



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter - Friday 6th March 2026

Message to parents from Mrs Tusting

Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome to issue 24 of our Newsletter.

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to see how busy the children have been in school over the past weeks. Our classrooms are full of learning, curiosity and creativity, and it is lovely to see children not only developing their knowledge and skills but also building and sustaining friendships. These relationships are such an important part of school life and help children feel happy, confident and ready to learn.

Attendance and punctuality

Attendance and punctuality play a very important role in the above and in your child's feeling safe and successful at school. Being in school every day and arriving on time helps children make the most of their learning opportunities and ensures they do not miss those important moments of connection with their classmates and teachers.

Thank you for your continued support in helping your children attend regularly and arrive promptly.

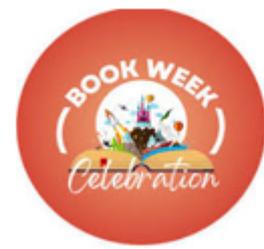
Home - School Communication

Parents have shared with us that at times it is tricky to log into their emails on their phones and consequently at times they miss information from the school. For some of you, our emails often end up into your spam boxes. Therefore, we looked into the **text messaging** service that is compatible with our current MIS system, Arbor. You will receive the information on this very shortly from the school office. We look forward to starting this mode of communication very soon.



Book Week

Next week we are very excited to celebrate **Book Week** across the school. There will be a range of reading activities taking place in classes, all designed to celebrate the joy of books and stories. On **Monday**, we will hold a **Book Swap**, and parents are warmly invited to join their children for the swaps and enjoy some treats and hot chocolate together. (Please, see the dates and times below).



The week will culminate with our **Book Character Parade on Friday 13th March**. We encourage families not to buy costumes but instead to be creative and make them using items you already have at home. We will be looking for the most imaginative costumes based on **book characters** rather than film adaptations.

Our staff will also be joining the fun by dressing up and taking part in our **Masked Reader** challenge, where children will see photos of staff in disguise and try to guess who is behind the mask!

We have also celebrated the World Book Day yesterday, with a wide range of activities as well as the buddy reading afternoon, which our children enjoyed immensely!

Keep reading, everyone!

Sponsored Read - 20 minutes and 26 seconds reading for 2026!

As you know, our small but wonderful PTA group and our brilliant Ms Walsh have planned and are organising the Sponsored Read event for 2026.

As we have only received a small number of Sponsorship sheets back, it has been decided to give everyone more time. We will resend the information and give out sponsorship forms again to help everyone have fun with this activity!

Please, help your child find sponsors for their sponsored read at school.

Please, help your child remember to bring a book for the Book Swap on Monday!

We are very much looking forward to a week full of reading, creativity and fun.

I hope all our families will enjoy a restful, peaceful weekend.

Magdalena Tusting

Catholic Life and Mission of the school

Third Sunday of Lent – The Woman at the Well (John 4:5–30)

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at a well and asks her for a drink. What begins as a simple conversation becomes something much deeper. Jesus speaks to her about "living water", the kind that truly satisfies the thirst of our hearts and leads to eternal life.



This encounter reminds us that Jesus reaches out to everyone with love and understanding. He sees beyond people's past mistakes and invites them into a new beginning. The woman leaves the well full of joy and runs to tell others about Jesus.

During this season of Lent, we are invited to reflect on what truly fills our hearts. Like the woman at the well, we can turn to Jesus, who offers us hope, forgiveness and the living water of his love.

20 Acts of Kindness Challenge

Our School Value for this half term is **Honesty** and the matching Catholic Social Teaching Principle is **Participation (Rights and Responsibilities)**.



The Catholic social teaching principle of Participation (Rights and Responsibilities) for children emphasizes that all individuals, regardless of age, have a right to contribute to their communities and a responsibility to promote the Common Good. Children are encouraged to be active, caring members of society by practicing solidarity, treating others with dignity, and helping the vulnerable.

Key aspects of Participation (Rights and Responsibilities) for children include:

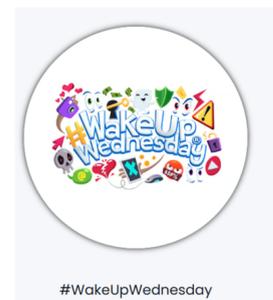
- **Active Engagement:** Children are called to participate in their community and take responsibility for its well-being.
- **Rights & Responsibilities:** Human dignity requires that rights (such as education and care) are protected while corresponding duties (such as treating others with respect) are fulfilled.
- **Practical Application:** Our school engage with programmes and activities using organisations like CAFOD, Mission Together and Catholic Children's Society, where children learn through, for example, supporting local foodbanks (we did this in the Autumn Term) and fundraise for those less fortunate than us in our local area (Lent almsgiving)
- **Common Good:** Children learn that their actions, even small ones, contribute to a more just and peaceful world.

Safeguarding Information

Safeguarding remains our highest priority, and we continue to work closely with staff, pupils and families to ensure that all children are safe, both in school and online.

As part of our commitment to online safety, we are subscribing to *Wake Up Wednesday*. **Wake up Wednesday** is a national campaign by 'National Online Safety' which has been designed to inform and help parents understand the dangers and the attraction of different types of online activity. It covers everything from social media platforms, gaming and online gaming, mobile and iPad security and much more.

Online Safety Tips For Families



Safeguarding remains our highest priority, and we continue to work closely with staff, pupils and families to ensure that all children are safe, both in school and online. As shared in the previous Newsletters, part of our commitment to online safety, we are subscribing to *Wake Up Wednesday*.

This week: What Parents & Educators Need to Know about Roblox



Please click on the link below to read this #WakeupWednesday guide on **What Parents & Educators Need to Know about Roblox**

[Click here](#)

For more information on how to keep you child safe online, please click on the link to our website page.

[Click here](#)

New Parental Control Videos

Internet Matters have uploaded 3 new short videos onto YouTube, each focussing on parental controls for YouTube, Roblox and TikTok, the links are:

- [YouTube parental controls top features.](#)
- [The top 3 parental controls to use on Roblox.](#)
- [The top 3 parental controls to use on TikTok.](#)

Google Family Link

For children with Android devices, Google Family Link is a great way for parents to set restrictions. Internet Matters have released a brand-new YouTube video showing how to set up Google Family Link to customise content and screen time restrictions.

Click to [Set Up Google Family Link](#)

We encourage families to engage with these resources and to work in partnership with us to promote safe, respectful and responsible online behaviour, in line with our Catholic values of care, dignity and responsibility.

Important dates:

We would like to share some important dates for the Spring 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.

On Monday 9th March we will be inviting families to have a morning and afternoon tea of reading with a **Book Swap** in the hall with your child.

On Friday 13th March we will be having our **Book Character Parades** where children come dressed as a book character.

Friday 27th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

This year is the NATIONAL YEAR OF READING and the theme is Go All In!
In 2026, the National Year of Reading is reconnecting reading with the things that already inspire us – from playlists and football matches to films, food and family time. It's reading that fits how we live, not the other way around.

St Mary's will be celebrating World Book Day with planned activities in class and around the school over the following weeks.

On Monday 9th March we will be inviting families to have a morning and afternoon tea of reading with a **Book Swap** in the hall with your child.

Timings are:

9.20am for EYFS and KS1.

2.45pm for KS2.

Please send in a book that your child would like to donate!



On Friday 13th March we will be having our **Book Character Parades** where children come dressed as a book character. We love seeing all the wonderful costumes and invite you to join in the fun at **9.20am for EYFS/KS1 and 10.20am for KS2.**

Reminders of what you can do to promote reading at home:

- Take your child to swap their £1 book token for a book at a bookshop or supermarket.
- Go to the local library and enjoy some books together.
- Do a World Book Day activity at home.

We're looking forward to celebrating World Book Day at St Mary's and hope you will join in with your child. World Book Day could not happen without the support of parents and carers - thank you in advance!

Kind regards,
Mrs Cummings

PTA Cake sale

The amount raised from last week's cake sale was **£144.00.**



Story Missions and Book Week Reminder

Please send in a book that your child would like to donate!

On Friday 13th March we will be having our Book Character Parades where children come dressed as a book character.

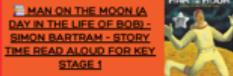
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- Take your child to swap their £1 book token for a book at a bookshop or supermarket.
- Go to the local library and enjoy some books together.
- Do a World Book Day activity at home.

Day 1 Read or watch the book "Man on the Moon."

Sit with an adult and **retell** the story in your own words. Use each page of the book to help you.



Day 2 Look at the picture of Bob's living room. **Make a list** of all the things in the room that are to do with space.



Day 3 Read or watch the story again. Pay careful attention to all the events. Next, **draw a story map** of Bob's day.



Day 4 Look at the pages showing the aliens. **Write down** or **tell your adult** some sentences to describe them. For example: "They are green with three eyes and cheeky faces."



Day 5 Design and draw an alien that you might find on the moon. **Add labels** to explain your design. Can you add some sentences to describe your alien?



Day 6 Imagine that you are a moon tourist. **Write about** what you did on the moon. Use **sequencing words** such as "First," "Next," "Then" and "After that." "First, I explored some deep craters."



Activity 1 Read or watch the book "Town is by the Sea"

Now, **write a blurb** for the book that summarises it. Use five sentences or less.



Activity 2 Make two lists of words: one to describe where the miners live and the other to describe where they work.



Activity 3 Use your retrieval skills to answer these questions:

- 1) Where does the boy go in the morning?
- 2) Find a word that tells you that the swings are old.
- 3) What has happened to the swings?
- 4) How does the boy feel when he is on the swings?

Activity 4 Create two event timelines, one for the boy and one for his father, to sequence everything that they do in their day. How are they the same? How are they different?



Activity 5 Watch the video to find out how coal is made. Next, create a storyboard to explain the process. Add these labels: plants, mud, pressure, heat, peat, sediment, weight, carbon, coal.



Activity 6 Draw an image of the boy with thought bubbles to show what he thinks about at night. Inside your drawing of the boy, write how he might feel about becoming a miner one day.



Diary Dates

Monday 9 th March 9.20am EYFS and KS1 2.45pm KS2	Morning and Afternoon Tea meetings with a Book swap
Monday 9 th March to Friday 13 th March	Celebrating World Book Week
Friday 13 th March	Book Character Parade
Thursday 12 th March	Whole school Lenten Mass in church 9.30am
Friday 13 th March	Book Character Parade
Thursday 19 th	Y5 Class Assembly
W/c 23 rd March	Shakespeare Week
Easter Holidays Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April	

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.

Unfortunately, we had to change the PE days and swap two year groups: Year 3 and Year 6. Please, find below the final PE days:

Mondays – Year 3 and Year 5

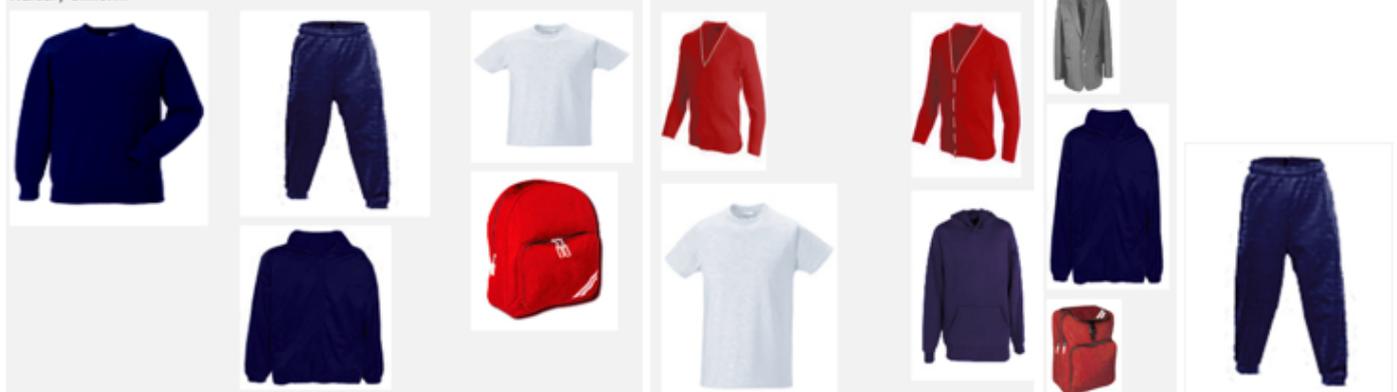
Thursdays – EYFS, Year 1, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6

PE KIT



Whole School Uniform

Nursery 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

Look what we have been doing - Early Years and Key Stage!

This week we have had lots of fun planting some magic beans in Early Years for our story Jasper's beanstalk and Jack and the beanstalk. I wonder what will grow from our beans over the weekend?

EARLY YEARS

To start off our world book week celebrations, we had a book share with KS1 over the local park and Miss Sweet even bought us all ice lollies. We look forward to more book celebrations next week.



Last week in Design Technology, we became fruit salad designers! Our challenge was to answer the question: "How can I make a fruit salad that is healthy, colourful and tasty?"

Year 1

We explored different fruits, thought carefully about colour and flavour combinations, and designed our own perfect fruit salads before bringing our ideas to life. There was lots of careful chopping, mixing and taste-testing as we created our delicious final products.

Once our masterpieces were ready, we took them outside into the sunshine for a picnic to enjoy them together. Along the way we discovered that oranges are packed with vitamin C and bananas give our bodies potassium – no wonder we were bursting with energy afterwards, running around and showing off our best tricks after our fruity feast!



Year 2 enjoyed a sunny afternoon in the park on Thursday, it was a well deserved treat for working hard in their assessments.

Year 2

Well done Year 2!



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

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
The walking bus journey begins at St Mary's Primary School main entrance, where children assemble at 2:15 PM. The route takes approximately 10 minutes, with arrival at The Avenues by 2:45. The journey includes four key crossing points, featuring a small crossing on East Row, another by the park on Harrow Road, followed by a zebra crossing which takes you to the bridge, providing access to Harrow Road. At Harrow Road, the group will cross at the traffic lights and cross again onto Third Avenue.
[See Route Here](#)

A WALKING BUS SERVICE
To establish a safe and supervised walking bus service connecting St Mary's Primary School, St Charles Primary School, and The Avenues Youth Project. The walking bus will ensure students in Years 3-6 can access quality after-school activities through reliable, supervised walking routes between the schools and after-school service.
The walking bus addresses the current financial barrier of £175 per day after-school club costs which has limited student participation. The service will incorporate road safety education as an important part of the daily journey.
The walking bus builds on the existing relationship between St Mary's and the Avenues while expanding the reach to include St Charles Primary. Through this coordinated approach, the walking bus will transform access to the Avenues after school activities, making them easily accessible to all students regardless of their families' employment status.!

For more info go to our webpage:
www.avenues.org.uk/zoneclubs

THE AVENUES YOUTH PROJECT

TERM TIME
WHAT'S ON FOR JUNIORS

TERM	TIME	AGE	TYPE	LOCATION	CONTACT
Autumn	15:30 - 18:00	6-11	Zone Clubs	The Avenues Youth Project	020 7463 1234
Spring	15:30 - 18:00	6-11	Zone Clubs	The Avenues Youth Project	020 7463 1234
Summer	15:30 - 18:00	6-11	Zone Clubs	The Avenues Youth Project	020 7463 1234

Zone Clubs is a unique youth program for kids ages 6-11 that runs every Monday to Wednesday, from 15:30 to 18:00.

WHAT WE OFFER
Our primary provision is for 6-11 year olds, Years 3-6.

HOLIDAYS

SPRING TERM
Monday - Friday
15:30 - 18:00

SUMMER TERM
Monday - Friday
15:30 - 18:00

AUTUMN TERM
Monday - Friday
15:30 - 18:00

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
April 8-10

CONTACT
www.avenues.org.uk

Akvtia 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 Week

Congratulations to all the pupils who have received **Star of the Week - Friday 6th March 2026**

Star of the Term:

Reception -Jacob.L

Y1 - Anika

Y2 - Anniyah

Y3 - Isla

Y4 - Ryan

Y5 - Caleb

Y6 - Amarah

Star Reader:

Y1 - Joshua

Y2 - Noel

Y3 - Mia

Y4 - Andre

Y5 - Arthur

Y6 - Layla

Term Dates 2025- 2026

Term Dates 2025-2026

Spring Term - 2026

Second Half Term

First Day of School – Monday 23rd February

Last Day of School – Friday 27th March – **School closes at 1.30pm**

Easter Holiday – Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April

Summer Term – 2026

First Half Term

First Day of School – Monday 13th April

Bank Holiday – Monday 4th May

Last Day of School – Friday 22nd May

Half Term – Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May

Second Half Term

Staff Training – Monday 1st June – INSET Day

First Day of School – Monday 1st June

Last Day of School – Friday 17th July – **School closes at 1.30pm**

Staff Training – Monday 20th July – INSET Day

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



St Mary's
Catholic Primary School



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Catholic Primary School



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