

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 24th October 2025

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Nurturing Our God-Given Talents

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

As we end the first half term of this year, it has certainly been a busy start to the year.

We welcomed 60 new children into Reception and 26 children into Nursery. It is lovely to see how well they have settled. We also welcomed children into other year groups and judging by the smiles I see every day, the children are happy to be in our school community.

Every other year we celebrate Book Week at school and this week showed how much the children enjoy it. It has been full of excitement – we met very interesting authors, heard great poems and stories and saw how utterly imaginative children get when they are inspired by books. It has been a joy to see.

Many thanks to the staff and parents for your ongoing support.

At the end of next week, we will celebrate *All Saint's Day (1st November)* and *All Soul's Day (2nd November)* when we remember those who are no longer with us.

As we look ahead to the next half term, I encourage everyone to take time to rest and recharge next week. As the colder weather will invariably arrive, we must all make sure we prepare ourselves with rest and nourishment. We return to school on Monday 3rd November - the children will be in their smart Winter uniform. There is lots to look forward to as we approach the season of Advent—a lovely time for reflection, kindness and community.

*Dear God,
Thank You for the blessings of this half term — for learning, laughter, and the friends and teachers who make our days bright. As we take time to rest over the break, help us to remember those we love who are no longer with us, especially on All Souls' Day. May their memory inspire us to live with kindness, love, and gratitude.*

*Guide us in the coming weeks,
keep our hearts open,
and help us to notice the joy and wonder in the world around us.
Amen.*

With kind regards

Mrs Hansen
Head of School

WEEK BEGINNING 27th OCTOBER
AND 3rd NOVEMBER

Sunday 26th

Clocks Change to Greenwich Mean Time (Go back 1 hour).

Friday 31st

Closing date for Application to Secondary School

Saturday 1st November

All Saint's Day

Sunday 2nd

All Soul's Day

Monday 3rd

Children return to school in Winter uniform
Height and Weight Nurses on Site for Y6/Reception

Tuesday 4th

Phonics Workshop for Parents of Children in EYFS (Nursery & Reception) and KS1 (Y1 & Y2).
9.15am

Wednesday 5th

Y3 Class Mass. Convent
Flu Vaccination Nurses on Site.
Children who have not been vaccinated, can receive their nasal spray on this day.

Friday 7th

Tempest Photography on site to take the children's individual/sibling photographs.

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

RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER HALF TERM

The children will return to school on Monday 3rd November 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/School_Uniform_List.pdf

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 and need to be warm.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

During the month of October, the UK celebrates Black History Month.

This year, the children at St Mary's will focus on Black inventors. Details have already been sent to parents and carers of children in Y2 – Y6 about a project that we would like the children to complete over half term. I attach the details again for anyone that has missed the previous email.

It is not compulsory but the idea is that children enjoy researching the information whilst learning something new at the same time.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Armistice Day will be commemorated on Tuesday 11th November with a two-minute silence here at school. Members of the British Legion will join us.

Please look out for the children selling poppies on Monday 3rd November in the parent's waiting area.

BOOKSHOP

St Mary's Book Shop will reopen for Infant children after half term. The *Book Shop* has a lovely variety of books for sale.

Children can bring a small amount of money each week (amounts such as 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1 etc.) and save up to purchase a book they would love to read at home. The books are varied in price but are discounted from the cover price and often no more than £3. Children do not have to bring money but will still get the opportunity to browse and read the books.

Book Shop will run every Wednesday during the school day. Reception children will receive a *Book Shop Savings Card*. Children in Y1 and Y2 are encouraged to continue with their *book shop* card from last academic year. If your child needs a replacement, please speak to their class teacher.

PHONICS WORKSHOP

To further support your child's reading journey, we will be holding a Phonics Workshop on **Tuesday 4th November at 9:15am** in the gym hall. Parents and carers of children from Nursery – Y2 are invited to attend to hear about and understand how phonics and early reading are taught at St Mary's.

Y6 SECONDARY TRANSITION

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

Fr John will continue to sign forms today (24th) and tomorrow (25th)
Booking is not necessary.

Date	Time
24 October	3pm-5pm
25 October	3pm-5pm

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Francesco Feast and Charlie Worth, Y3, were part of the winning team (Glebe Lions) who won the Ballerz Tournament this week. Well done to them!



Pedro Gouveia, 2E, was awarded "Best Player of the Match" last weekend, representing AFC Greenwich Borough U7. Keep up the good work Pedro!



WRAPAROUND AWARD SUNSHINE OF THE MONTH

Ivy Overfield-Collins has been awarded "Sunshine of the Month" for being so polite, creative and helpful.

That is lovely Ivy! Well done!



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. The authors that came on site were hugely interesting and entertaining, inspiring the children to love books. Many children were awarded certificates so we hope that they are now motivated to carry on! Remember the BBC 500 Word Competition is still open so with renewed enthusiasm for writing, encourage your child to take part. Closing date for entry is 7th November 2025. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>

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 wearing them! Unfortunately, the weather was not on our side and we were disappointed that parents and carers could not see the parade. We have uploaded pictures and videos to Twitter so please have a look. I hoped you enjoy seeing "The Masked Reader" and the "Big Reveal"! <https://x.com/StMarysEltham>

Thank you to all the parents, grandparents and family members who created, encouraged and helped the children make their costumes 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. We look forward to the next one!



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END OF TERM AWARDS
CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Class A	Toby, Anaya
Class B	Bertie, Olivia
Class C	Leo, Sophie
Class D	Jack, Emilia
Class E	Heath, Bryony
Class F	Jakob, Isabella
Class G	Jools, Pixie
Class H	Rory, Elena
Class I	Lionel, Annie
Class J	Ziylon, Florence
Class K	Zicora, Victoria
Class L	Sebastian, Esme
Class M	Lukas, Isla
Class N	Lennie, Abi

END OF TERM AWARDS
CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

Class A	Justin, Alissa
Class B	Daniel, Isabelle
Class C	Leonardo, Arabella
Class D	Patrick, Claudia
Class E	Henry, Ivy
Class F	Dexter, Megan
Class G	George, Naga
Class H	Franco, Nora
Class I	Albert, Isabella
Class J	Olivia, Ralph
Class K	Adam, Cora
Class L	Charlie, Anna
Class M	Bobby, Evie
Class N	Amani, Isabel

END OF TERM AWARDS
PSHE

Class A	Helen
Class B	Eliza
Class C	James
Class D	Rae
Class E	Aoife
Class F	Asher
Class G	Amelie
Class H	Bertie
Class I	Fionn
Class J	Florence
Class K	Lola
Class L	James
Class M	Kevin
Class N	Amani

ATTENDANCE

WEDNESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2025 - THURSDAY 23rd OCTOBER 2025

RA	RB	1C	1D	2E	2F	3G	3H	4I	4J	5K	5L	6M	6N
10%	99%	97%	96%	99%	95%	97%	97%	97%	95%	97%	98%	96%	95%

Regular school attendance is essential for children to make good progress in school. 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 RA for achieving 100% attendance this half term! Keep up the good work.

NEW MENU

The new menu for the new half term has been uploaded onto the website. 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/Autumn-Winter-Menu-2019/>

CHRISTCHURCH CHRISTMAS FAYRE

This annual festive event takes place on Sunday 23rd November from 10am-1pm.

Donations are required so if you have any unwanted gifts, bottles for the tombola or toys in good condition please leave them in the black bins at the back of the church.

The committee are renting out 4–5 stalls for anyone who has their own small business and would like to sell their products at the Fayre. Each stall costs £20 to hire, and stallholders keep any profits they make. If you are interested, please email

halinkagawor@hotmail.co.uk

with a brief description of what you sell and your price list, so we can make sure the products and pricing are suitable for the event.

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