



# St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter - Friday 9th May 2025

## Message to parents from the Head of School

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Issue 29th of our Newsletter.

I hope all our families have had a pleasant and relaxing Bank Holiday weekend.

This week has been shorter but still busy.

Yesterday, 8th May was the 80th Anniversary of the Victory for Europe, also called VE Day. We had a MUFTY Day and it was lovely to see children dressed in red, white and blue clothes. WE had the whole school assembly about the VE Day as well as various activities on the topic. We also enjoyed a picnic lunch on the playground to commemorate this special anniversary of the end of II World War.

Please, read the rest of the Newsletter to see what your children did this week. Please, also have a look at the dates for this term.

Wishing you a lovely weekend

Magdalena Tusting

**Head Of School**



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## Catholic Life and Mission of the school

### Conclave 2025

Following the funeral of Pope Francis, the process of choosing the new Pope started on Wednesday 7th May in Sistine Chapel in Vatican. 135 Cardinals were locked in the chapel as they were tasked with selecting the new leader of the Catholic Church.

This process is called Conclave. Cardinals vote for as long as someone gets a majority of two thirds of all votes. Every time the vote does not result in a majority means the new Pope was not chosen. When this happens, the black smoke is released from the special chimney. When one of the cardinals gets majority of voices, the white smoke is released to announce to the world that the new Pope was chosen.

On Thursday afternoon, people gathered in St Peter's square were delighted to see the white smoke coming out of the Vatican chimney at 5.08pm. There was huge jubilation among the crowds gathered.

It took four rounds of voting to choose the new Pope.

Then the senior cardinal announced in Latin 'Habemus Papam', which means 'we have a new Pope'. He also introduced the new Pope by his chosen papal name.

The new Pope is Cardinal Robert Prevost who took the name **Pope Leo XIV**.

We pray for Pope Leo so he is able to lead the church well so that the world can unite in love and peace.



This half term we are looking at the school value of **Tolerance** and the Catholic Social Teaching Principle of **Common Good**. These two important themes will be recurring throughout all areas of our curriculum.



**Tolerance** refers to the ability to accept and respect differences in opinions, beliefs, or behaviours of other people, even if they differ from one's own.

It is the ability to live together in harmony despite our divergences. Being tolerant involves being understanding, open, and respectful towards the diversity of ideas, cultures, religions, and ways of life.

It does not imply agreeing with everything, but rather seeking constructive and avoiding attitudes of rejection or discrimination. Tolerance promotes peaceful coexistence and fosters mutual understanding in a diverse and plural society.

The Catholic Social Teaching (CST) principle of the **Common Good** refers to the social conditions that allow all individuals and communities to flourish and reach their full potential. It's a central idea in CST, closely linked to **Human Dignity and Social Justice**. The Common Good emphasizes shared responsibility for ensuring the well-being of everyone, especially the most vulnerable.

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## A message regarding Attendance and Punctuality from Ms Hampton

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: Attendance & Punctuality**

*Attendance  
&  
Punctuality*

Excellent attendance is fundamental to an excellent education. Our Attendance policy follows the policy outlined by the Education Secretary, stating that children are not to be absent from school for holidays or other non-essential reasons during term time. Only in exceptional or mitigating circumstances will an absence be approved.

### Illness

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school or absent from school for any reason, please phone the school on 0208 2053790 before 8.40 am.

We have an answerphone where you can leave a message before the office opens, please speak clearly with your child's name, class and the reason your child is unwell.

You can use the absence line from 8.00am to speak to a member of the office.

If we do not receive any information from a parent/carer in the morning, we will contact parents/carers asking them to phone the school. If we do not hear from you we will pursue all contacts regarding a child's absence as part of our safeguarding procedures. Please leave a message by 9.00 am each day of their absence.

If your child has either vomiting or diarrhea, they should stay at home for 48 hours from the last bout of illness. This is a recommendation from Public Health England to protect other pupils and staff. If a child is sent into school within the 48 hour period, we will contact the parents/carers and ask for the child to be collected from school.

Any absence can result in a loss of continuity for your child's education and upset their balance of learning. As a school, we are required to provide details of all unauthorised absences to the Local Authority.

### **Medical and Dental appointments**

We ask that you please make every effort to avoid booking medical and dental appointments during school time. Where this is unavoidable, parents/carers should put this in writing to the school office and attach a copy of the appointment card or letter before the date of the appointment. Please also include the time you will need to collect your child. If arriving late, please ensure that your child is accompanied and signed in by an adult at the school office for safeguarding reasons.

### **Other Absences**

Requests for absence during term time will not be authorised unless there is deemed to be an exceptional circumstance. Local Authorities have the power to serve parents with a Fixed Penalty Notice if a child has significant or repeated days of unauthorised absence.

### **Being Punctual**

**School starts at 9.00 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.

It is important for your child to arrive at school on time if they are to get the most out of their education. Being late is disruptive for your child but also for all the other children in the class.

### **Punctuality**

5 minutes late every day means missing 3 days of school every year.

**Punctuality is continually monitored. The gates open 15 minutes before the school day begins. If your child arrives after this time, then they will be recorded as late in the register!**

Attendance is regularly monitored by the local authority **who will fine any unauthorised absences.**

## **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.**

Avenues Youth Project offer after school activities and a Walking Bus service, where they collect the children at the end of the day. Please see the information below on how to sign your child up.

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## Baby and Toddler Group Pictures

This week we had our first Baby and Toddler session on Wednesday at 8.45am - 10.15am. We had local families join us for the morning in some indoor and outdoor play! Lots of wonderful comments from new parents about our AMAZING space and shaded grass area for children to enjoy.

It was a glorious day in the sunshine and we can't wait for the next one on Wednesday 17th May. Come and join us. It will be bubble blowing and parachute play!



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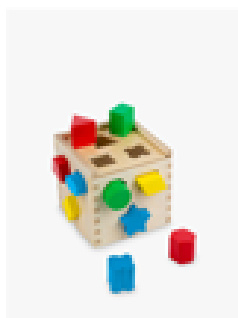
## Donations for Baby and Toddler Group

Dear Parents,

We would like to ask any families for donations of baby play toys in good or new condition for our Parent and Baby/Toddler Group starting in May on Wednesday mornings.

We would like any wooden puzzles, wooden shape play toys and any musical instruments.

Thankyou for your support.



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## 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**

7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May

## 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June

2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 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

## Summer School Dresses

Due to hot weather, the girls can now wear the red and white Gingham summer dress only (**not school red Gingham culottes**)

Please ensure dresses are knee length.



## 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.

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<b>May 2025</b>	
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> to Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Year 6 SATs</b>
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> May <b>at 2.50pm</b>	<b>Year 3 Class Assembly</b> (at 2.50pm, due to Year 6 SATs)
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	<b>World Cultural Diversity Day</b>
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	<b>Year 6 Spoken Word programme starts at school</b>
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Half term</b>
<b>June 2025</b>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Year 6 PGL school</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Year 4 Multiplication Check</b>
9 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Year 6 Into university at school</b>
9 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Year 1 Phonics Screening</b>
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Grenfell Fire</b>
16 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Year 6 Bikeability</b>
30 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Staff INSET, school closed</b>
<b>July 2025</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Science Week</b>
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Summer Fair</b>
7 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Sports Week</b>
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Sports Day</b>
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Year 6 Production</b>
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Year 6 Leavers' Mass and assembly</b>
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Year 6 Prom</b>
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	<b>Last day of term, school closes <b>at 1.30pm</b></b>

New diary dates will continue to be included weekly

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# Clubs - May to July 2025

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Clashes	Yr 6 booster	Yr 6 booster	Yr 3 Holy Communion Yr 5/6 street dance	Choir KS2 Yr6 booster	Open to all
R-KS1	Rec-KS1 Athletics Outside	Rec-KS1 Gymnastics Inside	Rec-KS1 Football Outside	Rec-KS1&KS2 Art Club Inside	Rec-KS1 Multisports Outside
KS2	NO CLUB	KS2 Football Outside	NO CLUB	NO CLUB	KS2 Gymnas  Inside

## PE Days

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.

### Class PE sessions

Wednesdays: EYFS, Y1,Y2 and Y6

Fridays - Y2, Y3,Y4 and Y5

In the week commencing 12th May, Year 6 have their SATS assessment week. To accommodate consequent timetable changes, Year 2 will have two PE lessons on Wednesday 14th May. They will not have PE on Friday 16th May.

## Important Parents' Information

### Home time

A gentle reminder about home time arrangements.

Now that the playground works and the repairs to the pitch are finished, we would like to revert back to **home time arrangements** where **Year 3 and Year 4 classes** go home through the **back gate**.

We had a trial period for using the KS2 gate, however we feel that with the narrow gate and the compacted area in front of the gate, there is a lot of congestion.

This causes health and safety concerns. To keep everyone safe, we decided to go back to the arrangements from before the playground works.

Please, note that we will keep the arrangements we had for families with younger and older siblings previously, when we were using the back gate. Could you let Ms Herman in the office know if you need your child to join their sibling at their gate and she will co-ordinate with the class teachers.

We will restart this arrangement for Year 3 and Year 4 using the back gate for home time on **Tuesday 6th May**.

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### **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.

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## Look what we have been doing -Early Years Foundation Stage

Year 3 had a blast celebrating VE day this week. We made Union flags for our celebration at school and spent a lot of time in class discussing the importance of VE day and why it happened.

# Year 3

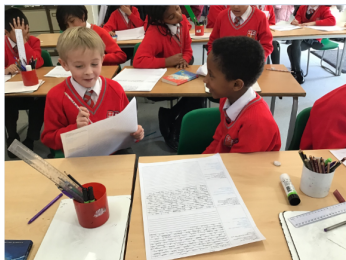
The whole school celebration was an incredible experience and we loved being together as a school to enjoy it!



Year 4 are very busy with their published writing. After planning their stories on big paper, the students buddy up and share their stories with one another and get advice from their buddy about what sounds good and what needs to be edited.

## Year 4

They work as a team to edit their stories and ensure their work is top quality across the class. We have some captivating authors in our class!



Year 5 wrote poems on the theme of World War 2 and evacuation in the build up to the V.E. Day celebrations on 8th May.

## Year 5

The children had great fun performing the poems to the rest of the class and really gave some impressive performances.



The children are maintaining a great level of energy and enthusiasm in the run-up to SATs week. We have also taken the time to learn more about VE Day and discuss our appreciation for the fallen combatants who served us so bravely during the Second World War.

## Year 6



There was a whole school celebration to commemorate the occasion and the children enjoyed sandwiches and cake in the sunshine after respectfully conducting a minute's silence.



## 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](http://www.schoolgateway.com)

## Avenue Youth Project Primary AfterSchool Provision

You can now sign up to the Avenue Youth Project for Afterschool Provision, they also provide a walking Bus Service.

### ROUTE DETAILS

The walking bus journey begins at St Mary's Primary School main entrance, where children assemble at 2:15 PM. The route takes approximately 10 minutes, with arrival at The Avenues by 2:45. The journey includes four key crossing points, featuring a road crossing on East Row, another by the park on Kensal Road, followed by a zebra crossing which takes you to the bridge, providing access to Harrow Road. At Harrow Road, the group will cross at the traffic lights and cross again onto Third Avenue.

[See Route Here](#)

## A WALKING BUS SERVICE

To establish a safe and supervised walking bus service connecting St Mary's Primary School, St Charles Primary School, and The Avenues Youth Project, the walking bus will ensure students in Years 3-6 can access quality after-school activities through reliable, supervised walking routes between the schools and after-school service.

The walking bus addresses the current financial barrier of £15 per day after-school club costs which has limited student participation. The service will incorporate road safety education as an important part of the daily journey.

The walking bus builds on the existing relationship between St Mary's and the Avenues while expanding the reach to include St Charles Primary. Through this coordinated approach, the walking bus will transform access to the Avenues after-school activities, making them easily accessible to all students regardless of their financial employment status.

For more info go to our webpage:  
[www.avenues.org.uk/connect](http://www.avenues.org.uk/connect)

**THE AVENUES YOUTH PROJECT**

## TERM TIME

### WHAT'S ON FOR JUNIORS

TERM	TIME	ACTIVITY
Autumn	3:00 - 4:00 PM	Football
Autumn	4:00 - 5:00 PM	Table Tennis
Autumn	5:00 - 6:00 PM	Chess
Autumn	6:00 - 7:00 PM	Badminton
Autumn	7:00 - 8:00 PM	Table Tennis
Autumn	8:00 - 9:00 PM	Chess
Autumn	9:00 - 10:00 PM	Badminton
Autumn	10:00 - 11:00 PM	Table Tennis
Autumn	11:00 - 12:00 PM	Chess
Autumn	12:00 - 1:00 PM	Badminton
Autumn	1:00 - 2:00 PM	Table Tennis
Autumn	2:00 - 3:00 PM	Chess
Autumn	3:00 - 4:00 PM	Badminton
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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](mailto: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](http://www.aktivacamps.com) to register yourself and your child/children and select the required service.

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**Star of the Week**

Congratulations to all the pupils who have received **Star of the Week Certificate - Friday 9th May 2025**

**Star of the week:**

Reception - Isadora

Y1 - Torrah-Leigh

Y2 - Mia

Y3 - Alfie

Y4 - Mimi

Y5 - Jericho

**Star Readers**

Y1 - Olly

Y2 - Major

Y3 - Delilah

Y4 - Lola

Y5 - Gideon

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

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## Term Dates 2024-2025

**Term Dates 2024 - 2025**

**Summer Term – 2025**

***First Half Term***

Staff Training – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – **School Closed**

First Day of School – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

**Bank Holiday** – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May

Last Day of School – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

**Half Term** – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May

***Second Half Term***

First Day of School – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

Staff Training – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June – **School Closed**

Last Day of School – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July - **1.30pm - School Closed**

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**FACEBOOK**

INSTAGRAM

TWITTER



### St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Email: [info@st-marys.rbkc.sch.uk](mailto: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