



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter - Friday 24th January 2025

Message to parents from the Head of School

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to Issue 17 of our Newsletter, the first one in 2025.

Another busy week is almost finished! Our children across all year groups have been busy learning, developing skills and

On Wednesday we had a visit from a group of our Federation

Governors, who spoke to the representatives of various Pupil Voice groups about our school. They also visited all the classes and saw lessons across the curriculum.



The Governors were very impressed with how articulately our children can speak about the school, their teachers and their learning and personal development.

They also thought the behaviour and in particular the behaviour for learning was exemplary. The children across different year groups were very well behaved, very polite and engaged in all aspects of their learning. They also showed kindness to one another, which was commented upon by our visitors, who commented that it was evident that our children live the school values.

I would like to thank all our pupils and especially those who are in various Pupil Groups, Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl, all the prefects, School Council and House Captains who represent all our children and continuously work hard to support them and to make our school such a wonderful place to be.

As I mentioned before, 2025 is the **Jubilee Year**.

On 24th December 2024 Pope Francis officially launched the **Jubilee Year 2025** within the Catholic Church. He did this through the ceremony of opening the **Holy Door** at St Peter's Basilica. This happens every 25 years, so it is a very special event.

Catholic schools in the UK are launching the Jubilee Year today, **Friday 24th January**. The Jubilee Year will close on 6th January 2026.

We had a special Jubilee launch assembly and we will continue to learn about Catholic Social Teaching Principles and trying to work together to make the world a better place, both locally and globally.

With the very best wishes

Magdalena Tusting
Head of School



After School Clubs!



After-school Clubs - commencing Monday 27th January 25

MONDAY - **Football** - (Y3 & Y4)

TUESDAY - **Football** - (Y5 & Y6)

WEDNESDAY - **Football** - (Rec, Y1 & Y2)

WEDNESDAY - **Gymnastics/Dance** - (Rec, Y1, Y2)

THURSDAY - **Fitness** - (Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6)

THURSDAY - **Art** - (Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6)

THURSDAY - **Choir** - (Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6)

FRIDAY - **Multisport** - (Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6)

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



January 2025	
Thursday 30 th January:	Y4 Class Assembly
Friday 31 st January:	School Mass – the Jubilee Year launch
February 2025	
Thursday 6 th February:	Y1 Class Assembly 2.45pm
Thursday 13 th February:	Y5 Class Assembly
Monday 3 rd February to Friday 7 th February	Children's Mental Health Week
Monday 10 th February	Parent Consultation Meetings 2.45pm to 6.15pm
Tuesday 11 th February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 11 th February	Parent Consultation Meetings 3.45pm to 6.15pm
Monday 24 th to Friday 28 th February	Scholastic Book Fair
March 2025	
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day
Thursday 13 th March:	Y2 Class Assembly
Monday 24 th March to Friday 28 th March	Shakespeare Week
Thursday 27 th March:	Y3 Class Assembly

New diary dates will continue to be included weekly

EYFS and KS1 Playground under refurbishment

Some pictures of St Mary's playgrounds in EYFS and KS1 that are under construction! Watch closely as we transform our wonderful school with a sensory playground for all children.



Catholic Life and Mission of the school

This Jubilee year's theme is: Pilgrims of Hope

Catholic Church has the tradition of holding Jubilee years every 25 years. The year 2025 is the Jubilee year, which will last to 6th January 2026, the Feast of Epiphany. This Jubilee year's theme is:

Pilgrims of Hope.



A beautiful logo, full of symbolism was designed by the Italian artist, Giacomo Trivisani. The logo shows four stylized figures, representing all of humanity coming from the four corners of the earth holding on to the Cross, which symbolises Hope for us all.

Catholic Teaching

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.



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.

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.

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 - coming soon!

in response to parent and pupil feed back, we have decided to phase out clip on ties and replace them with elasticated ties. These will be available in the new year.

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

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.



Look what we have been doing! - Key Stage 2

Year 3

This week we received some books from the Children's Book Project. What joy it was to look through our new books, comparing the genres and covers and discussing what we think they're going to be about! We can't wait for the next time the charity visits us!



Year 4

Year 4 have jumped into the new Religious Education curriculum and are enjoying the current branch of learning called Galilee to Jerusalem.



Students had to search for a specific passage in the Bible and discover the question Jesus asked to Simon Peter and what his reply was. It was a great opportunity for cooperation and teamwork between the children and in the end they gained a deeper understanding of why we call Jesus, 'Christ'.

Year 5

Year 5 had a fantastic workshop with the National Theatre. We made props, did drama and had fun dressing up.



Much fun was had and we are looking forward to going watch their production in February.

Year 6

The children continue to work extremely hard in order to ensure they are making positive strides in preparation for their SATs across mathematics, reading and grammar.

We also had the pleasure of participated in a workshop set up by the National Theatre which involved a mixture of choreography, stage direction, sound, costume and set design. The mission was to provide a taste of the vast work required to successfully put on a play and the children took to it brilliantly.



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

Akvita 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 Week Certificate** - Friday 24th January 2025

Star of the Term:

Reception - **Tegan**

Y1- **Whole Class**

Y2 - **Whole Class**

Y3 - **Jayden**

Y4 - **Poppy**

Y5 - **Ann Clara**

Y6 - **Agatha**

Star Readers

Y1- **Farah**

Y2 - **Renai-Mae**

Y3 - **Dilyet**

Y4 - **Neveah**

Y5 - **Layla**

Y6 - (Not this week)

Congratulations to all the Stars of the Week, 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.

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.

Wednesdays - **Years 2 & 5 (change from last term), Nursery and Reception**

Thursdays - **Years 1, 2, 3 & 6 (change from last term)**

Fridays - **Years 3, 4 & Year 6**

Term Dates 2024-2025

Term Dates 2024 – 2025

Spring Term - 2025

First Half Term

Staff Training – Monday 6th January – **School Closed**

First Day of School – Tuesday 7th January

Last Day of School – Friday 14th February

Half Term – Monday 17th – Friday 21st February

Second Half Term

First Day of School – Monday 24th February

Last Day of School – Friday 4th April - **1.30pm - School Closed**

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



Charles Mary

Charles is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters



Catholic Primary School



Catholic Primary School



St Mary's
Catholic Primary School



St Mary's
Catholic Primary School



St Mary's
Catholic Primary School



St Mary's
Catholic Primary School



St Mary's
Catholic Primary School



St Mary's
Catholic Primary School



St Mary's
Catholic Primary School



St Mary's
Catholic Primary School



St Mary's
Catholic Primary School



St Mary's
Catholic Primary School



St Mary's
Catholic Primary School



St Mary's
Catholic Primary School



St Mary's
Catholic Primary School