

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 9th February 2024

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Nurturing Our God-Given Talents

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

This half term marks the halfway point of the year, a time for reflecting on the successes that the children have had so far. During our achievement assemblies this week, it was so satisfying to see the children receive certificates and prizes for their hard work. Also, just as pleasing, was hearing teachers describe how children had lived up to our school values. The children are what make this school such a great place to be.

This week, we celebrated Children's Mental Health Week, encouraging children to be open and make their voice heard. The world around us can seem crazy at times, with information bombarding us on all fronts so we should all be encouraged to take valuable time to talk and listen.

When we return to school after half term, Spring will be on its way and the cycle of life is being renewed once more. There are so many things around us during this season to be thankful for. There is more sunlight, birdsong is more noticeable, daffodils are beginning to grow and trees are beginning to show signs of coming to life. These signs of new life bring us to the most celebrated season in our liturgical year – Easter and the Resurrection of Jesus. We will begin the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday (Wednesday 14th February) so all the focal points around the school will change to purple. We should all take this time to be reflective about our actions and try our best to be kind and to think about others.

I accompanied the athletics team to Carshalton today to compete in the London Youth Games semi-final. St Mary's came fourth, just missing out on progressing to the next stage. The children were brilliant, showing resilience and sportsmanship. I was very proud of them. Many thanks to Mr McGrath for his excellent preparation and to Mrs Everett and Mrs Cesar-Brown for accompanying.

Enjoy a well-deserved half term.

Kind regards

Mr Sims
Headteacher

WEEKS BEGINNING 12th & 19th
FEBRUARY

Saturday 10th
Chinese New Year

Tuesday 13th
Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday 14th
Ash Wednesday

Monday 19th
Children return after Half Term

Tuesday 20th
Y2 Stations of the Cross

Thursday 22nd
Y3 Stations of the Cross

Friday 23rd
Y2 Victorian Day
Debate Team Semi Final

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Caitlyn Dang and Emmett Murphy, 5K, presented an assembly, about Chinese New Year, to the Infant children today. They explained the meaning of Chinese New Year and how their families celebrate. The children brought some things to show the children, including red envelopes!

Very well done to the children!



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

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

The theme this year has been "My Voice Matters" and the children of St Mary's made their voices heard this week!

Children were given the opportunity to suggest some activities that would be good for their mental health, from practising yoga to mindful colouring. We also talked about things that truly matter to us, including what makes us feel proud, our favourite things and things to be grateful for.

If you would like to explore the themes of Children's Mental Health Week at home, visit

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>

FAITH FRIENDS

Coco, Betsy and Ruby led Faith Friends today. They chose to teach the Infants the Beatitudes, They planned beforehand what they were going to say. They spoke about the love we should have for one another and how to look after people.

"Blessed are the pure in heart"



CHRISTCHURCH NEWS

Preloved Baby Sale:

Do you have lots of baby clothes that you don't need anymore? Toys that your children have outgrown? Come and sell all your preloved baby items at Christchurch!

And the best thing about it, you keep all your profit! Please let us know if you'd like to hire one of our tables on

Saturday 2nd March 10.30-12.30.

If you are interested, please email:

halinkagawor@hotmail.co.uk

Y2 FOOD TECHNOLOGY

This week Y2 children have baked gluten and dairy free muffins. We chose to make these as we know that some people have allergies and it is important for us all to know how to bake alternative recipes.

Please try out our recipe for gluten free, vegan banana or blueberry muffins!

INGREDIENTS for gluten free, vegan banana and blueberry muffins:

- 3 medium ripe bananas – mashed or blueberries
- ½ cup soya milk
- ¼ cup sunflower oil
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- ¼-1 cup brown sugar
- 1 ¼ cups gluten free flour
- 1 teaspoon gluten free baking powder
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F / 175°C. Line or lightly grease a standard 12-hole muffin tin.
2. In a medium bowl, mix together the mashed bananas (or blueberries), milk, cooking oil, vanilla extract and brown sugar.
3. In a separate large bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder and salt.
4. Add the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and mix together until just combined. Stir in the lemon juice.
5. Divide batter evenly among the muffin cups.
6. Bake muffins, 25–30 minutes.



LITERACY



This week Mrs Thaxter recommends.....

The Middler
Ages 9-12

Eleven-year-old Maggie lives in Fennis Wick, enclosed and protected from the outside world by a boundary, beyond which the Quiet War rages and the dirty, dangerous wanderers roam.

Her brother Jed is an eldest, revered and special. A hero. Her younger brother is Trig - everyone loves Trig. But Maggie's just a middler; invisible and left behind. Then, one hot September day, she meets Una, a hungry wanderer girl in need of help, and everything Maggie has ever known gets turned on its head.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

This week....

Emmett Murphy, Rio Boothe, Leonardo Manuell, 5K, and Leonardo's brother Isaac (STM) all recently passed their Jujitsu Grading. They were awarded New Belts.

Well done to all the children!



END OF TERM AWARDS
CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

Class A	Jesse, Amelia
Class B	Arthava, Elijah
Class C	Carter, Pixie
Class D	Alex, Lea
Class E	Jarlath, Raven
Class F	Ziylon, Erin
Class G	Charlie, Ella
Class H	Okiki, Leah
Class I	Archie, Jessica
Class J	Coby, Rebecca
Class K	Leonardo, Evelyn
Class L	Finn, Sicily
Class M	Reggie, Darcey
Class N	Alfie, Bethany

END OF TERM AWARDS
CELEBRATING SCHOOL VALUES

Class A	Tommy, Grace
Class B	Francesco, Josie
Class C	Vincent, Amelia
Class D	Gabriel, Mia
Class E	Freddie, Valentina
Class F	Charlie, Verity
Class G	Daniele, Annie
Class H	Jacob, Cora
Class I	Nel, Kaison
Class J	Antonio, Dotty
Class K	Alvin, Sofia
Class L	Franco, Angelina
Class M	Etienne, Hettie
Class N	Paddy, Beatrice

END OF TERM AWARDS
PSHE

Class A	Harry
Class B	Edie
Class C	Alana
Class D	Hugo
Class E	Margot
Class F	Yamen
Class G	Viola
Class H	Dristan
Class I	Mimi
Class J	Sasha
Class K	Holly
Class L	Abbie
Class M	Dantae
Class N	Jan

ATTENDANCE

TUESDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2023 – FRIDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2024

RA	RB	1C	1D	2E	2F	3G	3H	4I	4J	5K	5L	6M	6N
95%	98%	96%	97%	97%	95%	97%	97%	96%	96%	97%	97%	97%	96%

Well done to Class B for achieving the highest attendance so far this year! Keep up the good work!

PA NEWS

The Parent's Association are working behind the scenes organising their next two events. Please put these dates in your diary:

Friday 8th March – Mother's Day gift sale (during the school day)

Volunteers are needed to help on the day so if you would like to help, please sign up on the link below:

<https://volunteersignup.org/MPWAK>

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

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. Paper tickets will go on sale soon....please look out for information.

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.

If you have a business or service to advertise, please contact the PA about rates and how to book your advert.