



### Dates for your diary

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**Friday 16th June - School closed for Inset day**

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**Mon 26th - Fri 30th June**  
Aspiration Week

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**Mon 3rd - Fri 7th July**  
Health Week

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**Wednesday 5th July**  
Sports Day  
(EYFS and KS1 AM / KS2 PM)

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**Wednesday 19th July 1:45**  
Leavers' Service in  
St Mary's Church

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**Thursday 20th July 1PM - End of Term**

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**Wednesday 6th September**  
Children from Year 1 to Year 6 return to school

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### FAITH

**Hebrews 11:1** *'Faith makes us sure of what we hope for and gives us proof of what we cannot see.'*

**Martin Luther King, Jr.**  
*"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."*

Respect

Peace

Love

Forgiveness

Responsibility

Faith

# St Mary's Happy News!

News for our families and friends

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

Thursday 15th June 2023

Volume 63

**"Personal Development at St Mary's is Outstanding" - Ofsted Dec 2021**

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope that you and your family remain safe and well. Firstly, I am delighted to share with you that St Mary's continues to be an extremely popular school of 'first choice' as we have again been massively over-subscribed for our Reception class places in September 2023, with over one hundred children on the waiting list. I would like to say a warm welcome to all of our new Reception class children and to their families, I look forward to meeting you all on the 22nd June at 9:30 am.

I would also like to share how proud I am of the St Mary's children who have been taking their SATS tests recently. Year 6 enjoyed a special breakfast each day before doing their best on their Reading, Grammar and Maths papers. Year 2 have also been busy with their tests, working with their class teacher in small groups. Well done to Year 1 with their Phonics and Year 4 with their Multiplication Tables Check, which have just been completed.

Thank you to our parents and school staff for making it possible for our Year 6 and some Year 5 children to attend School Journey. You will see from the [photographs on our school website](#) that the children had a fantastic time. We still have a busy term ahead full of learning and fun. In Science, our children have been carefully observing eggs hatching. We now have ducklings in our Year 2 classroom! The children have loved the range of enrichment opportunities such as trips to museums, making clay pots, cooking or learning all about pollination and closely observing a bee colony. We are all looking forward to sports day, the spelling bee competition and cooking in the curriculum.

I would like to remind you all that we still have places in our Breakfast and Enrichment clubs, so please contact the school office if you would like your child to attend. Community lies at the heart of all that we do and I am pleased to announce that St Mary's have been featured in the 'Bridge' newspaper and in the 'Lewisham Life' magazine in recognition of our Community Forest School Garden. The children gain so much from learning about the environment and developing a love for the outdoors.

During the hot weather, please can you ensure that your children wear sunscreen and bring a sun hat into school. We are ensuring that there are shady areas in the school playground, we have some sunscreen available and there is a refreshing drinks station which our children run responsibly every day.

As always, I extend my thanks to our team of staff and governors for their commitment and care for every child in our school community.

Best wishes,  
Christine Graham, Headteacher



Values-based Education  
VbE Quality Mark



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
EDUCATION OFFICE

St Mary's is an Excellent School



## KING CHARLES III CORONATION TEA PARTY

To celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III, we held a tea party at St Mary's. This colourful occasion featured flags, bunting, hand made crowns and everyone wearing red, white and blue. Every class enjoyed a picnic lunch with sandwiches, sausage rolls, cake and scones! Luckily the rain held off so that we could end the celebration with music and dancing!



### Punctuality

Thank you to the vast majority of parents who have been on time at the beginning (8:40) and end of the day (3:10). If you are late for school in the morning, you will need to sign in using the electronic screen in the school lobby. Late charges of £5 per 15 minutes apply for any child not collected by 3:30. [Late charges from Enrichment Club](#) apply from 5:45 and are £10 per 5 minutes.

### We are here to help!

If you have any concerns related to your family's wellbeing, finances or practical issues, please get in touch by emailing the school at: [admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk) or by ringing the school on **0208 6902613**.

### Homework

Please note that (apart from Maths personalised learning sheets), all homework will be delivered online. Please speak to the school if you require any support with devices or Internet access.

### School Fund

Thank you to all the parents who have already paid this vital funding, which we rely on to maintain the school premises. Please pay via Parent Pay - £30 for the year or £10 a term, sibling discounts are available.



## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Please see our website for [WHERE TO FIND HELP WITH FOODBANKS, HOLIDAY MEALS, COST OF LIVING AND FAMILY SUPPORT](#). There are more links to a range of support on the back page of this newsletter. Please speak to a member of staff if you require any additional support. [CLICK HERE FOR LOTS OF FAMILY ACTIVITIES TO ENJOY IN LEWISHAM DURING THE SUMMER](#).

### Parents' Literacy Workshops

These well attended workshops were held in each class as we welcomed our parents into the classroom. Teachers shared the children's learning in Literacy and explained the curriculum. There were also helpful ideas on how to support learning at home. Thank you to everyone who attended, please contact your child's class teacher if you have any further questions.



### Parent and Carer Language Leaders

Many of our parents, carers, pupils and staff speak languages other than English. St Mary's is proud of the diverse and multi-cultural background of our families. Sometimes when families first arrive in the UK language can be a real barrier to obtaining information and settling in. It can be very hard and isolating for parents and children. So at St Mary's we are creating a database of language leaders amongst our parents, pupils and staff so that we can quickly get help in translating conversations for newly arrived parents and children and help them to settle in quickly. Our parent language leaders appear on our website here: <https://st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk/language-leaders.html>. If you would like to be a language leader, please let Mrs Tildesley know.



### Free School Meal Vouchers

I am pleased to announce that we have arranged for a food voucher to cover the Summer holidays for all pupils who are entitled to a free school meal. I am conscious that some families may not know whether they are entitled to free school meals so we are encouraging all of our families to apply by following this link: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/student-pupil-support/free-school-meals-and-extra-support-for-your-child>

### Our Vision

**To be a learning community that promotes the unique gifts, wellbeing and potential of every person. Our work is founded on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, building on His message of equality, peace and justice, guided by His words 'As I have loved you, so you must love one another' (John 13:34).**





### Netball Stars

Our team performed with skill and determination as they played 6 matches against other schools from across Lewisham. Strong defence and fast paced attacks were the highlights as each child made amazing progress in this fun sport through competitive matches. The team were hard to beat and secured 4 draws - well done everyone!



### After School Club

Children enjoy lots of exciting Forest School activities in our after school clubs!

### Community Projects Celebration

A special worship was held for each class to share their Courageous Advocacy projects, which they have chosen to benefit the local and wider communities that our school is blessed to be a part of. We were delighted to welcome back Ladywell Ward Councillor Laura Cunningham to St Mary's, she commented *"It was so moving hearing about the local, national and international community projects the children are leading. What a special assembly full of talent, joy and kindness. I can't wait to come back and see how you are getting on. Thank you to everyone."*



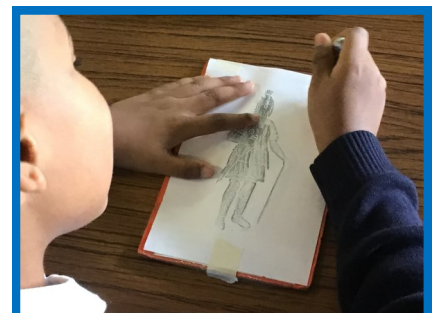
### Living Eggs

Year One had an exciting opportunity to watch chicks hatch live! We showed the values of love, respect and responsibility by feeding them and keeping their box clean for two weeks.



### Year 3 and Year 4 visit Crofton Roman Villa

Both classes had a wonderful time visiting Crofton Roman Villa as part of their learning in History. We learned from an expert about how archaeologists discovered the site and what they learned from the artefacts that were found. The children created brass rubbings of different types of Roman soldier, used tesserae to make their own mosaics and completed some observational drawings of real Roman artefacts.







### [PGL School Journey](#)

Children from Year 6 and Year 5 enjoyed a beautiful sunny week on the Isle of Wight. After the excitement of the Ferry crossing, the children settled into their cabins at 'Little Canada'. Each day they enjoyed a wide range of activities, including Sea Kayaking, Zipwire, Fencing, Climbing, Archery and Survival Skills. You can see many more photos on our [website: PGL School Journey](#).



**ST MARY'S LEWISHAM  
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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Friends of St Mary's  
email address:  
[fosm@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:fosm@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk)

**Parents news**

We welcome all parents to join the Friends of St Mary's (FOSM) and support the school with fundraising events and other ways to improve the school for our children. Email at the above address or speak to a member of staff to find out more!



**HELP AND SUPPORT FOR PARENTS AND CARERS**

**Where to find help - CLICK HERE**

Please visit a new section of our school website, which contains information and advice for all of our families:

- **Support with Domestic Abuse** - posters in several languages
- **Cost of Living Crisis** - we know that everyone is feeling the effects of the crisis, and we want to support our families that are most affected
- **Local Authority support** - help available from Lewisham Council
- **Help with feeding your family** - details of local food banks
- **Worrying about money** - advice and guidance including hardship funds
- **A warm welcome** - local spaces offering a warm and welcoming environment
- **Local organisations that support families** - directory of local services

**Mental health and Wellbeing**

Please can we ask you to keep the school up to date with any concerns you have regarding your children's mental health and wellbeing. Here are some links to places where families can find additional support:

- [Loneliness and Re-connection](#) - information and a toolkit for parents
- [Mental Health Resources](#) - links to many resources for children & parents
- [Every mind matters](#) - mental health advice from the NHS
- [Government guidance for parents and carers](#) - support with Covid-19
- [Childhood Bereavement Network](#) - support for children who have experienced the death of someone important to them

**E - Safety**

Please continue to be aware of what your child is doing online. Support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online includes:

- [National Online Safety](#) - register your St Mary's account
- [Internet matters](#) - support to keep children safe online
- [Thinkuknow](#) - advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents and carers from the NSPCC
- [Kiddle](#) and [KidRex](#) - child friendly search engines

**TERM DATES**

**Summer Term 2023**

**Monday 17th April - Friday 26th May**

**BANK HOLIDAYS - Monday 1st May and Monday 8th May**

**HALF TERM - Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June**

**Monday 5th June - Thursday 20th July**

**REPORT WRITING / LEADERSHIP AWAY DAY - Friday 16th June**

**SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR THE END OF TERM on Thursday 20th July at 1PM**

**Autumn Term 2023**

**Children return to school on Wednesday 6th September 2023**