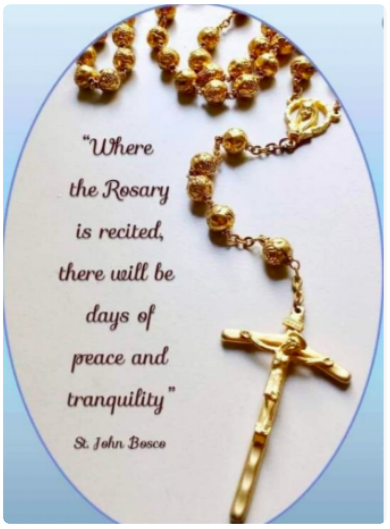
St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter - Friday 16th October 2026

Message to parents from Ms Hampton

Welcome to issue 5 of our Newsletter.

Dear Parent/Carer,



It has been a wonderful and enriching time in our school community, filled with opportunities to celebrate our faith, appreciate one another and grow together in our learning. During Black History Month, we have been recognising the achievements, contributions and inspiring stories of significant role models, helping our children to develop an appreciation of diversity, equality and the importance of treating everyone with dignity and respect, as Jesus teaches us.

We have also come together in prayer during the month of the Holy Rosary, reflecting on the life of Mary and growing closer to Jesus through prayer and contemplation. The excellent class assemblies that have taken place recently, show that our children can confidently articulate their faith commitment through drama, poetry, spiritual reflection and song.

Our Harvest celebrations have reminded us of the importance of gratitude, generosity and caring for those in need, putting our Catholic values into action by sharing our blessings with others. We were delighted to welcome our grandparents into school for a special Grandparents' Afternoon Tea, celebrating the love, wisdom and invaluable role grandparents play in the lives of our children. This joyful occasion is always filled with smiles, conversation and precious memories.

Alongside these special events, our pupils have continued to work hard and demonstrate enthusiasm for their learning. Our children have been completing assessments this week and they provide a valuable opportunity to celebrate the progress each child is making, recognise their

strengths and identify the next steps in their learning journey. We are incredibly proud of the effort, resilience and determination our children show each day.

As we continue our journey together, we give thanks to God for our wonderful pupils, dedicated staff and supportive families. May we continue to live out our school mission by learning together, loving one another and shining as a light in our community.

Wishing you all a lovely, restful and enjoyable weekend

Ms Hampton

Catholic Life and Mission of the school



"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to till it and keep it."
Genesis 2:15
For the last few weeks, we have been reflecting on the importance of **responsibility** and what it means to be good stewards of God's wonderful creation.

The Bible reminds us that our beautiful world is a gift from God, entrusted to us to love, protect and care for. Just as St Francis of Assisi showed great love and respect for all living things, we too are called to recognise the beauty of creation and take responsibility for looking after our common home.

Being a good steward does not always mean doing something extraordinary. It can be as simple as turning off a light, saving water, looking after our school environment, reducing waste or showing kindness to animals and plants. Every small action matters!

At St Mary's, we encourage our children to understand that **responsibility is not just about looking after our own belongings or making good choices, but also about caring for others and the world around us.** Through our Gospel values and Catholic Social Teaching, we remind our children that we each have a part to play in making God's world a better place.

We invite our families to join us in reflecting on how we can become better stewards of creation. As St Francis reminds us through his example, even the smallest acts of love and care can make a difference.

Perhaps this weekend you could take a walk together, appreciate the beauty of nature and think of one small action your family could take to care for our common home. The following could be a prompt for your family reflection:

God has entrusted us with a beautiful world. What one thing can we do this week to show that we are taking good care of His gift?

Lord, help us to appreciate the beauty of your creation and give us the wisdom, kindness and responsibility to protect it for generations to come. Amen.

Special Feast in the Catholic Liturgical Calendar in autumn:

October Feasts
October is the month of the Holy Rosary
October 31: All Hallows' Eve, kicking off the transition to November.
November Feasts
November 1: All Saints' Day (a major solemnity honouring all in heaven).
November 2: All Souls' Day (commemorating the faithful departed).
November 22: Solemnity of Christ the King

Our School Value for this half term is **Responsibility** and the matching Catholic Social Teaching Principle is Stewardship – **Caring for our Common Home.**

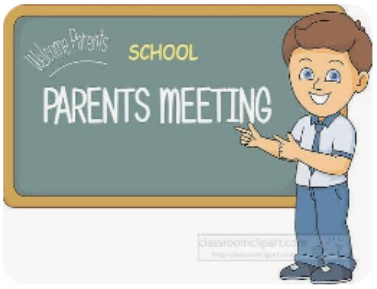


We will be exploring thinking about how each and every one of us can show responsibility in caring for and protecting our planet.

Parents Meeting

Please ensure you book your child's parents' evening appointment on Arbor for either **Tuesday 20th or Thursday 22nd October**.

If you experience any difficulties booking your appointment, please contact the school office for assistance.



Grand Relatives – Grandmas, Grandads, Grand Aunts and Grand Uncles are invited to Afternoon Tea **(no parents on this occasion please)** St Mary's afternoon for Gran Relatives will take place on Wednesday 21st October 2026 at 1.45pm.

If you would like a member of your family to attend, please hand in your signed slip to the school office. We are looking forward to seeing your Grand-Family members on Wednesday.



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.

Eco-Movers: Mission Earth – Cool Ways to Move!

Pupils are invited to take part in Kensington and Chelsea Council's Sustainable Travel Competition! Create a sculpture, artwork or collage using clean, safe recycled materials to celebrate sustainable travel and inspire a greener future.

Please see the competition poster and terms and conditions for details. **Entries must be submitted by 5pm on Friday 23 October 2026.**

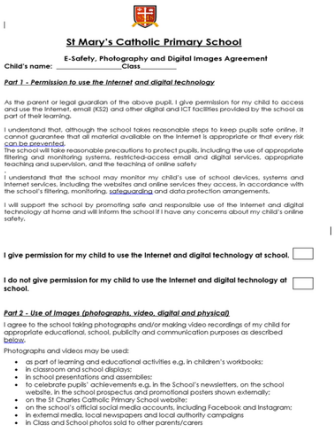


<u>Updated - ICT, Photography and Online Safety Permissions form</u>

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week updated permission forms were distributed to all the children, please ensure the form is completed and returned to the school office as soon as possible.

Thank you for your cooperation


St Mary's Catholic Primary School

E-Safety, Photography and Digital Images Agreement

Child's name: _____ Class _____

Part 1 - Permission to use the Internet and digital technology

As the parent or legal guardian of the above pupil, I give permission for my child to access and use the Internet, email (KS2) and other digital and ICT facilities provided by the school as part of their learning.

I understand that, although the school takes reasonable steps to keep pupils safe online, it cannot guarantee that all material available on the Internet is appropriate or that every risk can be prevented.
The school will take reasonable precautions to protect pupils, including the use of appropriate filtering and monitoring systems, restricted-access email and digital services, appropriate teaching and supervision, and the teaching of online safety.

I understand that the school may monitor my child's use of school devices, systems and Internet services, including the websites and online services they access, in accordance with the school's filtering, monitoring, safeguarding and data protection arrangements.

I will support the school by promoting safe and responsible use of the Internet and digital technology at home and will inform the school if I have any concerns about my child's online safety.

I give permission for my child to use the Internet and digital technology at school. ☐

I do not give permission for my child to use the Internet and digital technology at school. ☐

Part 2 - Use of images (photographs, video, digital and physical)

I agree to the school taking photographs and/or making video recordings of my child for appropriate educational, school, publicity and communication purposes as described below.

Photographs and videos may be used:

- as part of learning and educational activities e.g. in children's workbooks;
- in classroom and school displays;
- in school presentations and assemblies;
- to celebrate pupils' achievements e.g. in the School's newsletters, on the school website, in the school prospectus and promotional posters shown externally;
- on the St Charles Catholic Primary School website;
- on the school's official social media accounts, including Facebook and Instagram;
- in external media, local newspapers and local authority campaigns
- in Class and School photos sold to other parents/carers

<u>Attendance and Punctuality</u>

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.


ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

East Row
London W10 5AW
Telephone: 0208 969 0321
Email: info@st-marys.rbkc.sch.uk
www.st-marys.rbkc.sch.uk
Head of School: Angelina Harley
Assistant Head: Claire Browne

29th September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Attendance and Punctuality at St Mary's Catholic Primary School

As we begin the new academic year, we would like to highlight the importance of excellent attendance and punctuality, and the significant impact they have on your child's achievement, progress and future opportunities.

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School, we want every child to achieve their full potential. Excellent teaching, hard work and support at home all play an important role. However, there is a simple starting point:

"We cannot teach your child if they are not here."

A Day of Absence Quickly Adds Up

It can be easy to think that an occasional day away from school will make little difference. However, when absences are repeated throughout the year, a significant amount of education can be lost.

- 1 day missed every week = 38 days missed, almost 8 weeks of school
- 1 day missed every fortnight = 19 days missed, almost 4 weeks of school
- Around 1 day missed each month = 10 days missed, approximately 2 weeks of school
- 5 days missed during the year = 1 full week of school missed

This is why 90% attendance is not considered good attendance. Although 90% may sound positive, it means that approximately four weeks of school have been missed in a single academic year.

Every missed day means more than simply having work to catch up on. Your child may miss new learning, teacher explanations, opportunities to practise key skills and important feedback. The more school a child misses, the more difficult it can be to close these gaps in learning. Our school performance data from the last academic year shows that children with strong attendance achieve better outcomes.

Medical Evidence and Appointments

In the majority of cases, when you inform us that your child is too ill to attend school, your notification will be sufficient. We will only request medical evidence to support and authorise an absence when we are concerned about levels of absence or have genuine and reasonable doubts regarding the authenticity of the illness. We appreciate your co-operation if our staff request supporting evidence.

We would also like to remind parents and carers that, wherever possible, medical appointments should be arranged outside of the school day to minimise disruption to learning. If your child must attend a medical appointment during school hours, please ensure that they miss the least amount of learning time possible.

Punctuality Matters Too

The school gates open at 8:45am and the register is taken at 9:00am. We ask parents and carers to ensure that pupils arrive in good time so that they are ready to begin the school day promptly and positively. Our free Breakfast Club is offered from 7:45am every day. You need to register your child for this in advance using Arbor. Please speak to the school office if you require any assistance.

Parent Quote "You have made my mornings so much easier. I don't need to think of what to make for breakfast. I just bring my children to school breakfast club. Thankyou!"

Thank you for your continued support and co-operation in helping us maintain high standards of attendance and punctuality at St Mary's Catholic Primary School.

Yours Sincerely,

Miss Browne (Assistant Head / Attendance Lead), Mrs Cummings and Ms Hampton (Attendance team)

Weekly Attendance Leader

Celebrating Our Attendance Success



Attendance Weekly Leader

Student Group	Present R/C Marks (%)
Nursery	95.71%
Reception	91.33%
Y1/2	92.8%
Y3	94.5%
Y4	99%
Y5	98.63%
Y6	95%



Black History Month of October



This October, we will be celebrating Black History Month across the school.

This year's theme is "**Honouring Our Communities**", and throughout the month the children will be learning about the people, stories, cultures and histories that have helped to shape and strengthen our communities.

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?**



Open Morning for Nursery and Reception 2027

Our first Open Morning for Nursery and Reception 2027, will take place on **Wednesday 4th November at 5pm and Thursday 5th November at 9.15am.**

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 and staff need to know about: What Parents & Educators Need to Know about Discord



Please click on the link below to read the #WakeupWednesday guide on What Parents & Educators Need to Know about Safety Online:
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

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.
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.

Weekly Attendance



New diary dates will be provided weekly

We would like to share some important dates for the remainder of the Autumn Term 1 with you.

Important dates:

October 2026	**Black History Month**
Monday 19th October	**Year 3 visit to the Science Museum**
Monday 19th October	**Year 5 visit to see Bayeux Tapestry at British Museum**
Tuesday 20th October	**Parent Consultation Meetings 3.45pm to 6.00pm**
Wednesday 21st October	**Grandparents' Afternoon Tea and Concert 2.00 pm**
Thursday 22nd October	**Parent Consultation Meetings 3.45pm to 6.00pm**
Thursday 22nd October	**Whole School Votive Mass for Holy Souls 9.30am**
Half term holiday: Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October.	
November 2026	
Monday 2nd November	**Staff INSET Day – school closed for children**
Tuesday 3rd November	**Back to school after half term**
Monday 9th November	**Year 3 History Trip to Gunnersbury Park**
Thursday 12th November	**Year 3 Class Assembly**
Thursday 19th November	**Federation Holy Mass – The Year of St Francis at 10.30am in Our Lady of the holy Souls church**
Thursday 26th November	**Year 6 Class Assembly**
Thursday 3rd December	**Whole School Advent Mass 9.30am in church**
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:
Tuesdays 9.05am to 9.30am: KS2 Assembly
Wednesdays 2.45pm to 3.05pm: FS/KS1 Assembly (every two weeks)
Thursdays 9.05am to 9.30am: Class Assemblies
Thursdays 2.45pm to 3.15pm: Hymn Practice
Fridays 9.05am to 9.45am: Star of the Week Assembly

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.

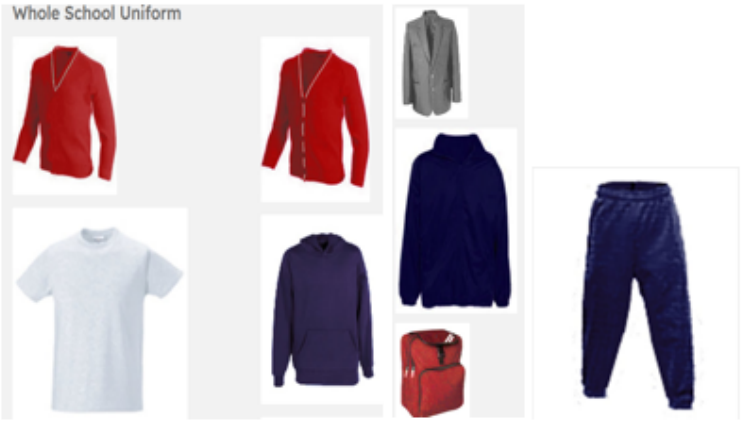
Thursdays – **EYFS, Year 1 & 2, Year 3 and Year 5**
Fridays - **Year 4 and Year 6**

Please, note we had to **swap Y3 and Y4 PE days**. Year 3 children will now have PE on Thursdays. Please, ensure the **Y3** pupils wear their **PE kits** on **Thursdays** from next week and **Year 4** pupils on **Fridays**.

We apologise for any inconvenience and thank you for you support with this change.

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 09th October 2026

EYFS - Kree
Y1/2 - George
Y3 - Lexie
Y4 - Novena
Y5 - Gut
Y6 - Cali

Star Readers
Y1/2 - Jahmiel
Y3 - Kai
Y4 - Sarah
Y5 - Savannah and Grae
Y6 - Nelly

Look what we have been doing - Key Stage 2

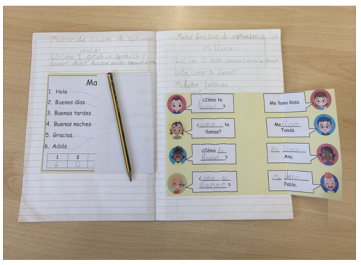
Year 3

Year 3 always look forward to Wednesdays, when we have our exciting Spanish lessons with our wonderful teacher, Miss Lincango! We are becoming Spanish experts as we practise greeting one another with *¡Hola!*, *¡Buenos días!* and *¿Cómo estás?* We have also been learning how to introduce ourselves using *Me llamo...*(My name is...) and share information about ourselves, such as *Tengo siete años* (I am eight years old) and *Tengo el pelo castaño* (I have brown hair).

Through fun games, conversations and speaking activities, we are growing in confidence and developing our pronunciation while discovering a new language. Why not put our Spanish skills to the test at home and see if we can introduce ourselves and answer a few questions? *¡Vamos, Year 3!*







Year 4

Over the last few weeks in RE we have learned about the story of Abraham and how his covenant with God has founded both the Christian and Jewish faiths, as well as being an important part of Islam.

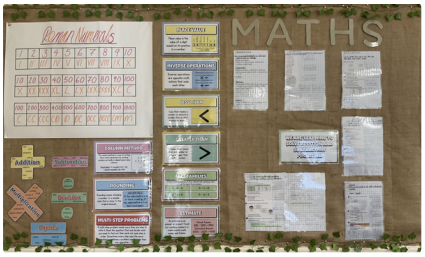
We have discussed how Abraham showed faith, hope and love in his actions and conversations (prayer) with God. We linked these actions to how we need to care for each other and our Common Home. We brought these together in drama, prayer and song in our fabulous Class Assembly last week.

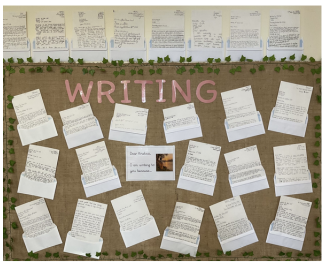


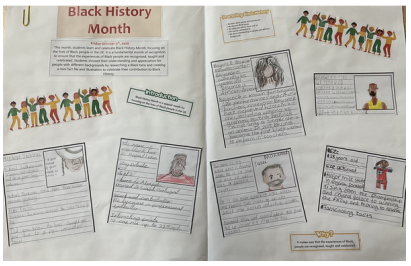
Year 5

Year 5 have been working incredibly hard this week, completing their assessments and rehearsing for their KS2 assembly. I are so proud of their dedication, perseverance and positive attitude towards their learning. Therefore, I would love to share some highlights of our learning. In English, the children have been writing thoughtful and imaginative letters to Krishna, the Blue God, inspired by *Seasons of Splendour*.

In Maths, they have been developing their problem-solving skills by tackling addition and subtraction problems. Finally, as part of Black History Month, our PSHE learning has focused on celebrating Black heroes, recognising their achievements and exploring the positive impact they have had, and continue to have on the world.





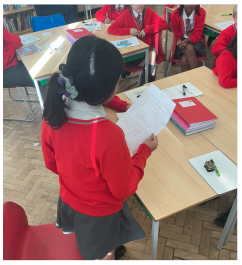


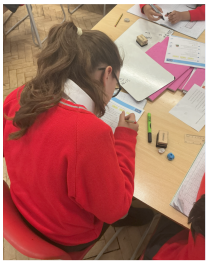
Year 6

After enjoying Poetry week, the year 6 students were keen to create poems of their own as part of their creative writing lessons. We performed them to the class, using all of the oracy skills we had practiced over the term. The children threw themselves into the experience and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to share their beautiful pieces with their peers.

In science, the children set out to plan and conduct their own comparative test to establish which materials would make for good conductors and insulators. Finally, in maths, the main focus has steered towards multi-step problems involving long division and the children have shown great effort and resilience when facing more expansive number problems.









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.

Monday 2nd November is **Staff Training Day** and the **school will be closed** to children.
Schools resumes on **Tuesday 3rd November.**

Term Dates 2025- 2026

Term Dates 2026 – 2027

Autumn Term – 2026

First Half Term

Staff Training –Tuesday 1st September – Inset Day *(no pupils)*
Staff Training –Wednesday 2nd September – Inset Day *(no pupils)*
First Day of School – Thursday 3rd September

Last Day of School – Friday 23rd October
Half Term – Monday 26th – Friday 30th October

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

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

C
Charles Mary
Charles is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters