



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

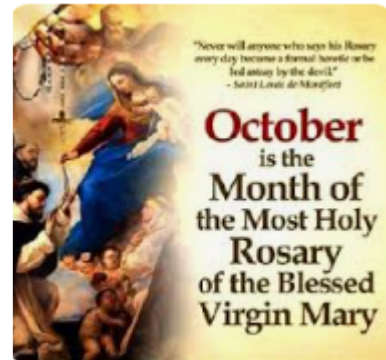
Newsletter - Friday 3rd October 2025

Message to parents from Mrs Tusting

Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome to issue 04 of our Newsletter.

We are now in the month of October, which is an important month Catholics and Christians around the world. October is **the Month of the Holy Rosary**. Please, read more about it further on in the Newsletter.



October is also the Black History Month. The *theme* for *Black History Month UK 2025* is "*Standing Firm in Power and Pride*," a powerful tribute to the resilience, strength, and unwavering commitment to progress that defines the Black community across the globe. This year, the theme highlights the profound contributions made by Black people be they leaders, activists, or pioneers who have shaped history, while also looking towards a future of continued empowerment, unity, and growth.

Our pupils in Y5 and Y6 enjoyed their educational trips where they enjoyed learning through a variety of workshops.

Next week Y1 and Y2 are going visit Kensington Palace as part of their learning in History and Geography.

Year 3 and Y4 have their trips planned as well. You will hear more details in due time.

This week once again we have been impressed with children's attitudes to learning and their behaviour overall. We continue to support them in developing their confidence, independence and

resilience as well as skills to solve problems. Well done to all our children this week.

Best Wishes

Mrs Magdalena Tusting



Catholic Life and Mission of the school

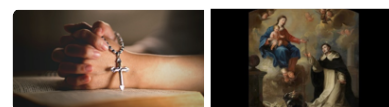
Our School Value for this half term is **Responsibility** and the matching Catholic Social Teaching Principle is Stewardship – **Caring for our Common Home.**

We will be exploring thinking about how each and every one of us can show responsibility in caring for and protecting our planet.



October is the Month of the Holy Rosary

The Holy Rosary developed from ancient practices of using prayer beads, evolving with the incorporation of the Hail Mary and meditation on the Life of Christ. Tradition attributes the Rosary's origin to Holy Mary appearing to St Dominic de Guzman who was given the Rosary to help encourage people to live in Christian faith.



The Rosary serves as a means of contemplating Christ's life and participating in the spiritual journey of the Virgin Mary.

The liturgical **Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary** is celebrated every year on **7th October**. It was established to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful.

This month of October, **Pope Leo XIV** invites the faithful to pray the Rosary daily for **peace in our world** and to be faithful instruments of reconciliation in their daily lives.

National Mental Health Day

Next Friday, 10th September is a national Mental Health Dy. The theme of the day this year is:



In the UK, World Mental Health Day in 2025 will be held on Friday, 10 October. This is an annual, international day focused on promoting open conversation about mental health and how everyone can achieve better mental well-being. For the annual World Mental Health Day on October 10, the colour is **yellow**, used in the "Hello Yellow" campaign by Young Minds organisation.

We will have a **Wear it yellow MUFTY Day** on Friday 10th October. Teachers are preparing activities for children around the theme of the day.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Last Friday 26th September staff at St Mary's school hosted the Big Macmillan Coffee Morning. Staff members brought a great selection of cakes and bread and we all enjoyed trying them, with a cup of tea or coffee. This is part of our school's commitment to Charity and to trying to make the world a better place.



Our families were also invited to join in the fundraising through participating in the cake sale at the end of the school day. We would like to say a big Thank You to everyone who either donated cakes and biscuits for the sale or who let their children buy something from the cake sale, contributing to the fundraising.

Staff and our families raised **£148.00** together. That is an amazing fundraising effort for the worthwhile cause.

Thank you again to the whole St Mary's school community.



St Mary's Primary School OPEN DAYS



Nursery and Reception places for 2026

Join us for a tour and talk

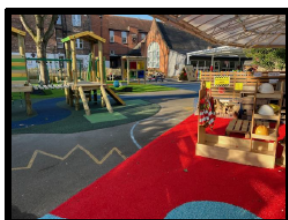
Wednesday 15th October 1.45pm
and

Wednesday 5th November 9.15am



To book a place, please scan the QR code to visit our website

www.st-marys.rbkc.sch.uk

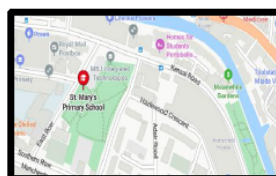


St Mary's Primary School

East Row

W10 5AW

0208 969 0321



Diary Dates

October 2025	Black History Month
Thursday 2 nd October	National Poetry Day
Thursday 9 th October	Year 3 Class Assembly
Thursday 9 th October	Year 1 and Year 2 trip to Kensington Palace
Friday 10 th October	World Mental Health Day
Thursday 16 th October	Year 6 Class Assembly
Thursday 16 th October	Fire Brigade visit for year 2 and Year 5
Tuesday 21 st October	Parent Consultation Meetings 3.45pm to 6.30pm
Wednesday 22 nd October	Parent Consultation Meetings 3.45pm to 6.30pm
Thursday 23 rd October	Year 5 Class Assembly
Thursday 23 rd October	Grandparents' Afternoon Tea 2.00pm
Friday 24 th October	Year 3 trip to Victoria and Albert Museum
Half term holiday: Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October.	
November 2025	
Monday 3 rd November	Staff INSET Day – school closed for children
Tuesday 4 th November	Back to school after half term
Thursday 6 th November	Whole School Mass in church 9.30am
Thursday 13 th November	Year 4 Class Assembly
Thursday 20 th November	Year 2 Class Assembly

New diary dates will be provided weekly

We would like to share some important dates for the Autumn Term with you. We will also be adding some more 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

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 – **EYFS, Year 1, Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6**

Fridays - **Year 3 and Year 4**

Monday 3rd November is **Staff Training Day** and the **school will be closed** to children. Schools resumes on **Tuesday 4th November**.

PE KIT



A message regarding Attendance and Punctuality from Ms Hampton

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Attendance & Punctuality

*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. 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

School starts at 9.00 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 15 minutes before the school day begins. If your child arrives after this time, then they will be recorded as late in the register!

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.

Whole School Uniform

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.

Important Parents' Information

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 94.05%**. 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

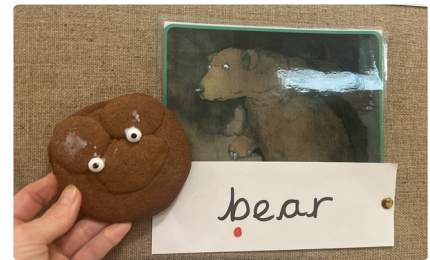
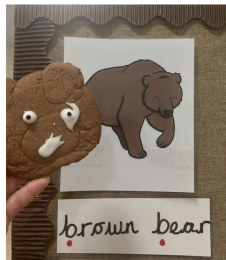
It is a requirement that the school has a minimum of **2 emergency telephone contact numbers** for your child. We need to be able to contact you at all times. Our admin team, endeavour to update our data systems with your details termly. This is essential for the wellbeing of your children and we need 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 - Early Years and Key Stage 1

This week EYFS have been learning two stories about bears. Brown bear brown bear, what do you see? Alongside We're going on a bear hunt.

EARLY YEARS

Today we have all enjoyed making our wonderful and tasty teddy bear biscuits. Yum yum !!



In the past 2 weeks in Year 1, we have been role playing a new story called The Little Red Hen and acting out the characters.

Year 1

We have also been learning about God's world in RE and how we show love by looking after God's World. We helped clean up our class room, and learnt about putting rubbish in the recycling bin.



In Year 2 we have been looking at micro-habitats and minibeasts!

The children went on a minibeast hunt around the school and discussed their findings.

Year 2



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

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.

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: Aktivita 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: Aktivita'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 Aktivita 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

Congratulations to all the pupils who have received **Star of the Week - Friday 3rd October 2025**

Star of the Term:

Reception - Kannon

Y1 - Isadora

Y2 - Yoel

Y3 - Mia

Y4 - Thirdday

Y5 - Sofia

Y6 - Layla

Star Reader:

Y1 - Jahmiel

Y2 - Jasmine

Y3 - Maria

Y4 - Ryan

Y5 - Cali

Y6 - Gideon

Term Dates 2025- 2026

FACEBOOK

INSTAGRAM

TWITTER

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Website: <https://www.st-marys.rbkc.sch.uk/>



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Charles Mary

Charles is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters