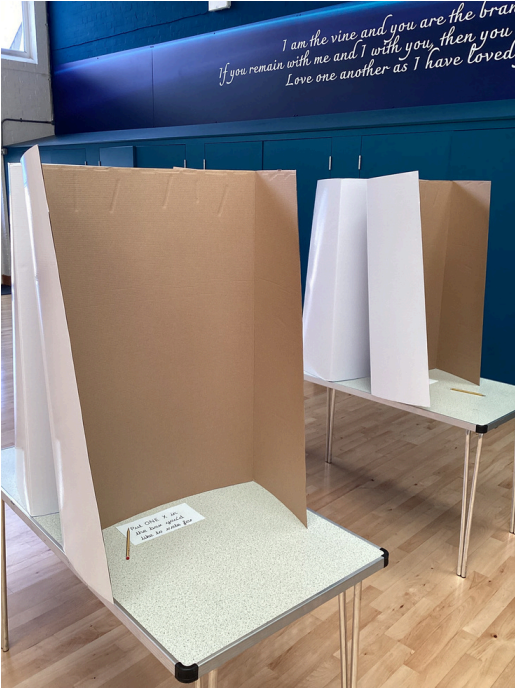
* THANK YOU! *

We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who supported the Summer Fair last Saturday! The event was a great success, with over 850 people joining in the festivities. We raised £4,000 for the school, which we're really pleased with for our first Summer Fair as a committee!

A particular thank you goes to our amazing team of volunteers who ran stalls, baked cakes, and ensured it was a smooth-running event. Particular highlights were the craft area, where we had mask-making, flowercrowns, friendship bracelets and a clay workshop. Beat the Goalie was an incredibly popular game which brought out a competitive streak in our football kids! Splat the Rat, What's in the Socks, Coconut Shy, Hook a Duck, How Many Sweets in the Jar, and Throw the Poo in the Loo were classic games that drew a crowd, and the cake stall was a sell out. Special mention also to our pop-up disco, Ministow of Sound, cranking out the classics!



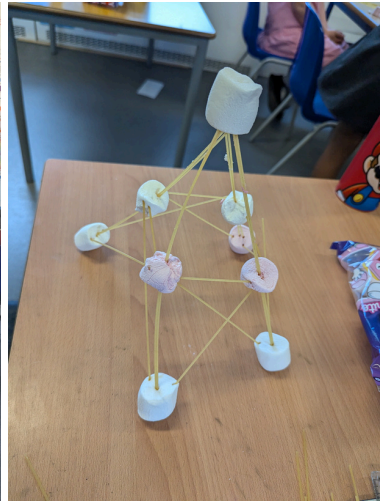
St Mary's Polling Station



On the 4th of July, the children of St Mary's Primary School had the exciting opportunity to take part in their own UK General Election; the school's gym was transformed into our very own Polling Station. The children delved into this political process by reviewing each parties' manifesto and voting on who they'd like to take charge. The students thoroughly enjoyed this hands-on experience, enthusiastically discussing their political views and preferences with their peers. This activity not only engaged them in a practical learning exercise but also sparked lively debates and conversations, making it a memorable and educational experience for all involved. We can now announce that with 239 votes, St Mary's pupils have voted in the 'Green Party.'



Primary Languages Award



I am delighted to announce that we have received the Outstanding Primary Languages award for the development of our French curriculum. This award is given by the Primary Languages Network and is designed to help schools to evaluate, strengthen and celebrate their MLF provision. The children's French has gone from strength to strength over the past couple of years and the outstanding award confirms that French is well-established as a priority subject within our school, that children love their language learning and that languages have a high profile here. We are very proud of all the children have achieved in their French learning this year, from Year 3 in their first year of learning French writing letters to French pen pals, to Year 6 wowing our secondary school visitors with their French skills! The school community all really got behind our recent French curriculum week by enjoying the French cuisine, getting competitive on Duo Lingo and learning about French culture all the way from Reception up to Year 6! A huge thank you to everyone in our school community who played a part in this. The student language council has been wonderful at helping advocate for their subject and it has been incredibly special to see the students share their various home languages with their peers too, through our language assembly and their amazing projects, so a big well done to them too!

Thank you for all your continued support as we celebrate this achievement.
- Mrs Williams, language lead.

St. Mary's Christian Vision

I AM THE VINE AND YOU
ARE THE BRANCHES. IF
YOU REMAIN WITH ME AND
I WITH YOU, THEN YOU
WILL BEAR MUCH FRUIT.
LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I
HAVE LOVED YOU.
(JOHN 15).

ST MARY'S TERM DATES 2023-24

Autumn Term 2023

First Half (33 Days)

INSET – Wednesday 6th, Thursday 7th & Friday 8th September 2023

Start – Monday 11th September 2023

End – Friday 20th October 2023

Half Term: Monday 23rd October 2023- Friday 27th October 2023

Second Half (38 Days)

Start – Monday 30th October 2023

End – Wednesday 20th December 2023

Holidays: Thursday 21st December 2023 to Friday 5th January 2024

Spring Term 2024

First Half (25 Days)

INSET – Monday 8th January 2024

Start – Tuesday 9th January 2024

End - Friday 9th February 2024

Half Term: Monday 12th February 2024 – Friday 16th February 2024

Second Half (29 Days)

Start - Monday 19th February 2024

End – Thursday 28th March 2024

Holidays: Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April 2024

Summer Term 2024

First Half (29 Days)

Start – Monday 15th April 2024

End - Friday 24th May 2024

Half Term: Monday 27th May 2024 - Friday 31st May 2024

Holidays May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 6th May 2024

Spring Bank Holiday: Monday 27th May 2024 (during Half Term)

Second Half (40 Days)

Start - Monday 3rd June 2024

End – Friday 26th July 2024