



Dates for your diary

BANK HOLIDAY 03/01/22
SCHOOL CLOSED
~ ~ ~

RISK ASSESSMENT
REVIEW DAY 04/01/22
SCHOOL CLOSED
~ ~ ~

Wednesday 5th January
All children return to school
~ ~ ~

Monday 10th January
Poetry Competition launch
~ ~ ~

Friday 4th February
Chinese New Year
celebrations and own
clothes day
~ ~ ~

TERM ENDS FRIDAY 11/02

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.'*

John 14:27 *'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you... Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.'*

St Mary's Happy News!

News for our families and friends

www.st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk



Friday 17th December 2021

Volume 51

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.

We are delighted with our many successes this term and these include the 'Values-based Education Quality Mark' award in recognition of our school Vision and Ethos. We are proud of our positive Ofsted outcome - the inspectors commented on the good Quality of Education which the school provides - I will share more details when I receive the report. Our KS1 Nativity show was outstanding! The children performed confidently and were very professional. Our KS2

Carol Service was a lovely celebration of singing and choral speaking. Thank you to all of our families who attended both events. We were blessed to have such a huge turnout at our school Christmas Fayre, which was a brilliant success. We raised over £1,600! None of this would have been possible without the support and dedication of our parents and carers, the 'Friends of St Mary's', especially Stephanie Ansell who sourced and organised all of the gifts for the event. I know that each and every parent and child has contributed to the school's continued success and you should all feel very proud. 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. We wish Miss Perez well in her new school and thank Miss Taylor and Miss Hayter for successfully completing their teaching student placements. Christmas is such an exciting and special time in the Christian calendar. A time to meet with family and friends to celebrate the birth of Jesus or just to eat, drink, and enjoy each others company. During this period of fun and celebration, it is worth remembering that Christmas can also be a tough time for many people, including those who are homeless, recently bereaved, lonely or struggling to make ends meet. Let's remember to keep them in our hearts, thoughts and prayers. On behalf of the staff and governors at St Mary's Primary School, I would like to wish all of our children and parents a very happy and peaceful Christmas and every blessing for the New Year.



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Best wishes, Christine Graham



Values-based Education
VbE Quality Mark

Respect

Peace

Love

Forgiveness

Responsibility

Faith



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
EDUCATION OFFICE

St Mary's is an Excellent School



Message from Father Steve

To everyone at St Mary's School.

Wishing you all every blessing for a peaceful and healthy Christmas, after an exciting and busy term.

We thank our Head and all the staff for working so hard and for keeping everyone safe in school. And we thank our children for being so wonderful, and parents and carers for all you give them.

St Mary's church will be open for our usual Christmas services, all Covid-safe:

Christmas Eve, Friday 24th at 5.00pm: Crib Service, for children and families. Come and enjoy the best start to Christmas.

Christmas Morning at 10.00am: Christmas family mass, for everyone.

You can join us online at www.lewishamparish.com and on facebook at [@lewishamparishchurch](https://www.facebook.com/lewishamparishchurch).

God bless us, every one, this Christmas.

Fr Steve, Fr Max and all at St Mary's church.



Values-based Education Quality Mark

We are very proud to have received this award, which recognises how our School Vision and Values support the wellbeing and education of everyone in our School Community.

[Please follow this link to read the full report.](#)



Year 2 have been busy!

The children explored their local community on a trip to Lewisham market. The children chose (as their courageous advocacy project) to support their local community by gardening at the Therapeutic Garden in the grounds of St Mary's Church.

Punctuality

Thank you to the vast majority of parents who have been on time at the beginning (8:45) and end of the day (3:15). 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.

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.

Year 3 and Year 4 visit the Farm

To support their learning about food and where our food comes from, 2 classes enjoyed a fantastic day out at Woodlands Farm Trust in Greenwich.



Times Table Challenge

Congratulations to all of our children who practised hard, learnt their times table facts and took part in their class heats. 2 finalists from each class battled it out in front of the whole school to find our 2021 champions!



Choir perform at Turning of the Year

Our School Choir represented St Mary's with pride and a high quality performance at Blackheath Concert Halls. As well as performing 2 solo songs 'Away in a manger' and 'The angel Gabriel' they also performed in several group songs alongside other Lewisham schools. Thanks to our School Governor, Chris Stringfellow, for supporting our School Choir.



Super Parenting!

Our Reception class parents were invited to a couple of sessions where we talked about positive parenting, setting boundaries and creating the best opportunities for children to learn. We also learnt about our own parenting styles and shared good practice.

If you are interested in parenting classes you can ask Mrs Tildesley or refer yourself via this link:

<https://www.lewishamcfc.org.uk/parenting/>

Free School Meal Vouchers

I am pleased to announce that we have arranged for a food voucher to cover the Christmas 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).





CHRISTMAS 2021 AT ST MARY'S



Christmas Fayre

Thank to all of the parents and children who joined us for a fantastic celebration. There were many outdoor games to enjoy including hook a duck, tombola, raffle, ring toss, balloon pop, coconut shy, football and tin can alley! Food and drink were enjoyed and there was live music alongside performances from our school choir and African drumming group.





Nativity

Year 2 starred in our production of 'Hosanna Rock' as they retold the Nativity story with wonderful acting, singing and dance performances. Year 1 looked amazing as they joined in with the singing and dancing. Many thanks to the staff team for creating the wonderful costumes and set and thank you to the many parents who were able to join us for such a special event.



Special Visitors

We were delighted to welcome members of our local school community from Bentley Court and Glebe. Our visitors enjoyed a Nativity performance, carols from our choir and a delicious Christmas lunch!



Carol Service

All of the children from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 created a wonderful and reflective atmosphere in St Mary's Church. Each class excellently performed their Choral reading, sharing key Bible passages to tell the story of the birth of Jesus. Christmas Carols were sung by the whole congregation and the choir also performed, before Mrs Graham shared her Headteacher's address.



Pantomime

KS1 and KS2 visited Greenwich Theatre for a Christmas treat, enjoying a lively and exciting performance of 'The Queen of Hearts'. We didn't forget our children in Nursery and Reception, they stayed at school for a wonderful production of 'Sleeping Beauty'.



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

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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

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:

- [National Online Safety](#) - register your St Mary's account
- [Internet matters](#) - support to keep children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) - support for parents and careers 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:

- [Loneliness and Re-connection](#) - information and a toolkit for parents about what loneliness is and what help can be found
- [Mental Health Resources](#) - the Department for Education have provided this webpage with links to many resources for children and parents
- [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 2022

RISK ASSESSMENT REVIEW - Tuesday 4th January
Wednesday 5th January - Friday 11th February
HALF TERM - Monday 14th February - Friday 18th February
Monday 21st February - Friday 1st April

Summer Term 2022

Tuesday 19th April - Friday 27th May
BANK HOLIDAY - Monday 2nd May
HALF TERM - Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June
Monday 6th June - Wednesday 20th July
INSET DAYS - Friday 17th June / Thursday 21st July