



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter - Friday 23rd January 2026

Message to parents from Ms Hampton

Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome to issue 19 of our Newsletter.



We have reached the end of another busy and productive week.

Teaching and learning is now in full flow and this year, Over at St Marys', our Phonics lead and Year 1 teacher held a phonics workshop for parents and carers. The feedback was very positive and we appreciate how well you support your child in their educational development.

It was the turn of St Charles to host the annual governors' afternoon school visit so that they could see teaching and learning in action. The focus was History and the implementation of the new Federation-wide History curriculum. The governors were very impressed and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Please check the calendar for dates of future events including class assemblies and parent/carer workshops.

The 'Wake Up Wednesday' flyer which can be located at the end of this newsletter, also provides very useful information and advice.

Have a lovely weekend,

Best Wishes,
Ms Hampton

Phonics Workshop

Thank you so much to the parents that attended our Phonics Workshop on Wednesday 21st January. The parents and children both got involved in some phonics activities together.

We practised using sound buttons, learning about digraphs, trigraphs and split digraphs. You should have taken a pack home to practise the learning again with your child. Please see Miss Flashman if you need a pack. We hope phonics at home is fun!



Catholic Life and Mission of the school

Our School Value for this half term is **Kindness** and the matching Catholic Social Teaching Principle is **Option for the Poor**. It is a core principle emphasizing a **preferential love and commitment to the needs of the poor and vulnerable**, seeing their plight as a challenge to the entire community, not just an individual problem, and calling for systemic change, empowerment, and justice, inspired by Jesus' own focus on the marginalized.



It involves actively taking up the cause of the poor, advocating for them, sharing resources, and working for economic systems and societal structures that respect human dignity and ensure everyone's basic needs are met, making them central to moral action.

Safeguarding information

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 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.

In our Newsletters we will be sharing a weekly resource that provides up-to-date guidance on current online trends, apps and potential risks. These materials will support you in navigating the digital world safely and responsibly.

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.

At The National College, our **WakeUpWednesday** guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and educate them. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SNAPSTREAK **SNAPCHAT** Age RESTRICTION 13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but can also lead to users who are unfiltered or inappropriate, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. AI-powered filters can also manipulate images to distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between friends) and coins (virtual currency for a few days, users will see a 🍀 emoji). The number of streaks it takes to number streaks, but if users run out of streaks, they can buy them. This can lead to users wanting to restore it to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may threaten to release explicit images of the person unless they capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2023, Snapchat introduced a new feature called 'Premium Lenses' which gives users access to hundreds of lenses and AI experiences for playing, creating, and sharing snaps. These paid features may encourage users to purchase them to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning users can access the platform without downloading the app. This can make it easier to monitor and manage their child's use of the platform, and reduce the risk of unsupervised communication and exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the platform, so even an innocent hashtag can yield inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit content without their parents seeing it. The platform continues to be a risk associated with sextortion.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a family safety page that helps parents learn how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. This option also lets them report that content is tailored reporting content on the 'Report Content' tab. In the 'Report Content' tab, there is an option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about sextortion and other online predators if they're forced into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and honestly about sexting, emphasizing its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Ask them with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them reflect who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a great opportunity to explain why some settings are more appropriate than others. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially if app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety programs for schools and organisations. She has also conducted and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: see full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat>

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is accepted. Current as of the date of release: 17.03.2023



St Mary's Primary School
East Row North Kensington W10 5AW

Baby and Toddler Group – All welcome

Please come along and meet other parents, enjoy messy play, cooking and explore outdoor activities in our large open grassed space! We will be joined by the local librarian for rhyme time sessions with the children and reading stories too! **Bring a reusable mug if you can!**

Parents stay and play with your child.



Come to our new EYFS building entrance where we have plenty of buggy parking space!



Dates 2025 (Autumn Term)
8.55am – 10.15am

Wednesday 19th November (cooking)
Wednesday 26th November (dance)
Wednesday 17th December (xmas decoration and craft)

Where to find us:



Diary Dates

January 2026	
Monday 26 th January	Y2 and Y5 Fire Brigade
Thursday 29 th January	Y4 Class Assembly
February 2026	
Thursday 5 th February	Y3 Class Assembly
Tuesday 10 th February	Parent Consultation Meetings
Wednesday 11 th February	Parent Consultation Meetings
Thursday 12 th February	Y2 Class Assembly
Monday 16th Feb – Friday 20th Feb Half Term	
W/c 23 rd February	Scholastic Book Fair (date tbc)
March 2026	
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
Thursday 12 th March	Whole school Lenten Mass in church 9.30am
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

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

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

Look what we have been doing - Key Stage 2

Year 3 have been looking at deserts in Geography this week and half term. We've been finding out about what makes a desert and the features that deserts can have.

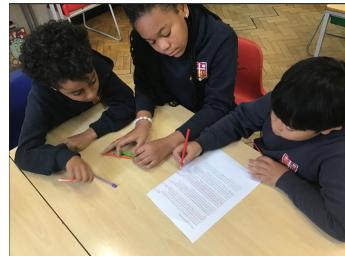
Year 3



Our current Science unit is "Sound". This week our "Big Question" was "How does distance from a sound source affect how loud it will seem? We carried out an investigation by measuring how the volume of sound changed as we moved further from the sound source (a drum 'bang').

Year 4

We used an online sound metre to measure the volume. We discussed how 'fair' the test was. Did the pupil banging the drum always hit the drum with the same force and so create the same vibrations?



This week, we have begun exploring the work of Charles Dickens and immersed ourselves in the Victorian era. We have taken a closer look at the social structures in place at the time and the advancements that led to unprecedented growth but also stark poverty for many.

Year 6

Also, in maths, the children have done fantastically well to grasp ratio and scale across multiple contexts. We are very proud of the hard work being put in by the class and look forward to another week of high-quality learning.

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 8:15 AM. The route takes approximately 10 minutes, with arrival at The Avenues by 8:30. The journey includes four key crossing points, featuring a small crossing on East Row, another by the park on Kean 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 £15 per day afterschool 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/zonelclubs

TERM TIME

WHAT'S ON FOR JUNIORS

Zone Clubs is a unique youth program for kids ages 8-11 that runs every Monday to Wednesday from 15:30 to 18:00.

WHAT WE OFFER
Our primary provision is for 8-11 year olds. Years 3-6.

HOLIDAYS

SPRING TERM

SUMMER TERM

AUTUMN TERM

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
April 8-19

www.avenues.org.uk

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.

Star of the Week

Congratulations to all the pupils who have received **Star of the Week - Friday 23rdJanuary 2026**

Star of the Term:

Reception - Vanessa

Y1 - Isadora

Y2 - Farah

Y3 - Maria

Y4 - Ricardo

Y5 - Poppy

Y6 - Gideon

Star Reader:

Y1 - Melaysia

Y2 - N/A

Y3 - Fraser

Y4 - Matthew

Y5 - N/N

Y6 - Carlos

Term Dates 2025- 2026

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

Primary School



Catholic Primary School



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