



Dates for your diary

~ ~ ~

Thursday 1st -

Friday 16th April

**SCHOOL CLOSED -
EASTER HOLIDAYS**

~ ~ ~

Monday 19th April

**All children return to school
for the Summer term**

~ ~ ~

Week beginning Monday

26th April - Book Week

~ ~ ~

Monday 3rd May

**SCHOOL CLOSED -
BANK HOLIDAY**

~ ~ ~

Thursday 6th May

**SCHOOL CLOSED -
POLLING STATION**

~ ~ ~

FORGIVENESS

John 10:11 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.'

"The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong." Mahatma Gandhi

"Forgiveness says you are given another chance to make a new beginning." Desmond Tutu

Respect

Peace

Love

Forgiveness

Responsibility

Faith

St Mary's Happy News!

News for our families and friends

www.st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk

Thursday 1st April 2021

Volume 46

Dear Parents and Carers,



It was wonderful to welcome all children back to school, they are enjoying learning and being with their friends and teachers.

I would like to thank our parents for your support in our decision making throughout the pandemic. Since school closures were announced over a year ago, we have only closed one bubble for one day. This is a positive reflection of how we have all played our part in keeping infection levels down and keeping our school community safe.

At St Mary's, we are focused on our children's wellbeing and equipping them with the skills to build their confidence as learners. Through our recovery curriculum, we will help them to learn in different ways to support gaps in their learning. I would like to personally thank our families for your contribution to your child's education. Our data shows that we have had a 92% engagement in home and online learning, from all pupils.

You will see from the photographs, that the children really enjoyed a fun filled Science Day, where they developed their scientific enquiry skills and were able to predict and draw conclusions from what they had learnt.



Thank you to Fr Steve who led Holy week worship, where the children journeyed through Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. In worship, they shared their profound reflections about this special time for Christians. All children had time to reflect in the spiritual garden at the end of the service.



Our annual Easter bonnet and model competition was amazing. We had some superb entries which made it impossible for our staff to judge. You will see the lucky winners in this newsletter, but all of our children are winners in our eyes.

I wish you all the love, hope and blessings of the Easter season and look forward to our children and families returning in the summer term.

Best wishes, Christine Bernard



**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
EDUCATION OFFICE**

St Mary's is an Excellent School



Happy Easter!

The children brightened up the day on Wednesday as they dressed in colourful clothes to celebrate Spring-time. We raised nearly £200 to donate to the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Appeal. The fundraising will support charities in Zimbabwe, Jerusalem and several projects in the Diocese of Southwark.



Easter Competition Winners!

Congratulations to every child who took part in our Easter Bonnet and Easter Egg competitions. The standard of the entries was extremely high and we are blessed to have such creative children and families.



We are here to help!

If you have any concerns related to your family's wellbeing, finances or practical issues, 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 the school on **0208 6902613** or Mrs Tildesley on **07811 997648**.



If you require a referral to Lewisham foodbank at any time, please contact Mrs Tildesley.

www.lewisham.foodbank.org.uk



Reminder - Lunch Choices

Please can we remind parents that we ask you to make a commitment each half-term to choosing either school dinners or a packed lunch for your child. If you wish to change your child's option for the next half-term, please contact the school office. Once your choice has been made, we ask you to stick to this every day.

Easter Worship

It was lovely to be joined in school by Father Steve, who led each bubble in a special Easter worship. The children reflected on the main events of Holy Week and the message of Christ's crucifixion, his death as a forgiveness for our sins and his resurrection. We created an Easter garden in our Spiritual garden, which provided a space for prayer and reflection.



EU Settlement Scheme - Deadline fast approaching!

If you or any member of your family (including children) have an EU passport or ID card you must apply to the EU Settlement Scheme by 30th June 2021 to keep your residence rights. This is really important and we can help you with the online process. Please contact either Mrs Tildesley through school or e-mail Alison East from the Coram Children's Legal Centre (Alison.East@coramclc.org.uk) who is happy to help with this or any other immigration/ settlement/ citizenship issues you may have.



Free School Meal Vouchers

I am pleased to announce that we have arranged for a food voucher to cover the Easter 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).

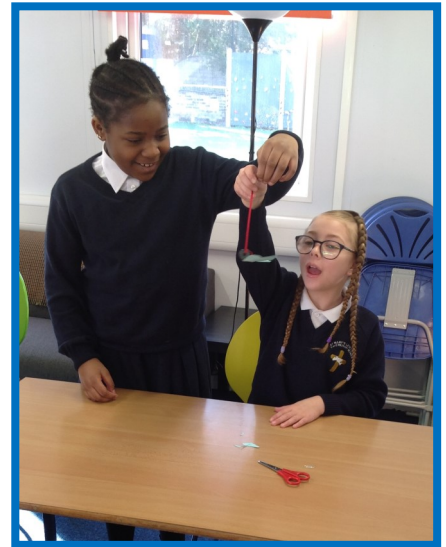


Science Day!

Each class took part in four exciting investigations throughout the day on Tuesday 30th March. Highlights included making paper,



motorised cars, coke bottle volcanoes, fun with magnets, making slime, investigating sweets, designing an ice garden, rescuing frozen dinosaurs, making water filters, investigating plants and planting seeds in recycled paper plant pots.



School Council stop the traffic!

You may have spotted some new signs in Romborough Way to encourage parents to park elsewhere, to make the road safer for children crossing and waiting outside school. Only 4 people out of 12 on the school council currently walk to school. 9 said they could walk to school if they left a little earlier. Imagine if that was replicated on a whole school scale where three quarters of us walked to school! The School Council have decided that they will be starting a new campaign called **Walk to School** to encourage everyone to walk, scoot or cycle to school. This not only helps improve safety and pollution but also makes us all fitter and healthier which can only be a good thing. Now that the weather is getting brighter and warmer why don't you try walking to school?



Have you received a bill for treatment at Queen Elizabeth Hospital or Lewisham Hospital but can't afford to pay?

The Lewisham and Greenwich Trust has set up an independent panel to look at the Trust's charging policy.

Tell Healthwatch your experience and help to improve the care and treatment of patients not eligible for free NHS services.

Your name will not appear in any documents and you will not be identified.

Interviews take up to an hour and can be done remotely. We will give you £50 as a thank you for your time.

For more information call 020 8301 8340 or text 07903685534
Email info@healthwatchgreenwich.co.uk or find us on social media.

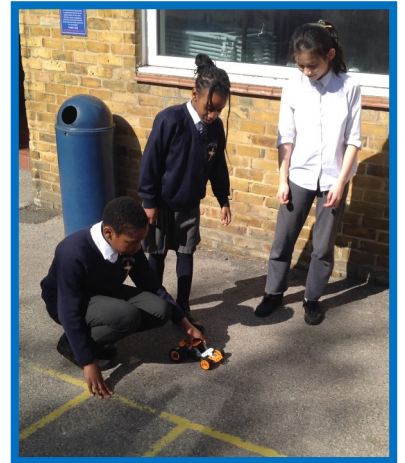
healthwatch
Greenwich



Home Learning Ideas

As well as the activities planned by our teachers for the Easter holidays, remember that there are lots of other fun home learning ideas:

- Cooking includes lots of Maths, Literacy and Science learning
- Write a letter to a special person in your life - they will really appreciate receiving it
- Enjoy lots of books, songs and rhymes together
- Play board games together or make up your own
- Talk to your child
- Go for a daily walk - fresh air and exercise is good for everyone
- Look out for signs of Spring - it gets a little lighter every day, spring flowers and bulbs are coming out, blossom is forming on the trees and the birds are singing



Message of thanks received from Ghana

We have donated several computers to our link school in Ghana and we received this lovely message from one of the students:

*"I feel so humble to write to you, expressing my firm gratitude for the amazing gift I received, it's quite overwhelming to feel loved. I write to appreciate you for the gift of a Computer. I am in my second year of senior high school, and at first, it was very difficult as a student to study only theory aspect of I.C.T. without practicals, and also not able to explore in different fields of study through online platforms. I assure you that providing me with this opportunity will not be wasted. I cannot thank you enough for giving me a leg up in starting this new phase of my life, thank you for supporting me in this regard. I am truly aware that your reward is great in heaven.
Love, Atoore Pascal."*

Science Day 2021

EXPLORE

INVESTIGATE

CONCLUDE

HYPOTHESISE

PREDICT

CREATE

OBSERVE

EXPERIMENT

DESCRIBE

QUESTION

COMPARE

IDENTIFY





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

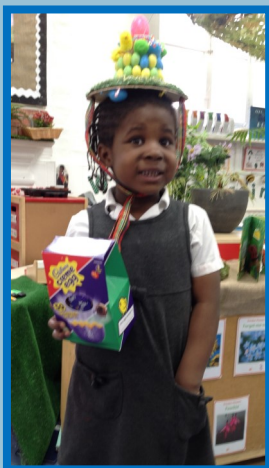
329 Lewisham High
Street, SE13 6NX

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!



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 we 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:

- [Loneliness and Re-connection](#) - information and a toolkit for parents about what loneliness is and what help can be found
- [Mental Health Resources](#) - the Department for Education have provided this webpage with links to many resources for children and parents
- [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

TERM DATES

EASTER HOLIDAYS - Thursday 1st April - Friday 16th April

Summer Term 1 2021

Monday 19th April - Friday 28th May

MAY DAY Bank Holiday - Monday 3rd May

POLLING DAY - Thursday 6th May

HALF TERM - Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June

Summer Term 2 2021

Monday 7th June - Wednesday 21st July

INSET DAYS - Friday 18th June / Monday 5th July / Thursday 22nd July