



FAITH

Our school value for this half-term of faith 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 have faith in their ability to learn at home.

We have had faith in our critical workers and we have kept the school open for their children to enable them to continue the marvellous work they are doing.

At such a difficult time, one positive is the many examples we have seen of people coming closer together as communities, having faith that they can make a difference.

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 Newsletter

News for our families and friends

www.st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk



Friday 5th June 2020

Volume 40

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your family remain safe and well. All school staff and our families are well. I would like to extend a warm thank you to our dedicated staff team and governors who have continued to support our children, families and community during this difficult time.

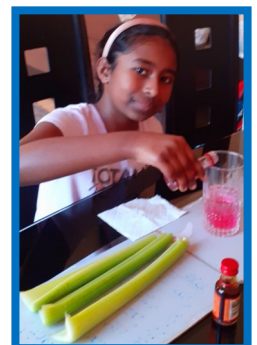


I would also like to thank you all for your kind words of support and the appreciation that you have shown us during this challenging time. I have been overwhelmed by your commitment to educating your children at home by undertaking the activities in the home learning packs and including some of your own ideas. We all love the photos of home learning that you have emailed to us and all of the creative opportunities that you have provided for your children - please see them celebrated on the school website.

As always, St Mary's has been busily supporting our local community. We have been involved in creating and delivering food parcels to families in need, as well as visiting families (from a distance) with play packs for children. Children have made lovely rainbows for our local bakery, hospital and home for the elderly, to place in their windows for the community to enjoy. We have also ensured that children have devices to use for their home learning and have now given over 30 laptops to families in need. We still have a few laptops in school, so if you need one, please contact the school office.

The school will continue to be open every day for our children of critical workers and vulnerable families. From Monday 15th June, our Year 1 children will be invited to attend school every week. There will be a deep clean and review every Friday. The review will enable us to reflect on the health, safety and well-being of our children; how the increase in pupil numbers is going and whether we are in a position to invite more children to attend.

Thank you for continuing to support us and our school community during this difficult time. I deeply look forward to the day when I can welcome you all back to school and celebrate our school community.



Christine Bernard, Headteacher



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
EDUCATION OFFICE

St Mary's is an Excellent School



Prayers and blessings from Fr Steve, Fr Steffan and St Mary's church

It's been a difficult and anxious time for everyone, but I'm glad the school can now begin to reopen, carefully and safely. Our church doors have been closed, but our prayers and services continue daily through the church website and facebook. We have been praying for everyone at St Mary's school, staff, children and your families. I hope you have all kept safe and well through this terrible illness. In some ways we have drawn closer together through this, more united in prayer and love. We hope St Mary's church can open soon for times of private prayer. We are told it might be July before we can open the church for our services again. As soon as we can open our church we will let you know and we will plan thanksgiving services as well as times to remember those who have died.

We are all grateful to Ms Bernard and her team for all the care, planning and teaching they are doing through all these problems: **YOU ARE ALL STARS!**

We look forward to seeing you in school and in church in the weeks ahead.

With every blessing for your continuing safety and health.

Take care and God Bless - Fr Steve

PS Fr Steffan will leave us in July to become vicar at St Peter's church in Streatham – HORRAY and boo hoo!



St Mary's campaign for an end to NRPF

We are very proud of our children, parents and staff who continue to campaign and fight for equality and equal opportunity for all. St Mary's continue to work closely with Citizens UK to ensure that our voice is heard and that we achieve real change. We have joined a new campaign, building on our previous success in enabling thousands of NRPF families to access Free School Meals:



Nobody should be left behind – not now, not ever! Time to end NRPF for good

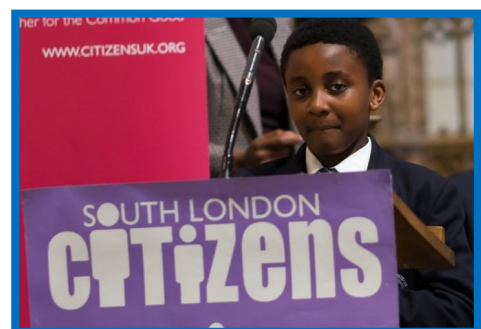


Covid-19 has shone a brighter light on the injustices that many migrants face. Many of our neighbours are unable to access government help because of where they were born, and the immigration papers they have. This is because of a government policy called No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) that denies people living and working in the UK crucial forms of support from the government. Without assistance like Universal Credit and housing benefit, many people – including 100,000 children – are feeling stranded and left without a safety net.

Please follow this link to find out more about the campaign:

<https://www.citizensuk.org/endnrpf>

As you will see, St Mary's children are featured prominently; they are 'agents of change' and they know that their voices will be heard and they can make a difference!



Inclusion Quality Mark - Centre of Excellence

You will be proud to learn that on Friday 22nd May we were involved in an Inclusion Quality Mark Centre of Excellence assessment and review day. The day was led by an external assessor, Mary Hewitson from Hertfordshire. This required the school to set up a series of 10 separate zoom meetings over an entire school day which involved myself, senior leaders, our School Home Support worker, class teachers, support staff, governors and parents. I would like to say a huge thank you to our amazing SENDCO Mrs Maseko for doing a wonderful job with organising and structuring the day. The report is now available to view on our website.

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>



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.



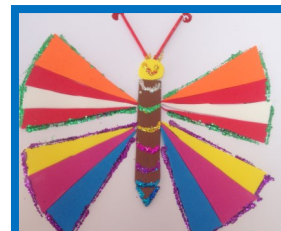
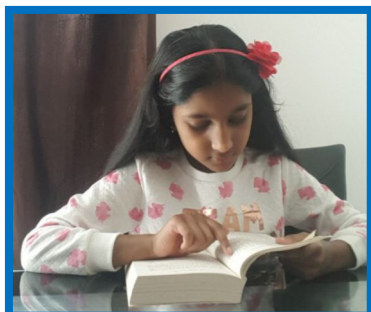
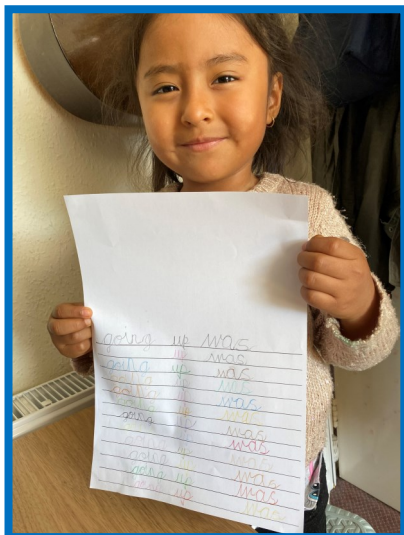
Our Vision

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).



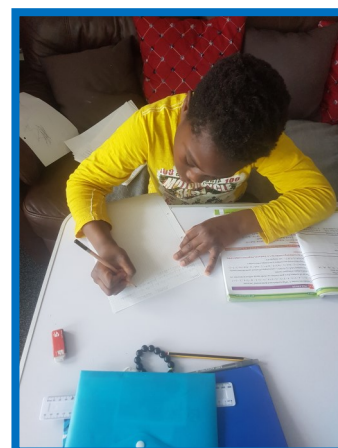
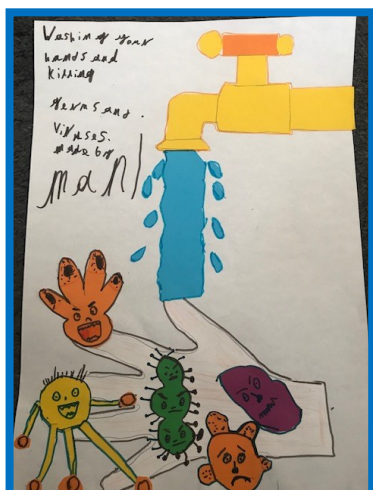
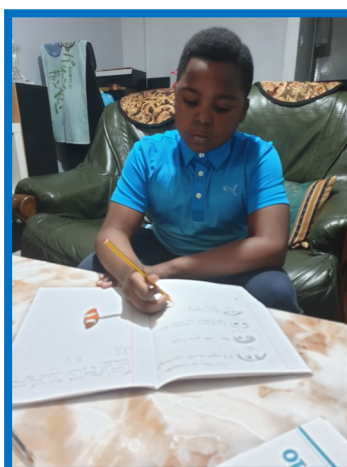
Home Learning

I hope that you have continued to enjoy your home schooling. All home learning packs, including the latest one published on 1st June (covering home learning up until 19th June) continue to be published on our website class pages: <http://www.st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk/classes/> along with details of Useful Websites. 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 have loved receiving the wonderful photos of children's Home Learning that we have published on the school website class pages. The children have enjoyed sharing their learning and seeing what their friends have been doing. 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: admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk.

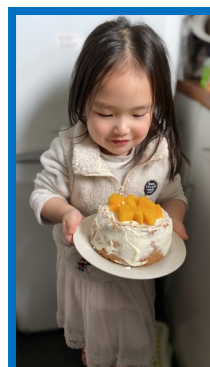
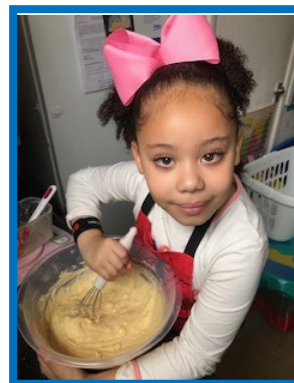
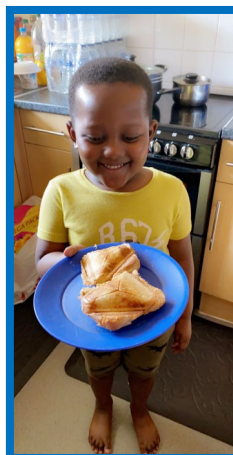
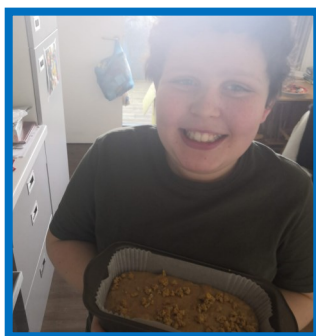
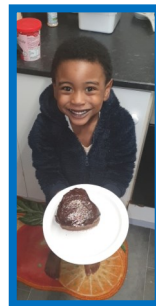




The Great St Mary's Bake Off 2020!

We have been so excited to learn that many of our children have been developing their creative baking skills whilst at home. Cooking is a great activity that promotes:

- Quality family time together
- Speaking and Listening skills
- Physical development - pouring, mixing, cutting, rolling...
- Learning about healthy eating and trying a range of new foods
- Literacy - Reading and Writing instructions
- Maths - measuring amounts and ratios
- Science - reversible and irreversible changes
- Saving money when compared to buying ready meals or takeaways
- A delicious meal at the end that all of the family can enjoy together!



**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!

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 continue to receive Asda food vouchers from St Mary's because their children are eligible for a free school meal. We sent the latest vouchers out to eligible families at the beginning of this half-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 and half-term 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