

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 16th January 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 completed week 2 of the Spring term, and as I look out the window while writing this, I can feel Spring in the air. The days are already getting slightly longer, and this small change brings a lightness to our sense of wellbeing. Spring is a joyous season that fills us with hope.

We were very grateful to welcome our visitor this week, Anna Johnstone, who spoke so movingly about Carlo Acutis. It was a deeply special time for both the children and staff. Every child received a prayer card that had touched the saint's relic, and I encourage families to pray this prayer together regularly.

All of our after-school clubs restarted this week for the new term! We have lots of different clubs where children can try new things, learn new skills, make friends across year groups, build confidence and have fun!

Participation in these clubs is such a great part of a child's growth and personality. It is wonderful to see our children involved in something they really enjoy.

Enjoy the weekend!

Best wishes

Mrs J Hansen

Head of School

WEEK BEGINNING 19th JANUARY

Monday 19th January

Y1 Art Workshop. Magic Lantern on site

Tuesday 20th January

Members of the School Council Visit St Thomas More Comprehensive

First Round Cicero Cup Debate Competition in Beckenham

Y4 Confessions. Christchurch

Wednesday 21st January

Y2 Visit Christchurch

Friday 23rd January

Year 1, Class D Visit Christchurch

FAITH FRIENDS

Faith Friends from class 4I met at lunchtime to share the story of Jesus' baptism with the Infant children.

They explained what the Holy Spirit is, how we cannot see it but we know it is there, much like the wind.



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

CARLO ACUTIS

On Tuesday, we had a special visitor on site to talk about Carlo Acutis. Anna Johnstone spoke about his life and how he became a saint.

Carlo was an English-born Italian Catholic teenager known for his devotion to the Eucharist and his use of digital media to promote Catholic devotion. Active in parish life, he served as a catechist and helped inspire several people to convert to Catholicism. He later created a website documenting Eucharistic miracles.

After his death, Carlo was canonised as a saint on 7th September 2025. He has been referred to as the "patron saint of the Internet", "God's Influencer" and the "first millennial saint".

We really enjoyed listening to Anna about Carlo's life and realised he is an inspiring example of kindness, service, and using our talents for good. Anna helped us understand how faith can be lived meaningfully in the modern world.



CHESS CLUB

Our new Lunchtime Chess Club is now up and running! Children from Y4/5/6 are invited to join in. Whether your child is a complete beginner or already knows how to play, the club offers a fun, calm space to learn how to play, the strategies and build confidence.

Chess is a brilliant way to strengthen problem solving skills, patience, and concentration while having a fun time. The club runs once a week during lunchtime, and pupils can drop in as they wish.

We are really impressed with the interest shown so far and look forward to seeing the children progress.



COOKERY CLUB

The Cookery Club for the Spring Term is up and running and I saw very happy faces leaving on Monday after the club had finished!

This week the children made Raisin Soda Bread. This is an easy bread to make, with just a few ingredients and no yeast. It is an ideal first bread for children to make.



JUNIOR LEARNING MENTORS



Mrs Prescott, our Learning Mentor, is very excited to share her new initiative with parents and carers. During the Pupil Voice meeting, she asked the Y6 children who would like to assist her in her role as Learning Mentor and she was overwhelmed with the response!

Twenty one Y6 children offered to volunteer as Junior Learning Mentors. They will support Mrs Prescott in the Infant and Junior playgrounds every day, looking out for children who need the hand of friendship or who may just need a chat about a worry they are having.

The Junior Mentors will be easy to spot in the playgrounds as they will all be wearing a green mentor badge.

INFANT NATIVITY

The links to download the Infant Nativity are available until 31st January.

If you would like a copy, please make a £5 payment on Wisepay and we will send the links to you.

The year groups that were involved in the Nativity were Reception, Y1 and Y2.

DEBATE CLUB

We wish our Debate Club the very best of luck as they participate in the first round of the Cicero Cup Debate Competition on Tuesday 20th January.

The children have been asked to prepare and deliver arguments for a particularly challenging motion:

“This house would introduce compulsory military service for school leavers”

Led by Miss Brophy, the team have been working very hard and we know they will do us proud.

PRAYER AND LITURGY

Children in the Reception classes are beginning to explore the Bible stories and learning what the stories mean to them.

Each week, two children will talk to their classes about the Bible story of that week and convey the messages they have deciphered from the story.

They had a great practice run this week so we look forward to sharing their stories.

