



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

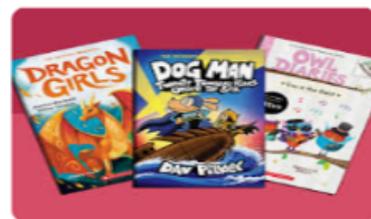
Newsletter - Friday 13th March 2026

Message to parents from Ms Hampton

Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome to issue 25 of our Newsletter.

As this is a short half term, your children are very busy with their learning and also immersing themselves in the different events and celebrations taking place during these action packed few weeks.



BOOK CHARACTER PARADE

Both schools have celebrated World Book Day either this week or last and the children have taken part in book swaps, book character parades, and engaging reading initiatives that promote not only the importance of being able to read, but also reading for pleasure. I would like to say a big thank you to Miss Gordon and Mrs Cummings for organising the timetable of events.

We also continue to celebrate the season of Lent with prayer, liturgy, reflection and Lenten Masses and draw comparisons with children from other faiths who are also fasting at this time. The children will be learning about the Stations of the Cross through the passion plays and during RE lessons. One important aspect of this season of Lent is Almsgiving and as usual, your child has been given an individual collection box to gather any coins that you can spare and donate to those who are in need.

The PTA/PFA are busy arranging Easter activities for the end of this term so I would like to thank them in advance for their hard work and for giving up their time so generously.

Teachers and staff work very hard collaboratively to ensure that there is rich curriculum on offer for all children and that is why it is essential that your child is in school every day and on time. I

am delighted to share that punctuality rates have improved, especially over the past two weeks so thank you for your support and well done to all those children who come to school every day and are on time. Let's continue to work together to improve attendance and punctuality ensuring that your child makes excellent progress in all areas of school life.

Finally, I just wanted to let you know that we have a new text messaging service which we are launching on Monday. Please read the letter that has been emailed to you with the key information. Wishing you all a very happy and restful weekend,

Best Wishes,

Ms Hampton

Parents Coffee Morning:

On Thursday 26th March, we will be holding a coffee morning at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, East Row from 9.30am – 10.30am



Parent Coffee Mornings

On Thursday 26th March, we will be holding a coffee morning at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, East Row from 9.30am – 10.30am

Parents/carers from both schools are welcome to attend. This is a welcome event so there is no particular theme. Carmen Tracey from the family hub will also be attending and will be asking if there are any particular topics or areas that you would like covered in future meetings. These could include:

- 1. Ways to really help support your child's learning at school,*
- 2. Parenting advice and support and information about a wide range of things from safety to spellings and maths to mindfulness and more!*
- 3. Strategies to improve your child's attendance and punctuality*

As well as presenting some key information, we aim to make these Thursday morning coffee mornings fun and very informal. There will be time to share experiences and find out what is happening in school.

Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Carers, Aunties, Uncles and friends of the family are ALL welcome

Why come in for a coffee morning?

- meet other parents*
- chat to your friends*
- Celebrate that it is nearly the end of the week!*
 - learn something new*
- feel involved in school life and up to date with what's going on*
 - have some time just for you and feel great!*

We look forward to seeing you there!



Book Swap

On Monday this week children in their key stages had a Book Swap with their families and teachers in the school Hall.

We enjoyed sharing stories with new friends and swapped a book that we brought from home with another child! What a great morning and afternoon we had! This is all to promote Reading for Pleasure for our Year of Reading 2026 at St Mary's.



Book Parade 2026

A wonderful morning of Book Character Parades took place today at St Mary's. Children and teachers came dressed as their favourite book character and paraded in the hall. Our judges had a difficult decision choosing the winners as children were so creative with their costumes.

We wanted to say a BIG thankyou to our families for helping children to take part in this day. Amazing efforts and we really appreciate your support. A very fun morning had by all!





Book Character Parades Winners and Winners and Runners up in EYFS and KS1:

Winners and Runners up in EYFS and KS1:

Nursery:

Runners up:

Erin (Cat in the Hat)

Alayah (Little Miss Sunshine)

Winner:

Leo (Hot Wheels Car Driver)

Reception:

Runners up:

George (Steve Irvin)

Sienna (Mary, Mother of Jesus, Bible)

Winner:

Wolfie (Tin Man)

Special mention:

Jacob C (Transformer Train and book)

Vanessa (Paddington Bear)

Jacob L (Mr Grumpy)

Key Stage 1

Year 1:

Runners up:

Teagan (Football Fairy)

Myla (Cat in the Hat)

Winner:

Isa (Florence Nightingale)

Year 2:

Runners up:

Kai (Cat in the Hat)

Olly (Dog Man)

Winner:

Torrah-Leigh (Handa's Surprise)

Year 3:

Runners Up:

Tay'Vion

Maria

Winner:

Luna T

Special mentions:

Asher

Lola

Year 4:

Runners Up:

Savannah

Grae

Winner:

Ryan

Special mentions

Vannah

Aislie

Year 5:

Runners Up:

Nathaniel

Alessia

Winners:

Cali

Special mentions:

Poppy

Arthur

Year 6:

Runners Up:

Beza

Nicholas

Winner:

Regina

Special mentions:

Kessiah

Catholic Life and Mission of the school

The year of St Francis January 2026 – January 2027

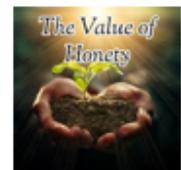
As you might be aware, we are now in the year of St Francis (January 2026 – January 2027) where we celebrate the life of St Francis of Assisi in the year of the 800th Anniversary of his death.

At St Mary's we have been thinking about this wonderful Saint and his love of the creation, of nature and all life.

One of our Y1 pupils, Malaysia created an amazing poster about St Francis and his life. What wonderful learning, Malaysia! Congratulations on your amazing home learning.

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.

Lenten Mass

On Thursday 12th March we had the whole school Lenten Mass in our parish church of Our Lady of the Holy Souls, celebrated by Father Damian.

This time, Year 5 pupils helped prepare the Mass Readings and Bidding prayers and served during the Mass through reading and altar serving. Father Damian commented on how beautifully and reverently our Y5 pupils read both the Readings and the Bidding Prayers.

As always, the beautiful and prayerful singing helped us all to celebrate the Holy Mass on a deeper spiritual level.



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 and staff need to know about Streaming Services



Please click on the link below to read this #WakeUpWednesday guide on what parents and staff need to know about Streaming Services:

[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.



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

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



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. Courtele
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 -Key Stage 2

Year 3 really enjoyed our Lenten Mass this week, and sang beautifully; well done to all of them!

Year 3



On Tuesday this week, we had a special treat in Year 4. Our friends from Into University ran a careers workshop. We learned what a 'career' is and what being 'skilled' means and how we can become skilled.

Year 4

Working hard at school is a good start! During a carousel of activities, we were one minute product designers, next a museum curator and finally a scientist! It was an excellent experience for the children.

Your child should have given you an information sheet from Into University giving details of after school clubs they run, should you be interested.



Year 5 celebrated World Book Day in style, we swapped books and read with other children and adults – This was great way to encourage everyone to read!

Year 5

We were excited to read with Year 3 children – this was awesome!

We all attended Our Lady of the Holy Souls Church for Lenten Mass and read prayers for Lent.



This week, year 6 students have fully immersed themselves in all things reading. We were able to perform a book swap with children throughout the school and also had some whole-school reading time in the hall.

Year 6

During this period, year 6 took it upon themselves to read their favourite books to some of the younger students and engaged them fully in the art of storytelling. We hope this week has stimulated an even greater joy and appreciation for reading across every year group.



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	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
Autumn	3:00 - 4:00	Zone Clubs	The Avenues
Spring	3:00 - 4:00	Zone Clubs	The Avenues
Summer	3:00 - 4:00	Zone Clubs	The Avenues

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

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.

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