St Mary's Catholic Primary Schoo



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Newsletter - Friday 2nd May 2025

# Message to parents from the Excutive Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers.

atho Welcome to Issue 28th of our Newsletter.



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I hope you are enjoying this amazing sunshine.

The beautiful weather sets the scene for a number of events taking place during the month of May. First and foremost, May is dedicated to Our Lady. During this special month, we set aside time

to honour Our Lady by saying the Rosary, holding a May procession and remembering Mary's role as Mother of Jesus and Mother of us all.

May is also First Holy Communion season and as our children near the end of their sacramental preparation programme, please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they get ready to receive the Eucharist for the first time.

This month also marks the beginning of the testing and examination season. During May and June, children from certain year groups will be taking their phonics test, multiplication check and end of Key Stage Two tests. We know that all children across the school work very hard and strive to do their best.

Finally, following the burial of Pope Francis, we pray hard for the cardinals who will elect a new Pope. This process is called the 'Papal Conclave'. Our very own Cardinal Vincent Nichols will be



St Mary's

Catholic Primary School

St Mary's







part of the conclave and we ask the Holy Spirit to guide all the Cardinals to choose the right person for this incredibly important role.

Just a reminder that **Monday 5th May is a bank holiday**, so we will see you all on Tuesday 6th May. Wishing you a very restful and peaceful weekend, Best Wishes,

Ms Hampton Executive Headteacher

#### Prayer for the successor of Pope Francis

O God, who chose your servant,
in succession to the Apostle Peter
as shepherd of the whole flock,
look favourably on the supplications of your people
and grant that, as Vicar of Christ on earth,
he may confirm his brethren
and that the whole Church may be in communion with him
in the bond of unity, love and peace,
so that in you, the shepherd of souls,
all may know the truth and attain life eternal.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.
Prayer for the successor of Pope Francis









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# Catholic Life and Mission of the school

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.



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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. Top of Form

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On 8 May 1945, the unconditional surrender of all German forces to the allies came into effect. The day was declared as **Victory in Europe Day (VE Day)** across the west, and in Britain the day was made a national holiday by Prime Minister Winston Churchill.



Various charities are encouraging people across the UK to celebrate with street and garden parties on that day, even though it is not a Bank Holiday. The VE Charity are calling for people across the nation to light candles as Beacons of Peace and a global tribute to all those who fought and gave their lives for peace around the world!

# A message regarding Attendance and Punctuality from Ms Hampton

Dear Parents/Carers,

#### Re: 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. 9.00 am. 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**

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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.

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 10-15 minutes before the school day begins. If your child arrives after this time, then they will be recorded as late in the register! <u>Education Welfare Officer (EWO)</u>

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.

#### **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,

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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.











#### All Welcome!



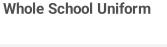
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St Mary's Catholic Primary School East Row North Kensington W10 5AW

Wednesdays 8.45am – 10.15am.

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Where to find us:

All are welcome! Parent/Carers stay and play with your child.

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!

Come to our new EYFS building entrance where we have plenty of buggy parking space!

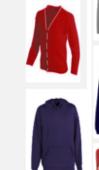
Dates 2025 (Summer Term)

8.45am – 10.15am

7th and 21st May 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> July















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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

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 Ginham 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.













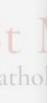


Staff will be checking to ensure that all school uniform criteria is followed. Thank you for your support.

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**Diary Dates** 

May 2025	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday, school closed
Wednesday 7th May	Year 5 Into University trip
Wednesday 7th May	Y6 Parents/Carers School Journey
	Meeting at 3.30pm
Thursday 8th May	80th Anniversary of the VE Day
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> to Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs
Wednesday 21st May	World Cultural Diversity Day
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Year 6 Spoken Word programme
	starts at school
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	Half term
June 2025	
2 <sup>nd</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 PGL school
2 <sup>nd</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 Multiplication Check
9 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Into university at school
9th to 11th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	8th Anniversary of the Grenfell Fire
16th to 20th June	Year 6 Bikeability
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Staff INSET, school closed
July 2025	
1st to 4th July	Science Week
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Fair
7th to 11th July	Sports Week
Thursday 10th July	Sports Day
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Production
Friday 18th July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass and assembly
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Last day of term,
	school closes at 1.30pm



New diary dates will continue to be included weekly



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#### **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.

### **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.

Thanks in adavcne for your generosity.



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# 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.





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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**.

#### 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.

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.

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.

Avenue Youth Project also provide an Afterschool Provision and a Walking Bus Service for our Year 3 and Year 6 children.

#### 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 <u>96.00%</u>.

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 - Early Years Foundation Stage

All children were gifted with an Easter egg which was greatly appreciated. If any more parents wish

to join our PTA please lets us know at the gate and we can give you more information.

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Early Years have had an amazing week and are so lucky to be able to enjoy the sunshine in our wonderful new playground. This week

our children enjoyed a very exciting Easter egg hunt arranged by our PTA.







In RE we have been learning about what happened after Jesus' Resurrection.



On Tuesday, we read the story of Pentecost (Acts **2:1-9, 12-13) and discussed: how** the disciples felt and why they were praying; how the Holy Spirit came upon them and why it was important that the disciples were able to speak in different languages.

We then acted out the story of Pentecost, with two narrators, the wind and flames, the disciples and the Jewish people.





**Early Years** 





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### **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club runs from 8am and will cost <u>£4</u> 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

#### 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

## A WALKING BUS SERVICE

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

Contact Information: Aktiva's Ark Brunel contact number: 07776657491 - only available during

Single Sessions: Book until 1 PM on the same day for After School Club. This flexibility allows

bookings@aktivacamps.com or call our parent enquiry number on 0203 551 8909.



### Akvita Wraparound Care

**Booking Aktiva Services:** 

Aktiva Camps After School Club hosted at the Ark Brunel Hub! Aktiva has created a safe, fun, and friendly environment for our children.

3.30pm-4.30pm and a full session 3.30pm-6pm

child/children and select the required service.

Club Information: Aktiva After School Club will run from the end of

service (3.30pm - 6pm). For all queries regrading bookings please email



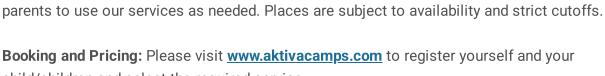




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<u>Star of the week</u>: Nursery - Sienna Reception - Brianna

Congratulations to all the pupils who have received **Star of the Week Certificate - Friday 2nd may 2025** 

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Y2 - Ricardo

Y1- Albie

- Y3 Callie-Mae
- Y4 Cali
- Y5 Nazrawi

#### Star Readers

- Y1- George
- Y2 Novena
- Y3 Vienna-Rae
- Y4 Sofia
- Y5 Isaiah





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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 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 2<sup>nd</sup> June Staff Training – Monday 30th June – School Closed Last Day of School – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July - 1.30pm - School Closed

FACEBOOK

**INSTAGRAM** 

TWITTER

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#### **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





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