

**Weekly Newsletter**  
**Friday 13th March 2026**

**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](https://twitter.com/stmaryseltham)

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



### MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

Mothering Sunday is the traditional day in the UK and Ireland when people celebrate and show appreciation for their mothers and mother figures.

Mothering Sunday began as a Christian tradition when people would return to their "mother church" (the main church or cathedral in their area) for a special service.

Over time it became a day when servants and apprentices were allowed to visit their families, so they could see their mothers. They often made Simnel cake (a fruit cake with marzipan) to take to their mothers to celebrate.

Today it's very similar to Mother's Day in many countries - giving cards, flowers, and gifts, cooking breakfast or a special meal and spending time with family.

Many thanks to the PA who organised some beautiful gifts for the children to purchase.

Our Year 6 pupils had a fantastic trip to the Houses of Parliament today! They enjoyed learning about British democracy and exploring one of the most historic buildings in the country. Many thanks to all the adults who accompanied them.

Have a restful weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs J Hansen  
Head of School

### WEEK BEGINNING 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH

#### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – Friday 20<sup>th</sup>

Neurodiversity Celebration Week

#### Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March

Beacons Netball Club on site running workshops for children Y2 – Y6.

Y6 Stations of the Cross

End of Term Gymnastics Show. 3.55pm

St Patrick's Day

#### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March

Parent's Evening 3.30pm – 6pm

#### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March

Parent's Evening 3.30pm – 6pm

#### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March

Y5 Ancient Greek Day

PA Event for St Patrick's Day

6pm – 9.30pm

Creative Stars end of term show.

4.10pm

### LENTEN WALK IN ELTHAM PARK

The children from Reception – Y6 will take part in a Lenten Walk around Eltham Park South on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March in aid of CAFOD.

Nursery children will have their own Lenten Walk at school led by the Faith Friends.

There is a sponsor form attached for any child that wishes to collect sponsorship money to be donated to CAFOD.

Many thanks for your continued support.

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

## Y5 STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The children in Y5, class K, visited Christchurch this week for Stations of the Cross with Fr John. Mrs Shallice was very proud of the children for listening so attentively and their impeccable manners. Well done class K.



## ROYAL BOROUGH GREENWICH SHORT STORY COMPETITION

In line with World Book Day, Royal Borough Greenwich has launched this year's **500 Word Short Story Competition**, inspired by the theme **THE UNEXPECTED**. Children are invited to write a short story, no more than 500 words, preferably typed, on the theme of **THE UNEXPECTED**.

All entries can be sent to Mrs Thaxter by **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**. Please include your full name and class.



Next week is *Neurodiversity Celebration Week*, which celebrates the different ways people think, learn and experience the world.

Neurodiversity means that everyone's brain works differently. Some people may be neurodivergent, which can include conditions such as Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Dyslexia.

Throughout the week, pupils will take part in activities that help them understand that everyone learns differently and that our differences are something to respect and celebrate.

By learning about neurodiversity, we aim to encourage kindness, understanding and an inclusive school community where every child feels valued.



## PARENT'S EVENING WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup>/THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH

Parents' evenings are scheduled to take place on Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th March, from 3.30pm – 6pm. Please ensure you arrive on time for your meeting to ensure the teachers can stick to their schedule.

**Children will finish school at 3pm on both days and every child must be collected at 3pm, even if you have an early appointment.**

Parents should wait in the usual place to collect their children. The slightly earlier finish gives the teachers time to prepare for the meetings. Children who normally walk home on their own should be collected at 3pm as they are not allowed to leave the school premises unaccompanied before 3.15pm.

Meetings for Nursery and Infant children will take place in the dining hall and Junior children in the gym hall. Parents of children with SEN will also see Mrs Henderson, our SENCO.

**After school clubs will not be running on either day. You have not paid for these clubs.**

Wraparound care will take place as normal. The children will be based in the Y2 classrooms.

## WORLD BOOK DAY COMPETITION

To celebrate World Book Day (Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

Many thanks for all the entries so far! They look amazing!

One more week to send in your entries as they should be handed to Mrs Thaxter by **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March**.

## Y4 SCIENCE

As part of their science learning about teeth and oral hygiene, this week the Y4 children used disclosing tablets to reveal plaque on their teeth. This practical activity helped them understand the importance of brushing thoroughly to keep their teeth clean and healthy.



## Y3 VISIT ELTHAM PALACE

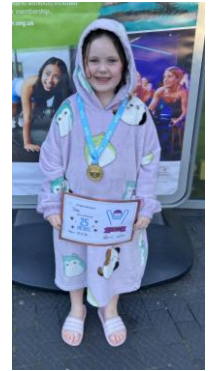
As part of their topic on local history, Y3 children visited Eltham Palace and the Courtauld House.

- ❖ The children learnt that there has been a hall on the site since 1086. King Henry VIII grew up here as a child. They sketched different aspects of the Palace and the surrounding nature.
- ❖ They had the opportunity to try on Tudor clothes, war time uniforms and some of the hats that Virginia Courtauld, the lady of the house, would have worn.
- ❖ They found the old Tudor drains which led into the moat.
- ❖ During the Second World War the Courtaulds used the basement to shelter from the bombing. As the bombing continued, they decided to leave the house and the family settled in South Africa. The house and hall are now looked after by English Heritage.



## CHILDREN'S CORNER

Thea Griffin, 1D, got her 25m badge for swimming and has moved to bronze level.



Jack Saunders, 4J, swam one mile in 40 minutes this week! 64 laps of the pool! Wow....incredible effort, Jack. Well done!



## SUMMER UNIFORM

The children are asked to return to school after the Easter break in full Summer uniform. The weather should be better by then and the children look forward to wearing less layers! Our uniform policy can be viewed [here](#) so please take a look.

The PA are holding a preloved uniform sale on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm. Please come along as there are very good items of uniform for sale.

## PA EVENTS

### **St Patrick's Day Fundraiser - Tickets Still Available!**

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/stmaryspatickets](https://tiny.cc/stmaryspatickets)

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!**

### **SCHOOL MAGAZINE 2026**

Each year the Parent's Association publishes a school magazine. It is a lovely memento of the school year and celebrates the children's hard work and achievements.

We would like to invite all the children to submit contributions to the magazine. These can include:

- ❖ artwork
- ❖ awards
- ❖ achievements
- ❖ recipes
- ❖ photography
- ❖ poems
- ❖ quizzes and word searches
- ❖ pet news
- ❖ interesting places that you have visited

Please send your entries, with your child's name and class, to **stmaryrcmagazine@gmail.com** by Friday 28th April. Use the lovely Easter break to gather things together.