



St Mary's  
Catholic Primary School



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# St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter - Friday 26th September 2025

## Message to parents from Ms Hampton

Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome to issue 03 of our Newsletter.

School has felt very busy this week and the new term is definitely in full swing. Today, we took part in the National Macmillan Cancer Support coffee morning/afternoon. The money raised will make a difference to people and families living with cancer.

We can all relate to this charity in some way and so it has been humbling to see how the community has come together to support this worthy cause. We are very grateful to all those who donated cakes and I would like to thank everyone who bought cakes at the cake sale.

As school budgets continue to tighten and costs rise, the work of our Parent Groups e.g. PTA/PFA becomes even more vital. Funds raised have already helped subsidise various enrichment opportunities throughout the year and provided treats on special occasions! We'd love to have parents from across the school involved –bringing fundraising ideas and initiatives so please get involved and thank you to everyone for your ongoing support.

Wishing you a lovely weekend,

Best Wishes,

COMMUNITY



## Catholic Life and Mission of the school

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.

### Parable of Lazarus and the rich man

#### Gospel by Luke 16: 19 – 31

The story of Lazarus and the Rich Man is a parable from Luke 16 in the Bible where a wealthy, luxurious man ignores the poor, sick beggar Lazarus at his gate. Upon death, the rich man suffers in torment, while Lazarus is comforted with Abraham in heaven.



The rich man asks Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his brothers to change their ways, but Abraham explains that they have the prophets and scriptures, and even a messenger from the dead wouldn't convince them to repent.

The story teaches that earthly wealth is worthless in the afterlife, and people are judged based on their compassion and actions, especially their responsiveness to God's word.

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### Celebrating our fantastic Support Staff.

Today, on Friday 26th September is the National Teaching Assistants' Day. This is celebrated annually and it falls on the last Friday of September each year. The purpose of the day is to raise awareness of the hard work and efforts of Teaching Assistants.

Here at St Mary's we want to say a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all our fantastic support staff! Thank you for all your love and care you show all our children, all your hard work and commitment. Your daily contributions are invaluable and are greatly appreciated!



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### Macmillan Coffee Morning

Today, on Friday 26th September staff at St Mary's hosted the Big Macmillan Coffee Morning. All proceeds from the event will be passed to the MacMillan Nurses Charity. Staff members brought a great selection of cakes and bread and we all enjoyed trying them, with a cup of tea or coffee. This is part of our school's commitment to Charity and to trying to make the world a better place.

As mentioned in previous Newsletters, taking part in supporting various charities through fundraising is part of our Catholic Life and Mission of our school community.

Our families were also invited to join in the fundraising through participating in the cake sale at the end of the school day. We would like to say a big Thank You to everyone who either donated cakes and biscuits for the sale or who let their children buy something from the cake sale, contributing to the fundraising.

We will let you know next week how much money we raised as the school community for this much needed and worthwhile cause.





## St Mary's Primary School OPEN DAYS



Nursery and Reception places for 2026

Join us for a tour and talk

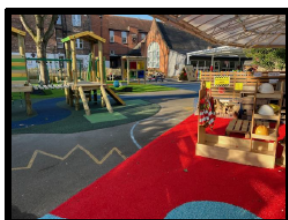
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 1.45pm  
and

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 9.15am

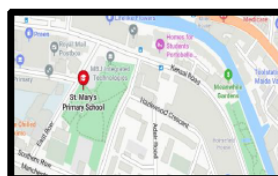


To book a place, please scan the QR code to visit our website

[www.st-marys.rbkc.sch.uk](http://www.st-marys.rbkc.sch.uk)



St Mary's Primary School  
East Row  
W10 5AW  
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# Diary Dates

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.

<b>September 2025</b>	
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>First PTA meeting at 2.15pm – all welcome</b>
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Year 5 Trip to the National Gallery</b>
<b>October 2025</b>	<b>Black History Month</b>
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	<b>National Poetry Day</b>
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>World Mental Health Day</b>
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Fire Brigade visit for year 2 and Year 5</b>
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	<b>Parent Consultation Meetings 3.45pm to 6.30pm</b>
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	<b>Parent Consultation Meetings 3.45pm to 6.30pm</b>
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	<b>Grandparents' Afternoon Tea 2.00pm</b>
<b>Half term holiday: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October.</b>	
<b>November 2025</b>	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	<b>Staff INSET Day – school closed for children</b>
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Back to school after half term</b>

## 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.

Wednesdays – **EYFS, Year 1, Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6**

Fridays - **Year 3 and Year 4**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November is **Staff Training Day** and the **school will be closed** to children. Schools resumes on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November**.

## PE KIT





# A message regarding Attendance and Punctuality from Ms Hampton

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Attendance & Punctuality

### Re: Attendance & Punctuality

Excellent attendance is fundamental to an excellent education. Our Attendance policy follows the policy outlined by the Education Secretary, stating that children are not to be absent from school for holidays or other non-essential reasons during term time. Only in exceptional or mitigating circumstances will an absence be approved.

#### Illness

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school or absent from school for any reason, please phone the school on 0208 2053790 before 8.40 am.

We have an answerphone where you can leave a message before the office opens, please speak clearly with your child's name, class and the reason your child is unwell.

You can use the absence line from 8.00am to speak to a member of the office.

If we do not receive any information from a parent/carer in the morning, we will contact parents/carers asking them to phone the school. If we do not hear from you we will pursue all contacts regarding a child's absence as part of our safeguarding procedures. Please leave a message by 9.00 am each day of their absence.

If your child has either vomiting or diarrhea, they should stay at home for 48 hours from the last bout of illness. This is a recommendation from Public Health England to protect other pupils and staff. If a child is sent into school within the 48 hour period, we will contact the parents/carers and ask for the child to be collected from school.

Any absence can result in a loss of continuity for your child's education and upset their balance of learning. As a school, we are required to provide details of all unauthorised absences to the Local Authority.

#### Medical and Dental appointments

We ask that you please make every effort to avoid booking medical and dental appointments during school time. Where this is unavoidable, parents/carers should put this in writing to the school office and attach a copy of the appointment card or letter before the date of the appointment. Please also include the time you will need to collect your child. If arriving late, please ensure that your child is accompanied and signed in by an adult at the school office for safeguarding reasons.

#### Other Absences

Requests for absence during term time will not be authorised unless there is deemed to be an exceptional circumstance. Local Authorities have the power to serve parents with a Fixed Penalty

Notice if a child has significant or repeated days of unauthorised absence.

### **Being Punctual**

**School starts at 9.00 a.m. every day. Children need to be in their classrooms by 9 a.m. so that they can start their lessons promptly.** Arriving at school on time and ready to learn is the best start to the day for our children.

It is important for your child to arrive at school on time if they are to get the most out of their education. Being late is disruptive for your child but also for all the other children in the class.

### **Punctuality**

5 minutes late every day means missing 3 days of school every year.

**Punctuality is continually monitored. The gates open 15 minutes before the school day begins. If your child arrives after this time, then they will be recorded as late in the register!**

Attendance is regularly monitored by the local authority **who will fine any unauthorised absences.**

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## **Expectation of children being collected at the end of each day**

We expect all parents/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.

Avenues Youth Project offer after school activities and a Walking Bus service, where they collect the children at the end of the day. Please see the information below on how to sign your child up.

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### **Whole School Uniform**

#### **School Tie (compulsory)**

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 -**

in response to parent and pupil feed back, we have decided to phase out clip on ties and replace them with elasticated ties. These are now available.

**Staff will be checking to ensure that all school uniform criteria is followed. Thank you for your support.**

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## **Important Parents' Information**

### **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 90.00%**. 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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## Look what we have been doing - Key Stage 2

Year 3 have been exploring Forces in science. We investigated which floor surfaces around the school would provide the most and least friction when we rolled a toy car down a ramp and timed how long it took to stop.

# Year 3



Our Science topic is "States of Matter". Over the last two weeks we have been studying how materials can change their state of matter. This week we have been looking at how liquids can change to a gas and that this process is called evaporation.

## Year 4

We are carrying out a comparative and fair test to see if water evaporates at a different rate in different-sized containers and whether salt water evaporates more or less quickly than tap water. Making accurate measurements was really important!



Year 5 have enjoyed the start of our swimming lessons and we can already see progress in only our second week! We have also enjoyed learning with Coach Dylan from QPR, learning all about healthy living and team work!

## Year 5

We have moved onto our second unit in Maths and we have been looking at different strategies to help us with our mental Maths and improve our fluency. We have another busy couple of weeks ahead with our trip the National Gallery on Tuesday 30th September and lots of more fun learning planned for the rest of the term!



This week, the class has taken part in an IntoUniversity workshop where they have explored the theme of Environmental Science. The

## Year 6

children have delved deeper into the areas of sustainability, climate change, activism and the potential of renewable energy sources.

There was also a wonderful trip to Kew Gardens where children learned about horticulture and the pollination process. We are proud to say that the class have represented themselves and the school beautifully all week.



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## 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)**

## 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.

## Aktivita 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.

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## Star of the Week

Congratulations to all the pupils who have received **Star of the Week - Friday 26h July 2025**

### Star of the Term:

Reception - Denis

Y1 - Cecilia

Y2 - Torrah-Leigh

Y3 - Tay'Vion

Y4 - Rhenn

Y5 - Olivia Q

Y6 - (None given this week)

### Star Reader:

Y1 - Ayda

Y2 - George

Y3 - Sarah

Y4 - Asia-Rae

Y5 - Nathaniel

Y6 - Yael

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## Term Dates 2025- 2026

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**Charles Mary**

Charles is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters