

ST MARY'S LEWISHAM
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL



FAITH LOVE
COMMUNITY

RESPONSIBILITY

Our school value for this half-term of responsibility is especially relevant to the challenge we are all facing with the Coronavirus pandemic.

Home Learning has meant that children and parents have had to be more responsible for their own learning.

We have had a responsibility to support the crisis by keeping the school open for the children of critical workers.

At such a difficult time, one positive is the many examples we have seen of people coming closer together as communities, taking responsibility to care for one another and to look out for those most in need.

Genesis 1:27 'Fill the earth with people and look after it. Care for all that I have made.'

2 Timothy 1:7 'For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.'

Respect

Peace

Love

Forgiveness

Responsibility

Faith

St Mary's Newsletter

News for our families and friends

www.st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk

Wednesday 22nd April 2020

Volume 39

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you, your family and friends are all safe and well. All school staff and I are well. Please can I thank each of you for the amazing job you are doing in keeping your children at home. Please see further details about home learning in this newsletter and look out for the new online learning pack on our website that will be sent as a text link and email by 24/04/20.

I am delighted to inform you that we have continued to keep the school open for our critical workers and have been selected to become a Lewisham 'Hub'. Lewisham Hubs are schools that will remain open throughout the duration of the Covid 19 crisis. Hubs will also accommodate the children of critical workers from other schools when their school needs to close. This has happened to several schools in Lewisham and the staff and children from St Saviour's Primary School Lewisham have successfully moved into St Mary's Hub.

I have spoken with many of you over the past weeks and have carefully listened to your concerns about your children's education and wellbeing. I would like to reassure you that school staff and I will continue to be on hand to support you through these challenging times.

School staff will be in touch with all of our families over the next few weeks to find out how you and your children are doing. If you need to speak with us in the meantime, please telephone the school office on **0208 6902613** or email us on the following link: admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk.

Christine Bernard, Headteacher

THANK YOU NHS!!!

The children who have been attending St Mary's School decided to design and create a huge thank you to all of the NHS staff that are working so hard to save lives during the Coronavirus outbreak.



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
EDUCATION OFFICE

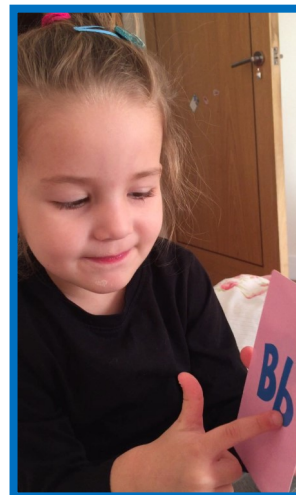
St Mary's is an Excellent School



Home Learning

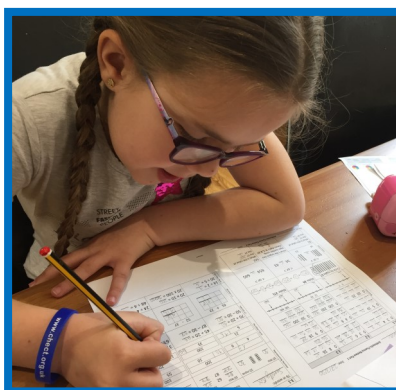
I hope that you have continued to enjoy your home schooling. Please note that the learning pack that you have already received covers three weeks of learning, the final week will be from Monday 20th April – Friday 24th April. We will be sending you details of a new home learning pack, which will contain activities for the 3 weeks beginning Monday 27th April.

This new pack will be published on our website class pages: <http://www.st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk/classes/> along with details of Useful Websites. A text message link and an email will be sent to advise you when it is published. Please ring the school with any questions regarding home learning or email admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk.



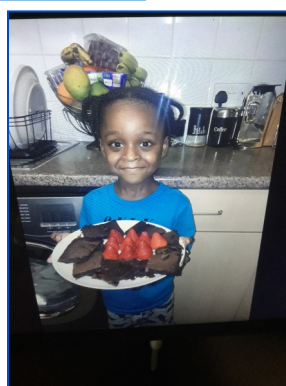
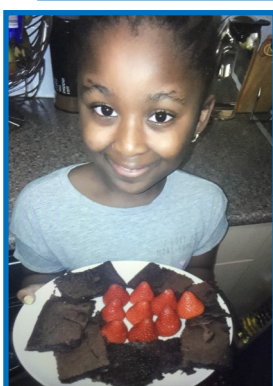
Send us your Home Learning photos!

We are setting up a weekly celebration of the children's Home Learning on the school website class pages, and so if there is anything that your child is extremely proud of, please email it to the school office, as we would love to be able to share this! The easiest way is to take a photo and send it to:



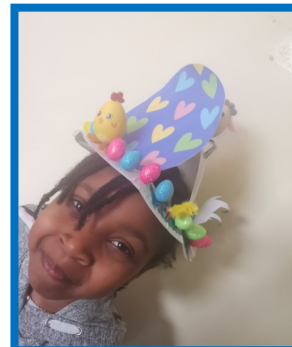
Home Learning Superstars!

Thank you to everyone for continuing to learn at home. Here are some photos of what you have been up to!



Easter Competition

We hope that you and your family enjoyed a peaceful Easter time. Thank you to everyone who took part in the Easter Egg and Bonnet competitions. All entries have been displayed on our website and congratulations to our winners, who are displayed here!



FOOD BANKS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

We appreciate that for some of our families, this is a challenging time and you may require extra support with receiving food. Please see the poster to the right, which has some contact details.

If you have any concerns, either financial or practical, about feeding your family, please get in touch with our School Home Support Worker, Marta Tildesley, by emailing the school at :

admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk

or by ringing **0208 6902613**.



AFTER 20 APRIL

You will no longer be able to collect a food parcel from Lewisham Foodbank.

If you need a food parcel please contact your referral agency who can refer you via Lewisham Local.

www.lewishamlocal.com 03330 150378
or call Citizens Advice Lewisham
0800 231 5453

www.lewisham.foodbank.org.uk

Just Giving - Food Parcels for our most vulnerable families

St Mary's school have been working closely with Citizens UK for the last 2 years in order to support community projects that make a big difference. We have been part of an Immigration Action Project and Citizenship Campaign, which won an award and included the opportunity for our children and parents to have their voices heard by the Council and Government.

In partnership with Citizens UK, we wanted to provide some practical help for families in our local community. At this challenging time, we know that our most vulnerable families will require extra support, including food parcels. Anything you give will make a real difference, please donate at:

<https://justgiving.com/fundraising/lewisham-citizens>



Spring flowers at Easter time

It brightened our day to receive this picture from Marion, a lay reader at St Mary's Church. Children from our school planted Spring bulbs in the Church grounds in 2018, and on Easter Sunday they produced a wonderful display of flowers. Well done to all of the children who are helping to improve our local community.



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).



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

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Street, SE13 6NX

Phone: 020 8690 2613
E-mail: admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk

Friends of St Mary's
email address:
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!

There are many exciting and educational trips booked for each class, why not volunteer to join us on the visits?

We continue to welcome parents into the school to read with your child every morning at 8:45.



HELP AND SUPPORT FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

E - Safety

Please continue to be aware of what your child is doing online, especially at this time when they may be spending extra time learning and socialising online. Support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online includes:

- [Internet matters](#) - support to keep children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) - support for parents and carers from the NSPCC
- [Parent info](#) - 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
- [Kiddle](#) and [KidRex](#) - child friendly search engines

Mental health and Wellbeing

Please can I ask you to keep the school up to date with any concerns you have regarding your children's mental health and wellbeing. If your child is finding it hard to cope with the changes to their lives, or a family member is ill or has died, please let us know. St Mary's school are here to work with you to support our children's emotional needs in any way that we can. Here are some links to places where families can find additional support:

- [Every mind matters](#) - mental health advice from the NHS including a section on looking after children during the coronavirus outbreak
- [Government guidance for parents and carers](#) - supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing
- [Corona virus guide for children](#) - this guide has been produced for Autistic children and offers a simple and visual guide to what is happening
- [How to wash your hands safely](#) - BBC Newsround video
- [Children's Commissioner](#) - a guide for children and links to resources
- [Childhood Bereavement Network](#) - support around dealing with the coronavirus pandemic for all children, specifically those that have experienced the death of someone important to them

Free School Meal Vouchers

Many of our families received an Asda food voucher from St Mary's because their children are eligible for a free school meal. The government have recently announced a 'term time' £15 food voucher scheme for all pupils who are entitled to a free school meal. We will send these out to eligible families at the beginning of the summer term. 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>

In addition to the government term-time vouchers, I personally made the decision to provide additional support, recognising the challenge that many of our families face at this time. St Mary's school provided weekly £10 vouchers during the Easter holidays for each child who is entitled to a free school meal.

Newsletter by email: If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, please email us and let us know at admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk