

**Weekly Newsletter**  
**Friday 19th January 2024**

**St Mary's Catholic Primary School**

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*Nurturing Our God-Given Talents*

WEEK BEGINNING 22<sup>nd</sup> January

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>**

Y5 Reconciliation 11am

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>**

Debate Club Competition

Burns Night

### HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

At our staff briefing this morning, I shared the fantastic result from yesterday's tag rugby tournament where St Mary's were crowned champions of the Year 5 and Year 6 event, which we are delighted about!

Well done to all the children who participated and the adults who supported. I want to extend my thanks to Blackheath Rugby Club for hosting the competition which has enabled hundreds of children the chance to participate in competitive rugby matches; many of the children have not had the opportunity previously.

I am very proud of all the achievements that St Mary's has gained since the start of this academic year, including The Royal Greenwich Poetry Competition; our Chamber Choir and our strong academic achievements. I am also excited that the staff are keen to offer more opportunities. I know that children have participated in (or are going to) in Dodgeball, Debate Mate, French and Art Competition among many others!

In line with the revision of our Mission Statement at the beginning of the year, it is clear that staff and students are Nurturing their God-Given talents.

Enjoy your weekend.

Kind regards

Mr Sims  
Headteacher

### FAITH FRIENDS

This week the Faith Friends shared the story of Jesus calling his disciples to follow Him. They sang *Follow Me* and the Faith Friend leaders helped the younger children to write their own prayers.



### PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Isabella and Oscar, RA, lead Prayer and Worship in class A. They chose to share the story of Moses.



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

## SPORTS NEWS

Children from Y5 and Y6 competed in the Blackheath Tag Rugby Tournament in Hervey Road, yesterday, in very cold conditions! There were 10 schools involved in the competition and St Mary's won both the Y5 and Y6 competitions!

Very well done to the children for their resilience and good sportsmanship.

Many thanks to all the parents for volunteering and to Mr Sims and Mr Williams for accompanying the children.

Six of our Y4 children had a fantastic afternoon at Eltham Hill participating in a Dodgeball festival. Led by youth leaders, children from seven Greenwich primary schools played six fast and friendly games. It was an exciting afternoon with lots of fantastic teamwork, attacking throws and dodging!

Many thanks to Mrs Evans and Mrs Black for accompanying and encouraging the children.



## PHSE

The Life Tent was on site at St Mary's this week. The children enjoyed the visit immensely, especially visiting the interactive 'Life Space'. The teaching staff were hugely impressed with the content and quality of the learning. As always, the children of St Mary's conducted themselves so beautifully, asked thoughtful questions and made reflective comments on the themes explored.

Kate, the workshop leader, sent this message:

*"Thank you for such a lovely visit to St Mary's Catholic Primary! The staff and children made me feel very welcome at your school and I really enjoyed my visit. The children were so well behaved and really engaged in their health and mental wellbeing workshops. It was an absolute pleasure to teach the children as they made valuable and mature contributions..."*

We were so fortunate to welcome Kate from our PSHE partner SCARF and we hope to welcome her back soon.



## LITERACY



*This week Mrs Thaxter recommends.....*

Take off your brave: Poems just for you

Ages 4-12

By turns funny and charming, gentle and zany, Take Off Your Brave shows that poetry is for everyone – no matter how little you are!

## FRENCH COMPETITION

We are excited to announce that St Mary's has entered a national French competition for the first time. It is the **Foreign Language Primary Bee** organised by **Routes into Languages**.

Children in Y5/Y6 have been busy this week preparing their word lists for the first round of the competition.

We wish all the participants all the best!

Bonne chance!

## WRAPAROUND CARE

We hope that all parents are now aware of the new arrangements with the wraparound care beginning after the Easter holiday. If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to phone the main office.

If you, or anyone you know, is having a Spring clear out and have items (toys/games/colouring pencils/crayons) that you no longer require, please bring them to the main office as we are in need of them.

Many thanks.

## DEBATING COMPETITION

On 25<sup>th</sup> January, some of our Y6 children will take part in the Cicero Cup, a national debating competition for primary schools. This is the first time we have entered this competition and the children are excited about the challenge!

Thank you to Mr Williams for preparing the children.

## INFANT NATIVITY

The links to download the Infant Nativity have been extended to 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

## BACK TO SCHOOL ILLNESS ADVICE

Please click on the following link for some helpful advice for parents as we start a new term at school. We are in the middle of the cold/flu season and it is important to follow practical steps to keep keeps colds at bay, for everyone to remain healthy.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-67894937>

## PA NEWS

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

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Mother's Day gift sale (during the school day)

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March – St Patrick's Day family event (PM).

More details will follow about the St Patrick's Day event but the PA have asked parents to think about putting their name forward for volunteering.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

The school council set up a board games event at lunchtime this week for children in Y3 – Y6. All the children enjoyed playing. Many thanks to Mrs White and the school council for organising.



## NUT FREE SCHOOL

At the last school council meeting, Mrs White discussed with the headboy and headgirl how St Mary's is a nut free school. The children said how important it is to protect the children who have allergies, to ensure that school dinners and packed lunches are nut free.

We are reminding parents not to include any nut products in your child's packed lunch i.e biscuits with nuts in, Nutella or peanut butter sandwiches.

Thank you for your support.

## BURNS NIGHT

Burns Night, also known as Robert Burns Night or Rabbie Burns Day, is a celebration of the life and poetry of Robert Burns, Scotland's national poet. This annual event is observed on January 25<sup>th</sup>, the poet's birthday, and is marked by traditional Scottish customs, poetry recitations, music, and a special meal.

The first recorded Burns Supper took place in 1801 and the tradition has continued to thrive, not only in Scotland but in other parts of the world with Scottish communities.

If you are planning a special Burns Night with family and friends, please enjoy!