

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 8th March 2024

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Nurturing Our God-Given Talents

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

What a week it has been at St Mary's!

On Thursday, our Debate Club, who have qualified for the finals of the Cicero Cup, held a live competitive debate in Class K. Students and staff were amazed at how the children could speak persuasively, listen critically, think analytically and demonstrate that they were engaged citizens. Six children debated the proposal 'Should we ban cutting down trees?' The tension in the room was rising as proposals were made, points of orders were accepted or declined; and arguments summarised.

Sofia in Y6 spoke to me afterwards to tell me how much she enjoyed the debate. She said that it really tied in with our school mission of 'Nurturing our God-Given Talents', we should be encouraging wildlife (not cutting down trees). She also said how it linked well to Catholic Social Teaching, specifically Sofia the Sloth (one of the CST animals) who represents Stewardship. She said that our gardening club was answering the call of 'Laudato Si' as we have to look after our planet. I was impressed with her maturity and ability to make links between our faith and our actions in school.

Thursday also saw the girls football team visit St Pauls for a football tournament with Miss Gannon. They emerged winners of the tournament without conceding a single goal. Whilst we would have been proud of the girls for participating and trying their best, we are of course delighted that they won.

On that the same evening, the boys played two fixtures at the Meridien League and emerged victorious winning both games 3-0.

This morning I was so excited when Reception children knocked at my door at 9:30 this morning to show me their Bog Baby dioramas they have made. They were amazing!

Lastly, good luck to the choir this evening who are singing at the Bromley Music Festival at 6pm. We wish them all the best.

Kind regards

Mr Sims
Headteacher

WEEK BEGINNING 11th MARCH

Sunday 10th

Mothering Sunday

Monday 11th – Friday 22nd

The Big Wheel and Walk Event

Monday 11th

Guitar Music Concert – 3.30pm

Tuesday 12th

Greenwich Cross Country Competition

Wednesday 13th/Thursday 14th

Parent's Evenings 3.30pm - 6pm

Friday 15th

Y3 Trip to Eltham Palace

Y5 Air Quality and Sustainability Travel
Education Theatre Visit

FAITH FRIENDS

With the sun shining, members of the Faith Friends led prayers for the sick in the prayer garden today, as well as rehearsing for their Easter play.



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

PARENT'S EVENING
WEDNESDAY 13th/THURSDAY 14th
MARCH

Parents' evenings are scheduled to take place on Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th March, from 3.30pm – 6pm. Please ensure you arrive on time for your meeting to ensure the teachers can stick to their schedule.

Children will finish school at 3pm on both days and every child must be collected at 3pm, even if you have an early appointment. Parents should wait in the usual place to collect their children. The slightly earlier finish gives the teachers time to prepare for the meetings. Children who normally walk home on their own should be collected as they are not allowed to leave the school premises unaccompanied before 3.15pm.

Meetings for Infant children will take place in the dining hall and Junior children in the gym hall. Parents and carers of Nursery children can see Mrs Dennis-Huillet in the Nursery.

Parents of children with SEN will also see Mrs Henderson, our SENCO.

After school clubs will not be running on either day. You have not paid for these clubs.

Allkidscan, our wraparound care provider, will run as normal.

ROYAL BOROUGH GREENWICH
SHORT STORY COMPETITION

In line with World Book Day, Royal Borough Greenwich has launched the **500 Word Short Story Competition**. Children are invited to write a short story, no more than 500 words, preferably typed, on the theme of **DISCOVERY**.

All entries can be sent to Mrs Thaxter by Friday 19th April. Please include your full name and class.

LITERACY



This week Mrs Thaxter recommends.....

The Very Lonely Firefly
Ages 2 – 5

The very lonely firefly sets off into the darkening sky, flashing its light as it searches for other firefly friends. A beautiful adventure that showcases one of nature's wonders and celebrates the joy of being together.

World Book Day – Thursday 7th March

We had a wonderful time celebrating book week back in October so were very excited to take part in World Book Day. We started the day with a challenge! Mrs Thaxter taught 5 mystery children a poem and it was their task to teach it to the rest of the school. We had so much fun hearing the poem and spreading it to our friends. At the assembly at the end of the day, we all knew it! Lots of us took part in the book character paper plate competition. We were incredibly creative and they looked unbelievable on display! Congratulations to Noah and Sydney for their winning Mr Men and Little Miss paper plate collection. We loved taking part in St Mary's Guess Who! We had to guess the teacher from a photo of them as a child. Some were really obvious and others we got a shock. It was nice to see what our teachers' favourite books were when they were children too.

All children should have received a £1 book token to purchase a limited-edition World Book Day book.



MUSIC NEWS

Chamber Choir

The Chamber Choir is taking part in a competition today, Friday 8th March in Bromley High School.

The competition is part of Bromley Music Festival and St Mary's Chamber Choir will sing against other primary schools.

Choir members must arrive at Bromley High at 5.45pm, in full school uniform, including jumpers. We ask that the girls wear navy tights and their hair tied back.

The concert will start at 6pm and should last approx. 30 minutes. Parents and other family members may join the audience; entrance fee payable on the door.

Many thanks to Mrs McGarry for preparing the children so well and to all the parents for their support.

Guitar Concert

Mr Lawrence, our guitar teacher, is holding a music concert for the children learning guitar, on Monday 11th March at 3.30pm. This will take place in the gym hall and should last approx. 30 minutes.

Parents and family members are welcome to attend.

BOOK SWAP BOX

You may have noticed the new look book swap box! Many thanks to Mrs Doyle, parent of Fionn Doyle Y2, who has recently spent a lot of time and effort creating amazing pieces of art for the box, making it visually more attractive. The aim of the box is for families to share the books they love and swap them for other books. We hope that everyone is enjoying using it.

BIG WALK AND WHEEL EVENT

St Mary's is taking part in the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel, the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting challenge. The challenge runs from Monday 11th – Friday 22nd March. We would love all families to be involved.

Encourage your child(ren) to walk, use a wheelchair, scoot or cycle to school on as many days as possible during the event. Use our new scooter park to park your scooter for the day.

We want to make sure that everyone can get involved in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel. We realise it may be more difficult for some pupils to take part than others but just do what you can, even if you participate just one day each week. Your children will love it.

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is a great way to build physical activity in children's daily routine which is important for their physical health and mental wellbeing. Active school runs help to reduce congestion and air pollution outside the school gate. [A 2021 YouGov study](#) showed nearly half of UK children worry about air pollution near their school. And that children thought active travel was the best way to bring down these pollution levels.

To help you prepare, Sustrans has developed a handy free guide to walking, cycling or scooting to school. It is packed with advice to help you have hassle-free journey to school. Download your free family guide using this link: <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/sign-up-to-receive-your-free-school-run-guide/> . If you need a paper copy, please inform the main office and we will print it for you.

For more information about the event go to www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk . Enjoy the challenge and do your best!

AFTER SCHOOL COOKERY CLUB

Mrs Rodgers runs the after-school cookery club every Monday from 3.30pm – 4.45pm. This term, the children have been busy making lots of delicious things, such as:

- Fruity, muesli cookies
- Raisin soda bread
- Pizza pockets
- Sugar free chocolate muffins
- Fish fingers with rosemary potatoes
- Cheese sables
- Cheese, ham and potato pie (photograph below).

Thank you, Mrs Rodgers, for being so inventive and sharing your culinary skills with the children.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

This week, St Mary's school council hosted a very special meeting where we interviewed the head of SELCAT, Mr David Garrido. Members from the school council at St Thomas More Catholic Comprehensive school council also joined us. Children had the opportunity to ask Mr Garrido questions about his role in SELCAT. He had some questions for the pupils such as how he can help to improve our school.

Many thanks to Mrs White for helping the school council to organise this meeting.



PA NEWS

Friday 15th March – St Patrick's Day Celebration.

There are still tickets available so please come along if you can. This lively evening, with Irish music, dancing and bar will take place from 7pm – 10pm at St Mary's. It is aimed at all families and enjoyed by all ages. If you cannot get to the office, please email your request and the tickets will be put aside for you until you can collect. Payment can be made by cash or card.

Adults £7

Child £4 (children under 3 years are free)

Volunteers are also need for helping on the night so please sign up if you can give 30 minutes of your time. Volunteers will not have to pay to attend.

<https://volunteersignup.org/RKBAD>

School Magazine – The annual St Mary's School Magazine is in production! The PA would like contributions from the children which can include exciting adventure and experience stories, artwork, achievements, poems, holiday stories, pet news, recipes, word searches and quizzes.

Send your entry to the PA on this email address: stmaryrcmagazine@gmail.com

If you require any help, please contact the main office.