

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 3rd October 2025

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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WEEK BEGINNING 6th OCTOBER

Tuesday 7th

Open Morning for Prospective Parents
(9.15am)

Chamber Choir attending Trust Mass
at St George's Cathedral

Wednesday 8th

Y5 Class Mass. Convent

Reception Classes Autumn Walk in
Eltham Park South

Y5/Y6 Cross Country – Avery Hill Park

Friday 10th

World Mental Health Day

London Youth Games Rugby
Tournament for Y5/Y6

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

October is a special month in our Church calendar, dedicated to the Rosary, a time for reflection, prayer, and peace. This month also coincides with Mental Health Week, reminding us of the importance of caring for our minds as well as our spirits.

Through prayer, reflection, and taking time to be still, we can find calm and strength in our daily lives. Encouraging kindness, gratitude, and open conversations about our feelings helps us support one another and build a caring community.

Let us use this time to nurture both our mental and spiritual wellbeing, remembering that taking time for ourselves and each other is a vital part of living a balanced, healthy life.

Best wishes

Mrs J Hansen
Head of School

FAITH FRIENDS

October is the month dedicated to the rosary so the Faith Friends led the Infant children in praying the Rosary at lunchtime today.

They showed them how to hold their Rosaries and how to use the beads to stay focused in prayer.



Dear Jesus

*Thank You for Your love and for
Mary's guidance. Help us to pray with
our hearts, to be kind, and to follow
Your ways.*

Amen.

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

OCTOBER – THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY

Many thanks to all the families who attended the Rosary this morning. I hope it helped start your day in a positive mindful way.

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



HARVEST

The Sisters from the Convent collected the Harvest donations this week to deliver to the various charities they support. Many thanks to everyone who donated items. They have gone to a very good cause.



Y5 CLASS MASS

Children from 5K attended their class Mass in the Convent this week. The Convent Chapel is a special place to celebrate the class Masses.



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Lissie Wohlman, 6N, was talking with her family about the importance of fundraising and volunteering, so she was inspired to get involved. A few friends joined together to host a coffee morning, and together they raised an amazing £254 for Macmillan Cancer. What a kind and thoughtful thing to do....well done Lissie.



Emily Murphy, 1D, harvested her runner beans last weekend from the plant she sowed in class when she was in Reception. With help from her family, she planted it in the garden and watched it grow over the summer holidays. I'm sure they tasted delicious! Well done Emily



WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY FRIDAY 10th OCTOBER

World Mental Health Day takes place every year on 10th October. It is a reminder of the importance of good mental health and the need to prioritise and invest in good mental health.

St Mary's will be joining schools across the country in recognising World Mental Health Day. Children are invited to wear a touch of yellow with their school uniform as a sign of support. This could be anything from a ribbon, a homemade badge, socks or a hair band. We ask for a £1 donation per child, with all proceeds contributing to wellbeing workshops here at St Mary's. Thank you for supporting this important cause and helping us promote positive mental health within our school community. Together, we can shine a light on the importance of looking after our minds as well as our bodies

PARENTS EVENINGS
WEDNESDAY 15TH/THURSDAY 16TH
OCTOBER

Parents are now able to book their timeslot on Wisepay. Please ensure your child's Wisepay account is active to book your appropriate time.

The appointments will run from 3.30pm – 6pm. Each appointment is 10 minutes long. When booking timeslots for more than one child, please allow time in between appointments.

Children will be dismissed at 3pm on both days to give the teachers time to prepare for the meetings. Please ensure you collect your children on time. Children who walk home on their own are not allowed to leave unaccompanied at 3pm so if they are being collected by another adult please inform the main office.

After-school clubs will **not** take place on these days, but wraparound care will operate as normal.

CHRISTCHURCH CHRISTMAS FAYRE

This annual festive event takes place on Sunday 23rd November from 10am-1pm. Details are attached for your information.

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.

SIGNING PRIMARY/SECONDARY
SCHOOL APPLICATION FORMS

Fr John in Christchurch is signing supplementary forms for both primary and secondary applications every Friday and Saturday in October from 3pm – 5pm.

Applications for secondary schools must be submitted by Friday 31st October.

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/Admission-s-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.

BBC 500 WORD COMPETITION

BBC's 500 Words, the writing competition for children aged 5-11 is now live.

There are two age categories: 5-7- and 8–11-year-olds. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are not marked - as has always been the case for 500 Words; it is all about our writers' brilliant creativity!

There are prizes to be won - each winner will take home a bundle of books and the gold winners will also win 500 books for their school library.

We would love to read the stories you submit so please show your teachers your fabulous work.

The closing date for submitting entries is Friday 7th November.

BOOK WEEK
MONDAY 20th – THURSDAY
23rd OCTOBER

Please see attached the details of our upcoming book week. We are all looking forward to celebrating this special week with the children.

The Travelling Book Fair will be open all week (gym hall). Children will be able to look at the books at lunch times and parents will be able to come to the hall after school to take a look at the books. Children will be able to purchase the books; the more books that are sold, the more money we will have to spend on books for the school.

On Thursday 23rd October, the children can come to school dressed up as a character from a favourite book. Please do not go to great expense; see what you can make at home.

Weather permitting, parents will be able to see the children parade around the Infant playground in their costumes (9.05am). The parade will last approx. 30 minutes.

Book Week is a very exciting time here at school, where we celebrate books and the joy of reading through a variety of fun activities and events.

LONDON YOUTH GAMES
RUGBY COMPETITION

Parents of children chosen to participate have received information about this tournament on Friday 10th October.

We require 2 parent helpers so if you can help, please contact the main office.

CHAMBER CHOIR

Our Chamber Choir has been invited to sing in St George's Cathedral on Tuesday 7th October at 2pm for the St Oscar Romero Catholic Academy Trust start of year Mass.

The children will travel by train from Eltham Station at approximately 11am and aim to be arriving back at Eltham Station by approximately 5pm. Parents can collect their children from Eltham Station.

Children are asked to come to school in full school uniform. They will require a packed lunch and some extra water.

It is a privilege to be invited to sing and I hope the children enjoy it.

The children will be accompanied by Mrs McGarry, Mrs Hansen and Mrs Jennings.

We would like some parent helpers so if you can volunteer, please contact the main office.

RECEPTION CLASSES AUTUMN WALK

The Reception team are looking forward to their first class trip – a walk to Eltham Park South to experience Autumn firsthand!

Date: Tuesday 8th October

Class A – 9:30am

Class B – 10:15am

They would love some adult volunteers to join us! Each walk lasts approx. 1 hour.

If you are available, please contact the school office as the relevant checks will need to be carried out. Many thanks in advance for your support.

Y6 VISIT THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

Year 6 children visited the Imperial War Museum this week. It was an incredible visit for the children. They explored history up close, went inside an anderson shelter and reflected on the past in a meaningful way.

