

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 19th September 2025

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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WEEK BEGINNING 22nd SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 23rd

Harvest Mass Christchurch

Wednesday 24th

Beginning of the Year Mass at St George's Cathedral with the Headboy

Thursday 25th

Y5 Titanic Workshop

Friday 26th

Flu Vaccination Nurses on site

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

After some calls from the residents of Glenure Road, I would like to kindly remind everyone to drive with patience and caution around the school. Please take extra care when dropping off and picking up your children — their safety is our top priority.

We also ask that you park responsibly and avoid blocking entrances, crossings, or neighbouring driveways. A few extra minutes of care can make a big difference in keeping our school community safe and respectful for all.

Also, may I ask parents and carers to please show understanding when driving behind a Special Needs School Bus. These buses may need extra time when loading or unloading students, but every stop they make ensures the safety and dignity of children who need a little more care.

I am looking forward to our Beginning of Year Mass in St George's Cathedral on Wednesday 24th September with our headboy and headgirl and their deputies. It will be a wonderful way to start the school year together in prayer, gratitude, and hope for all that lies ahead.

Enjoy this beautiful weather this weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs J Hansen
Head of School

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our annual Harvest Festival Mass is taking place on Tuesday 23rd September. As part of Harvest Festival every year, St Mary's collects food/toiletry items for a charity. This year we are supporting a charity supported by the Sisters of Mercy.

Please try to donate, even just one item. Food must be non-perishable, sealed and in date e.g., tinned foods, rice, pasta tea, coffee, herbs and spices.

These items can either be dropped at the main office or brought straight to class. Many thanks for your support.

SIGNING PRIMARY/SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATION FORMS

I have attached the dates that Fr John in Christchurch is signing supplementary forms for both primary and secondary applications. Please ensure you get your forms signed before the deadlines.

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

OCTOBER – THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY

The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary falls on Tuesday 7th October. During this month we are invited to say the Rosary as a way to grow in faith and draw closer to Christ.

Parents and family members are invited to join the Faith Friends on Friday 3rd, Friday 10th and Friday 17th October at 8.30am in the gym hall. The children will lead this prayer service.

Please try and come along to start your day in a mindful way.

This week, our Faith Friends celebrated the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary — the birthday of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

They also taught the infant children about the very special symbol of our faith – the Cross. It reminds us of Jesus' death and resurrection. God loves the world and all of us so much that he sent his son to us. They then helped the children to draw their own cross to remind them of God's love.

*Generous God,
We thank you for sending us your son,
whose death on the cross is a sign of
new life. Thank you for loving us so
much. Help us to share this love with
one another
Amen.*



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for some parent volunteers to help run our bookshop. Bookshop takes place every Wednesday afternoon for the Infant children. They bring a little money each week to save up for a book of their choice.

If a few parents could help, we could set up a rota so you may only have to help every few weeks.

Speak to the office staff if you feel this is something you may like to do.

Y5 TITANIC WORKSHOP

Next Thursday, 25th September, the Y5 children will take part in a workshop to learn more about the Titanic. An educational company will come on site to run the workshop.

Children are invited to come in costume on this day as a character from the Titanic. This could be a sailor or captain, a passenger (first, second or third class), a stoker from the boiler rooms, a chef from the kitchens, the possibilities are endless! While we would love to see lots of imaginative costumes, we do not want anyone to go to great expense, so feel free to make costumes with things already at home.

Details of the day have been emailed to parents and payment can be made through Wisepay (£6.87).

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Lionel Sarr, 4I, has been awarded the title "**Boy of the Year 2025**" for his leadership, outstanding behaviour, and remarkable achievements in the 28th West Kent Boys' Brigade.

What an accolade...well done Lionel!



Fionn Doyle, 4I, and George Collins, 3G, both play for Old Elthamians Cricket Club. They recently competed in the Kent 40 U9s finals in Folkestone. The team finished an impressive 6th out of 40 places. Cormac Doyle, 1C, had to fill in at the last minute helping the team to achieve the wonderful result.



Rory Cork, 6N, attended a swimming masterclass with James Guy, triple Olympic champion, last Saturday. He worked on his freestyle and butterfly, as well as his starts and dives. Rory got some great tips on how to improve!



Y5 SCIENCE

After being inspired by their fantastic Y5 Science lesson with Mrs Harding, Cora Wilson and Sydney Baretic, 5K, took it upon themselves to do extra homework related to their topic 'Materials'. Well done Cora and Sydney.



Y4 SCIENCE

Y4 children really enjoyed exploring States of Matter in their Science lesson by trapping air inside flexible balloons, observing how gases can be contained in a solid, flexible structure. We investigated expansion of solids and used a play parachute to demonstrate air's role in matter. Our balloons also turned into mini rockets using the force, upward thrust - it was a wonderful hands-on session of exploration and fun!



APPLYING TO ST MARY'S

If you, or if you know someone who is applying to St Mary's for a place in Reception or Nursery 2026, please refer to the website for application details. Parents are required to complete a Certificate of Catholic Practice (which can be collected from the main office) and an information form, and return them to the main office with your child's baptism cert and a proof of your address by Thursday 15th January 2026. You must also apply to your local authority.

<https://www.stmaryrc.org.uk/Admissions-04122019150956/>

We have three open mornings for parents and carers to come and visit – Tuesday 7th October, Thursday 13th November and Thursday 8th January. Please phone the main office to book onto the tour.

CLAIMING FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you feel your child is entitled to Free School Meals, please ensure you complete the necessary paperwork. Ask the office staff to guide you. **Enquiries will be treated confidentially so please do not hesitate to ask any questions.** It is very important that parents enquire about pupil premium as families can really benefit. Many families may be experiencing financial hardship as the cost of living is increasing, so please do not hesitate to speak to the office staff (Mrs Jefferys or Mrs Jeffrey).

Although Infants and Juniors are entitled to free meals, they too can apply for pupil premium if parents' financial situation is below a certain threshold. Every school receives extra funding if parents make successful claims.

Parents are encouraged to look into this as children can benefit in so many ways (help with music tuition, subsidising after school clubs/educational visits etc.)