St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter - Friday 13th November 2026

Message to parents from Mrs Tusting



Welcome to issue 9 of our Newsletter.

Dear Parent/Carer,

This week has been a particularly meaningful one at St Mary's, as we have taken time to reflect on the importance of remembrance, peace, kindness and respect.

On Wednesday, our whole school community came together in a two-minute silence at 11.00am to mark Armistice Day, remembering those who have sacrificed so much for the peace and freedom we enjoy today.

On Thursday, our Year 3 pupils led a wonderful Remembrance Assembly, which was presented with such thoughtfulness, dignity and respect. We are incredibly proud of the children for the maturity and sensitivity they demonstrated, and we thank the Year 3 team for preparing such a meaningful assembly.

Next week, we look forward to celebrating **Anti-Bullying Week**, beginning on Monday with **Odd Socks Day** – a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our individuality and remind ourselves that our differences make us special. Our School Council will lead a special assembly, encouraging everyone to reflect on the importance of kindness, inclusion and standing up for one another. We hope the messages shared throughout the week will inspire our children to continue making St Mary's a place where everyone feels safe, valued and respected.

We are also looking forward to a very special occasion on Thursday, when St Mary's and St Charles will come together for a **Federation Mass at 10.30am at Our Lady of the Holy Souls Church**, marking the conclusion of the Year of St Francis. This will be a lovely opportunity for our two

school communities to unite in prayer and thanksgiving, reflecting on the example of St Francis and his message of peace, compassion and care for God's creation.

We would also like to extend our heartfelt condolences to our dear parish priest, Father Damian, following the sad passing of his beloved mother. Our thoughts and prayers are with Father Damian and his family at this difficult time. As a school community, we pray that God will grant his mother eternal rest and bring comfort, peace and strength to all those who mourn her.
Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace Amen.

As always, I would like to thank our wonderful staff for their continued dedication and care, and our families for their ongoing support. Together, we continue to nurture a school community rooted in faith, kindness and respect, where every child is encouraged to flourish.
Wishing you all a peaceful and restful weekend!

Catholic Life and Mission of the school

Catholic Social Teaching Principle of Dignity of the human Person - Everyone Matters, Everyone Belongs



"Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep." – Luke 15:6

As we prepare for Anti-Bullying Week, we are reminded of Jesus' beautiful Parable of the Lost Sheep. Jesus tells us about a shepherd who leaves his flock of ninety-nine sheep to search for the one that is missing. When he finds it, he rejoices, showing us just how precious every single one of us is in God's eyes.

This parable reminds us that nobody should ever feel forgotten, excluded or unimportant. Each of us is created in God's image, with our own unique gifts, talents and qualities. We may look different, think differently, have different interests or find different things challenging, but we are all equally loved and valued by God.

As we celebrate Odd Socks Day and Anti-Bullying Week, we encourage our children to think about how they can help others feel that they truly belong. A friendly smile, an invitation to join a game, a kind word or simply noticing someone who is feeling lonely can make an enormous difference.

At St Mary's, we want every child to know that they matter, that their voice is important and that they are a valued member of our school family. Let us work together, at school and at home, to nurture kindness, celebrate our differences and create a community where nobody feels left behind.

A Prayer for Kindness and Belonging

Dear Lord,
Thank You for making each of us special and unique.
Help us to see the goodness in others, to welcome those who feel left out and to show kindness through our words and actions.

Give us the courage to stand up for others, the wisdom to make good choices and the love to ensure that everyone feels they belong.
Amen.

Special Feast in the Catholic Liturgical Calendar in autumn:

November Feasts
November 22: Solemnity of Christ the King

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.

Celebrating 100% Attendance



At St Mary's, we are delighted to see a significant improvement in whole school attendance.

To reward children who achieved 100% attendance for the whole of Autumn Term 1, they will receive a special certificate in assembly on Monday.

At the end of this half term, we will also be rewarding children who achieve 100% attendance for Autumn 2 and an extra special certificate for the whole of the term.

We look forward to seeing further improvements in attendance over the course of this academic year.

Student Group	
Y3	99%
Y4	99%
Y1/2	94%
Y5	94%
Reception	91.33%
Nursery	91.25%
Y6	90.91%

Attendance Winners for this week:

Year 3 & 4

With 99% attendance

Punctuality Weekly Leader

Year 6

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.
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New diary dates will be provided weekly
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Important dates:

W/c Monday 16th November	**Anti-Bullying Week**
Monday 16th November	**Odd Socks Day for Anti-bullying Week**
Thursday 19th November	**Federation Holy Mass – The Year of St Francis at 10.30am in Our Lady of the holy Souls church**
W/c 23rd November	**UK Parliament Week**
Wednesday 25th November	**Y6 at Lyric Theatre Matinee performance of Cinderella**
Thursday 26th November	**Year 6 Class Assembly**
Thursday 3rd December	**Whole School Advent Mass 9.30am in church**
Tuesday 8th December	**Y6 visit to the Parliament**
Tuesday 8th December	**Y5 out at the RBKC Christmas Festival Ken Town Hall**
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**

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





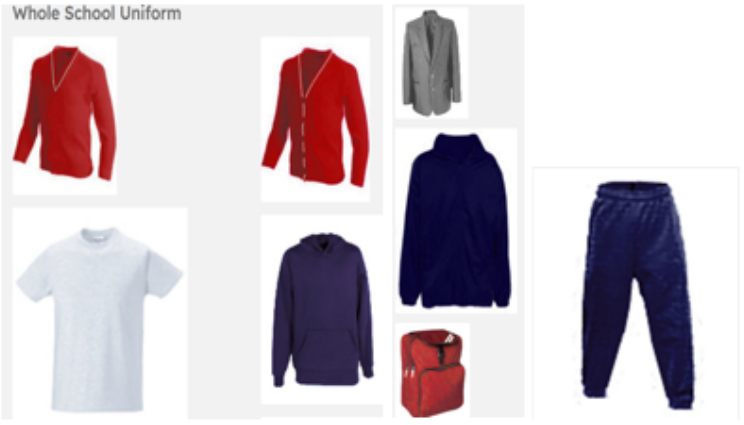
PE Days:

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**

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 13th November 2026
EYFS - Eldana
Y1/2 - Matilda
Y3 - Whole Class
Y4 - Major
Y5 - Elyes
Y6 - Olivia Q

Star Readers
Y1/2 - Jacob
Y3 - Ethan
Y4 - Mia
Y5 - Mariam
Y6 - Makda

Look what we have been doing - Early Years and Key Stage !

EARLY YEARS

Early Years have been exploring fireworks patterns and the meaning behind fireworks night, expressing our ideas through a range of sparkly resources!

We also took part in a two minutes' silence to show our respect for Remembrance day. We spoke about the soldiers and created our own poppies to help us remember.



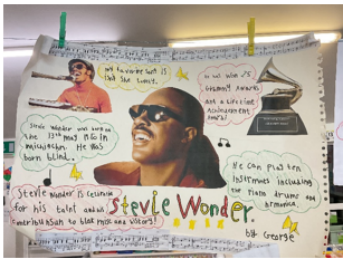


Y1&Y2

A huge thank you to all our wonderful parents and families for supporting the children with their fantastic **Black History Month projects**!

We have been blown away by the creativity, effort and enthusiasm shown. From inspiring musicians and influential figures to powerful stories of achievement, our classroom has been filled with colourful and thoughtful displays that the children are incredibly proud of. **Well done, Year 1 and 2!**









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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Charles Mary
Charles is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters