

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter - Friday 8th May 2026

Message to parents from Ms Hampton

Welcome to issue 31 of our Newsletter.

Dear Parent/Carer,

During the month of May, 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.



First Holy Communion

May is also First Holy Communion season. I would like to congratulate those children who have already made their first Holy Communion and to wish those who are nearing the end of their sacramental preparation programme, all the very best for their special day which is due to take place in the coming weeks. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Month of May

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. Next week, Year 6 will sit their SATs. The pupils and staff have worked very hard in to prepare for these statutory tests and we wish them the very best of luck for next week.

Kitchen update

You will be aware that we continue to have issues with our gas supply to the kitchen. Please accept my sincere apologies and rest assured that we are doing everything we can to resolve the issue as quickly as possible. We do appreciate your understanding and support with this matter. Please see separate letter for the most update to date information.

Sir David Attenborough – 100 years old today

On another note, today, we celebrate the 100th birthday of Sir David Attenborough, English broadcaster, natural historian and conservationist. We recognise him as the voice of natural history programmes for the past 70 years. He has brought the natural world into our living rooms and classrooms through award-winning natural history programs such as [Life on Earth](#), [The Private Life of Plants](#) and [The Blue Planet](#). With over 40 animals and plant species named after him, and a constellation, he has explored uncharted land and met the remotest people on Earth, inspiring viewers with an interest in the natural world. Today, the children attended a special online assembly to celebrate his life and his incredible work.

Uniform, attendance and punctuality

Finally, please ensure that your child wears their full school uniform to school including ties, black shoes and the correct Summer dresses. I would also like to congratulate all children on their improving attendance and punctuality. You should be very proud of your selves. The challenge is now to keep it going. Well done everyone.

Wishing you all a very happy and restful weekend.

Best Wishes,

Ms Hampton

Catholic Life and Mission of the school

The sixth Sunday after Easter is traditionally known as “Rogation Sunday.” This is because the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of this upcoming week (the three days before Ascension Day, on Thursday) are known as the “Rogation Days,” days for fasting and prayer—traditionally for God's mercy and protection from danger.



At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

‘I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no

The Feast of the Ascension (or Ascension Day) is a major Christian festival celebrating the bodily ascension of Jesus into Heaven, occurring 40 days after Easter Sunday.



It is one of the oldest ecumenical feasts, observed by Catholic, Anglican, and many Protestant denominations, often on a Thursday to honour the biblical timeline. The Feast of the Ascension is a pivotal moment in Christian theology, symbolizing the completion of Christ's earthly mission and the beginning of the Church's mission.

In the Year of St Francis, we are thinking about and learning more about this inspirational Saint who loved God and all Creation so much. St Francis is an example to all of us of how to live our lives following in footsteps of Jesus.



One of our Y5 pupils, Elly, wrote the following poem about the life of St Francis:

Saint Francis of Assisi

Renouncing every luxury, he shed his silk and gold,
 To wander through the Umbrian hills, courageous, brave, and bold.
 He preached to feathered congregations perched upon the spray,
 While Brother Sun and Sister Moon illuminated his way.
 With sandals cast aside for dust and robes of rugged twine,
 He sought a life of poverty, both humble and divine.
 The Poverello, wild of heart, whom forest beasts obeyed,
 An unusual, barefoot messenger who knelt and sang and prayed

Our School Value for this half term is **Tolerance** and the matching Catholic Social Teaching Principle is the **Common Good**.



The principle of the **Common Good** in Catholic Social Teaching (CST) means acting in a way that benefits everyone—not just ourselves or our close friends. It is the idea that because we are all part of one human family, we must ensure that all people have what they need to live, thrive, and reach their full potential.

What is the Common Good?

"Thinking of Everyone": It is about making sure no one is left behind.

"Sharing the Earth": It means that the fruits of the earth (food, water, resources) belong to everyone, not just a few.

"Together is Better": It is the recognition that we are social beings who thrive through relationships, working together to create a fair society.

"Not Just Me": Moving beyond self-interest to consider how actions impact others.

Common Good: Children learn that their actions, even small ones, contribute to a more just and peaceful world.

Children's Multi-Activity
HALF TERM
Holiday Camps

25th-29th
May 2026
 7.45am-6pm,
 9am-3.30pm
 & 9am-5pm

aktiva

For all camp dates, venues and to book your place please visit www.aktivacamps.com

Acton • Chiswick • Ealing
Uxbridge • Fulham
Hammersmith

Aktiva Camps is an OFSTED-registered children's day camp, providing an extensive range of sports and activities for children to enjoy. Aktiva offers children between the ages of 4 and 12 a safe, fun, and friendly holiday camp environment. We encourage children to try new things, building their confidence and broadening their experience™ each and every day. Our programmes are designed to be high-energy, full of variety, and most importantly, fun! Your child(ren) will return home with memories, home-made souvenirs, and new friendships. **Building confidence and broadening experience™**

School Day: 9am to 3:30pm - £40
 Acton Gardens, John Locke Academy, Queens Manor

Short Day: 9am to 5pm - £48
 ALL VENUES

Full day: 7.45am to 6pm - £54
 Wendell Park Primary, Belmont Primary, St Mark's Primary, John Locke Academy, Mount Carmel, West Acton, Bradbury Primary

CHILD CARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

aktiva

MAY HALF TERM CAMPS AT:
 Wendell Park Primary, Belmont Primary
 St Mark's Primary, John Locke Academy
 Mount Carmel, West Acton, Bousfield
 Acton Gardens, Queens Manor

Lots of fun and exciting sessions to keep children active and engaged.
 Sports: Rugby, Football, Cricket, Tennis, Archery & Axe throwing workshops,
 Arts and crafts, Pottery workshops,
 Team-building, Giant outdoor games,
 Science experiments,
 ...and so much more

Easy Online Booking:
www.aktivacamps.com
 Email: bookings@aktivacamps.com

Aktiva Half Term Holiday Camp

Aktiva is hosting a Children's Multi-Activity programme this May Half Term, offering a range of fun and engaging activities designed to keep children active, social, and entertained throughout the break.

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 we continue with: What parents and staff need to know about: YouTube:



Please click on the link below to read the #WakeupWednesday guide on What Parents and Educators Need to Know about YouTube:

[Click this link](#)

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.

Attendance Weekly Leaders Summer Term:



Reception	100%
Year 6	98.48%
Year 1	97.92%
Year 3	97.22%
Year 2	97%
Year 4	95.56%
Year 5	92.73%

Winners of the Pitch on Friday - Reception and Year 6

Year Group weekly Attendance



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.

Monday 11 th May to Thursday 14 th May	Year 6 SATs Week
Thursday 21 st May	World Day for Cultural Diversity
Wednesday 20 th May	Year 5 Football Tournament
Thursday 21 st May	Year 5 Class Assembly 9.05am
Half Term Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May	
Monday 1 st June	INSET Day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 2 nd June	Pupils return after half term
Thursday 4 th June	Whole School Mass Corpus Christi
Tuesday 9 th June	Pupil Debate Workshop 'Discover your voice' by the English Speaking Union Y5 and Y6
Thursday 11 th June	Year 4 Class Assembly 9.05am
Thursday 18 th June	Year 3 Class Assembly 9.05am
Thursday 25 th June	Year 2 Class Assembly 9.05am
Thursday 2 nd July	Reception Class Assembly 9.05am
Thursday 16 th July	Year 6 Leavers Mass

PE KIT



PE Days:

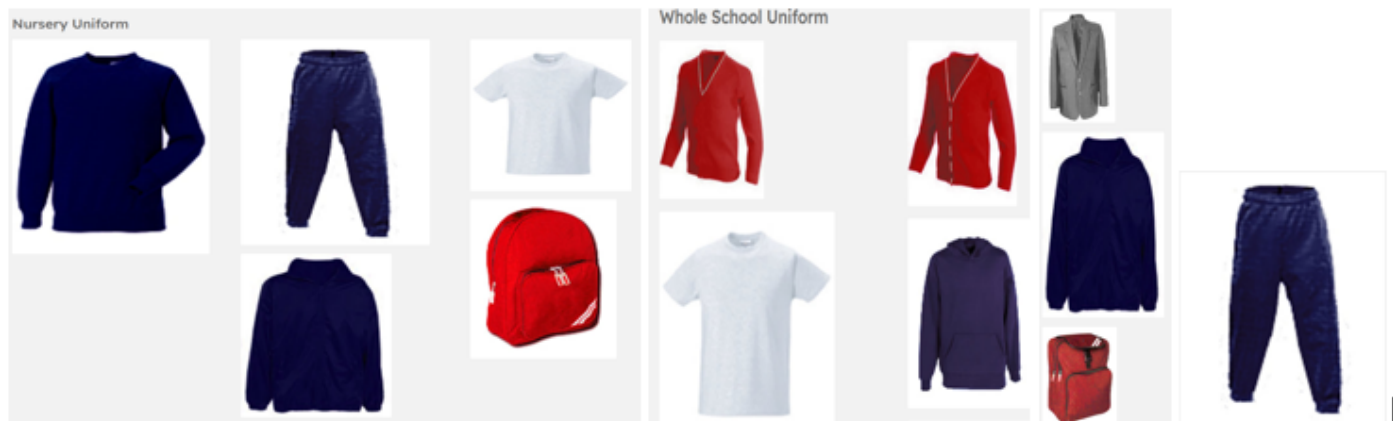
Please remember that children can come to school in their PE kits on PE days. Please refer to our guidance on school uniform and ensure your child has the correct PE kit. If for any reason they are not able to come in the correct kit, we require an email or phone call from home to explain the circumstances.

Please, find below the final PE days:

Mondays – **Year 3 and Year 5**

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

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



Congratulations to all the pupils who have received **Star of the Week - Friday 8th May 2026**

Star of the Week:

Reception -Wolfie

Y1 - Whole Class

Y2 - Kurtny

Y3 - Major/Tay'Vion

Y4 - Vanna

Y5 - Cali

Y6 - Nicholas

Star Reader:

Y1 - N/A

Y2 - Pippa

Y3 - Maria

Y4 - Sheraii

Y5 - Sofia

Y6 - Ana -Clara

Look what we have been doing - Key stage 2

In year 3, we have been busy with a range of exciting activities. We have enjoyed our buddy reading sessions with Year 6 which help to build confidence as we share stories together.

Year 3

We also learned basic first aid skills and who to call in an emergency during our PSHE lessons. We have also had a go at creating animations on Scratch. Such fun!



In Science this term we have continued our learning about “Living Things and their Habitats”. Over the last two weeks we have been devising and using classification keys to categorise and identify living things.

Year 4

This week, we learned about invertebrates and spent some time in the school garden looking for, observing and identifying a variety of invertebrates. We then drew labelled diagrams of the invertebrates we found



[The Rhythm Studio](#) workshop

A huge thank you to [The Rhythm Studio](#) for their ongoing Wednesday workshops! Year 5 is having a brilliant time creating their own music, learning to layer beats, and discovering the secrets of music production. It's definitely another highlight of our busy week!

Year 5

Buddy Reading Success!

Year 5 has been busy visiting Nursery and Reception every Friday afternoon for our Buddy Reading program. It's been an amazing experience seeing the older children take such care in sharing their favourite stories. This initiative is a brilliant way to boost reading confidence for both the "big" and "little" buddies while fostering a supportive school culture



The children have been working extremely hard to prepare as well as possible for next week's SATs. However, they have not forgotten their other core responsibilities as role-models for the school.

Year 6

Year 6 students have been reading with some of our younger children to promote literacy skills. In English, the children are completing their recent published piece - an information text focusing on the power shift from monarchy to parliament.

We are all very excited to show how much we have improved over the course of the year and aim to produce our very best next week. Thank you to all family members for your continued and invaluable support.



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.



The flyer is divided into four main sections: ROUTE DETAILS, A WALKING BUS SERVICE, TERM TIME, and WHAT WE OFFER. The ROUTE DETAILS section describes the walking bus journey from St Mary's Primary School to The Avenues. The A WALKING BUS SERVICE section explains the service's purpose and safety features. The TERM TIME section includes a table for 'WHAT'S ON FOR JUNIORS' and a description of Zone Clubs. The WHAT WE OFFER section lists provisions for HOLIDAYS (Spring, Summer, Autumn) and SCHOOL HOLIDAYS (April 9-10).

TERM	TIME	ACTIVITIES
SPRING	15:30 - 18:00	Zone Clubs, Sports, Arts, Music, Gardening
SUMMER	15:30 - 18:00	Zone Clubs, Sports, Arts, Music, Gardening
AUTUMN	15:30 - 18:00	Zone Clubs, Sports, Arts, Music, Gardening

TERM	DATE	ACTIVITIES
SPRING	April 9-10	Zone Clubs, Sports, Arts, Music, Gardening
SUMMER	July 1-2	Zone Clubs, Sports, Arts, Music, Gardening
AUTUMN	October 1-2	Zone Clubs, Sports, Arts, Music, Gardening

Aktivita Wraparound Care

Aktivita Camps After School Club hosted at the Ark Brunel Hub! Aktivita 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.

Term Dates 2025-2026

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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

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

Location: [East Row, London W10 5AW, UK](#)

Phone: 020 8969 0321

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