St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter - Friday 6th November 2026

Message to parents from Ms Hampton

Welcome to issue 7 of our Newsletter.



Dear Parent/Carer,

It was lovely to welcome back all the children after the half term break, ready to begin learning straightaway! We have an actioned packed half term ahead of us and the build up to Christmas is always a special time of year across the Federation.

November is an important month in our calendar, when we take time to remember, reflect and pray for those who have died. As a Catholic school community, we remember the saints and all the faithful departed. We also remember family members and friends who are no longer with us, keeping them in our thoughts and prayers.

This coming Sunday, **8th November**, is **Remembrance Sunday** when we remember with gratitude and respect all those who have given their lives in wars and conflicts around the world. We recognise the courage and sacrifice of those who have served, and continue to serve, to protect others and bring peace.

On **Wednesday 11th November**, we will join the nation in observing a two-minute silence at 11am. This will be a special moment for our school community to pause, reflect and remember all those who have lost their lives in conflict, as well as the families and communities affected by war.

As we remember those who have died, we are reminded of the importance of living out our Christian values of love, compassion, forgiveness and peace. Let us continue to pray for a world where all people can live together in harmony, and remember the words of Jesus: *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."* (Matthew 5:9)

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord
And let perpetual light shine upon them
May they rest in pace
Amen
May we always remember, give thanks and pray for peace.



Catholic Life and Mission of the school

Special Feast in the Catholic Liturgical Calendar in autumn:

November Feasts
November 1: All Saints' Day (a major solemnity honouring all in heaven).
November 2: All Souls' Day (commemorating the faithful departed).
November 22: Solemnity of Christ the King

The Good Samaritan



"Love your neighbour as yourself." – Luke 10:27
This week, as we begin exploring our school value of Respect and the Catholic Social Teaching principle of Dignity of the Human Person, we reflect on the beautiful parable of The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37).

Jesus tells the story of a man who was hurt and left by the roadside. While others passed him by, a Samaritan stopped to help, showing kindness and compassion to someone who was considered a stranger.

Through this parable, Jesus reminds us that everyone is our neighbour and that true love and respect are shown through our actions, not simply our words. We are called to look beyond differences, recognise the dignity of every person and offer kindness and support to those who need it.

At St Mary's, we encourage our children to follow the example of the Good Samaritan by noticing when someone needs help, including those who may feel left out, and treating everyone with care and respect.

Our challenge for this week: Can we each be a Good Samaritan by doing something kind for someone without being asked or expecting anything in return?

Together, through small acts of love and compassion, we can make our school, our homes and our wider community places where everyone feels valued and respected.

Our School Value for this half-term is **Respect**, and our corresponding Catholic Social Teaching principle is **Dignity of the Human Person**.





Throughout this half-term, we will be exploring what it means to show respect in our words, actions and attitudes towards others. We will help our children understand that every person is unique, precious and created in God's image, and therefore deserves to be treated with kindness, dignity and compassion. We will encourage pupils to celebrate our differences, listen to one another, value everyone's contributions and recognise that respect is not just about good manners, but about making others feel safe, included and valued.

Through our assemblies, RE lessons and everyday interactions, we will reflect on how even the smallest acts of kindness and consideration can make a big difference to someone else's day. We invite our families to join us in reinforcing this important value at home, helping our children grow into thoughtful, compassionate individuals who recognise the dignity and worth of every person.

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.
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.

Parish Family Fun Quiz

Our Lady of the Holy Souls Church will be hosting a **Family Fun Quiz** on Saturday 14th November 2026, from 6.00pm to 9.00pm, at the Parish Church.



Food Donation



As we prepare to celebrate Harvest at St Mary's, we are reminded of the importance of giving thanks for all that we have and of sharing with those in our community who may be experiencing difficult times.

We would be very grateful if families could support our Harvest Collection by sending in a donation of non-perishable food. Suitable items might include tinned food, pasta, rice, cereals, tea, coffee, biscuits and other long-life products.

Attendance and Punctuality



We greatly appreciate your support in helping your child attend school regularly and arrive on time, ready to learn, enjoy the day and make the most of every opportunity.

Please take a moment to refer to our **recent attendance letter**, which shares our school's expectations and further information.

Weekly Attendance Leader

Celebrating Our Attendance Success



Nursery	96.36%
Y4	95%
Y3	94.38%
Y1/2	94%
Y6	93.18%
Y5	92.5%
Reception	88.57%

Attendance Winners for this week:

Nursery
With 96.36% attendance

We Love to Read

Dear Parents and Carers,



To continue supporting your child in developing the love of reading during the Year of Reading 2026, we invite you all to choose a **book, magazine, newspaper, comic or anything else you enjoy reading**, find an **unusual place to read it**, and share a photo with us! Perhaps you could read on a swing, a slide or a trampoline, under a table, on the branch of a tree, while waiting in a queue, on a train, in the park – or somewhere even more imaginative!

For safeguarding purposes, when taking photographs of children, **please avoid showing your child's face clearly from the front**. Photographs taken from behind, from the side, or creatively showing the book and reading location without identifying your child would be perfect.

Please send your photographs to info@st-marys.rbkc.sch.uk.
We can't wait to see all the wonderfully unusual places you choose and hope that this challenge encourages everyone – children and adults alike – to discover (or rediscover!) the **joy of reading**.
Where will your book take you?









School



After School Clubs!







Autumn Term 1 - After School Clubs

Please ensure that you book and make payment through the Arbor system. Once this has been completed, please provide the office with the completed **After School Club Consent Form**.

Monday - Dance and Gymnastics for all

Tuesday - Multisport for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

Wednesday - Football for Reception, Year 1 and Year

Thursday - Football for KS2

Friday - Art for all classes.

Basketball for KS2

Safeguarding Information

Working Together to Keep Children Safe Online

Keeping our children safe online remains an important priority at St Mary's. In school, we have robust filtering and monitoring systems in place to help protect children from inappropriate online content, and we regularly teach pupils how to use technology safely and responsibly. Every computing topic begins with an online safety lesson, and we recently welcomed the Breck Foundation, who delivered valuable, age-appropriate online safety workshops across the school.

We know that children increasingly access the online world beyond school, and we greatly value our partnership with parents in helping them navigate it safely. We encourage families to make use of parental controls, regularly check the apps, games and websites their children are accessing, and, most importantly, keep conversations about online safety open and positive.

By working together, sharing concerns and helping children understand both the opportunities and risks of the digital world, we can support them in becoming confident, responsible and safe online users.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping all our children safe.

This week we continue with:

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about Advertisements aimed at children:



Please click on the link below to read the #WakeupWednesday guide on What Parents & Educators Need to Know about Safety Online:
Click here

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.
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.



Important dates:

Half term holiday: Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October.	
November 2025	
Monday 9th November	**Year 3 History Trip to Gunnersbury Park**
Thursday 12th November	**Year 3 Class Assembly**
Thursday 19th November	**Federation Holy Mass – The Year of St Francis at 10.30am in Our Lady of the holy Souls church**
Thursday 26th November	**Year 6 Class Assembly**
Thursday 3rd December	**Whole School Advent Mass 9.30am in church**
Wednesday 9th December	**EYFS Nativity Play 2.00pm in the school hall**
Thursday 10th December	**Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas lunch**
Tuesday 15th December	**KS1 Nativity Play 2.00pm in the school hall**
Wednesday 16th December	**KS2 Christmas Carol Concert 2.00pm in church**

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.

The School Day at St Mary's

Timetable

	Nursery	Reception	KS1	KS2
School gate opens	8.45	8.45	8.45	8.45
School day begins	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
School gate closes	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
Morning break begins	10.00	10.15	10.15	10.30 LKS2 10.45 UKS2
Morning break ends	10.15	10.30	10.30	10.45 LKS2 11.00 UKS2
Lunch begins	11.45	11.45	12.00	12.30
Lunch ends	12.15	12.45	1.00	1.30
School day finishes	3.15	3.15	3.20	3.30
School gate closes	3.30	3.30	3.40	3.40

Routine

Nursery and Reception children enter and leave the school through the **Nursery Gate**.
Year 1 children should enter and the school through the **KS1 gate** (to the right of the brown door). They leave via the brown door.
Year 2 children should enter and leave the school through the **KS1 gate** (to the right of the brown door).
Year 3, 4, 5 and **6** children enter through the KS2 gate (to the left of the main school door).
Tears 3 and 4 children leave the school at home time through **the back gate behind the pitch**.
Year 5 and 6 children leave the school at home time through **KS2 gate**.

Assembly Times:
Mondays 9.05am to 9.30am: KS2 Assembly
Thursdays 9.05am to 9.30am: Class Assemblies
Fridays 9.05am to 9.45am: Star of the Week Assembly

PE KIT







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.

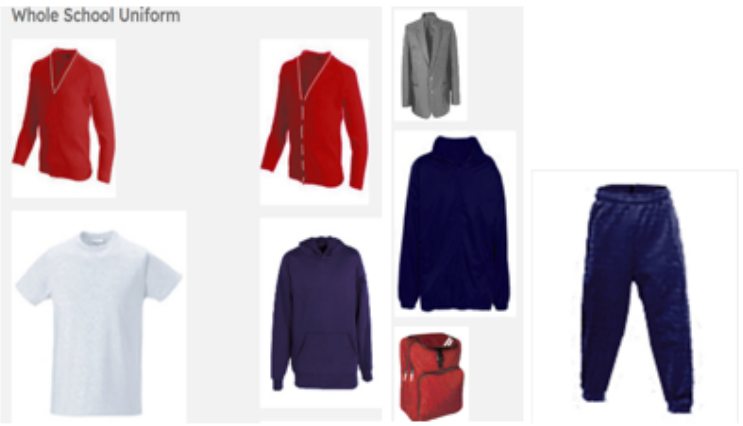
Thursdays – **EYFS, Year 1 & 2, Year 3 and Year 5**

Fridays - **Year 4 and Year 6**

Please, note we had to **swap Y3 and Y4 PE days**. Year 3 children will now have PE on Thursdays. Please, ensure the **Y3** pupils wear their **PE kits** on **Thursdays** from next week and **Year 4** pupils on **Fridays**.

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



Star of the Term for Friday 6th November 2026

EYFS - Kenzo
Y1/2 - Sienna
Y3 - Torrah-Leigh
Y4 - Sarah
Y5 - George
Y6 - Poppy

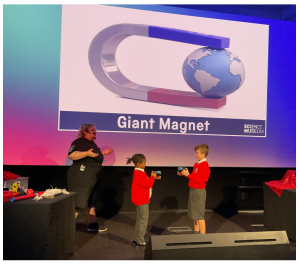
Star Readers
Y1/2 - Giniayah
Y3 - Naomi
Y4 - Nicholas
Y5 - Vanna
Y6 - N/A

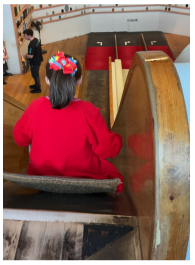
Look what we have been doing - Stage 2

Year 3

Year 3 had an incredible day exploring the Science Museum in London, bringing our learning about **forces and magnets** to life! We had so much fun in Wonderlab, investigating friction on the giant slides, experimenting with pulley chairs and creating fascinating cloud rings.

One of the highlights was the spectacular *Forces That Move* show, where we watched exciting demonstrations that helped us understand the science behind everyday movement. It was a fantastic day filled with curiosity, discovery and hands-on learning, and we returned to school feeling like real scientists!



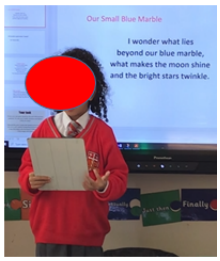


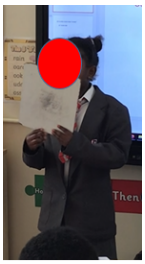


Year 4

As part of our celebration of Black History Month, in the week before half term we wrote poems about “Wonder”.

The poems were inspired by the work of Benjamin Zephaniah – so we tried to capture his rhyme and rhythm! The children then performed their poems.







Year 5

Year 5 enjoyed an exciting trip to the British Museum to see the famous Bayeux Tapestry. This linked beautifully to our History topic, *The Battle of Hastings*, as we explored the events of 1066 and the Battle of Hastings.

Seeing this remarkable historical artefact up close will help to bring our learning about the end of Anglo-Saxon England and the Norman Conquest to life!





Year 6

The students returned from half-term with an exciting trip to the Lyric Hammersmith. We had the unique privilege to watch a full rehearsal of the theatre's upcoming production of Cinderella. This was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to gain a first-hand insight into how a theatre production is created. They had the chance to learn about the creative process and hard work that takes place behind the scenes to bring a successful pantomime to life.

Excitingly, they were directly involved in helping shape the production itself. They sat down with the writer and director to share their thoughts and offered interesting suggestions to help improve the show from an audience perspective.

The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and represented the school beautifully throughout the day.









Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club runs from 7.45am from Monday to Friday child, for children from Reception to Y6. Before your child/ren attends Breakfast Club, please ensure you register your child on Arbor.

If you have any issues with registering your child, please contact the school office.

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.





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 regrading 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.

Term Dates 2026- 2027

Term Dates 2026 – 2027

Autumn Term - 2026

Second Half Term

Staff Training- Monday 2nd November- Inset Day *(no pupils)*

First Day of School – Tuesday 3rd November

Last Day of School – Friday 18th December - *School Closes at* **1.30pm**

Christmas Holiday – Monday 21st December 2026 – Friday 1st January 2027

Spring Term - 2027

First Half Term

Staff Training – Monday 4th January- Inset Day *(no pupils)*

First Day of School-Tuesday 5th January

Last Day of School – Friday 12th February

Half Term – Monday 15th – Friday 19th February

Second Half Term

First Day of School – Monday 22nd February

Last Day of School – Thursday 25th March - *School Closes at* **1.30pm**

Easter Holiday – Monday 29th March – Friday 9th April

Summer Term - 2027

First Half Term

First Day of School – Monday 12th April

Last Day of School – Thursday 27th May

Staff Training – Friday 28th May – Inset Day *(no pupils)*

Bank Holiday – Monday 3rd May *(no pupils)*

Half Term – Monday 31st May- Friday 4th June

Second Half Term

First Day of School – Monday 7th June

Last Day of School – Wednesday 21st July - *School Closes at* **1.30pm**

FACEBOOK

INSTAGRAM

TWITTER

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C
Charles Mary
Charles is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters