



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter - Friday 4th April 2025

Message to parents from the Executive Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to Issue 26 of our Newsletter.

Dear Parent/Carer,



The final week before the Easter holidays is always dedicated to remembering Our Lord's passion and resurrection. At the beginning of the week, we began with the stations of the cross, led by Mr Lynch at St Charles and Mr Larke and Mrs Cummings at St Mary's.

On Thursday, the children from both schools joined together to have their very first collaborative Mass at Our Lady of the Holy Souls parish church, close to St Mary's. As part of the jubilee year and with the theme of 'Pilgrims of Hope' in mind, prior to Mass, the children from both schools undertook a 'pilgrimage' and met in the park to continue their journey to church together. What a wonderful sight to behold. Representatives from both schools carried their respective school banner and proudly led the way. I would like to extend my thanks particularly to Mrs Tusting and Mr Lynch for their excellent preparation and organisation.

Today, I witnessed a very moving Holy Week presentation by Year 5, at St Charles. Thank you to the parents/carers who attended and congratulations to the children and their class teacher, Miss Manion, for their wonderful hard work and effort. You are truly brilliant.

Also at this time of year, our parents' groups across the Federation ensure that our children not only experience the joy of the resurrection, but also have some Easter fun. Pupils enjoyed the

anticipation and excitement of the Easter raffle/tombola, thanks to the kind donations from parents/carers and staff and the hard work of the parent volunteers.

Thank you for giving up your time so generously. Thank you everyone for your continued support and your on-going commitment to the Federation.

Best Wishes,

Geraldine Hampton
Executive Headteacher



Wishing you all a very restful and joyous Easter break, and looking forward to welcoming you back on Wednesday 23rd April 2025 (Tuesday 22nd is a staff inset day).

Catholic Life and Mission of the school

This Jubilee year's theme is: Pilgrims of Hope

Within the **Catholic Social Teaching**, we are looking in depth and learning about the principle of **Option for the Poor**.

This is in conjunction with looking more in depth at the School Value of **Kindness** this half term.

Lenten Mass for St Charles and St Mary's Catholic Primary School's



Mufti Day

Last Friday we had the **MUFTY Day** as part of our school **Lenten Almsgiving** (fundraising to share with those less fortunate than us). Children were able to wear their own clothes and were asked to bring a coin for the fundraising. Most pupils joined in this event and as a result, we raised **£109.27**.



We would like to say **heartfelt Thank You to all our families** for supporting this event and our Almsgiving efforts. As shared before, all money raised will be passed on to **CAFOD** to support their wonderful work around the world!

Mini Pilgrimage and Federation 'Pilgrims of Hope' Mass.

Yesterday, on 3rd April we had another exciting event as part of our journey through the Jubilee Year 2025.

Both St Charles and St Mary's schools joined in a **mini pilgrimage across the Elmslie Hornimans Park**, ending in our church of **Our Lady of the Holy Souls** for a joint **Federation 'Pilgrims of Hope' Mass**.

Father Damian met us in the Park to welcome children and staff in both schools and led us into the church. He then celebrated the **Holy Lenten Jubilee Mass** at 10.00am. Children from both schools did the Mass Readings as well as the Bidding Prayers. Once again, parishioners and the Sisters of Mercy, Sister Margarita and Sister Angela, who were present commented on beautiful, 'angelic' singing and wonderful, reverent behaviour of all the children.

Thank you to parents and members of both communities who joined us for this special event.



A message regarding Punctuality from the Attendance Lead

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Punctuality

School starts at 8.45 a.m. every day. Children need to be in their classrooms by 9 a.m. so that they can start their lessons promptly. Arriving at school on time and ready to learn is the best start to the day for our children. The impact of lateness can be seen as follows:

Minutes Late Per Day



How Many School Days/Weeks Missed In 1 Year

5 minutes late

3.4 school days missed a year

10 minutes late

1.4 school weeks missed a year

15 minutes late

2.6 school weeks missed a year

20 minutes late

2.8 school weeks missed a year

30 minutes late

4 school weeks missed a year

Children who arrive late are greatly disadvantaged because they miss starting the day with their peers and the beginning of lessons. This means that they are often unsettled and confused about tasks. Their teacher will not always be able to re-explain work.

It is also very important that children establish good routines and habits in preparation for the rest of their lives. Punctuality is a life skill that they need to develop whilst they are young.

It is essential that you ensure that your child arrives at school on time to prevent disruption to your child's own learning and that of others.

We are required to monitor children's punctuality and attendance. On-going lateness (after the class register has been taken) is classified as an unauthorised absence and this is contrary to The Education Act.

We understand that there may be rare occasions when you are unavoidably late due to unforeseen circumstances. On these occasions, please make sure that you contact the school office to inform us when you will arrive.

If you are experiencing difficulties with punctuality and would like to talk to us about it, please make an appointment as we would be happy to make referrals to appropriate support services.

Please keep in mind that Breakfast Club is available to children from 8.00 a.m.

Breakfast Club runs from 8am and will cost **£4 per child**, per day for children from Reception to Y6. Before your child/ren attends Breakfast Club, **please ensure you book the sessions and make the required payments first!**

Yours sincerely,

School Attendance Lead & Statutory School Attendance Manager (RBKC)

New Baby and Toddler Group - All Welcome!

St Mary's Catholic Primary School
East Row North Kensington W10 5AW



New Baby and Toddler Group – all welcome

We are hosting a new baby and toddler group at St Mary's Catholic Primary School.

Please come along and meet other parents, enjoy messy play, singing and rhymes and explore outdoor activities in our large open grassed space!

Wednesdays 8.45am – 10.15am.

All are welcome! Parent/Carers stay and play with your child.



Come to our new EYFS building entrance where we have plenty of buggy parking space!



Dates 2025 (Summer Term)
8.45am – 10.15am

7th and 21st May

4th and 18th June

2nd and 9th July

Where to find us:

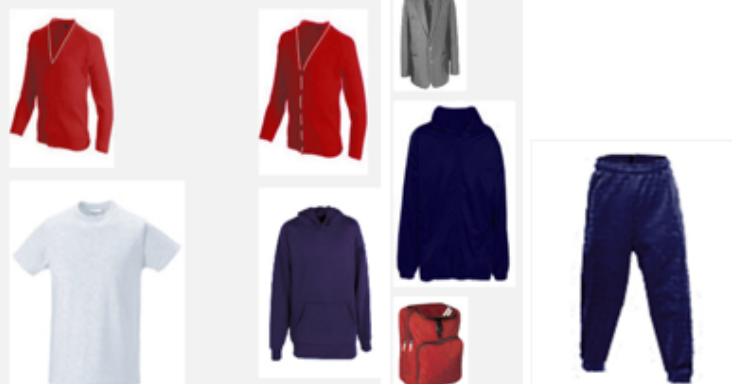


Whole School Uniform

Nursery Uniform



Whole School Uniform



Nursery

Sweatshirt – Crew neck	Embroidered – With School Badge	Cotton/Polyester
Sweatshirt – Crew neck	Embroidered – With School Badge	Cotton/Polyester
T-Shirt	Embroidered – With School Badge	100% Cotton
Infant Backpack	Embroidered – With School Badge	Polyester

Whole School

Knitted Jumper	Embroidered – With School Badge	V-neck.
Knitted Cardigan	Embroidered – With School Badge	Colour matched
Blazer	Embroidered – With School Badge	Phone and internal zipped pockets. Teflon coated Polyester buttons. Courtelle
Hooded Sweatshirt	Embroidered – With School Badge	Cotton/Polyester
Jogpants	Plain	2 pockets. Elasticated waistband. Cotton/Polyester
T-Shirt	Embroidered – With School Badge	100% Cotton
Reversible Jacket	Embroidered – With School Badge	Concealed hood. Reflective tape. Polyester
Infant Backpack - Reception to Year 2	Embroidered – With School Badge	Polyester
Junior Backpack - Year 3 - 6 Only	Embroidered – With School Badge	Polyester
Gym Bag - Reception - Year 6	Embroidered – With School Badge	Rucksack style. Zipped pocket. Name display pocket. Polyester
Tie	Plain	Broad Stripe design. Polyester Clip on also available

School Tie (compulsory)

A gentle reminder that all children in Reception to Year 6 are all expected to wear their school ties.

The St Mary's school tie gives the school its unique identity and this is something we want to preserve and promote throughout the local area.

New elasticated ties -

in response to parent and pupil feed back, we have decided to phase out clip on ties and replace them with elasticated ties. These are now available.

Staff will be checking to ensure that all school uniform criteria is followed. Thank you for your support.





April 2025	
Tuesday 22nd April	Staff training
Wednesday 23rd April	Children's first day back at school

New diary dates will continue to be included weekly

Catholic Children's Society Lenten boxes

We have sent **Catholic Children's Society Lenten boxes** to our families. If you have any change that you could spare, please collect it in the boxes up until Easter.



The boxes will be collected after the Easter holidays and passed on to the CCS for their wonderful charitable work for children in the UK.

Many Thanks in advance for your generosity.

Important Parents' Information

Home time

A gentle reminder about home time arrangements.

The works to improve and transform our playgrounds resumed after Christmas break. For the next two weeks a large part of the EYFS playground will be fenced off whilst the work is going on there. This means that both Nursery and Reception children will be learning in the EYFS classrooms in the main building as access to the Nursery building is restricted.

Therefore, we ask that you **drop off** your children in the mornings at the **KS1 gate**. You will be able to pick them up at home time at the **brown door next to KS1 gate**. To avoid congestion with Y1, we ask that you pick up **Nursery and Reception** children at **3.10pm**.

We are looking forward to our children enjoying the new exciting equipment and activities once the playground project is complete.

Expectation of children being collected at the end of each day

We expect all parents/carers to collect their children on time. Once the gates have closed, the children who have not been collected are brought into the office. If there are exceptional circumstance which are causing a delay, please contact the office immediately.

We do not have capacity to look after any children who are not picked up after that time.

As you are aware, the office gets very busy and the children cannot be left unsupervised in the reception area as it might pose the safety risk.

Please, ensure that you have arrangements in place to pick up your children on time.

Aktiva, the company running Wrap-Around Care in the RBKC North Hub in Ark Brunel, does take one-off bookings, so please feel free to use their services in emergencies.

Please, also ensure that we have up to date written permissions for any person you might ask to pick your children up from school as we will not be able to release children into the care of anyone we do not have the permission for.

Uniform

Thank you to the vast majority of our pupils who wear their full school uniform. We have noticed that quite a few children do not have their ties whilst at school. Please, note that the school tie is part of our school uniform. Could you, please ensure that your child wears the tie to school every day,

Pupils should be wearing **school shoes** when they are not wearing trainers as part of their PE uniform. Quite a few pupils are wearing colourful trainers, which are **not** part of the uniform, and we ask that you kindly check with your child and make sure they wear full school uniform, which includes black shoes.

Please note that if for any reason your child is not in full school uniform or full PE kit, we expect a note from parents to explain why this is the case.

Jewellery and Expensive items

As part of our school uniform, the children are allowed to wear small studs. Any long, dangling earrings might be the cause of accidents and therefore are not allowed.

If children wear necklaces with any religious symbols, please, make sure that your child is aware that these need to be tucked under the clothing for health and safety reasons.

As you are aware, we advise that children do not bring any expensive items to school, as we **cannot take responsibility for loss or damage**. Only children in Y5 and Y6, who have permission to walk to and from school on their own, can bring phones to school. However, they have to hand them in at the gate and pick them up from their teachers at the end of the day. During school hours the phones are stored in the safe.

Pandora bracelets as well as other bracelets and necklaces or "smart" watches are **not allowed** as they can create a health and safety hazard. In addition, they are often expensive or hold sentimental value.

Additionally, as "smart" watches are connected to other devices via the Internet, they are therefore **not allowed at school for safeguarding reasons**. This is in line with government and local authority guidelines and we ask parents to help us ensure that these guidelines are followed.

If you have any questions about any of the information above, please contact the office to make an appointment with a member of Senior Leadership Team.

Thank you for your support with these important issues.

Attendance

Congratulations to all the pupils who achieved 100% attendance this week!

Our overall attendance is the same as last week **is 92.00%**. This is extremely low and as a school community, we need to do much better. Our school target is **96.00%**.

If required we will arrange to meet with parents, to draw their attention to their children's absence. There is a strong correlation between school attendance and pupil outcomes. Please ensure your child is at school unless they are ill.

Holiday during term time

The government policy is that holidays during term times are not permitted, therefore the school **cannot authorise** any absence due to holidays during term times. If you take your child/ren out of school for a holiday during term time, they will be referred to the Local Authority if necessary. Please note this for any plans you are making for the new academic year 2024-25. The Department for Education expects parents/carers to organise holidays outside of the school term dates. Your child/ren's learning will suffer by taking them out of school and it may result in disruptions to the learning of others. We have already referred some families to the local authority who will issue a penalty notice.

Contacts

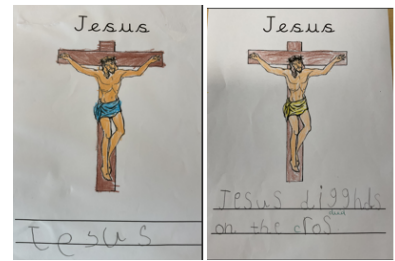
It is a requirement that the school has a minimum of **2 emergency telephone contact numbers** for your child. We need to be able to contact you at all times. Our admin team, endeavour to update our data systems with your details termly. This is essential for the wellbeing of your children and we need your help to ensure that you are contactable at all times. If there are any changes for 2024-25, please ensure you contact the school office at the beginning of the new academic year.

Look what we have been doing -Early Years and Key Stage 1

This week Early Years have been preparing for Easter. We have been listening to stories from the Bible about Holy week, role playing the last supper and building crosses.

Early Years

Nursery have been learning how to copy and write Jesus' name and Reception have been writing some sentences. We will end our week today with an Easter egg hunt and sharing our Easter hats with our families. Happy Easter to all from Early Years.



In Year 1's computing lessons we have been creating and editing our own media.

Year 1



In English we learnt the Owl & The Pussy cat poem off by heart in our groups.

Year 2

On Tuesday we celebrated The Stations of the Cross. Our reading was excellent.



School



Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club runs from 8am and will cost **£4** per child, per day for children from Reception to Y6. Before your child/ren attends Breakfast Club, please ensure you book the sessions and make the required payments first.!

This provision is only available to children from Reception to Year 6.

www.schoolgateway.com

Akvida Wraparound Care

Aktiva Camps After School Club hosted at the Ark Brunel Hub!
Aktiva has created a safe, fun, and friendly environment for our children.



Club Information: Aktiva After School Club will run from the end of the school day until 6:00 PM. The children will be collected from their classes at the end of the school day and brought over to the Ark Brunel hub by walking bus by 3.40pm where they will be registered into our after-school club. There are 2 sessions available to book - Early session 3.30pm-4.30pm and a full session 3.30pm-6pm

Contact Information: Aktiva's Ark Brunel contact number: 07776657491 - only available during service (3.30pm - 6pm). For all queries regarding bookings please email

bookings@aktivacamps.com or call our parent enquiry number on 0203 551 8909.

Booking Aktiva Services:

Single Sessions: Book until 1 PM on the same day for After School Club. This flexibility allows parents to use our services as needed. Places are subject to availability and strict cutoffs.

Booking and Pricing: Please visit www.aktivacamps.com to register yourself and your child/children and select the required service.



Star of the Term

Congratulations to all the pupils who have received **Star of the Term Certificate - Friday 4 April 2025**

Star of the Term

N - Matilda

R - Hailey

Y1 - Kai

Y2 - Maria

Y3 - Harry

Y4 - Poppy

Y5 - Gideon

Y6 Sienna.F

Star Handwriters

N - Kannon

Rec - Malaysia

Y1 - Aniyah

Y2 - Jose'

Y3 - Grae

Y4 - Olivia.Q

Y5 - Nicholas

Y6 - Stefan

Star of the term Musician

Nursery: Matilda and Gio

Reception: Cecelia and Lamek

Year 1: Pippa and Ethan

Year 2: Maria and Nicholas

Year 3: Savannah and Matthew

Year 4: Deborah and Nathaniel

Year 5: Yael and Nicholas

Year 6: Nina and Andrew

Special Star of the Term Award Pianist of the term - Mia Y2

Congratulations to all the Stars of the Term and Star Readers!

We will also be adding new dates and will share them with you soon, so please keep checking the Newsletter and the Parents' Information Board on the front gate.

Please remember that children can come to school in their PE kits on PE days. Please refer to our guidance on school uniform and ensure your child has the correct PE kit. If for any reason they are not able to come in the correct kit, we require an email or phone call from home to explain the circumstances.

There will be another small change of PE days after half term. We will only have PE sessions on Wednesdays and Fridays:

Wednesdays - **Years 1 and 2 (change from last term), Nursery and Reception**

Fridays - **Years 3 and 4; Years 5 and 6 (change from last half term)**

Thank you for your patience and support.

Term Dates 2024-2025

Term Dates 2024 – 2025

Easter Holiday – Monday 7th April – Monday 21st April

Summer Term – 2025

First Half Term

Staff Training – Tuesday 22nd April – **School Closed**

First Day of School – Wednesday 23rd April

Bank Holiday – Monday 5th May

Last Day of School – Friday 23rd May

Half Term – Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May

Second Half Term

First Day of School – Monday 2nd June

Staff Training – Monday 30th June – **School Closed**

Last Day of School – Tuesday 22nd July - **1.30pm - School Closed**

FACEBOOK

INSTAGRAM

TWITTER



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Email: info@st-marys.rbkc.sch.uk

Website: <https://www.st-marys.rbkc.sch.uk/>

Location: [East Row, London W10 5AW, UK](#)

Phone: 020 8969 0321

C

Charles Mary

Charles is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

Catholic Primary School

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