



# St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter - Friday 17th January 2025

## Message to parents from the Executive Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to Issue 16 of our Newsletter, the first one in 2025.



Dear Parent/Carer,

We have had a very busy two weeks since our return to school after the holiday period and your children have settled back into their class routines. As I move around both schools, I am struck by how courteous and polite your children are and it is always lovely to be greeted with a wave or a smile.

You will be aware that Pope Francis has declared this year as a Jubilee Year. The theme '**Pilgrims of Hope**', is a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing legacy of the COVID-19 pandemic, and an escalating climate crisis. We hope you will journey with us as we begin the exploration of the theme now, and in the coming months.

Please check the diary dates in the newsletter for up and coming events relating to the jubilee year. as we would like share our school journey with you all – with the hope that you too will make your own journey through your parishes and communities.

Wishing you a lovely weekend,

Geraldine Hampton



<b>January 2025</b>	
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>School Launch of the Jubilee Year</b>
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Y4 Class Assembly</b>
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	<b>School Mass for the launch of the Jubilee Year</b>
<b>February 2025</b>	
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> February:	<b>Y1 Class Assembly 2.45pm</b>
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February:	<b>Y5 Class Assembly</b>
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February to Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Children's Mental Health Week</b>
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Parent Consultation Meetings 3.45pm to 6.15pm</b>
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Safer Internet Day</b>
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Parent Consultation Meetings 3.45pm to 6.15pm</b>
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Scholastic Book Fair</b>
<b>March 2025</b>	
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>World Book Day</b>
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March:	<b>Y2 Class Assembly</b>
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> March to Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Shakespeare Week</b>
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> March:	<b>Y3 Class Assembly</b>

New diary dates will continue to be included weekly

### EYFS and KS1 Playground under refurbishment

Some pictures of St Mary's playgrounds in EYFS and KS1 that are under construction! Watch closely as we transform our wonderful school with a sensory playground for all children.



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## Catholic Life and Mission of the school

### Catholic Church celebrated the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

On Sunday 12th January the Catholic Church celebrated the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The Feast is celebrated in the Catholic Church as well as the Anglican and Lutheran Churches on the first Sunday following The Epiphany of Our Lord (6th January). In the liturgical calendar, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord signifies the end of the Christmas season.



The Baptism of the Lord is notable because it marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry and confirms his identity as the Son of God. This event is documented in all the gospels except John.

### Jubilee Year 2025

As you were able to read in the previous Newsletter, the schools in the UK and around the world were invited to **launch** the Jubilee Year 2025 on **24th January 2025**.



We will have a **special assembly** to launch the Jubilee Year at our school on **Friday 24th January 2025**.

Because of this special assembly, we have to **move** our **Star of the Week Assembly** from Friday to **Thursday 23rd January at 9.05am**.

The following week, (week beginning 27th January), Father Damian will celebrate the **special Jubilee Year Mass for our school** in our parish church, Our Lady of the Holy Souls on **Friday 31st January at 9.30am**. There will be NO Star of the Week assembly that week. We will have double

stars the following week, Friday 7th February. You are all warmly invited to join us for this special Mass on Friday 31st January at 9.30am.

## Catholic Teaching

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.



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## 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.

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### 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.

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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

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## **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.



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## Look what we have been doing! -Early Years & Key Stage 1

### EYFS - Nursery/Reception

Firstly, a very happy new year from Early Years to all our families. You will have seen work has commenced on our new playground in early Years. This has seen a change in drop off and dismissals due to use of a different classroom. However, the children have had a smooth transition over to our main building and we have been maximising the opportunities for some shared learning between classes.



All children have thoroughly enjoyed our new topic and have been practicing a new Poem. We have even had opportunities this week to share some maths retrieval together.

### Year 1

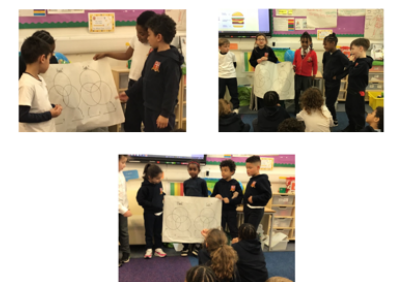
Year 1 have been learning about Seasonal Change in Science.

The recent frosty mornings have been perfect to help support observing the changes that happen during Winter.



### Year 2

In Science we have started our new topic on "Everyday uses of Materials". Last week, we revised some of last year's learning by asking questions to determine some of the properties (eg Soft/hard? Transparent/translucent? Rough/smooth) of various objects.



We created Venn Diagrams to show that the materials from which objects are made have various properties.

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# 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](http://www.schoolgateway.com)**

## 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](mailto: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](http://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 17th January 2025

### **Star of the Term:**

EYFS -Nur- **Yousif**, Reception - **Anika**

Y1- **Kai**

Y2 - **Luna**

Y3 - **Gut**

Y4 - **Franzen**

Y5 - **Gideon**

Y6 - **Nina**

### **Star Readers**

Y1- **Noel**

Y2 - **Victor**

Y3 - **Elyes**

Y4 - **Olivia**

Y5 - **Tommy**

Y6 - **Sade**

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

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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**

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## Term Dates 2024-2025

### Term Dates 2024 – 2025

#### Autumn Term – 2024

**Half Term** – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November

#### **Second Half Term**

First Day of School – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November

Last Day of School – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December - **1.30pm - School Closed**

**Christmas Holiday** – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025

#### Spring Term - 2025

#### **First Half Term**

Staff Training – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January – **School Closed**

First Day of School – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January

Last Day of School – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

**Half Term** – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February

#### **Second Half Term**

First Day of School – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February

Last Day of School – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April - **1.30pm - School Closed**

**Easter Holiday** – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April

#### Summer Term – 2025

#### **First Half Term**

Staff Training – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – **School Closed**

First Day of School – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

**Bank Holiday** – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May

Last Day of School – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

**Half Term** – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May

#### **Second Half Term**

First Day of School – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

Staff Training – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June – **School Closed**

Last Day of School – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July - **1.30pm - School Closed**

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FACEBOOK

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### St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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**Charles Mary**

Charles is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters