



Dates for your diary

MON 14TH - FRI 18TH FEB
HALF-TERM

~ ~ ~

Monday 28th February
Book Week

~ ~ ~

Friday 4th March
**Dress up as a book
character for book week!**

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Thursday 17th March
Parents Evening

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FRIDAY 1ST APRIL 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."



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

Respect
Love
Responsibility
Peace
Forgiveness
Faith

St Mary's Happy News!

News for our families and friends

www.st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk

Thursday 17th February 2022

Volume 53

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope that you and your family remain safe and well. I would like to start by thanking our wonderful children for their hard work, enthusiasm and creativity throughout the term. It has been a pleasure for me to meet personally with every parent from Year 2 and Year 6 this year, the meetings have been very successful and enabled me to share children's progress and next steps of learning. Please can I ask all parents of children in **Year 3** to book their individual meetings with myself and Miss Enyoisi.

Please can I encourage all parents to complete our [home learning survey by clicking on this link](#). Learning at home supplements the work we do in school and is an important part of ensuring that your child continues to make excellent progress with their learning.

It was an honour for St Mary's to be chosen as the host venue for the launch of the Lewisham Borough of Culture 2022, celebrating our diversity and inclusivity. We welcomed the Mayor of Lewisham, Damien Egan; the whole school looked amazing as the children were dressed in their beautiful and colourful clothes reflecting their home cultures. The whole school performed the Lewisham Bop and we featured prominently on the ITV news!



We have enjoyed many special events which enrich our curriculum. Chinese New Year celebrations were supported by our generous parents who shared a wide selection of delicious food as well as leading traditional Arts and Crafts activities; there was even Dragon Dancing for each class in the school! We welcomed officers from the Police who met with the children to listen to their questions and concerns about how to stay safe in our local community. Well done to everyone who took part in our annual Poetry competition; the standard of the performances was incredibly high.

Please can I give you advance notice of our dress up day on Friday 4th March - children should be dressed as a character from their favourite non-fiction (information) book - [click here to find out more](#)! I would also like to remind you of the letter previously sent explaining that we will be raising the price of school lunches to £2.50, starting from 21st February.

I am delighted to welcome new staff to St Mary's - Mrs Visan (Y3), Ms Daniels (Y6) and Ms Abel. As always, I extend my thanks to our team of staff and governors for their commitment and care for every child in our school community. Wishing you a peaceful half-term break and we will look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 21st February.

Best wishes, Christine Graham



[Lewisham Mayor and the launch of the Lewisham Borough of Culture](#)

St Mary's hosted a very special event as we welcomed Damien Egan, the Mayor of Lewisham to our school. Damien's visit marked the official launch of the Lewisham Borough of Culture - a year of special cultural events celebrating our diversity. We were blessed to be chosen and the children responded brilliantly with a wonderful performance of the 'Lewisham Bop'. We were filmed by ITV and featured prominently in the evening news. Several of our children were interviewed and spoke articulately and looked amazing on ITV. Please follow the links below to watch some amazing videos of the event!

[LINK - School Website](#)

[LINK—School Twitter \(including the full ITV news article\)](#)



[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.

[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.



Multisports Stars!

A fantastic team of children from Year 1 and Year 2 travelled to Sydenham School to represent St Mary's in an exciting sports tournament. All of the children completed several athletic activities, running, jumping, throwing and balancing. St Mary's performed brilliantly and every child was a sports star!



Housing - Parent's Action Group

In our listening survey with parents (2019) the overwhelming issue affecting our families was housing and since the pandemic this issue seems to be even more of a priority. Councillor Stephen Penfold came along as a guest to one of the meetings. He was moved by the stories shared and also concerned at the recurring themes about the way people were treated by the housing department and how hard it is to make contact with a named person. He has written on our behalf to the Cabinet Member for Lewisham Housing. In the meantime our wonderful parents put into words their wishes for Lewisham Housing. If you have any housing issues please join us at our future meetings or contact Marta Tildesley for some help and advice.

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**.



Super Parenting!

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 £15 ASDA food voucher to cover the half-term break 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).



Police visit to St Mary's

Every class enjoyed a special day at St Mary's as we were joined by visitors from the local Police. The children loved meeting the 2 police horses and they learnt all about these amazing animals and how they support many events including the Olympic games and royal weddings! We also learned about other forms of Police transport - bikes, motorbikes, cars and even an HGV! Later in the day, each class joined our safer schools officers for an informative and reflective discussion on how we can stay safe in our local communities and how the Police can help us.



Worship

Our daily worship continues to lie at the heart of all that we do as a school community. Worship focuses on our school values and how we can live these in our lives. We also mark key events in the Christian calendar - thanks to Father Steve and Father Max for joining us for Epiphany and Candlemas. A special 'reflective worship' was also held which provided the children with a space for reflection, peace and prayer.



Poetry Competition Final

Congratulations to every child who learned and performed a poem as part of our competition, especially those children who wrote their own poem to recite! The final was held on Thursday 10th February and the standard was incredibly high, as the children added actions, voices and intonation to bring their poems to life.



Chinese New Year!

St Mary's celebrated the Year of the Tiger with support from our families from our Chinese community. A group of parents kindly prepared a wide range of delicious home-cooked Chinese dishes, which were enjoyed by all of the children (and staff!). The parents also led Chinese craft workshops as the children learned calligraphy, lantern making and paper design.

Many thanks to Mr Scrivens, Miss Dikule and Mr Parchment who created a wonderful Chinese dragon. Every class took part in a Dragon Dance lesson; the children loved to learn a new dance technique! Other events to celebrate Chinese New Year included Maths Problem Solving challenges, traditional story telling and an Art and Design competition.



Year 3 and Year 4 trips

These two classes have been adventurous as they have been busy exploring London to support their learning about the River Thames. Their historical knowledge and skills were developed by a trip to the Museum of London in Docklands. This was followed by a fantastic river boat cruise from Westminster to Greenwich, bringing their learning in Geography and History to life.



River Poems

Inspired by the curriculum, the children in Year 4 have written some amazing poetry!

I was born as a puddle and grow into a stream

I twist and turn I flow past woods, forest, trees, towns and cities

People use me for drinking, washing and swimming

I flow into other rivers like me so we can become into one like a family and travel to the sea

Guess who I am

I am a river

A River Poem by Khaeleam Darlington
Year 4



Rivers make me calm like a cloud.

Rivers are like holy guardians in peace.

Rivers make people calm as music.

Rivers are like waterfalls with calm music.

Rivers are everything for people.

Rivers are like the Holy Spirit.

Rivers are not loud they're calm.

Rivers can baptise people

Rivers are holy water.

A river is God's creation.

Rivers are peace.

A River Poem by Mani Fallah
Year 4

**ST MARY'S LEWISHAM
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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

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

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