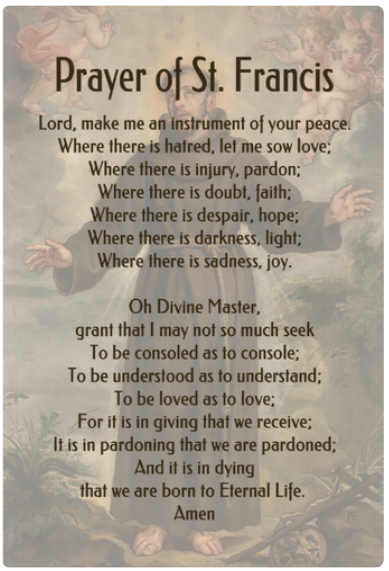
St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter - Friday 20th November 2026

Message to parents from Ms Hampton



Welcome to issue 10 of our Newsletter.

Dear Parent/Carer,

Federation Mass – Celebrating the Year of St Francis
Yesterday, we came together at Our Lady of the Holy Souls Church for our Federation Mass to celebrate the Year of St Francis. It was a truly special occasion, bringing the children and staff from both schools together in faith, prayer and worship.

We are incredibly proud of all the children. Their excellent behaviour, reverence and respect throughout the Mass were a credit to them all. Their beautiful singing added so much to the celebration and helped to create a truly uplifting and prayerful atmosphere.

A heartfelt thank you to the staff for their hard work and preparation and well done to all the children for making the occasion so memorable. You should be very proud of yourselves!

Attendance, Punctuality and School Uniform
We are delighted to report that overall school attendance has improved. Thank you to all our families for your continued support in ensuring that children are in school regularly. It is important that we maintain this positive improvement, as good attendance is essential for children's progress, learning and wellbeing.

We would also like to remind parents and carers of the importance of punctuality. Arriving at school on time ensures that children are ready to begin their learning alongside their classmates.

Even a few minutes lost each day can have a significant cumulative impact on learning over time. Thank you for helping us to give every child the best possible start to their school day.

Finally, the children continue to look very smart in their school uniforms, and we are grateful for your support in maintaining our high standards. However, there are still a very small number of children who are not wearing their school ties regularly. Please ensure that your child wears their school tie every day, as this is an important and compulsory part of our school uniform.

Supporting Learning at Home – Parent Workshops
We are pleased to let you know that a series of parent workshops have been scheduled to help and support you in developing your child's learning at home. These workshops will provide useful guidance, practical ideas and strategies that you can use to support your child's learning and development beyond the classroom.

We warmly encourage parents and carers to attend and take advantage of these opportunities to work in partnership with us. Please refer to the newsletter for the dates and times of the workshops.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. Together, we can ensure that every child thrives and achieves their very best.

Best Wishes

Ms Hampton

Federation Mass – Celebrating the Year of St Francis







Parent Information Workshops: Supporting Your Child's Success

We would like to encourage parents and carers to attend our upcoming statutory assessment information workshops.

These sessions will explain the purpose and format of government assessments undertaken in primary schools, including in Reception, the Phonics Screening Check (Year 1), Multiplication Tables Check (Year 4), and Key Stage 2 assessments (Year 6). Parents will receive guidance on curriculum expectations, assessment arrangements, and practical ways to support learning at home.

Research consistently shows that parental engagement has a significant positive impact on children's achievement. By attending these workshops, parents gain a clearer understanding of what their child is learning and how they can contribute to their child's confidence, wellbeing, and academic progress.

Please see the dates below:

- **Reception**: **Today at 3:30pm**
- **Year 1 (Phonics Screening)**: **Friday 27th November at 3:30pm**
- **Year 4 (Multiplication Tables Check)**: **Thursday 3rd December at 3:30pm**
- **Year 6 (KS2 SATs)**: **Thursday 10th December at 3:30pm**

We value your partnership and hope you will join us for these important opportunities to support your child's educational journey.

Catholic Life and Mission of the school

"Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." — Colossians 3:12



As we continue our journey of faith together, we are reminded that living out the teachings of Jesus does not always require grand gestures. Very often, it is the smallest acts of kindness that make the greatest difference.

A friendly smile, a helping hand, an encouraging word or simply noticing when someone is feeling lonely can bring warmth and hope into another person's day. Jesus teaches us to look beyond ourselves and recognise the needs of those around us, treating everyone with love, dignity and compassion.

At St Mary's, we encourage our children to put their faith into action through the choices they make each day: including others in their games, showing patience, offering forgiveness and helping those who need a little extra care.

As we approach the season of Advent, perhaps we can all take a moment to reflect on how we can be a light in someone else's life. After all, it is through these everyday acts of love that we truly live out our Catholic mission.

A little challenge for our families this week:

Can you find one small way each day to make someone else's day brighter? Sometimes the simplest act of kindness can mean the world to another person.

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.

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.

Y1/2	96.67%
Nursery	94.67%
Y6	94.55%
Y5	93.33%
Y4	93%
Y3	91.5%
Reception	82.28%

Attendance Winners for this week:

Year 1/2

With 96.67% attendance

Winners for this week: Punctuality

Y6



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 Doxing:



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.
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 andthe Parents' Information Board on the front gate



Important dates:

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**
Friday 11th December	**Christmas Fair 3.45pm to 5.30pm**
Tuesday 15th December	**KS1 Nativity Play 2.00pm in the school hall**
Wednesday 16th December	**KS2 Christmas Carol Concert 2.00pm in church**

New diary dates will be provided weekly
We would like to share some important dates for the Autumn Term - 2 with you. We will continue to update the diary dates as necessary, so please check the Newsletter and the Parents' Information Board at the front gate regularly for the latest updates.

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:

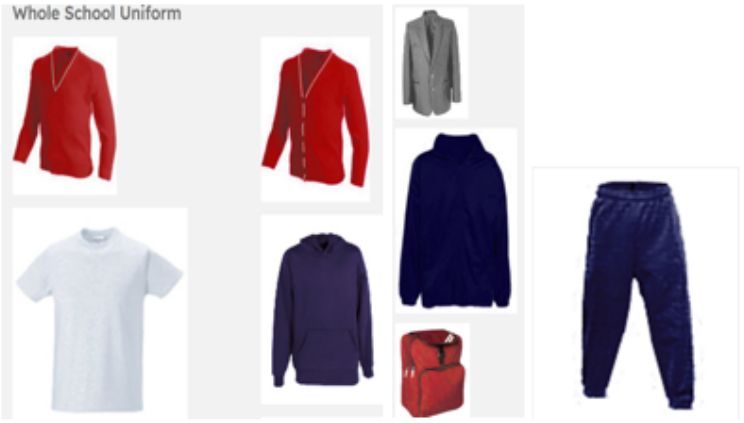
PE Days:

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 20th November 2026
EYFS - Aaliyah
Y1/2 - Whole School
Y3 - Kurtny
Y4 - Major and Anyag
Y5 - Rakeb
Y6 - Sofia

Star Readers
Y1/2 - Wolfie
Y3 - Jack
Y4 - Mia, Deontae
Y5 - Holly
Y6 - Elly

Look what we have been doing - Key Stage 2

Year 3

Last Monday, Year 3 travelled back in time during our exciting trip to Gunnersbury Park, where we explored what life was like during the Stone Age! We became prehistoric hunters and gatherers, investigated real artefacts and had a go at building our own shelters. It was a fantastic hands-on experience that brought our History learning to life!

This Monday, our classroom was filled with colourful, mismatched socks as we celebrated Odd Socks Day! We used this opportunity to recognise and celebrate our differences, reminding ourselves that everyone is unique and that kindness, respect and inclusion are what make our school community so special!







Year 4

In Year 4, we have started our new Science Unit. We are currently learning about the digestive system and this week the children observed how bread tastes sweeter in your mouth once it has been chewed and mixed with saliva. Saliva contains an enzyme (amylase) which breaks down starches into sugars.
In DT, our Autumn unit of work is to research, design and build a torch.

This week, the children were really engaged in building closed electrical circuits with switches - an important part of course of making a torch. Later in the year, in our Science Unit on Electricity, we

will be exploring electrical circuits in more detail, so this is a good introduction.



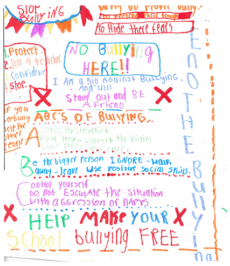
Year 5

Year 5 have had a stellar start to Autumn 2 following the half-term break! This week, our focus has been on Anti-Bullying Week and the theme 'Breaking The Silence'. We have explored how we can stand up against bullying, be kind, celebrate our differences and make sure everyone feels safe, valued and included.

The children have taken part in thoughtful discussions and made their own anti-bullying pledges, poems and posters to remind us that even the smallest acts of kindness can make a big difference.







Year 6

This week, the children were excited to learn about the doomed reign of John I and the shifting tides of power away from monarchy in Britain. We have also delved deeper into our Science unit this term which focuses on light.

The children explored the causal relationship of light and sight, whilst establishing the manner in which light travels. Oue federation Mass alongside our sister school, St. Charles, went fabulously and the children shared their Remembrance prayers with the church.

Preparations for our class assembly have also begun in earnest. The children look forward to sharing it with the whole school in due course.







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