



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter - Friday 10th January 2025

Message to parents from the Head of School

Dear Parents/Carers and Members of our school community,

HEAD OF SCHOOL

Welcome to Issue 15 of our Newsletter, the first one in 2025.

On behalf of all the staff at St Mary's, we would like to wish you a wonderful New Year 2025, full of peace, joy and good health.

It was lovely to greet the children back after the Christmas break!

We are in the first week of the new term and it is amazing to see how well everyone has settled back in their classes.

We look forward to another busy and exciting terms of learning in all the areas of our rich and balanced curriculum for the next two terms.

I hope you will enjoy reading all the great news about our pupils and our school community in our weekly Newsletters!

As you may be aware, on 24th December 2024 Pope Francis officially launched the **Jubilee Year 2025** within the Catholic Church. He did this through the ceremony of opening the **Holy Door** at St Peter's Basilica. This happens every 25 years, so it is a very special event. Please, read more about the Jubilee Year under the Catholic Life and Mission of the school.

With the very best wishes



January 2025	
Monday 13 th January	Ballet Workshop for UKS2
Friday 24 th January	School Launch of the Jubilee Year
Thursday 30 th January:	Y4 Class Assembly – 9.05am
February 2025	
Thursday 6 th February:	Y1 Class Assembly 2.45pm
Thursday 13 th February:	Y5 Class Assembly - 9.05am
Monday 3 rd February to Friday 7 th February	Children's Mental Health Week
Monday 10 th February	Parent Consultation Meetings 2.45pm to 6.15pm
Tuesday 11 th February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 11 th February	Parent Consultation Meetings 3.45pm to 6.15pm
Monday 24 th to Friday 28 th February	Scholastic Book Fair
March 2025	
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day
Thursday 13 th March:	Y2 Class Assembly- 9.05am
Monday 24 th March to Friday 28 th March	Shakespeare Week
Thursday 27 th March:	Y3 Class Assembly - 9.05am

New diary dates will continue to be included weekly

The Holy season of Advent

Catholic Church has the tradition of holding Jubilee years every 25 years. The year 2025 is the Jubilee year, which will last to 6th January 2026, the Feast of Epiphany. This Jubilee year's theme is: **Pilgrims of Hope**.



A beautiful logo, full of symbolism was designed by the Italian artist, Giacomo Trivisani. The logo shows four stylized figures, representing all of humanity coming from the four corners of the earth holding on to the Cross, which symbolises Hope for us all.

The schools in the UK and around the world were invited to launch the Jubilee Year 2025 on 24th January 2025. We will be sharing information and news on Jubilee year and our involvement with you throughout the year.

Within the **Catholic Social Teaching**, we are looking in depth and learning about the principle of **Option for the Poor**. This is in conjunction with looking more in depth at the School Value of **Kindness** this half term.



Important Parent's Information

Home time

A gentle reminder about home time arrangements.

The works to improve and transform our playgrounds resumed after Christmas break. For the next two weeks a large part of the EYFS playground will be fenced off whilst the work is going on there. This means that both Nursery and Reception children will be learning in the EYFS classrooms in the main building as access to the Nursery building is restricted.

Therefore, we ask that you **drop off** your children in the mornings at the **KS1 gate**. You will be able to pick them up at home time at the **brown door next to KS1 gate**. To avoid congestion with Y1, we ask that you pick up **Nursery and Reception children at 3.10pm**.

We are looking forward to our children enjoying the new exciting equipment and activities once the playground project is complete.

Expectation of children being collected at the end of each day

We expect all parent/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.

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.

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 **91.00%**. 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.

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 - coming soon!

in response to parent and pupil feed back, we have decided to phase out clip on ties and replace them with elasticated ties. These will be available in the new year.

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

Nursery and Reception School Admission - September 2025

You can collect a SIF application form for Nursery or Reception, from the school office.

If you are applying for Reception, please ensure you also complete your online application with your Local Authority by January 15th 2025.



Key Stage 2 update

Year 3

Upon returning to school, year 3 had the incredible luck of being the first class on the new climbing frame! What an exciting way to return to school!



The children enjoyed being able to make the most of the new equipment in the playground, especially the trampoline!

Year 4

Each morning, Year 4 take part in a class worship session, lead by two of our Year 5 Faith Ambassadors, Nicholas and Amy.



We say our prayers as a family and it is a great way of bringing the class together at the start of the day to say thank you to God and prepare ourselves for the day ahead. Students also have the opportunity to contribute their own prayers to the session, if they have something they would personally like to say to God.

Year 5

Year 5 have got 2025 off to a great start and have returned from the holidays with great focus and commitment to their work. Well-done!



Year 6

The Year 6 students have returned from their holidays with incredible focus. In Maths, they have been introduced to the concept of ratio and in English are currently writing a letter of complaint, using our current class text, *Macavity, The Mystery Cat*, by T.S Elliot, as inspiration.

The children thoroughly enjoyed their first science lesson of the term which focused on the way light travels and how we perceive it.

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

Akvida 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 Term

Congratulations to all the pupils who have received **Star of the Week Certificate** - Friday 10th January 2025

Star of the Term:

EYFS - Reception - **Haily**

Y1- **Darius**

Y2 - **Nicholas**

Y3 - **Matthew**

Y4 - **Julia**

Y5 - **Adrien**

Y6 - **Jospeh**

Star Readers

Y1- **Ethan**
Y2 - **Luna.T**
Y3 - **Vienna-Rae**
Y4 - **Makda**
Y5 - **Zamarah**
Y6 - **Andie**

Congratulations to all the Stars of the Week, Star Readers!

We will also be adding new 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:

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 - **Years 2 & 5 (change from last term), Nursery and Reception**

Thursdays - **Years 1, 2, 3 & 6 (change from last term)**

Fridays - **Years 3, 4 & Year 6**

Term Dates 2024-2025

Term Dates 2024 – 2025

Autumn Term – 2024

Half Term – Monday 28th – Friday 1st November

Second Half Term

First Day of School – Monday 4th November

Last Day of School – Friday 20th December - **1.30pm - School Closed**

Christmas Holiday – Monday 23rd December – Friday 3rd January 2025

Spring Term - 2025

First Half Term

Staff Training – Monday 6th January – **School Closed**

First Day of School – Tuesday 7th January

Last Day of School – Friday 14th February

Half Term – Monday 17th – Friday 21st February

Second Half Term

First Day of School – Monday 24th February

Last Day of School – Friday 4th April - **1.30pm - School Closed**

Easter Holiday – Monday 7th April – Monday 21st April

Summer Term – 2025

First Half Term

Staff Training – Tuesday 22nd 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 2nd June

Staff Training – Monday 30th June – **School Closed**

Last Day of School – Tuesday 22nd July - **1.30pm - School Closed**

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



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