

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 14th February 2025

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

Every 2 weeks school council meetings are chaired by Mrs White. These are followed up by the head girl and head boy meeting with me. This week it was agreed by the school councillors that children should be allowed to bring water into school as it is important to remain hydrated.

However, the suitability of 'Stanley Cup' type water bottles was raised by the children as this type of cup has caused issues in school. The head boy and head girl explained to me that these bottles are heavy, bulky, take up too much room on the tables, do not fit in school bags, can make a loud noise when they are knocked over and many leak. I agreed with the school council that we would discuss further what they think is the most suitable water bottle, but in the meantime, I would ask that children do not bring 'Stanley Cups' to school.

We are very proud of our School Council for raising this issue. We always listen to what the children suggest.

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 5th March) 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 restful half term

Mrs Hansen

Head of School



Nurturing Our God-Given Talents

WEEK BEGINNING 24th FEBRUARY

Tuesday 25th February

Y3 begin Recorder Lessons

Wednesday 26th February

Class 3H at Eltham Pools for Missed Lesson

Y2 visit Christchurch

Thursday 27th February

Class 3G begin Swimming Lessons

Friday 28th February

Y2 Victorian Day

Saturday 1st March

St David's Day

FAITH FRIENDS

Today the faith friends gathered the Infant children to talk to them about Jesus' special love for those who are poor, hungry, sad or badly treated. We are called to do what we can to help people in our world to be happy. What can you do this week to help those who are poor, hungry or sad? The children drew pictures of things that they will do to help others this week. We spent some time in silence, talking to Jesus in our hearts.

God of all, we give you thanks for your great love. Especially those who are poor, those who hunger and those who are sad. Amen



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

LEARNING IN Y2

Classes 2E and 2F have been investigating length in maths this week. The children measured pieces of string and used them to explore the classroom to find items that were longer and shorter than 10cm.



Y2 children baked gluten and dairy free muffins in FT. We chose to make these as we know that some people have allergies and it is important for us all to know how to bake alternative recipes. Please try out our recipe for gluten free, vegan banana muffins!

- 3 medium ripe bananas – mashed or blueberries
- ½ cup soya milk
- ¼ cup sunflower oil
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- ¼-1 cup brown sugar
- 1 ¼ cups gluten free flour
- 1 teaspoon gluten free baking powder
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice

- 1.Preheat oven to 350°F / 175°C. Line or lightly grease a standard 12-hole muffin tin.
- 2.In a medium bowl, mix together the mashed bananas (or blueberries), milk, cooking oil, vanilla extract and brown sugar.
- 3.In a separate large bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder and salt.
- 4.Add the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and mix together until just combined. Stir in the lemon juice.
- 5.Divide batter evenly among the muffin cups.
- 6.Bake muffins, 25–30 minutes.

If you do manage to bake some, take some photos to show the Y2 teachers. They would love to see them.

LITERACY

This week Ms Gannon recommends a poem....

Shel Silverstein Hinges

*If we had hinges on our heads
There wouldn't be no sin
Cause we could take the bad stuff out
And leave the good stuff in!*

ALLERGIES /PACKED LUNCH GUIDANCE

At St. Mary's we endeavour to have a safe learning environment for all pupils. As a school we have a number of children and staff with severe allergies (anaphylaxis) requiring EPI pens.

As a reminder we are a nut-free school which means that packed lunches should not contain nuts of any kind, including food that contains nuts, such as:

- Nut butter spreads (including things like Nutella)
- Cereal/snack bars that include nuts
- Avoiding sending containers that previously contained nuts into school for junk modelling / Art lessons

Children should not have sweets or bars of chocolate as part of their packed lunches. Biscuit bars such as 'Penguin' or 'two bar KitKats' are acceptable as part of a balanced diet. It is helpful if children are able to open all of the items in their lunch boxes by themselves. Yogurts in a tube can be especially difficult to open and small pots of yogurt maybe be a better option.

Many thanks for your continued support.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

This week.....

Matthew McGirr, 4I, and his Engineering Minds team have won the Core Values Award at the South-East London First LEGO League Tournament.

The Core Values Award is one of the most prestigious awards in First LEGO League, as it recognises teams who show exceptional teamwork, enthusiasm, and collaboration—the very heart of what the First LEGO League is all about.



Emmett Murphy, 6N, has recently passed his Jujitsu Grading. He received his Brown White Belt. Emmett worked very hard to achieve this goal.



COMPETITION TIME

Marks and Spencer are hosting a competition with YoungMinds, UK's leading charity fighting for a world where no young person feels alone with their mental health.

The details of the competition can be accessed [here](#).

Please encourage your child to enter....one never knows, their design may one day be seen on the shelves of Marks and Spencer!

PA NEWS

The Parent's Association are working behind the scenes organising their next two events. Please put these dates in your diary:

Friday 14th March – St Patrick's Day family event (PM).

Friday 28th March – Mother's Day gift sale (during the school day)



ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY!
FRIDAY 14TH MARCH
7PM - 10PM

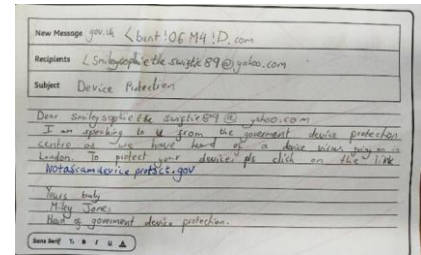
Join us for St. Mary's annual St. Patrick's Day celebration!
A fabulous family evening with live Irish music and dancing.
Bar and bar snacks available on the night, sweets and fun for the kids.

Tickets available online
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stmaryspa/1551035>

Adults: £7.50
Children: £4.50 (under 3 years old free)
Volunteers: free
<https://volunteersignup.org/TKJKJ>

SAFER INTERNET WEEK

This week, children at St Mary's celebrated Safer Internet Day. The theme this year was '*Too Good to be True - Protecting Yourself and Others from Scams Online.*' The children participated in an assembly and class sessions about this theme. It was so interesting for the teachers to hear about the children's existing knowledge of the theme and to share in conversations about how we can each stay safe in different online environments. Children of all ages were able to talk about their online experiences. Please ensure you continue these conversations at home and review filtering on apps and devices that your children use in the home.



HALF TERM CYCLE TRAINING

Mulgrave Primary School is hosting a half term Cycle Training Courses for children aged 7+ during February half term. The training is open to children across the borough. There are two separate types of sessions to choose from depending on ability.

LEARN-TO-RIDE: Children's Complete Beginner cycle training for age 7 years and over. Suitable for those who have never ridden a bike or would like to come off stabilisers.

INTERMEDIATE: Children's Intermediate (Level 1) group cycle training for age 7 years and over. Suitable for those who **can** cycle without stabilisers but are not yet fully confident on the bicycle.

Bookings are now live. Please follow the link below.

<https://www.cycleconfident.com/events?area=greenwich&course=child-group>

END OF HALF TERM AWARDS
CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Class A	Samuel, Lois
Class B	Samuel, Lydia
Class C	Asher, Maggie
Class D	Francesco, Cece
Class E	Damian, Violet
Class F	Hugo, Olive
Class G	Zachary, Verity
Class H	Dexen, Annabelle
Class I	Charlie, Florence
Class J	Connor, Victoria
Class K	Anton, Connie
Class L	Christos, Donata
Class M	Leo, Grace O'Malley
Class N	Mitch, Betsy

END OF HALF TERM AWARDS
CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

Class A	Elwood, Margot
Class B	Isaac, Saoirse
Class C	Mark, Madeline
Class D	Heath, Bryony
Class E	Vincent, Rosie
Class F	Jude, Lea
Class G	Ziylon, Erin
Class H	Freddie, Isabella
Class I	Oliver, Ella
Class J	Dristan, Chisom
Class K	Jacob, Dotty
Class L	Lennie, Nicole
Class M	Oscar, Tilly
Class N	Alistair, Ruby

END OF HALF TERM
AWARDS PSHE

Class A	Bruno
Class B	Noah
Class C	Elsie
Class D	Noah
Class E	Lottie
Class F	Bertie
Class G	Helen
Class H	Annie
Class I	Daniele
Class J	Kisabelle
Class K	Kevin
Class L	Jessica S
Class M	Sammy
Class N	Leonardo & Emmett

ATTENDANCE

TUESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2024 - FRIDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2025

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

Well done to classes 1D, 2F, 3H and 4I 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.

DYSLEXIA WORKSHOP

Please put Tuesday 4th March in your diary for the Dyslexia Coffee Morning.

Mrs Henderson would like to invite parents and carers to attend to learn about:

- The signs of dyslexia and how it can present
- How it can impact the life and education of children
- Ideas and strategies to support your child at home

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served.

NATURE DETECTIVES

Wednesday 29th January marked the beginning of the Chinese New Year and this year is the year of the snake!



This month's Nature Detectives Challenge is to find out about the diet and habitat of Britain's snakes. Please email your photographs and nature notes to the main office and we will pass them to Mrs Evans. Use your half term break to discover more about the great British snake.