



Dates for your diary

Monday 17th April
All children return to school
~ ~ ~

Tuesday 18th April 9AM
Worries and Anxiety -
Parent's Coffee Morning
~ ~ ~

Mon 1st May - Bank Holiday
~ ~ ~

Wed 3rd May 9AM
May Day worship in School
~ ~ ~

Mon 8th May - Bank Holiday
~ ~ ~

Tue 9th - Fri 12th May
Year 6 SATS week
~ ~ ~

Tue 23rd May 9AM
Parents' literacy workshops
~ ~ ~

Wed 24th May 9AM
Pentecost and Eucharist
worship in St Mary's Church
~ ~ ~

HALF TERM 29/05 - 02/06

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

Respect
Love
Responsibility
Peace
Forgiveness
Faith

St Mary's Happy News!

News for our families and friends

www.st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk

Monday 3rd April 2023

Volume 62

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

Dear Parents & Carers,

I would like to thank our wonderful children for their hard work throughout the term. They have enjoyed learning from an enriching and creative curriculum and I am proud of their achievements and progress. I am delighted to announce that St Mary's has achieved an RE Quality Mark Gold Award in recognition of the schools high quality teaching and learning and curriculum. Well done to Miss Egunjobi for all her hard work to achieve the award. It was an honour for St Mary's to celebrate the Grand Opening of our Community Forest School. We had the pleasure of welcoming many guests, including the Bishop Karowei as well as the Mayor of Lewisham, who officially opened our Community Forest School Garden.



During the term, we have enjoyed many special events which bring our curriculum to life. Our world book week was a huge success and our children were thrilled to meet an author who read his book Hugasaurus and he spoke to the children about his journey to become an author. The highlight of the week was our dress up day and reading breakfast. Many parents joined us to share stories with their children in the hall before school.

Thank you to all parents who attended your child's consultation meetings. I know that many of you were impressed by the progress that your children have made and the feedback from staff. A further meeting is scheduled for those parents who could not make the original date.

I am excited to announce that the first edition of our school newspaper written entirely by our children is due to be published when we return.

I am hugely grateful to our school governors who give their time freely to attend meetings and events to support and lead the school. Thank you to our staff for their hard work and commitment to ensuring that our children receive the very best education.

On behalf of the staff and governors at St Mary's Primary School, I would like to wish all of our children a lovely holiday. Particularly, our Year 6 children who will be sitting the SATs exams after Easter.

I am wishing you all a very happy and peaceful Easter.

Best wishes, Christine Graham



FOREST SCHOOL BLESSING AND OFFICIAL OPENING



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 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 EASTER HOLIDAYS](#).



Easter Fayre

Thanks to everyone who supported the event, especially the many generous donations of cakes. The Fayre was organised by our children's Faith Group and raised over £200 for the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Appeal!



Free School Meal Vouchers

I am pleased to announce that we have arranged for a £30 food voucher to cover the Easter holiday 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).



Book Week

Once again, St Mary's enjoyed a fabulous week enjoying and celebrating books and reading. Our focus this year was fairytales. The highlight of the week was a visit from local Author James Allen - who signed copies of his book 'Hugasaurus' for the children as well as giving them tips on how to become an Author.

Other events included a Teacher Swap as each class enjoyed books from a surprise visiting teacher! A Reading Banquet offered the children a captivating menu of books to enjoy. Finally, the week was rounded off in style with our 'Dress Up Day'.



Chinese New Year

St Mary's celebrated the Year of the Rabbit with support from our families from our Chinese community. A group of parents kindly prepared a wide range of delicious home-cooked Chinese dishes, which were enjoyed by all of the children (and staff!). The parents also led Chinese craft workshops as the children learned calligraphy, lantern making and paper design. Every class took part in a Dragon Dance lesson; the children loved to learn a new dance technique!



**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

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