

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 13th February 2026

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Glenure Road, Eltham. SE9 1UF
020 8850 7835

governors@stmarys-catholic-primary.org
office@stmary-rc.greenwich.sch.uk

Twitter: [@stmaryseltham](https://twitter.com/stmaryseltham)

Visit us online at www.stmaryrc.org.uk



MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

We have enjoyed Children's Mental Health Week with activities highlighting the importance of emotional wellbeing. Mental health is just as important as physical health, and it plays a vital role in helping children feel happy and confident.

When we return to school after half term, Spring will be on its way. There are so many things around us during this season to be thankful for. Our days are brighter, birdsong is noticeable, daffodils are beginning to bloom and trees are beginning to look green. These signs of new life bring us to the most celebrated season in our liturgical year – Easter and the Resurrection of Jesus.

We will begin the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday (Wednesday 18th February) so all the focal points around the school will change to purple. This is a time for reflection, a time to try our best to be kind and to think about others.

Have a blessed and restful half term break.

Best wishes

Mrs J Hansen
Head of School

WEEK BEGINNING 16th FEBRUARY

Monday 16th – Friday 20th February
Half Term Holiday

Tuesday 17th February
Shrove Tuesday
Chinese New Year

Wednesday 18th February
Ash Wednesday

Saturday 21st February
Mother Language Day

WEEK BEGINNING 23rd FEBRUARY

Tuesday 24th February
Orchestra performing at Blackheath Halls. 6pm

Thursday 26th February
Class H Swimming

Friday 27th February
Tempest Photography on site. Class Photos.
Y2 Victorian Day Assembly. 2.30pm

FAITH FRIENDS

Today the Faith Friends updated the class focal areas to reflect the season of Lent. The children changed the cloth to purple.



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

SHROVE TUESDAY CELEBRATIONS IN RECEPTION

The Reception classes celebrated Shrove Tuesday the batter way! They toasted, chose our spreads, and enjoyed delicious pancakes. They made shopping lists, created fun pancake crafts, and even designed pancake faces a totally stack-tacular celebration!



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Francesco Vinante-Hellens, 2E, achieved his 50m swimming badge this week... he was super proud!



ORCHESTRA CONCERT

We are looking forward to the orchestra's performance at Blackheath Halls on Tuesday 24th February at 6:30pm, which is the first Tuesday back after half term. The children are sounding fantastic! I have asked the children to continue practising over half term so that they feel confident for the performance.

Mrs McGarry would like to have a rehearsal on Monday 23rd February from 3.30pm - 4:30pm for those children who can make it. This gives the children one last chance to rehearse. Please let me know if your child is not able to attend this rehearsal.

On Tuesday 24th February we will be taking the orchestra to Blackheath Halls for a rehearsal. This will take place during the school day. The children will need to bring a packed lunch as they will eat lunch before they go. We will be back at St Mary's before the end of the school day. If you can help, please contact the main office.

The children are required to arrive at Blackheath Halls at 6pm that evening. The concert will finish at 8pm. We ask that they wear full school uniform and come prepared with all their music and instruments. They may also bring a water bottle with them.

Finally, please do make sure you have booked your tickets for the concert via the Blackheath website. Please contact the main school office if there any problems with this.

Y4 MAYA DAY

The children in Y4 really enjoyed their Maya Day this week. Our visitor made the day really interesting for the children by getting into the role of a Mayan person.

The costumes were marvellous. Many thanks to parents and carers for supporting and for making good use of items they already had at home.



WORLD BOOK DAY COMPETITION

To celebrate World Book Day (Thursday 5th March) and the UK's National Year of Reading 2026, children are invited to design a National Book Token.

This year's theme, *Go All In*, is all about diving into the stories you love and exploring them even further through reading. Whether you are passionate about football, animals, space, fashion, gaming, history, music or making people laugh, books can bring your interests to life in exciting new ways.

For the competition, children are invited to create a bold, eye-catching gift card design. Their design should reflect their reading interests and show how books inspire them to explore ideas, spark their imagination, and go further through reading. A template is attached for your child to use for their final design.

Half term is an ideal time for children to get creative and design something amazing.

All entries should be handed to Mrs Thaxter by **Friday 20th March**.

Y5 RECYCLING ACTIVITIES

Y5 children spent this afternoon using recycled materials to build the Acropolis as part of our Ancient Greek topic. They really enjoyed the project, using their creativity, team work and practical skills to produce amazing outcomes. It was also a good opportunity to participate in an enjoyable learning activity as part of children's mental health week!



SAFER INTERNET DAY

Safer Internet Day took place on Tuesday 10th February. The theme this year was '**Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI**'.

To coincide with Safer Internet Day, we held our first meeting with our newly appointed Digital Leaders. These pupils are excited to take on leadership roles, helping to use technology safely, responsibly and effectively across the school. They will support staff in practical ways and meet regularly to share their friends' ideas, concerns and interests, helping to strengthen our digital learning and citizenship.

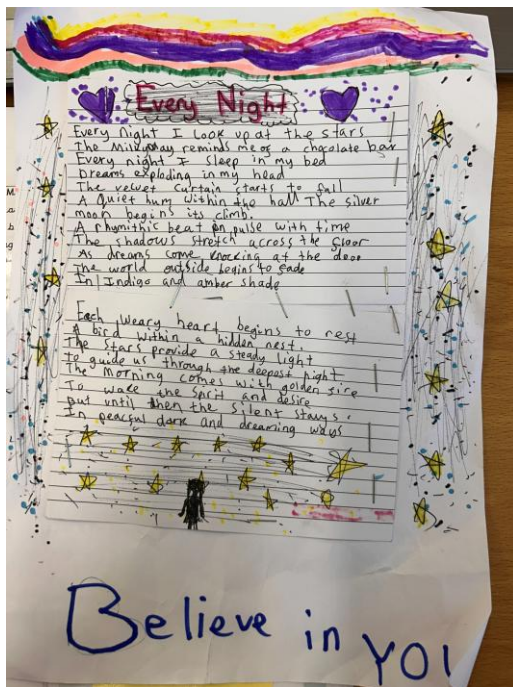


Children in Y6 marked the day by exploring the laws of the internet. They acted out what can happen when online rules are broken and played games to spot AI generated images.



BEAUTIFUL POETRY

JANELLE OBAWE Y4 CLASS 1



Y1 FOOD TECHNOLOGY

As part of their Science topic on plants, the children enjoyed making their own vegetable wraps. They followed a simple recipe and discussed the different ingredients they used.

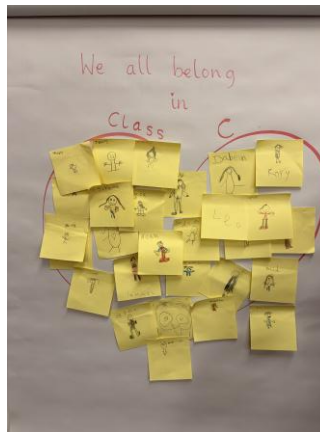
They practised safe food handling skills and learned how to carefully roll and fold the wraps to enclose the filling.

They also had the opportunity to taste a selection of dips, including soy sauce and sweet chilli sauce.



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK ACTIVITIES

Children in Class C made a '*belonging heart*' to celebrate our class community. Bethany and James made kind heart messages to give out to their peers during the course of the week.



END OF TERM AWARDS
CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Class A	Alex, Rose
Class B	George, Julia
Class C	Stasio, Delilah
Class D	Samuel O, Georgina
Class E	Lucas, Mabel
Class F	Noah, Elsie
Class G	Harper, Pixie
Class H	Sasha, Olive
Class I	Harry, Evelyn
Class J	Victoria, Jack
Class K	Bella, Okiki
Class L	Teddy, Maeve
Class M	Jacob, Emily
Class N	Arlen, Mimi

END OF TERM AWARDS
CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

Class A	Henry, Ada
Class B	Michael, Bonnie
Class C	Cormac, Ivy
Class D	Alex, Maya
Class E	Heze, Otilie
Class F	Quinn, Grace
Class G	George, Nathan
Class H	Hugo, Sofia
Class I	Freddie, Valentina
Class J	Freddie, Erin
Class K	Connor L, Jacob
Class L	Marcus, Rose
Class M	Rory, Sienna
Class N	Christos, Isla

END OF TERM AWARDS
PSHE

Class A	Angie
Class B	Sona
Class C	Isaac
Class D	Sam T
Class E	Bobby
Class F	Miah-Rose
Class G	Amelie
Class H	Gabriel
Class I	Alexandria
Class J	Clara
Class K	Albert
Class L	Esme
Class M	Raessa
Class N	Kenechi

ATTENDANCE

WEDNESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2025 - FRIDAY 13th FEBRUARY 2026

RA	RB	1C	1D	2E	2F	3G	3H	4I	4J	5K	5L	6M	6N
97%	96%	97%	97%	98%	94%	97%	97%	98%	97%	96%	98%	96%	95%

Well done to classes 2E, 4I and 5L for achieving 98% attendance at the end of this half term! Keep up the good work.

We have noticed this half term that there are many nasty virus' about so please ensure you rest and let the body recoup over half term so that we come back feeling refreshed and free from sickness. Spring is on the way so we can look forward to warmer weather soon.

PA EVENT

 **St Patrick's Day Fundraiser - buy your tickets now!** 

Don't miss out on tickets for our annual **St Patrick's Celebration** on **Friday 20 March, 6-9.30pm**.

This is a fun, **family** evening and one of the highlights of our social calendar. The evening will have:

- ❖ Live, traditional Irish music
- ❖ Fabulous Irish dancing display
- ❖ Paid bar and snacks

Tickets are available to purchase on: [tiny.cc/stmaryspaticketts](https://stmaryspaticketts)

If you are planning to come along, please consider signing up for one of the volunteer slots (<https://volunteersignup.org/QAA4Y>). We need lots of hands to help make events like this a success. **Volunteers get a free ticket!**

Cannot wait to see you there!

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