



St Mary's
Catholic Primary School



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Newsletter - Friday 12th September 2025

Message to parents from Ms Hampton

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to issue 39 of our Newsletter.

It's lovely to see the children settled back into school life and routines. Our 'meet the teacher' meetings for parents and carers taking place this week and next, are an opportunity for you to find out what your child will be learning and the activities and resources available to support their learning journey.



Thank you to all those who have attended the class curriculum meetings to date.

There are lots of events planned for the coming weeks so please check the diary for up and coming dates. By sharing them with you well in advance, we hope that this will give you enough time to plan ahead. For example, this year, we will be holding a Harvest afternoon tea especially for our grandparents/grand aunts /granduncles. The children want to show their appreciation and thanks for all that they do.

There are lots of things to look forward to. In the meantime, have a very happy and restful weekend.

Best Wishes,

Geraldine Hampton

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

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.

New Saints for Catholic Church

Last Sunday, on 7th September Pope Leo XIV canonised two new Saints, Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati.



I would like to pay particular attention to Carlo Acutis, who has been referred to as the "**Patron Saint of the Internet**", "**God's Influencer**" and the "**first millennial Saint**".

Carlo Acutis was a young boy, born in London in 1991, but raised in Milan, Italy. Carlo loved computers, video games, and soccer, but he also loved God very much. He is famous for using the internet to share his faith, creating a website to document Eucharistic miracles and Marian apparitions. He died at age 15 in 2006 and was declared a Saint last Sunday, teaching us that anyone can become a saint by being close to Jesus.

Carlo used his love of technology to dedicate his life to spreading the gospel to the world. He is a Saint of our time.

Please, take some time to discuss this with your child and [perhaps do some research together to learn more about this special Saint.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday, 26th September staff at St Mary's will engage in another fundraising event, the Big Macmillan Coffee Morning. All proceeds from the event will be passed to the MacMillan Nurses Charity.



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.



September 2025	
Monday 15 th September	Year 2 Class Meeting at 3.45pm
Tuesday 16 th September	Secondary Transfer Meeting for Y6 at 3.45pm
Thursday 18 th September	Whole School Mass – Beginning of the school year
Week beg 22 nd September	Year 6 Into University workshops and trips
Friday 26 th September	McMillan Coffee Morning, Cake sale after school
Tuesday 30 th September	First PTA meeting – all welcome
Tuesday 30 th September	Year 5 Trip to the National G
October 2025	
Black History Month	
Thursday 2 nd October	National Poetry Day
Friday 10 th October	World mental Health Day
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	Grandparents' Afternoon Tea and Concert 2.00 pm
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

New diary dates will be provided weekly

A message regarding Attendance and Punctuality from Ms Hampton

Dear Parents/Carers,

Attendance & Punctuality

Re: 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.

New Baby and Toddler Group

All Welcome!

St Mary's Catholic Primary School
East Row North Kensington W10 5AW



New Baby and Toddler Group – all welcome

We are hosting a new baby and toddler group at St Mary's Catholic Primary School.

Please come along and meet other parents, enjoy messy play, singing and rhymes and explore outdoor activities in our large open grassed space!

Wednesdays 8.45am – 10.15am.

All are welcome! Parent/Carers stay and play with your child.



Come to our new EYFS building entrance where we have plenty of buggy parking space!



Dates 2025 (Summer Term)
8.45am – 10.15am

7th and 21st May

4th and 18th June

2nd and 9th July

Where to find us:



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.



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.

Class PE sessions

Wednesdays: **EYFS, Y1,Y2 and Y6**

Fridays - **Y2, Y3,Y4 and Y5**

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 **90.00%**. 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.

Look what we have been doing - Key Stage 2

Year 3 have been settling into Key Stage 2 and have been showing some real talent in their maths work especially. It is going to be a very successful year!

Year 3



In RE, Year 4 have been learning about the historical and cultural context to the Story of Abraham at the time of the Abrahamic Covenant. We discussed how Abram might have felt being asked to leave a prosperous city that worshipped many idols, to cross difficult countryside with his animals.

Year 4

How would he have felt leaving his friends and family? Why did he decide to leave and take Sarai and Lot? We used "Conscience Alley" drama to imagine what Abram was thinking.



Year 5 have been settling well into the expectations and routines for the year ahead. Preparing our class displays and setting standards for presentation across all subjects has been the priority for the first couple of weeks.

Year 5

We are looking forward to welcoming OQR on Monday as well as starting swimming lessons on Wednesday 17th with lots of exciting learning for the year ahead...



The class have done a fantastic job of settling in to their new year and surroundings. All students have applied themselves diligently and enjoyed a productive start to the academic year.

Year 6

We are also proud to announce the members of our leadership group for the year ahead:



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.

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 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 12th July 2025**

Star of the Term:

Reception - Ivy

Y1 - Brianna

Y2 - Whole Class

Y3 - Asher

Y4 - Rakeb, Talia

Y5 - Yusuf

Y6 - Eden

Star Reader:

Y1 - Lamek

Y2 - Kai & Pippa

Y3 - Harry

Y4 - Talia & Rakeb

Y5 - Elly & Esey

Y6 - Zyann

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**.

Term Dates 2025- 2026

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