

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 3 November 2023

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Nurturing Our God-Given Talents

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Staff INSET

The half term was bookended by two staff INSET (In-service education and training) days. On Friday 20th October, St Mary's joined the other Catholic schools in our deanery at Charlton Athletic's football ground - The Valley. Teachers deepened their knowledge about **Catholic Social Teaching** and celebrated Mass with colleagues from across the borough.

I even managed to sneak the teachers into the stand for a quick picture!



On Monday 27th October, almost all of our staff joined the other five primary schools within SELCAT at Coloma Convent School in Shirley, Croydon. We listened to inspirational speaker David Maytham who spoke to us about developing our writing in school and then on the exciting world of artificial intelligence and how we can begin to use it in our schools.

All Saints Mass

Wednesday was All Saints Day and Fr John came into school to celebrate Mass with us. Thank you for Year 4 who led us in this service with some beautiful whole school singing.

Headteacher's Conference

On Thursday and Friday next week is the annual Southwark Diocese Catholic Headteachers Conference. This year St Mary's Choir have been asked to support the singing during Mass and will be performing one of their songs to over 100 headteachers across the Diocese. Thank you to Mrs McGarry for preparing them so well.

Have a great weekend and I thank you to the Parents Association for organising the Fireworks Event at the Oaks this Saturday!

J Sims

Headteacher

WEEK BEGINNING 6th
NOVEMBER

Wednesday 8th

10am Y5 Class Mass - Convent

Thursday 9th

Choir singing at the Headteacher's Conference, Ashford.

Friday 10th

Whole school Remembrance Service
10.45am.

Chamber choir performing at the Young Citizen of the Year Awards, Woolwich 6pm

Saturday 4th

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

NEW APPOINTMENT

We would like to confirm that we have appointed a new SENCO.

Mrs Henderson joins us in January 2024. She comes to St Mary's with a wide range of experience working with SEN children within Greenwich and Lewisham Boroughs.

We wish Mrs Henderson the best of luck in her new role.

Mrs Green has now gone on maternity leave so Mrs Hansen will deal with any SEN queries you may have until January 2024.

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

PA NEWS

The Parent's Association are looking forward to the Fireworks night tomorrow evening, Saturday 4th November at **The Oaks, Eltham Town Football Club, 176 Starbuck Close, SE9 2TD.**

Tickets are now sold out! Please ensure you bring your proof of ticket purchase to show on the gate when you arrive.

This is the first PA event this academic year so we hope that everyone enjoys. It 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.

There will be hot food, glowing items on sale for the children and a thrilling fireworks display. Please do not bring sparklers to the event.

The PA would like to remind parents that they have full responsibility for their children for the entire evening.

Dates for your diary:

Friday 1st December: Wreath Making
Friday 15th December: Quiz Night

LITERACY



This week Mrs Thaxter recommends.....

Where the Poppies Now Grow

Ages 3-6

A narrative poem that uses repetition and rhythm alongside beautiful watercolour illustrations to introduce children to the history of Remembrance Day.

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.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

This week.....

Vincent Varju, 1C, recently completed the Vitality Westminster Mile. A great achievement for Vincent....well done!



ANTI BULLYING WEEK

Anti-bullying week takes place the week beginning Monday 13th November.

To raise awareness, we will start the week having Odd Sock Day.

Children are invited to wear odd socks on this day (Monday 13th), with normal school uniform, to show that we are all different and unique and can celebrate the different qualities that we all have.

PHONICS WORKSHOP

Miss Brophy and Mrs Thaxter are hosting a phonics workshop on Wednesday 22nd November at 9am in the gym hall. This is a very informative session so please come along if you can.

Parents of children from Reception – Y2 are welcome to attend.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

The photographer was on site today taking individual/family photographs.

The children will bring home the proofs as soon as we receive them from the photographer. You can then choose what to order. Online orders will also be available for parents. We will aim to have all the photos returned to parents before Christmas.

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 or reception) see times below. Please ensure you have the correct time in your diary. Booking is not essential.

Date	Time
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

FAITH FRIENDS

At lunch time today, our Faith Friends led a prayer session with the Infant children. They sat with the Infants and showed them how to use the Rosary Beads whilst saying The Rosary.



Y2 GREAT FIRE LONDON WORKSHOP

Today, The Magic Lantern Company visited Y2. The children took part in an art, history and drama workshop on The Great Fire of London 1666. They were already learning about The Great Fire of London through the diary of Samuel Pepys and the works of art that were painted at that time but they had great fun learning new things through paintings and drama.



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