



Dates for your diary

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**Monday 15th February 2021
- Friday 19th February 2021**

**HALF TERM
SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL
CHILDREN AND NO HOME
LEARNING DURING
HALF TERM**

~ ~ ~

**Monday 22nd February
INSET DAY
SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL
CHILDREN AND NO ONLINE
SESSIONS**

~ ~ ~

LOVE

In these challenging times,
let us reflect on the words of
Jesus 'Love the Lord your
God and Love your
neighbour as yourself.'

1 Corinthians 13 'Love is
patient and kind; love is not
selfish nor quick tempered;
love is always supportive,
loyal, hopeful and trusting;
love never fails; love doesn't
keep a record of wrongs that
others do.'

"Darkness cannot drive out
darkness; only light can do
that. Hate cannot drive out
hate; only love can do that."
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Respect

Peace

Love

Forgiveness

Responsibility

Faith

St Mary's Happy News!

News for our families and friends

www.st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk

Friday 12th February 2021

Volume 44

Dear Parents and Carers,

Whilst I was delighted to welcome the critical worker and vulnerable children back to school this term, we have all missed the vast majority of children who have been learning from home. I am hopeful for the return of all pupils in March and await the Government's announcement for the full opening of schools. The Covid-19 Pandemic has been far reaching and I am aware that some members of our school community have lost close relatives and friends. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of our families during this difficult time.



I would like to extend a warm thank you to all of our families for supporting your child's education over the past 6 weeks. I have spoken with many parents and I know that it has been a huge challenge to balance home schooling with the demands of work and day to day life. I am deeply appreciative of what you have achieved and I know that it has not been easy. We have secured some exciting employment training opportunities for our parents, please find more details on Page 5 of this newsletter.

I am sure that you will join me in also thanking our class teachers and support staff for doing an amazing job with the remote learning provision. They have all worked relentlessly and have spent many hours planning, setting up online learning platforms, making home learning resource packs, delivering live lessons and making wellbeing phone calls. I have enjoyed the lovely photographs that you have sent in of your children's learning. I was delighted to see that many children took part in our annual poetry competition. The standards were very high this year with many children delivering a polished performance.

I acknowledge the huge efforts our children are making with accessing school from home, our children are motivated to learn and engaged. Thank you children for persevering with home schooling, you have done your best and you haven't given up, so well done! Last week, reception class was our first class to have 100% engagement from the children learning at home. Our engagement is going up week on week and that wouldn't happen without support from our whole school community. Please can I say a huge thank you to those parents who have supported our Laptops for Learning fundraising - there is still time to contribute and you can find more details on Page 3.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to our Governors, Premises, Kitchen and Office staff who have worked behind the scenes to keep our school open and operating smoothly.

Best wishes, Miss Bernard



St Mary's is an Excellent School



Home Learning Superstars!

We are so proud of the wonderful learning that our amazing children have created at home. In this Happy News publication, we have included some of the photos you have shared. Please continue to send photos of your home learning to admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk. All pictures will be published on the [school website](#) (Classes / Learning Blog) - please take a look and see what your friends have been doing!



Story Time at St Mary's

[Follow this link](#) and grab your favourite Teddy, snuggle up under a blanket and settle down to enjoy these lovely stories, read by our staff:

- 'You can't take an elephant on the bus', read by Miss Baxter
- 'Adiye Handa', read by Mrs Kuku
- 'Chicken in the Kitchen', read by Mr Wright
- 'Sky in the pie', a poem read by Miss Henry

Remote Education Provision and Home School Agreement

We have published this document on our website, which provides clarity and transparency to pupils, parents and carers about what to expect during periods of full or partial school closure. A Home School Agreement is included within this document, which summarises our expectations of children and parents/carers whilst learning online. [Please follow this link](#) to read the document and contact the school office if you have any comments or queries.



Well done to our Parents

Thank you to all of our parents and carers - you are doing a great job in supporting your child's learning. We know it's not easy, so please celebrate every piece of learning that you and your child have achieved. Keep the learning fun, break it down into manageable chunks and take regular breaks.

Home Learning Ideas

As well as the activities planned by our teachers, 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



Free School Meal Vouchers

I am pleased to announce that we have arranged for a £15 Asda food voucher for all pupils who are entitled to a free school meal. We are in the process of accessing this voucher and will send them out to eligible families this week. 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>

Fund Raising—Laptops for Learning

To ensure every family has access to a laptop/computer and the internet during school closures, we have set up this fund raising page: <https://www.rocketfund.org/laptops-for-learning-internet-for-all> The government have provided 29 laptops. We have 240 pupils in the school. We need your help to assist those families who are really in need, to ensure that all children can access Home Learning during school closures. Please help in whatever way you can either by donating or sharing this link. Thank you!

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).



Pancake Day!

It will be Shrove Tuesday on the 16th of February. This is the day before Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent in the Christian calendar. Traditionally, as Lent is a time of reflection and giving things up, pancakes were cooked on the day before to use up some of the ingredients. Why not make your own pancakes at home this year, following this simple recipe. We would love to see some photos of your delicious treats!

Ingredients

- 100g plain flour
- 2 large eggs
- 300ml milk
- 1 tbsp sunflower or vegetable oil, plus a little extra for frying
- lemon wedges to serve (optional)
- caster sugar to serve (optional)



Method

STEP 1

Put 100g plain flour, 2 large eggs, 300ml milk, 1 tbsp sunflower or vegetable oil and a pinch of salt into a bowl or large jug, then whisk to a smooth batter.

STEP 2

Set aside for 30 mins to rest if you have time, or start cooking straight away.

STEP 3

Set a medium frying pan or crêpe pan over a medium heat and carefully wipe it with some oiled kitchen paper.

STEP 4

When hot, cook your pancakes for 1 min on each side until golden, keeping them warm in a low oven as you go.

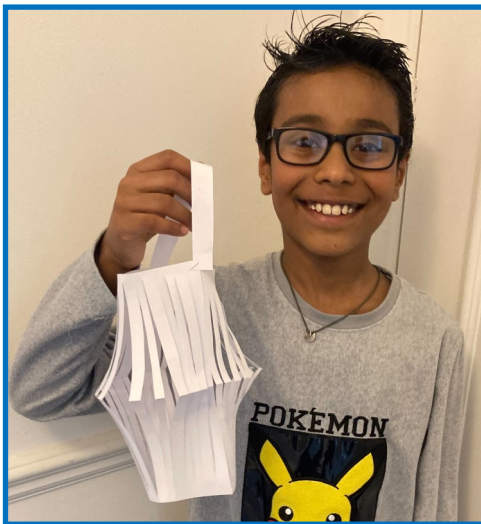
STEP 5

Serve with lemon wedges and caster sugar, or your favourite filling. Once cold, you can layer the pancakes between baking parchment, then wrap in cling film and freeze for up to 2 months.

Online Training Courses for Parents/Carers

We are excited to be able to share with you these exciting training opportunities. St Mary's School recognise that many of our parents will be facing challenges and uncertainty at this time regarding their employment opportunities. We have therefore identified and paid for these short courses, which you are welcome to attend online and will support you with developing your skills and experience. The courses below will be delivered online by iHASCO and are all approved. Please contact the school office at admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk in order to book a place.

- Food Safety and Hygiene Training Level 1
- Food Safety and Hygiene Training Level 2
- Food Safety and Hygiene Training Level 3
- Food Allergy Awareness Training
- Manual Handling Training
- Ladder Safety Training
- Lone Working in the Workplace (personal safety) Training



The Storm

Boom.
Captive blue sky, slowly like a snake starts to fade.
Calm seas turn into evil menace while huge skies turn as dark as the night,
The horrible thunder was a volcano erupting in the distance,
Terrified travellers leap across the tremendously wet deck,
The sailors wonder if they will live or sadly die.
The storm is like a beast,
Loud as a thousand drums, the mesmerising lightning smashes on the splintered ship,
A blue beam, bright as the boiling hot sun.
The masts and sails light up like a Christmas tree,
Thunder roars like a lion,
Formidable winds brush up sails like a twister.
Daggers fall from the pitch black sky,
The waves get bigger swishing right and left.
Felt like they were a fern
Bittersweet and curious if the storm will ever return.

Poetry Competition

We were amazed by the incredibly high standard of the entries that we received this year. Despite the children having to perform in online sessions, each child that learned a poem (or wrote their own) was brilliant and we are so proud of them. Thank you to everyone who sent entries to the school either as a video or audio file. We will be publishing these on the website, along with some of the poems that the children wrote. It's not too late to take part - please send your contributions to admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk.

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

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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

Remote Education

Please follow this link to read our [Remote Education Policy](#), which explains how St Mary's will deliver Home Learning and the Curriculum that will be taught. This includes our Remote Learning **Home School Agreement**.

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:

- [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

Spring Term 2021

Monday 4th January - Friday 12th February

HALF TERM - Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February

INSET DAY - Monday 22nd February

Tuesday 23rd February - Wednesday 31st March

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

Summer Term 2021

Monday 19th April - Friday 28th May

MAY DAY Bank Holiday - Monday 3rd May

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

Monday 7th June - Wednesday 21st July

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