



# St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter - Friday 14th February 2025

## Message to parents from the Executive Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to Issue 20 of our Newsletter.

Firstly, I'd like to say a huge thank you for your excellent attendance during this week's Parent Consultation evenings. It is very important that we work together to help your child reach their full potential in every sense. I was delighted to hear your appreciation for the teachers and staff who work tirelessly to ensure that your child's needs are met and that they are happy in school. We are fortunate to have a very talented team and it is a privilege to be a part of such a vibrant and supportive school community. Thank you and well done everybody.



Tuesday marked the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and I couldn't help but remember my trips to Lourdes, in France, during my younger years. In Lourdes, the sick are always at the forefront. As a place of pilgrimage, my visits to the grotto where Our Lady appeared to a local girl called Bernadette, were incredibly special and allowed time and space for prayer, reflection and inner healing, away from the busy town and large crowds. This experience, gave me and the group I travelled with, a renewed sense of joy and hope.

During this Jubilee Year, we are described as Pilgrims of Hope, and wherever we travel, Pope Francis has asked that we spread a sense of hope and joy to everyone that we meet on our

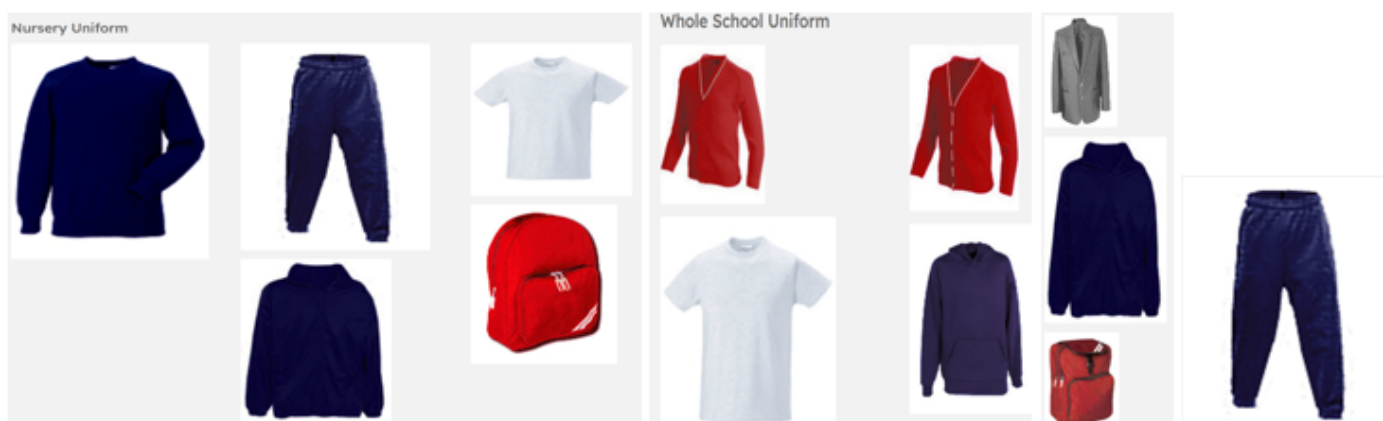
journey.

As we approach the half term break, I'd like to wish you and your families a very happy and restful half term break and I look forward to seeing you again on Monday 24th February 2025.

Best Wishes,  
Best wishes

Geraldine Hamptom  
Head of School

## 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.**

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## Catholic Life and Mission of the school

On Tuesday 12th February the Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. On 12th February 1858 the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared in the grotto at Lourdes, France to Saint Bernadette Soubirous, a fourteen-year-old peasant girl. Our Lady instructed Bernadette to dig in the ground nearby, from which came a spring with healing properties, active to this day.



Between 11 February and 16 July 1858, Bernadette experienced eighteen apparitions of the Virgin Mary in a cave on the outskirts of Lourdes, now known as the Grotto.

One of the famous quotes from St Bernadette, often shared is: "For the few years we still have to live in this world, we must do our best to spend our time as well as possible."

Bernadette was made a Saint on 8th December 1933, she was canonised by Pope Pius XI. Bernadette is often shown with a rosary in her hands.

### 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.



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## After School Clubs!



## Afterschool Clubs - commencing Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 25

MONDAY – (**NO CLUBS**)

TUESDAY - **Football** - (Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6) - 3.45pm - 4.45pm

WEDNESDAY - **Football** - (Rec, Y1 & Y2) - 3.30pm – 4.30pm

WEDNESDAY - **Gymnastics/Dance** - (Rec, Y1, Y2) - 3.30pm – 4.30pm

THURSDAY - **Fitness** - (Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6) - 3.30pm – 4.30pm

THURSDAY - **Art** - (Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6) - 3.30pm – 4.30pm

THURSDAY - **Choir** - (Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6) - 3.45pm - 4.45pm

FRIDAY - **Multisport** - (Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6) - 3.30pm – 4.30pm

FRIDAY - **Gymnastics/Dance** - (Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6) - 3.45pm - 4.45pm

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# Diary Dates

<b>February 2025</b>	
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Scholastic Book Fair</b>
<b>March 2025</b>	
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>World Book Day</b>
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March:	<b>Y2 Class Assembly</b>
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> March to Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Shakespeare Week</b>
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> March:	<b>Y3 Class Assembly</b>

New diary dates will continue to be included weekly



**Scholastic Book Fair**  
**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**World Book Day**  
**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025**



## **Shakespeare Week**

### **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

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#### **Year 6 SAT's Meeting**

Year 6 SAT's Parent's Meeting will, take place on Wednesday 26th February 2025 at 3.30pm



#### **Safer Internet Day 2025 – Reflecting on Online Safety**

This week, our school took part in **Safer Internet Day 2025**, a global event dedicated to promoting online safety. Celebrated on **Tuesday, 11th February**, this marked the **22nd year** of the initiative, with over **170 countries** joining forces to create a safer digital world.



Each year, Safer Internet Day highlights key online challenges, and this year's theme was: **"Too Good to Be True? Protecting Yourself and Others from Online Scams."** Throughout the week, students explored important topics such as cyberbullying, social media risks, and the importance of thinking critically about online information.

Through engaging activities and discussions, our school community reflected on how to navigate the internet safely and responsibly. Let's continue working together to build a safer and smarter online environment for everyone!

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## 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 parent/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.**

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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 91.00%**. 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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## **Nursery and Reception School Admission - September 2025**

You can collect a SIF application form for Nursery or Reception, from the school office.

If you are applying for Reception, please ensure you also complete your online application with your Local Authority by January 15th 2025.



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## **Look what we have been doing - Early Years & Key Stage 1**

Nursery this week have been learning a new story called 'Polar Bear, what do you hear?' Exploring this book, we have been looking at the effects of freezing water and the cold temperatures that the polar bears experience in the artic.

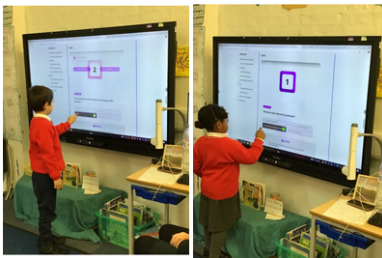
### **Early Years**

In Reception we have been busy writing about our own homes and the materials they're made from. We have also been trying to use more tricky words in our sentences. The tricky word for this week's focus has been 'my'.



Year 1 have had **Safer Internet Day** this week. It is a day where people take the opportunity to think about how to be safer and more responsible when they use the internet on their devices. Year 1 class learnt about SMART ways to be safe online, took a quiz together and then used their chrome books to show their learning.

# Year 1



In Computing, we explored the meanings of 'algorithm' and 'decomposition'. We decomposed the dinosaur game and then followed the algorithm by watching the keys and making the correct moves. We made the game more interesting by working in groups to design additional algorithms.

# Year 2

On **Safer Internet Day** we talked about the importance of keeping our personal information safe by not sharing it online. We also discussed who our trusted adults were – the people we can talk to if we are unsure about something on the internet.



# 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](http://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](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.



## **Star of the Term**

Congratulations to all the pupils who have received **Star of the Week Certificate - Friday 14th February 2025**

### **Star of the Term:**

**Reception - Malaysia**

**Y1 - Aniyah**

**Y2 - Anya**

**Y3 - Harry**

**Y4 - Deborah**

**Y5 - Whole Class**

**Y6 - Sade**

### **Star Readers**

**Y1 - Olly**

**Y2 - Luna.K**

**Y3 - Matthew**

**Y4 - Alessia**

**Y5 - Zyann & Yael**

**Y6 - Jacob**

### **Handwriter**

Y1 - Pippa

Y2 - Maria

Y3 - Vanna

Y4- Mimi

Y5 - Amy & Layla

Y6 - Noah

**Congratulations to all the Stars of the Week, Star Readers!**

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**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.**

**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 - **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.

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## **Term Dates 2024-2025**



## Term Dates 2024 – 2025

### Spring Term - 2025

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#### **First Half Term**

Staff Training – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January – **School Closed**

First Day of School – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January

Last Day of School – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

**Half Term** – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February

#### **Second Half Term**

First Day of School – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February

Last Day of School – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April - **1.30pm - School Closed**

**Easter Holiday** – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April

### Summer Term – 2025

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#### **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

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### St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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

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**Charles Mary**

Charles is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters



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