

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 5th September 2025

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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WEEK BEGINNING 8th SEPTEMBER

Monday 8th

Reception children stay at school all day (8.55am–3.15pm)

Nursery children will stay all day (8.30am – 3.30pm)

Music tutors return on site

After school clubs restart

Tuesday 9th

Y6 Parent Transition Meeting 6pm

Wednesday 10th

Class M Mass – Convent

Thursday 11th

Class I Swimming Lessons – Eltham Centre

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

Welcome Back to School!

We are excited to begin a brand-new school year together, a fresh start, a chance to learn new things and make new friends.

The Summer holiday is more than just a break from school; it is a time of growth. With longer days and more freedom, children discover new opportunities to learn, play, and explore. They grow physically through outdoor play and sports, enjoying fresh air and sunshine. They grow socially by spending time with friends and family, and new groups at clubs or camps. They also grow emotionally, as the holidays give space for rest, creativity, and building confidence.

All of these summer experiences—playing, exploring, resting, and learning in new ways—help prepare children for the new school year. They return refreshed, more confident, and ready to build on the skills they discovered during the break. Summer growth gives them energy, resilience, and curiosity, setting them up for the months ahead.

A Prayer for Our School Community

Loving God,

As we begin this new school term, we thank You for the gift of learning, friendship, and community.

Bless our students with curiosity and courage, our teachers with wisdom and patience, and our families with love and support.

May our school be a place of kindness, respect, and growth where everyone feels valued and encouraged.

Guide us in all we do, so that this term is filled with joy, learning, and hope.

Amen.

Enjoy your weekend!

Kind regards

Mrs Hansen

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We are very proud of our school uniform at St Mary's. Children wear their uniform with pride, giving them a sense of belonging and equality. The children have returned to school in their Summer uniform which, we hope, they can continue to wear up to half term in October.

Please refer to the letters sent from Mrs Hansen this week, referring to water bottles and jewellery.

The uniform policy can be viewed [here](#) so please take a look. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

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

MUSIC NEWS

The music tutors will be on site from Monday 8th September. If your child was having lessons in school last year, they will continue to have lessons. There are spaces for all instrument lessons (flute, clarinet, brass, guitar, violin, piano) open to all children from Y3 – Y6. Children will be notified once the new timetable has been confirmed.

Children in Y3 can start taking instrument lessons. If your child is interested, please email the main office (jjefferys@stmaryseltham.org or sjeffrey@stmaryseltham.org, with your first and second choice. Mrs McGarry will then allocate. Some of the lessons are oversubscribed but we will endeavour to place the children in their first choice.

School orchestra will resume at lunchtime on **Wednesday 10th September**. This is open to children from Y4-Y6 who are having regular instrument lessons, either in school or outside school.

CHAMBER CHOIR

Mrs McGarry is holding auditions for the Chamber Choir next week, for the children who are interested in joining the Chamber Choir. The auditions will take place during the children's lunch break in the music room.

Monday 8th September Y3 & Y4
Tuesday 9th September Y5 & Y6

To audition, children have to prepare a short song to sing for Mrs McGarry. They can bring the lyrics with them if they wish to. There are limited spaces available so if your child is unsuccessful this time, they will go on the waiting list for a space to become available.

The Chamber Choir rehearses every Thursday between 3.30pm - 4.30pm and children must be available to attend each week.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

All after school clubs will resume week beginning Monday 8th September. Details about registering children in clubs have already been sent to parents and carers.

Many of the clubs are now full so please contact Mrs Jeffrey in the main office if you have questions.

If your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium, please speak to the office staff about the after-school clubs and how we can help you.

GIVING MESSAGES TO THE MAIN OFFICE

If another adult is collecting your child, please inform the main office by phone call or email. The teachers will not let any child go unless it has been confirmed who is collecting them. Sometimes this may happen at the last minute but we need a message before we hand your child over. Your child's safety is very important, so thank you for your co-operation on this matter.

Children in Y5/Y6 can walk home on their own. If you are allowing your child to leave school on their own, please inform the main office, in writing, so we can keep the information on file.

Y6 SECONDARY TRANSITION MEETING

We would like parents of children in Y6 to attend a meeting on Tuesday 9th September at 6pm in the gym hall, to discuss the transition to secondary school and the PGL residential trip. Children are invited to attend with their parents.

Mr Sharp, headteacher from St Thomas More, will be in attendance.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

During the Summer holiday, Zach Atsetski, 4J, climbed Ben Nevis! Zach has wanted to complete this climb for a few years and he achieved it. His family joined him on the climb and it took just under 8 hours. This is a very memorable achievement for the whole family and one that Zach, at 8 years, should be very proud of.



KEY DATES

Key Dates for the year are currently being compiled so look out for them. The calendar on the school website has already been updated with some dates. We endeavour to inform parents as soon as these dates are confirmed as working parents may need to book time