

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 23rd 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

It has been a busy week!

It is always wonderful to be busy at school and to see the children engaged and enjoying school life.

This week also reminds us of the season we are in. On St Bridget's Day, we celebrate care, community, and looking out for one another, and Candlemas Day reminds us of light and hope in the middle of winter.

These themes feel very fitting after such a busy week—taking a moment to appreciate the little lights and kindnesses around us.

Thank you for all your support.

Enjoy your weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs J Hansen

Head of School

WEEK BEGINNING 2nd FEBRUARY

Sunday 1st February

St Brigid's Day

Monday 2nd February

Candlemas Day

Tuesday 3rd February

Dentists from National Dental Programme on site for Reception/Y1

Wednesday 4th February

Y5 children at National Theatre to see a production of Ballet Shoes

Thursday 5th February

Life Education on site

Friday 6th February

Life Education on site

Y2 Victorian Day

Athletics London Finals - Carshalton

RELIGIOUS FEASTS

Over the next few days, we celebrate both St Brigid's Day and Candlemas Day.

St Brigid was one of Ireland's three patron saints (with Patrick and Columba), known for healing, poetry, livestock, and nurturing. Traditionally, people weave crosses from reeds, rushes, or straw to hang in homes for protection against fire and evil.

Candlemas Day traditionally marks the formal conclusion of the Christmas and Epiphany season, with decorations often taken down after this day. Churches often bless candles on this day to be used throughout the year.

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

PRAYER AND LITURGY

The children in Reception classes A and B recalled the story of Noah's Arc in their prayer and liturgy.

Lyra and Autumn from Class A made a boat and wrote a poem while Daniel in Class B drew a picture and wrote a poem. Some of the other children shared their prayers with the class.



CELEBRATING HERITAGE

Anna Chiosso, 5L, and her family celebrated Burn's Night last weekend with a traditional party of poems and songs. Anna read "The Gardener" by Robert Louis Stevenson - not Robbie Burns, but a Scottish poet nonetheless! How wonderful!



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Philip Medves, 3H, has recently been awarded a certificate for stage 4 swimming. Philip is looking forward to the next challenge.



Sophie Saunders, 1C, has completed the green award at swimming and has moved onto bronze. Sophie is looking forward to trying new techniques in the next level.



FAITH FRIENDS

Today, the Y6 Faith Friends met with the Infant children to share the story of Jesus teaching his disciples on the mountain. The children then discussed ways they can be kind and share with others.

God of love, You bless those people who are poor, who are sad, who are hungry and thirsty and who are hurt because they stand up for what they believe in. Help us to follow your way. Amen.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

This week our headboy/girl and deputy headboy/girl attended a School Council meeting at St Thomas More Comprehensive. Their School Council incorporates chaplaincy, well being and equality and equity. It was very interesting for our pupils and they were impressed with the way the secondary children led their meeting.

Back at St Mary's the children were able to share their experience with members of their own school council.



Florence Marnham, 5L, was awarded "player of the day" for her strong participation in her U10 rugby match for Blackheath Rugby Club. Florence looks very pleased with herself!



WRAPAROUND SUNSHINE OF THE MONTH

Well done to Fox Eskioglou for being polite and for the outstanding, creative story writing and pictures that he produced at Wraparound.



Y2 VISIT CHRISTCHURCH

Year 2 enjoyed a wonderful visit to Christchurch, where they learned all about the vessels and vestments used during Mass. They explored the beautiful stained-glass windows and linked the symbols they spotted to their RE learning. Fr John helped them understand the meaning of the colours and symbols on his vestments - they even had a chance to try them on!



Y4 SCIENCE

Children in Y4 held their science lessons in Christchurch this week. Fr John kindly allowed them to use the church for their experiment on sound. Everyone really enjoyed the lesson.



Y2 VICTORIAN DAY

As part of the history topic in Y2 on the Victorians, Freshwater Theatre Company will be visiting school on **Friday 6th February**. The Y2 children will take part in a Victorian-style lesson led by an actor.

To help them enjoy the experience, we invite the children to come to school dressed in the style of a Victorian child. Please do not buy anything new—use items you already have or can borrow. We may also have some costumes available in school. Please ensure the children wear their coats as they will need them at playtime.

Suggested items:

Skirts, dresses, shirts, pinafores, shawls, aprons, trousers, waistcoats, neckerchiefs and flat caps.

ECO EXPLORERS INITIATIVE

Mrs Evans would like to thank all those who donated their empty plastic sweet tubs for our recycling initiative. We collected 138 tubs which is amazing! I hope that the contents of these boxes were thoroughly enjoyed! The tubs will be taken to the collection point so they can be recycled and a donation will be made to Macmillan Cancer.



Update from the Parents Association

A new Parents Association committee has been elected for this year. The members are:

- Chairpersons: Aidan Hill and Manisha Shrestha
- Treasurers: Zuzanna Hooks and Gabi Brauer
- Secretaries: Claire Maskell Gibson and Helen Delaney

If you'd like to get in touch with the PA, please email: stmaryspaeltham@gmail.com

Save the dates!

We are organising two events this term and will share details about how you can support these soon. In the meantime, please add the following dates to your diaries:

Friday 13 March - Mother's Day Gift Sale

Children will be able to visit the sale during the school day and buy a gift.

Friday 20 March - St Patrick's Day Fundraising event

An evening of Irish music, dancing and family fun.

More details will follow about these events and the planned events for the rest of the year.

We wish the new committee the best of luck in their new roles and will support them as they work tirelessly to support all the children in St Mary's.