



Dates for your diary

Thu 16th November PM

Parents Evening

~ ~ ~

Fri 17th November

Children in Need Own
Clothes day and odd socks

~ ~ ~

INSET DAY Friday 24/11

SCHOOL CLOSED

~ ~ ~

Wed 29th November 9:00

Advent & Eucharist Worship

St Mary's Church

~ ~ ~

Thu 7th December 1:45

KS1 and EYFS Nativity show

~ ~ ~

Fri 8th December 3:10

Christmas Fayre

~ ~ ~

Thu 14th December 2:00

KS2 Candlelit Carol Service

St Mary's Church

~ ~ ~

END OF TERM 21/12 1PM

**CHILDREN RETURN TO
SCHOOL ON TUE 9TH JAN**

PEACE

Isaiah 9: 2-6 *'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light... for unto us a child is born... and his name shall be called Wonderful, Mighty God, the Prince of Peace.'*

Respect

Peace

Love

Forgiveness

Responsibility

Faith

St Mary's Happy News!

News for our families and friends

www.st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk

Friday 10th November 2023

Volume 65

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our children have settled in to the term well and are enjoying the rich experiences of going on trips and visits to enhance their curriculum learning. We value all the support that you give to children with their home learning, this has a strong impact on the progress that they make. We are looking forward to seeing you at parents evening where we can celebrate



the children's progress and share the next steps in their learning. Thank you to Fr Steve for welcoming the children and their families to St Mary's Church as they received their first communion following several weeks of studying which was kindly led by Fr Max. Some members of the school choir and the



communicants joined St Mary's adult choir as they led the congregation in hymns. The school has successfully applied for a generous grant from the Lewisham Essentials Fund to provide items to families in significant need. We will be sending out a survey for families to apply for support. A huge thank you to all of our families who attended the recent Friends of St Mary's (FOSM) Annual General meeting. Over 30 parents were present and we were able to appoint: Natreema Adjaye as Chair, Dionne Burrell as Vice Chair and Ayodele Lauck as Treasurer. There are still lots of ways that our parents can help to raise

vital funds to support the school. Please can we ask you to contribute to our bottles and gift stall for the Christmas Fayre. Please drop your donations in to the school office by the end of November. Please can I remind you to ensure that your children come into school with the correct uniform and PE kit. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of your school fund payments. We look forward to seeing you at the many exciting Christmas events coming up over the next few weeks. Thank you to you all and our school governors for continuing to work in partnership with us.

Christine Graham, Headteacher



Values-based Education
VbE Quality Mark



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
EDUCATION OFFICE

St Mary's is an Excellent School



Harvest Worship

Father Max led us in a very special Harvest worship as we gave thanks for all that we have in the world. Thank you to all of our families, who very generously donated a record breaking amount of food and toiletries, especially given the challenging times we are living in. During the worship, Father Max taught us how bread is made before blessing a very special harvest loaf, kindly baked by one of our School Governors, Kate Riches. Back at school, every child in our school community was offered a delicious piece of the Harvest loaf.



Prayer Day

St Mary's Church and Therapeutic Garden were the perfect setting for a day of Prayer, Reflection and Peace. Many thanks to Marion and Wendy from the Church, for supporting the event to ensure that everything ran smoothly. Each child in the school enjoyed 4 activities (linked to our School Values) planned and led by the Children's Faith Group.



Teddy Bears' Picnic

Year 1 and 2 travelled with some special friends to the therapeutic garden in St Mary's Church. They took their favourite Teddy Bears for a wonderful Reading Picnic. As the children munched on jam sandwiches, their teachers shared some of their favourite stories with them. Huge thanks to all of the parents who joined us and enjoyed sharing their favourite books with small groups of children. We know our children love stories, so please keep reading at home!



Year 2 learn about Baptism

Father Steve welcomed our Year 2 class to St Mary's Church as they learned all about Baptism. We are blessed to have the Church building and our Clergy team to support our learning.



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.](#)

Uniform Reminders

Please ensure that your child comes to school dressed correctly. Shoes should be plain black and PE kit should be a plain white t-shirt and plain navy/black jogging bottoms with plain black plimsols/trainers. Children should not wear any jewellery to school other than plain stud earrings. Hair should be a natural colour.

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 ParentPay - £30 for the year or £10 a term. Sibling discounts are available.

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**.

Free School Meal Vouchers

We have continued to provide food vouchers to cover the school 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>



Parent Workshops

Our Community Hub continues to host a range of meetings and workshops to support our families in many areas of life. A workshop focusing on transitions to Secondary schools was well attended and informative. Feedback from our 8 week 'Being A Parent' classes has been extremely positive!



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).



SCHOOL JOURNEY TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Children from Year 6 and Year 5 enjoyed an amazing 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 Dragon Boating, Zipwire, Fencing, Climbing, Archery and Survival Skills. You can see many more photos on our website: [PGL School Journey](#).



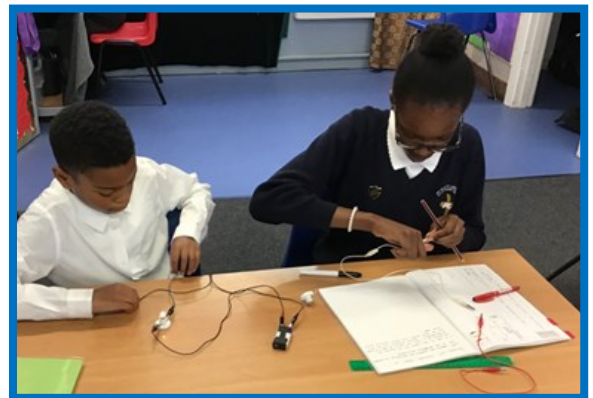
Forest School News

Our children continue to enjoy exploring our Forest School garden. Children from Year 3 visited to support their learning in Literacy, gathering resources to build story settings. Our weekly 'Forest Friends' club for pre-school children and their parents / carers continues to be well-attended, why not join them every Wednesday from 8:45—9:45?



Year 6 learn about electrical circuits

The children used batteries, wires and lights to design and build circuits to solve a range of real-life problems in their Science lessons.



Year 3 and 4 visit the Natural History Museum

As part of their learning in Geography and Science, the children journeyed by train and tube to South Kensington in order to learn more about Earthquakes and Volcanoes.



Year 3 explore numbers and calculations

In Maths, Year 3 have been using resources to explore 3 digit numbers. The children used numicon, cubes, place value counters and dienes to represent numbers. They extended their learning by finding 1, 10 and 100 more and less, as well as adding and subtracting the numbers. Finally, they learned how to exchange. We use physical resources to help us draw pictures and then ultimately to solve number problems using formal written methods.

**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

Autumn Term 2023

Monday 30th October - Thursday 21st December

INSET - SCHOOL CLOSED - Friday 24th November

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY - Friday 22nd December - Friday 5th January

Spring Term 2024

Tuesday 9th January - Friday 9th February

INSET - SCHOOL CLOSED - Monday 8th January

HALF TERM - Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February

Monday 19th February - Thursday 28th March

EASTER HOLIDAY - Friday 29th March - Friday 12th April