

**Weekly Newsletter**  
**Friday 10 November 2023**

**St Mary's Catholic Primary School**

Glenure Road, Eltham. SE9 1UF  
020 8850 7835

[governors@stmarys-catholic-primary.org](mailto:governors@stmarys-catholic-primary.org)  
[office@stmary-rc.greenwich.sch.uk](mailto:office@stmary-rc.greenwich.sch.uk)

Twitter: @stmaryseltham

Visit us online at [www.stmaryrc.org.uk](http://www.stmaryrc.org.uk)



*Nurturing Our God-Given Talents*

### HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

On Thursday, St Mary's Chamber Choir performed at The Southwark Diocese Catholic Headteachers Conference in Ashford, Kent. The children had an early start, leaving at 7.45am, to travel by coach to The Ashford International Hotel.

The choir sung at the opening Mass and then performed 'Only You' at the end.

I received many comments from other headteachers telling me how well they sung, how engaged they were and how smart they looked. One person said they were moved to tears. It made me very proud to be their headteacher.

Many thanks to Mrs McGarry for leading them with such expertise and to the parents who accompanied the children on the trip.

The children, accompanied by Mrs McGarry, have another performance later this evening at Woolwich Town Hall for the 'Do The Right Thing Awards.' Some of the children from St Mary's have been nominated for an award. Details of this event has already been emailed to Chamber Choir parents.

We are very proud of our splendid uniform at St Mary's. Please ensure your child wears a plain navy-blue coat to school (no logos). If you have any uniform queries, please speak to the office staff.

Enjoy your weekend

Kind regards

Mr Sims  
Headteacher

WEEK BEGINNING 13<sup>th</sup>  
NOVEMBER

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup>**

Anti-Bullying Week  
Odd Sock Day

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>**

Mr Jon Leigh on site to talk to the children about Judaism

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>**

Y5 Class Mass in Convent. 10am

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup>**

Y3 Stone Age Day

### RE

This week in Y1, the children had a special RE lesson all about Remembrance Sunday.

As a result of talking about the importance of observing this day, George Collins (1C) brought his Great Grandad Ernie's war medals for the children to see during show and tell. Grandad Ernie was a Chindit soldier in Burma during WW2.

Many thanks to George and his family for sharing this.



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

## POETRY COMPETITION FINAL WEEK TO SUBMIT YOUR POEM

In celebration of National Poetry Day on October 5th, Royal Borough Greenwich are inviting all students from Greenwich borough schools to enter their **poetry competition**.

This year's theme is **REFUGE**.

Children can write any type of poem that they like, inspired by the theme of refuge and feeling safe. The maximum number of lines is 20.

There will be a winner and a runner up for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Children can hand their entries to Mrs Thaxter (with their full name and class) by Friday 17th November.

*Here is an example of a beautiful poem by Joshua Ndebele, 2E*

*Safety is playing with lego  
Safety is laying on the couch watching  
my favourite shows  
Safety is playing basketball with my  
family in the garden  
Safety is reading nice books  
Safety is riding my bike in the sunshine  
Safety is swimming in the warm water at  
the beach  
Safety is writing a story  
Safety is making homemade pizza and  
eating it warm from the oven  
Safety is playing tickle monster with dad  
Safety is goodnight cuddles  
Safety is roasting marshmallows on the  
fire  
Safety is my grandma's carrot cake  
Safety is dressing up as Spider-Man  
Safety is going to my friend's house  
Safety is playing with my Hot Wheels  
track with my brother  
Safety is kindness, love, playing and  
feeling happy.*

## LITERACY



*This week Mrs Thaxter recommends.....*

### **The Boys** Ages 3-6

Follow the adventures of Tam, Rey, Nattie and Bobby - four boys who share a friendship that will last a lifetime.

From playing on the beach as babies to navigating the journey from childhood to adulthood, this beautifully illustrated picture book explores the importance of male friendships. This is the perfect book for young readers who are facing big changes, and opens up discussions about school-life and the future.

## BOOKSHOP

The Infant children really enjoy going to Bookshop every Wednesday. It is an ideal way for children to choose a book that they want to read at home. The children have been given a savings card and we encourage them to being a small amount of money each week to save for their book of choice. Parents do not need to give them large amounts of money

Thank you for all your support.

## PHONICS WORKSHOP

Miss Brophy and Mrs Thaxter are hosting a phonics workshop on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 9am in the gym hall. This is a very informative session so please come along if you can.

Parents of children from Reception – Y2 are welcome to attend.

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

This week.....

Charlotte Ross Harding, 1C, made her Promise at her Rainbow club and received her certificate and badge for her sash.

Well done Charlotte!



## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Children and adults observed a two-minute silence today at 11am to commemorate Remembrance Sunday. Members of the Royal British Legion joined us.

After the silence, the Y6 children had a special assembly with the visitors. Y6 are currently learning about WW2. The visitors answered the children's questions and told them all about the Royal British Legion.

Many thanks to everyone for supporting the Poppy Appeal.



## ANTI BULLYING WEEK

Anti-bullying week takes place the week beginning Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November. The theme for this week is “*Make a Noise about Bullying*”.

During the week we will discuss what bullying means to us, how jokes can turn into something more hurtful and what we can do to stop unkindness wherever we see it. We all have a duty to care for one another, either by standing up for others or by thinking carefully about the impact our words can have on those around us. The children will have a special assembly and explore the themes mentioned within their PSHE lessons.

To begin the week, we are having Odd Sock Day. Children are invited to wear odd socks on Monday 13<sup>th</sup>, with normal school uniform, to show that we are all different and unique and can celebrate the different qualities that we all have. Children do not have to bring money on this day.

Please click on the link below to watch a short video from the Anti-Bullying Alliance.

<https://youth.be/kfzr4e-shc8>

### PA NEWS

The PA would like to thank all the families for coming to the fireworks evening last Saturday at Eltham Town FC. Events such as these could not happen without the support of the families at St Mary's. It was wonderful to see old and new faces enjoying the fireworks display and having a social evening with friends and family. All funds raised contribute to helping all the children at St Mary's.

#### Dates for your Diary:

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December** – Wreath Making. This popular festive annual event will take place in the gym hall. More information about this exciting event and how to purchase tickets will be emailed to parents as soon as the details are confirmed. The ticket price will include all the materials needed to make a wreath with a little glass of mulled wine/prosecco and a mince pie!

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December** – Preloved Christmas Jumper Day. The PA are holding a preloved Christmas jumper sale at 3pm. If you, or if you know anyone who has Christmas jumpers they no longer require, please bring them to the main office. Christmas jumper day will take place in school on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

**Christmas Raffle** - The PA are appealing for donations of raffle prizes. If you know a person or business that would donate a service or prize please inform the PA. If parents have any unwanted gifts/bottles wine/chocolates please bring them to the main office for the PA, before Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November. All proceeds will go to the school to benefit all children.

### APPLYING FOR A PLACE IN RECEPTION

If your child is in Nursery, you will need to apply for a place in Reception to start in September 2024. The deadline to submit your application is Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January. Parents/carers will need to complete a St Mary's supplementary form; filled in and signed by your priest, and returned to the main office. They also need to apply to their local authority; details of this application form can be located online.

There is an open morning at St Mary's on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 9.15am. Please inform anyone you know with Reception/Nursery age children who would like to see the school with a view to applying.

### MESSAGE FROM CHRISTCHURCH

If you attend Christchurch and would like Fr John to sign your school form (nursery or reception) see remaining times below. Booking is not essential.

Date	Time
17 November	15.30pm – 17.00pm

#### **Date for your diary:**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November – Christchurch Christmas Fayre** 10am – 1pm.

Donations of toys in good condition, bottles for the tombola and unused unwanted gifts needed for the stalls. Donation bins are situated at the back of Christchurch.

If you would like to rent a stall at the fayre, please contact the parish office for more details. Stalls cost £20 to hire. Please indicate what you would like to sell and the office staff will advise.

[eltham@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:eltham@rcaos.org.uk)