



Dates for your diary

Mon 22nd January

Poetry Competition Launch

~ ~ ~

Wed 31st January 9AM

Candlemas and Eucharist
Worship in St Mary's Church

~ ~ ~

Fri 9th February

Chinese New Year
celebrations and own
clothes day (wear red)

~ ~ ~

MON 12TH - FRI 16TH FEB
HALF-TERM

~ ~ ~

Mon 4th - Fri 8th March

Book Week

~ ~ ~

Thursday 14th March

Parents Evening

~ ~ ~

THURSDAY 28TH MARCH
1PM - END OF TERM

LOVE

Colossians 3:14:

*"Love is more important than
anything else. It's what ties
everything completely
together."*

1 John 3:18:

*"You show love for others by
truly helping them, and not
merely talking about it."*

Respect

Peace

Love

Forgiveness

Responsibility

Faith

St Mary's Happy News!

News for our families and friends

www.st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk

Tuesday 16th January 2024

Volume 67

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to a new term at St Mary's School. I hope that you all spent a wonderful Christmas with your family and friends.

We have many exciting plans for the year ahead and will continue to build on the successes of last year. St Mary's is one of only six schools in Lewisham this year to have achieved the bronze level school travel plan accreditation.

Our enriching and creative curriculum will continue to lie at the heart of what we do as we invest in initiatives to promote the highest quality of education and experiences. We have been given an exciting opportunity to participate in a pilot project led by the Mayor of London called 'Talk



Matters'. This project provides the opportunity for all staff at St Mary's to be trained to extend children's oracy and communication skills. We will share the impact of this project at the end of the school year. We are also proud to offer our children a wide variety of experiences to bring the curriculum to life. These will include our Annual Poetry Competition, Healthy Eating and Cookery sessions, World Book Week with a parents and carers breakfast and Chinese Dragon Dancing workshops as we celebrate Chinese New Year.

Our School Vision is to build on Jesus' message of equality, peace and justice and each class have been putting this into action by developing Community links. So far, the children have chosen to help develop the Therapeutic Garden in the grounds of St Mary's Church as well as our Forest School and our Climate Changers have planned how to promote cleaner Air Quality around the school. Our Young Leaders also hosted and served Christmas lunch to a group of elderly residents from Bentley Court, The Glebe and Lloyd Court. We are truly blessed to have such wonderful children, families and friends at St Mary's and I hope that 2024 brings many rich blessings to you all, throughout the year.

Christine Graham, Headteacher



After School Clubs

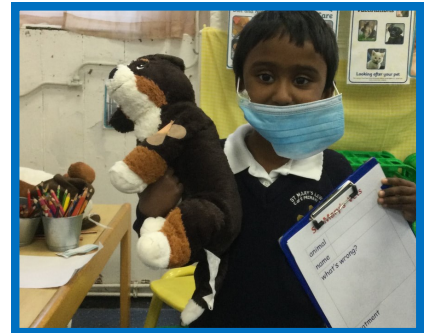
We are excited to once again offer our children a wide range of amazing opportunities at our After School Clubs. There is something for everyone, including Sports and Gymnastics. In addition, our younger children can enjoy Ballet and Art, whilst our older children are offered French, Cooking, Guitar, Karate, Choir and the chance to be in our Brass Band! Please sign up on Parent Pay to reserve your places, as each Club has a limited number of spaces and they fill up quickly.



Reception Class Vet Surgery

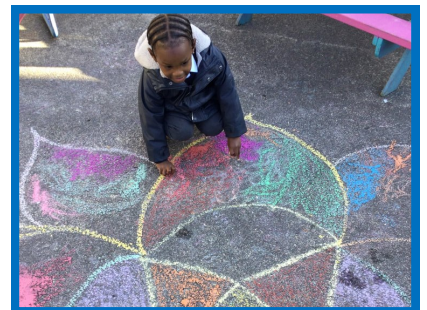
This term, Reception class have become vets! They are taking such good care of their patients. The children are delivering injections, putting on bandages, and booking appointments.

"This cat's leg is broken so we have to give it the injection." - Max
"What's wrong with the dog? Does he need medicine?" - Mithulaa



Year 5 and Year 6 Streetsafe

Our children enjoyed these useful workshops run by visitors as they learned how to stay safe on our streets.



Nursery News

The children have been finding out about Diwali, the Festival of Lights. They made rangoli patterns and mehndi patterns on their hands, as well as developing their Indian dancing skills.



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).



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.](#)

Friends of St Mary's

Thank you to everyone who attended our AGM. Our Friends helped to plan and organise the Christmas Fayre, raising over £2,000 for the school! Watch out for the next meeting coming soon...



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 for 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>

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.

Attendance

We were recently visited by the Lewisham Local Authority, who praised the strong attendance at St Mary's. Please continue to ensure your child is in school every day to ensure they reach their potential.

Medication

If you require your child to take any prescribed medication during the school day, please speak to the school office and complete the required form.

Parent Workshops

Our Community Hub continues to host a range of meetings and workshops to support our families in many areas of life. Feedback from our 8 week 'Being A Parent' classes has been extremely positive!



**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

Spring Term 2024

Tuesday 9th January - Friday 9th February

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

Monday 19th February - Thursday 28th March

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

Summer Term 2024

Monday 15th April - Friday 24th May

POLLING DAY - Thursday 2nd May

BANK HOLIDAY - Monday 6th May

HALF TERM - Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May

Monday 3rd June - Friday 19th July

INSET - SCHOOL CLOSED - Friday 14th June