

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 20th October 2023

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

Visit us online at www.stmaryrc.org.uk



Nurturing Our God-Given Talents

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

The children have loved booked week so much, thank you to Mrs Thaxter for all the hard work to organise a sensational experience for the children.

Maria Hennings Hunt, Author

"Thank you for having me! The children were all lovely."

Emer Jefferys, Illustrator

"I really enjoyed working with all the classes and everyone today."

Cara Matheson

"Thank you so much for having me. It's such a gorgeous school and was lovely to see how engaged the children were :)"

James Allen

"Thank you so much for today. I genuinely, thoroughly enjoyed it."

Dan Freedman

"It was such a pleasure to spend time in your school and I really sensed the nurturing atmosphere that you strive to provide for the pupils"

I'd also like to say a big thank you for the children being so enthusiastic this week and the parental support we have received in helping make it such a success.

I, along with Mrs Whitewood and Mrs O'Donnell, accompanied some of our Y3/4 children to Blackheath Rugby Club this week for a rugby festival. Congratulations to the team who won the festival, playing against other teams from Greenwich. Well done to the children and a huge thank you to the parents who accompanied us on the day.

Enjoy your half term holiday!

J Sims

Headteacher

WEEK BEGINNING 31st OCTOBER

Monday 30th

Staff training day. Children should not attend school

Tuesday 31st

Children return to school in Winter uniform

Closing date for application to secondary school

Wednesday 1st

All Saints Mass – 10am. Gym hall

Friday 3rd

Tempest photography on site to take individual/family photographs
Y5/Y6 Rugby tournament

Saturday 4th

PA event – Fireworks night at The Oaks (details attached)

RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER HALF TERM

The children will return to school on Tuesday 31st October at 8.55am.

They are all required to wear their full winter uniform.

Ties must be worn so please ensure the top button of the shirt is done up. Tights must be navy blue or white. Grey trousers are optional for boys and girls. Please ensure that coats and jackets are plain navy blue.

Our uniform policy is on our website- please click on the link to read.

https://www.stmaryrc.org.uk/docs/UNIFORM/UNIFORM_LIST.pdf

Please check with the Main Office if you have any uniform questions.

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

BOOK WEEK

What a huge success this week has been! The children thoroughly enjoyed the week and got completely immersed in their writing and illustrating. Many children were awarded certificates so we hope that they are now inspired!

The week was finished off yesterday by a magnificent parade of book characters. It was obvious that many hours of creativity went into the costumes and the children felt very proud showing off to the audience! Our prayers for a dry day were answered as the children walked around the playground. Many thanks to two of our Governors (Mrs Michalakakis and Ms Akemma) and Mr McGrath who helped choose the best costumes.

Thank you to all the parents, grandparents and family members who turned up to support the children and who came along to buy books after school each day. Your support was very much appreciated.

A big thank you must go to Mrs Thaxter who organised this fantastic week. It is hard work making sure every year group is catered for but it has been a great success.



LITERACY



This week Mrs Thaxter recommends.....

Hey You!

All ages

This ground breaking picture book is a lyrical, inspirational exploration of growing up Black, written by award-winning illustrator Dapo Adeola, and brought to life by some of the most exciting Black illustration talents

POETRY COMPETITION

Following on from book week we hope your children will want to enter the poetry competition for Royal Borough Greenwich!

In celebration of National Poetry Day on October 5th, Royal Borough Greenwich are inviting all students from Greenwich borough schools to enter their **poetry competition**. This year's theme is **REFUGE**.

Children can write any type of poem that they like, inspired by the theme of refuge and feeling safe. The maximum number of lines is 20. If your children find themselves with time on their hands during half term, please encourage them to get creative and compose a poem!

There will be a winner and a runner up for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Children can hand their entries to Mrs Thaxter (with their full name and class) by Friday 17th November.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

During the month of October, the UK celebrates Black History Month. There are many events taking place this month across the country, celebrating key figures who have made substantial contributions to this country.

Please have a look to see what exhibitions are taking place in the museums in London, such as The Horniman Museum. They have a schedule of very interesting events taking place throughout the month. <https://www.horniman.ac.uk/series/black-history-month/>

This year, the children at St Mary's will focus on black people in sport. Details have been sent to parents of children in Y2-Y6 about a project that we encourage the children to complete. This can be done over half term. The idea is that children enjoy researching the information whilst learning something new at the same time.

Y6 SECONDARY TRANSITION

Applications for secondary school must be submitted by **Tuesday 31st October**. Please ensure you complete all the necessary forms for the different schools.

Fr John will continue to sign forms next week. Booking is not necessary.

Date	Time
20 October	15.30pm – 17.00pm
21 October	10.00am – 11.30am
28 October	10.00am – 11.30am

PA NEWS

The Parent's Association are working very hard organising the Fireworks night on **Saturday 4th November at The Oaks (Eltham Town Football Club)**. This is a popular event as many families who attended St Mary's years ago still return each year. The evening is aimed at families so the children can feel safe and parents can catch up with friends. All the new families at St Mary's are encouraged to come along and enjoy this first PA event of this school year. There will be hot food, glowing items on sale for the children and a thrilling fireworks display.

There are still some tickets available so if you would like to purchase some please click on the link below.

<https://buytickets.at/stmaryspa/1012846>

Volunteers are needed to help with the stalls. All the PA ask for is 30 minutes of your time between 6pm and 7pm on the day (Saturday 4th November). All volunteers will get free entry to the event.

<https://volunteersignup.org/HERWW>

Please click on the link above to volunteer

Dates for your diary:

Friday 1st December: Wreath Making

Friday 15th December: Quiz Night

VACANCY FOR SENCO

We would like to appoint a new member of staff as a SENCO teacher at St Mary's. Please click on the link to read the full details about this role.

Closing date for applications is Friday 27th October 2023 at 10am.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

<https://www.stmaryrc.org.uk/School-Vacancies/>

REMEMBRANCE DAY

As we approach Remembrance Day (November 11th), please look out for the Faith Friends, after half term, selling poppies for The Royal British Legion.

MESSAGE FROM CHRISTCHURCH

Form Signing for Primary and Secondary School

If you attend Christchurch and would like Fr John to sign your school form (nursery, reception or secondary school) see times below. Please ensure you have the correct time in your diary. Booking is not essential.

Date	Time
20 October	15.30pm – 17.00pm
21 October	10.00am – 11.30am
28 October	10.00am – 11.30am
10 November	15.30pm – 17.00pm
17 November	15.30pm – 17.00pm

Date for your diary:

Sunday 26th November – Christchurch Christmas Fayre
10am – 1pm.

Donations of toys in good condition, bottles for the tombola and unused unwanted gifts needed for the stalls. Donation bins are situated at the back of Christchurch.

If you would like to rent a stall at the fayre, please contact the parish office for more details. Stalls cost £20 to hire. Please indicate what you would like to sell and the office staff will advise.

eltham@rcaos.org.uk

PE KIT

Please ensure you include a navy tracksuit in your child's PE bag after half term. The children are outside for some of their PE lessons so need to be warm.

If you require some preloved uniform, please contact the main office.

NEW MENU

The new menu for the new half term has been uploaded onto the website. Please take a look. There is a wide selection of food available for the children. As the weather gets colder many children enjoy a hot school dinner so, please encourage them. Children can change their lunch pattern after half term; please inform the main office if this is the case.

All children from Reception – Y6 are entitled to a Universal Free Meal for this academic year.

https://www.stmaryrc.org.uk/docs/St_Marys_Autumn_Winter_2023-24.pdf

END OF TERM AWARDS

Class A	Quinn, Maggie
Class B	James, Cece
Class C	Nathan, Rosie
Class D	Rory, Elena
Class E	Brendan, Lilly
Class F	Jago, Sienna
Class G	Joel, Jessica
Class H	Adam, Aoife
Class I	Gianluca, Lily
Class J	Bobby, Emily
Class K	Jack, Nicholas
Class L	Luke, Neve
Class M	Dantae, Christine
Class N	Malachy, Olivia

END OF TERM AWARDS CELEBRATING SCHOOL VALUES

Class A	Dexter, Madeline
Class B	Samuel, Mia
Class C	George, Jessica
Class D	Philip, Gloria
Class E	Harry, Karissa
Class F	Freddie, Victoria
Class G	Jacob, Anna
Class H	Albert, Sydney
Class I	Jake, Mimi
Class J	Jacob, Evie
Class K	Jan, Holly
Class L	Ralph, Abbie
Class M	Aronas, Hope
Class N	Julian, Mary-Eva

END OF TERM AWARDS PSHE

Class A	Miah
Class B	Josie
Class C	Jools
Class D	Ava
Class E	Valentina
Class F	Helen
Class G	Viola
Class H	Elisa
Class I	Rory
Class J	Orla
Class K	Betsy & Valentina
Class L	Finn
Class M	Amanda
Class N	Bethany

BOOK WEEK COSTUME PRIZES

The following children won prizes for their costumes:

Nursery	Thea, Johnny	Class G	Joshua
Class A	Jesse	Class H	Connor
Class B	Samuel	Class I	Bobby
Class C	Herbie	Class J	Mimi
Class D	Olive	Class K	Ruby
Class E	Fionn	Class L	Heidi
Class F	Zachary	Class M	Muko & Austin
		Class N	Alice

ATTENDANCE

TUESDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2023 - THURSDAY 19th OCTOBER 2023

RA	RB	1C	1D	2E	2F	3G	3H	4I	4J	5K	5L	6M	6N
94%	98%	96%	96%	97%	94%	98%	96%	95%	96%	97%	97%	96%	95%

Regular school attendance is essential for children to make good progress in school. Put simply, if children are not in school, then they are not learning. School attendance is monitored very closely by the local authority and we have a robust system in place to ensure that our students' attendance remains high.

One part of this strategy is that parents are written to, on a half-termly basis, when their child's attendance falls below 95%. Mrs Jeffrey in the office oversees this process and we ask that parents are supportive and understand the rationale behind.

Well done to classes RB and 3G for achieving 98% attendance this half term! Keep up the good work.

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