



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter - Friday 31st January 2025

Message to parents from the Executive Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to Issue 18 of our Newsletter, the first one in 2025.

Uniforms remain a valuable tool for fostering equality, safety, and a sense of community and pride within schools. We continue to promote high expectations in every sense and that includes wearing **FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM**. I have noticed in classrooms, playgrounds, assemblies and in and around the school building that there a number of children who do not wear a tie. **The school tie** is an essential part of our uniform code. It is compulsory to wear a tie. There have been complaints about the metal clip attached to the top of tie, therefore you can now purchase elasticated ties and non-elasticated ties from the school office.



Please ensure that your child comes to the school in their correct school uniform **INCLUDING THEIR TIE** and all clothing items are labelled. PE kits should be **worn only on PE days**. Please see the full school uniform list below. Coats should also comply with the uniform code. Next week, staff will monitor the situation and we will report back to you in the school newsletter. We really appreciate your support.

On a separate note, both schools launched the beginning of the Jubilee Year with a Jubilee Mass in their respective parish churches. The children are aware that they are pilgrims of hope and we are on a journey to live out our golden rule, treating others as we want to be treated. Both schools are in the process of designing and creating a new holy door. As a sign of hope within school, the door

will now serve as a reminder that we need to be a pilgrim of God spreading hope to others whilst helping us to develop our relationship with God too.

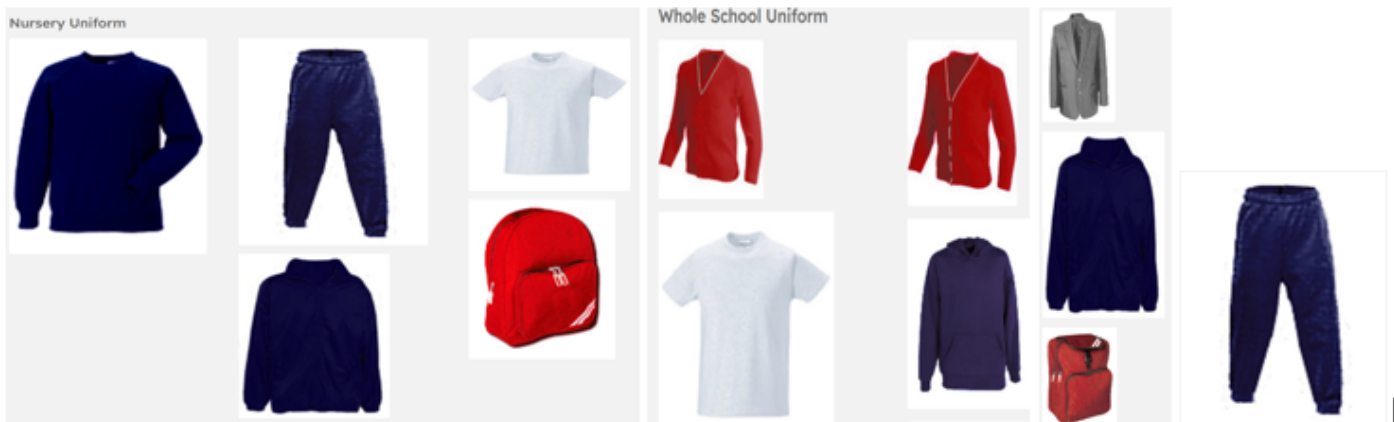
As always, thank you for your ongoing co operation and support.

Wishing you a very happy and restful weekend.

Best wishes

Geraldine Hampton
Executive Headteacher

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.

Catholic Life and Mission of the school

This Jubilee year's theme is: Pilgrims of Hope

We have continued with the celebrations of the Jubilee Year launch at St Mary's by taking part in the special Holy Mass today. Father Damian celebrated the Mass for the school and the parish.



Father opened the Mass with a beautiful message about us all being Pilgrims of Hope and the importance of living our lives in hope and gratitude.



We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Father Damian for the beautiful Mass and lovely homily which gave example of how hope has the power to transform lives!



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.



After School Clubs!



Afterschool Clubs - commencing Monday 27th 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



Diary Dates

January 2025	
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

Parents Consultation Meetings

Parents Consultation Meetings will take place on:

Monday 10th February - 2.45pm to 6.15pm

Tuesday 11th February - 3.45pm to 6.15pm



Early Years Playground Refurbishment

Work has been completed this week in our Early Years Playground. The children have thoroughly enjoyed accessing their new outdoor environment. As you can see from our pictures, this has been a huge transformation for all the children to enjoy.

Before



After



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.

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! - Early Years and Key Stage 1

Nursery and Reception Class

Early Years have been busy this week with moving our daily activities back to the main EYFS building. However, this has not slowed us down with our learning.



Nursery have been creating some amazing jungle collages and have also learned several new facts about jungle animals.



Reception have been working equally as hard and we have introduced a new counting resource called a rekenrek. This new tool has been helping children to count one more.

Year 1

Year 1 have enjoyed their class text this half term 'The Emperor's Egg' It's a non-fiction book that explores the life-cycle of an Emperor penguin.



The children have thoroughly enjoyed this book and felt inspired to make their own versions. I am incredibly proud of the progress we are seeing in the children's writing, well done everyone!

Year 2

In RE this week, we continued to discuss how we thought the Apostles felt when they were called by Jesus and why they felt excited, proud, honoured, privileged, happy and perhaps a little worried and nervous.



We then worked in groups and did a 'freeze frame' so we could say how the apostles felt when they were called and when they healed the sick. We thought about whether they were just healing physical illnesses and how the Holy Spirit might come upon us.

We then studied the Lord's Prayer wondering about the lines in the prayer that talk about forgiveness. We discussed how we felt when we said sorry and when others said sorry to us, and how important forgiveness is in order to be close to God. We then role played saying sorry, focussing on the importance of penance

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 Term

There was no Star of the Week, due to Reception to Year 6 attending our Jubilee Year Launch Mass this morning at the schools local parish, Our Lady of the Holy Souls.

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



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