

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 10th October 2025

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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WEEK BEGINNING 13th OCTOBER

Tuesday 14th

Blackheath Rugby Festival for Y5/Y6

Wednesday 15th

Blackheath Rugby Festival for Y3/Y4
Greenwich Cross Country Competition
Y5/Y6

Y2 Great Fire London Workshop

Y4 Class Mass – Convent

Parents' Evening 3.30pm – 6pm

Thursday 16th

Parents' Evening 3.30pm – 6pm

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

It has been a lovely week in school, full of moments that remind us how special our community is. A real highlight was our Chamber Choir's performance at St George's Cathedral at the Oscar Romero Trust Mass. They sang so beautifully and a proud moment for everyone involved. A huge well done to all the children and staff who made it possible.

We marked World Mental Health Day today, focusing on the importance of looking after ourselves and each other. Across the school, pupils took part in thoughtful activities and conversations about wellbeing, kindness, and staying connected. It was wonderful to see how openly and sensitively our children approached the topic.

Another highlight was welcoming parents and carers to our Open Morning. It was lovely to see so many of parents exploring classrooms, chatting with children and staff, and experiencing the warmth of St Mary's. We had many emails from our visitors praising our ambassadors who showed the parents around the school.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support — it makes such a difference.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs J Hansen
Head of School

FAITH FRIENDS

Faith friends led the rosary for both parents this morning and Infants at lunch time today.

Many thanks to everyone who came to the Rosary this morning.

There is one more Rosary on Friday 17th October. Please come along if you can.



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

PARENTS EVENINGS

WEDNESDAY 15TH/THURSDAY 16TH
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 13th October for parents to check. 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.

Infant teachers will be based in the dining hall and Junior teachers in the gym hall. Children in Y5/Y6 can accompany their parents to their meeting.

Mrs Whitewood will speak to the Nursery parents in the Nursery.

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. Please ensure your child is collected promptly.

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 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.

Y5 CLASS MASS

Children from 5L attended their class Mass in the Convent this week. The Convent Chapel is a special place to celebrate the class Masses.



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Jessica Little and Florence Marnham, both from 5L, recently took part in a triathlon at Hever Castle. The girls came 24th and 26th out of 94 contestants!



Enrico Moura Costanzo, 1D, is celebrating 2 achievements this week....he passed stage 3 in his swimming lessons and he got his first all-round certificate for agility, balance, coordination and speed in his football class.



Sydney Baretic, 5K, was inspired by her PSHE learning in class and created this wonderful poster at home, all about the perfect recipe for Friendship Soup!

That was a lovely thing to do Sydney!



LONDON YOUTH GAMES TAG RUGBY COMPETITION

Some of our children in Y5/Y6 represented St Mary's at the London Youth Games today at Old Colfeians RFU. The team played brilliantly, winning the competition and will now play in the London Youth Games Final next Spring.

Well done to the children, whose teamwork and determination were outstanding.



CHRISTCHURCH CHRISTMAS FAYRE

This annual festive event takes place on Sunday 23rd November from 10am-1pm.

Donations are required so if you have any unwanted gifts, bottles for the tombola or toys in good condition please leave them in the black bins at the back of the church.

The committee are renting out 4–5 stalls for anyone who has their own small business and would like to sell their products at the Fayre. Each stall costs £20 to hire, and stallholders keep any profits they make. If you are interested, please email halinkagawor@hotmail.co.uk with a brief description of what you sell and your price list, so we can make sure the products and pricing are suitable for the event.

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 Friday 31st October.

If you, or if you know someone who is applying to St Mary's for a place in Reception or Nursery 2026, please refer to the website for application details. Parents are required to complete a Certificate of Catholic Practice (which can be collected from the main office) and an information form, and return them to the main office with your child's baptism cert and a proof of your address by Thursday 15th January 2026. You must also apply to your local authority.

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

We have two open mornings for parents and carers to come and visit – Thursday 13th November and Thursday 8th January. Please phone the main office to book onto the tour.

COOKING IN Y5

Y5 children cooked a delicious vegetable soup using a recipe inspired by the same one served to Titanic survivors in 1912. The children peeled and chopped fresh ingredients, followed the historic recipe, and learned how simple, nourishing food helped people recover after the tragedy. It was tasty too!



RECEPTION CLASSES AUTUMN WALK

Classes A and B had a beautiful Autumn walk in Eltham Park South this week. The children enjoyed using all their senses to explore the beauty of nature. Many thanks to all the volunteers for helping.



BOOK WEEK MONDAY 20th – THURSDAY 23rd OCTOBER

I have attached the details of our upcoming book week again this week in case you missed it last week. We are all looking forward to celebrating this special week with the children.

The Travelling Book Fair will be open all week (gym hall). Children will be able to look at the books at lunch times and parents will be able to come to the hall after school to take a look at the books. Children will be able to purchase the books; the more books that are sold, the more money we will have to spend on books for the school.

On Thursday 23rd October, the children can come to school dressed up as a character from a favourite book. Please do not go to great expense; see what you can make at home.

Weather permitting, parents will be able to see the children parade around the Infant playground in their costumes (9.05am). The parade will last approx. 30 minutes.

Book Week is a very exciting time here at school, where we celebrate books and the joy of reading through a variety of fun activities and events.

BBC 500 WORD COMPETITION

The writing competition is now open for children aged 5 – 11 years. There are prizes to be won in the different age categories. Closing date for entry is 7th November 2025.

Get writing!

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

Children and adults alike were very happy to celebrate World Mental Health Day today. We all need a reminder of the importance of good mental health and the need to prioritise and invest in good mental health. We wore yellow as a symbol of hope, happiness and optimism.



Bryony Crystal, 2E, created a yellow name tag and picture for every one of her friends and teachers. Her thoughtful gesture reminded us all about the importance of World Mental Health Day and the power of kindness. We were all so grateful for her care and creativity!



Children in Class I, Y4, celebrated Wellbeing Day by spending time in nature. They played a gratitude circle game - passing a leaf and sharing what we are thankful for and they enjoyed relaxing activities like cloud gazing and slow-motion follow the leader. A calm, happy day outdoors!



MESSAGE FROM THE PA

We would like to inform parents and carers that we in process of agreeing the date of the Annual General Meeting of the Parents' Association where all members of the committee must step down and a new committee elected. This year, the entire committee is stepping down from their roles. We are, therefore, looking to fill these positions. Being a registered charity, we must fill the roles. The current committee will ensure a smooth handover.

Chairperson – the Chairperson's role focuses on community-building and communication. The person/people chair all PA meetings, plan and co-ordinate the events, liaise with the school and ensure decisions are made fairly.

Secretary - this can be a role shared by 2 individuals. The secretary is in charge of daily communication between the PA and school/parents, as well as various administrative duties such as taking notes during PA meetings, renewing licences and keeping volunteer lists for various events.

Co-Treasurer - this role will be shared by 2 individuals. Treasurers are jointly responsible for control and management of PA funds and bank accounts, completing end of year reports, ordering cash floats for events and paying suppliers.

If you would like more information or to put yourself forward for any of these roles, please let us know at stmaryspaeltham@gmail.com and come along to the meeting when the date is confirmed.

St Mary's Catholic School Parents Association (PA) contributes significantly to the school. We organise various events at our school with the aim of building a community and raising funds for the children - all proceeds of our events go directly to the school so that the students benefit from new items and maintenance of safe play and sporting areas.

Date for your diary:

Friday 28th November: Wreath Making Event at St Mary's. This annual event is such a lovely way to start the festive season. More details about booking a place will be communicated once finalised.