



St Mary's
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Newsletter - Friday 25th April 2025

Message to parents from the Head of School

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to Issue 27 of our Newsletter.

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope all our families have had a relaxing, enjoyable Easter break.

It was lovely to see all the children back after the Easter holidays!

They settled back quickly and have been engaging positively in their learning this week.

We wish all our pupils an enjoyable, positive Summer Term.

Best Wishes,

Magdalena Tusting
Head of School

Catholic Life and Mission of the school

This week, on Easter Monday the world received the sad news of the passing of Pope Francis.

Today we had a special assembly commemorating the Pope's life and service to the Catholic Church and the world.

Pope Francis was an avid promoter of peace and harmony in the world and he spent his life in service to the poor, the sick and those most in need.

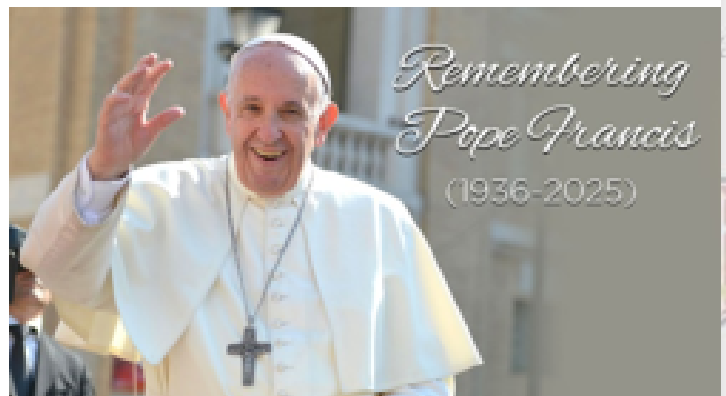
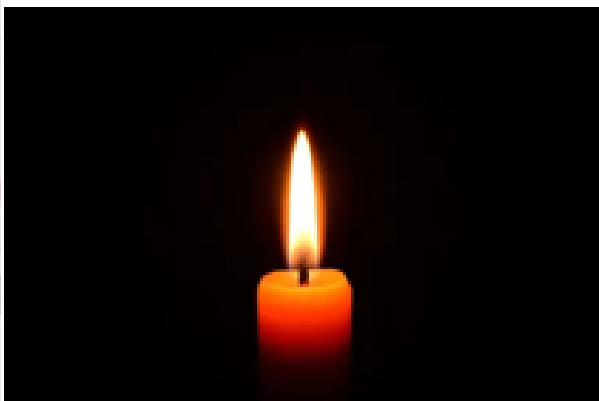


On Easter Sunday, even though he was too unwell to celebrate the Easter Mass, Pope Francis gave the very special **Urbi at Orbi blessing (to the city and the world)** at 12.00pm from the balcony overlooking St Peter's Piazza. This is the very special blessing for the world, given by the Pope every year after the Easter Sunday Mass.

After the blessing, Pope rode in his Papa Mobile around the square, greeting and blessing crowds gathered outside St Peter's Basilica.

Pope Francis also established the **year 2025 as the Jubilee Year**, following the church's tradition. The Pope had given **the Jubilee Year the theme: Pilgrims of Hope**.

We remember Pope Francis and thank him for standing up for the most vulnerable, especially for the children around the world.



May perpetual light shine upon him, Oh Lord. May he rest in peace.

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)

EYFS Environment 2025

The children in Nursery and Reception are really enjoying the new and improved playground now we are in Spring! What a bright addition to our school! We are very lucky to have so much outdoor space to enjoy.



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.



New Baby and Toddler Group

All Welcome!

A photograph showing several children's hands reaching towards a large, round, light-colored drum. They are holding colorful balloons (blue, yellow, red) and appear to be using them to play the drum. The drum is placed on a green, textured surface, possibly grass or a mat.

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.



Diary Dates

May 2025	
Monday 5 th May	Bank Holiday, school closed
Wednesday 7 th May	Year 5 Into University trip
Monday 12 th to Thursday 15 th May	Year 6 SATs
Wednesday 21 st May	World Cultural Diversity Day
Wednesday 21 st May	International Afternoon
Wednesday 21 st May	Year 6 Spoken Word programme starts at school
Monday 26 th May to Friday 30 th May	Half term
June 2025	
2 nd to 4 th June	Year 6 PGL school
2 nd to 13 th June	Year 4 Multiplication Check
9 th June	Year 6 Into university at school
9 th to 11 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening
Saturday 14 th June	8th Anniversary of the Grenfell Fire
16 th to 20 th June	Year 6 Bikeability
30 th June	Staff INSET, school closed
July 2025	
1 st to 4 th July	Science Week
Friday 4 th July	Summer Fair
7 th to 11 th July	Sports Week
Thursday 10 th July	Sports Day
Tuesday 15 th July	Year 6 Production
Friday 18 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass and assembly
Tuesday 22 nd July	Last day of term, school closes at 1.30pm

New diary dates will continue to be included weekly

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.

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

Wednesdays - **Nursery and Reception; Years 1 and 6**

Fridays - **Years 3 and 4; Years 2 and 5**

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 -Key Stage 2

Year 3 really enjoyed receiving their books from the Children's Book Project this term!

Year 3

It was an incredible opportunity and it was so hard trying to decide between all the books!



Before the holiday, Year 4 had the very exciting chance to practise their bike riding skills during a 2 day Bikeability course.

Year 4

Students were split into ability groups and taught new skills about how to safely ride a bike, including how to do emergency stops without falling off.

Miss Forrest was so proud of the progress the children made, especially the children who had never ridden a bike before or were quite nervous about riding. They had a fantastic time!



Some of our Year 5 students are now published authors. We took part in a short story competition for the Young Writers organisation, and a number of our students' work was selected for publication.

Year 5

The books arrived recently and we have some very proud authors in Year 5.



The children have returned from their Easter break with great energy and enthusiasm. We have settled back into our routines with a strong desire to maximise every minute in the run up to SATs. In mathematics, the children have been focusing on calculating and comparing volume as well as reviewing and consolidating the year's learning with regular challenges and engaging activities.

Year 6

English has seen us immerse ourselves even further into Macbeth and we are in the process of writing a newspaper report focusing on one of the pivotal events in the play. This has been a great opportunity to also build in interesting wider discussions around journalism as a vocation and its role within wider society.

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

Aktivita 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 Week**

No Star of the week, for this week!

Term Dates 2024-2025

Term Dates 2024 - 2025

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



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C

Charles Mary

Charles is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters



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