



St Mary's Newsletter

News for our families and friends

www.st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk

Friday 18th October 2019

Volume 35

Dates for your diary

HALF TERM
21/10 - 25/10
SCHOOL CLOSED

~
Parents evening
14/11 2:00 - 6:30

~
INSET DAY 15/11
SCHOOL CLOSED

~
Advent Worship in St Mary's Church 27/11 9:25

~
Christmas Craft Fayre
06/12 3:00

~
Nativity Show (KS1, Reception and Nursery)
13/12 9:40

~
Carol Service in St Mary's Church (KS2) 17/12 6:45PM

~
END OF TERM 20/12
SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 1PM

RESPECT

Matthew 7:12 *'So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, this sums up the Law and the Prophets.'*

Philippians 2:3 *'Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.'*

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was an exciting and busy half-term for the children at St Mary's. I am very proud of our children because they have settled into the new term and are engaged and enthusiastic about learning. Our teaching staff continue to provide many rich learning experiences through the thematic curriculum. The children have enjoyed visits to places of interest such as the Tate Modern art gallery. They have also loved learning through their outdoor environment in science and making a timeline video in history.

The children had real fun learning how to play the drums and the steel pans as part of their Black History Month celebrations. Our school choir performed with the adult choir at St Mary's church at the generation project concert. We were all impressed with their confidence and the harmonies that they were able to create through their wonderful singing.

Parents have enjoyed attending our Stay&Sing sessions with their toddlers. The purpose is to engage with families early on; to enable families to experience the numerous benefits of music, playing instruments and singing together. These sessions have been really successful and the children have loved playing musical instruments.

The school was honoured to welcome Bishop Karowei, who visited St Mary's school on the 17th October to bless our spiritual garden and school community. Thank you to all of our parents and carers, friends and governors who attended this special occasion.

St Mary's school has an amazing school community that supports every person to learn and achieve their full potential. I extend a huge thank you to all of our children, parents, carers, and staff in our school community who have worked in partnership with us to ensure that we continue to flourish.

Ms. Bernard

School Values - Respect

This half-term we have been exploring Respect in many ways, including self-respect and respect for others, difference, rules, property, the world we live in and learning. Our values are rooted in the Bible and we have been learning about Moses and the Ten Commandments, which helped us to reflect on our own school rules. Guided by the life and teachings of Jesus, we studied the parables that Jesus told (such as the parable of the builders). Jesus' message of equality is shown in the way he lived his life, showing Respect for all and standing up for the marginalised in society.



Respect

Peace

Love

Forgiveness

Responsibility

Faith



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
EDUCATION OFFICE

St Mary's is an Excellent School



Bishop Karowei blesses our new Spiritual Garden

On Thursday 17th October, we were delighted to welcome the Bishop of Woolwich, Bishop Karowei, to St Mary's for the formal opening and blessing of our Spiritual Garden. This space has been designed as a place of peace and reflection for the whole school community to use. The Bishop enjoyed a tour of the school, led by our Head Boy and Head Girl. Following this, there was a whole school worship, supported by Father Steffan from St Mary's Church. Finally, the school choir sang outside as Bishop Karowei blessed the new garden and all of our visitors explored this new space. The event was also attended by representatives from the Dame Morden Trust (whose generous grant funded the garden) and Shaun Burns from Southwark Diocesan Board



"I felt quiet and reflective when the Bishop came to worship. I was quite nervous sitting next to the Bishop but he was enthusiastic and friendly." Jun Long, Year 6



"I have been blessed and honoured by the privilege of dedicating this new Spiritual Garden. This is a real, real blessing to all of us. Thank God. Amen." Bishop Karowei



"The spiritual garden made me feel happy because now we have a space where we can reflect. I felt quite special because not a lot of schools have spiritual gardens." Calvin, Year 6

Creating our Spiritual Garden

Many of you will have observed the transformation of this space over the last few months. Many thanks to Mr Scrivens and Mr Parchment from our Premises team, whose hard work has helped to create such a wonderful area within our school. Thanks also to St Mary's Church as you will notice some furniture and artefacts from the Church which we have incorporated into the Spiritual Garden. Finally, the whole project would not have been possible without a very generous grant from the Dame Morden Trust.



Community Gardening Days

In order to develop our new Spiritual Garden, we organised two community gardening mornings. Many thanks to the staff, children and local volunteers who joined us to fill the Spiritual Garden with plants, including three lovely olive trees. The volunteer team also cleared out and refilled several planting containers around the school. As stated in our school vision, we want to be a learning community that promotes the wellbeing of every person. The Spiritual Garden, along with the rest of the planting around the school, will provide an oasis of peace and calm for everyone in our school community.



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).



Mission Statement

St Mary's school serves our community by providing the highest quality of education and experiences so everyone can achieve their full potential. Faith is at the heart of our life together which celebrates our diversity. Christian values unite and guide our relationships based on respect, responsibility and forgiveness.

Thematic Curriculum

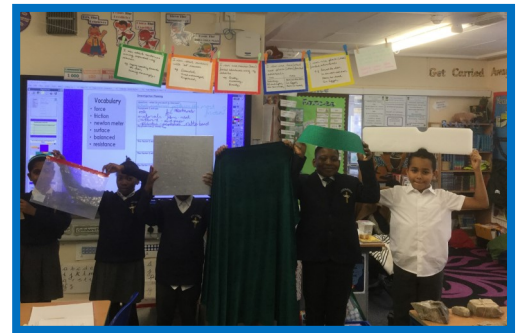
This year, we have revised our curriculum to include a thematic approach based on our children's culture and learning preferences. You will have received individual class Pupil Topic Maps, which outline the learning each half-term. Please discuss the exciting curriculum with your child to hear about the exciting learning and to plan how you can help with learning at home. Our school website (www.st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk) contains many updates on the pupil's learning in each class, we have included a few highlights within this newsletter.



"I enjoyed using the Newton meters to pull rocks because it's telling me about friction. I learned that it takes 20 years to build one pyramid."
David O, Year 4

Year 4 Ancient Egyptian Science

Year 4 have been learning about forces. Having explored Egypt on Google Maps, we wondered how the Ancient Egyptians were able to drag huge stone blocks across the desert to build the pyramids. We learnt that there would be lots of friction between the rocks and the ground when they were being dragged so we investigated which material would have made dragging these rocks easier. We used Newton Meters to measure the amount of force it takes to move big rocks across a range of different materials. We found out that smooth plastic caused the least resistance.



"I like it because you get to make your own burger with salad and sauce and I also like the ice-cream because you can pick any toppings." Nadia, Year 4.

"It was yummy and you got to put healthy fruit and sauce on your ice-cream." Yiliko, Year 4.

Children make their own lunch!

We enjoyed a special lunch as the children got to 'Build a Burger' and 'Scoop a Sundae'. The children added some healthy toppings to their burgers and ice-cream sundaes and their feedback was very positive!

The activity enriched our curriculum by:

- Engaging children in designing their own food – linking to the Design Technology curriculum
- Supporting children's knowledge of a healthy and balanced diet – linking to the PSHE and Science curriculum
- Encouraging children to try a range of healthy fruit and vegetables
- Providing the children with a fun and engaging lunchtime experience

Music at St Mary's

In addition to weekly music lessons in class, we offer our children a range of inspiring musical experiences to further develop the curriculum. These include weekly choir and recorder clubs, plus exciting extra events.



Generation Project Concert at St Mary's Church

The children and families at St Mary's have been fully involved in this exciting inter-generational project. The school choir performed to a packed St Mary's Church alongside a Generation Choir, an adult choir, a Recorder Orchestra and two other choirs from local schools in a spectacular concert, celebrating ageing and youth.

Steel Pans

We were delighted to welcome a Steel Pan teacher for the day and every class got to learn how to play this instrument. Year 5 and 6 particularly enjoyed this link to their Caribbean Islands topic.



African Drumming

Working in partnership with a local charity, we are delighted that the children of St Mary's will be able to enjoy a whole year of African drumming workshops. These will be offered to our Year 3 children and also to all children in KS2 as an after-school club. The children will be learning from an experienced and talented performer. Concerts in partnership with the local community (including a local centre for elderly people) have been planned for the Summer Term as a culmination to the project. The learning will be further enhanced by workshops on West African culture and Design Technology linked to costumes and decorations.

"I liked learning about the history of the steel pans. I didn't know that they came from oil drums." Shyla, Year 3.

"I have never played a steel pan before, it was fun and it wasn't as hard as I thought it would be." Shazi, Year 3.



Generation Project

In addition to the concert, many children submitted pictures and writing about their families and what makes them so special. This work was displayed in the Church as part of the Generation Project, you can see the work on the following website: <https://www.generationproject.online/copy-of-st-saviour-s-year-5-work-1>. This learning has enriched the Literacy, Art and PSHE curricula.



"My Mum is very caring and does many things for me in my life. When I'm not always behaving, my Mum still forgives me and still loves me and I love her back."
Mikaela, Year 5.

Athletics Tournament

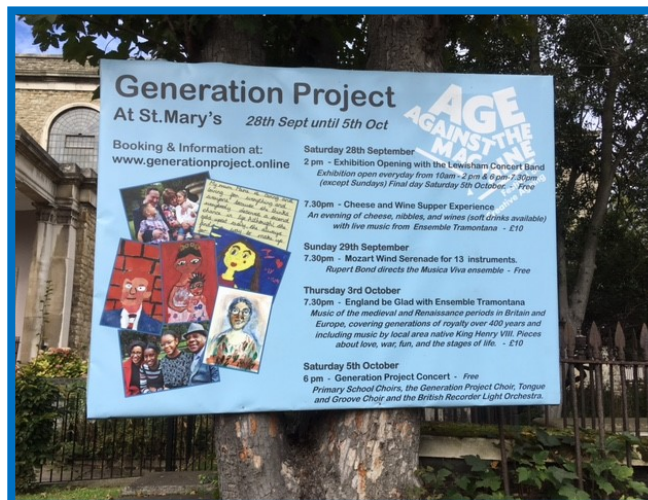
Our PE curriculum is enhanced by the opportunity for all children to participate in a wide range of after school clubs (including gymnastics, dance, karate and multisports), alongside regular inter-school tournaments and sports festivals. Children from Year 5 and Year 6 enjoyed taking part in an athletics festival, competing alongside 4 other local schools. There were a range of throwing and jumping events, followed by some exciting relay races, where our children won several medals! It was a great event and held in an atmosphere of respect and good sportsmanship.



"I really had fun at the athletics tournament and I believed in myself that we would come first. My favourite activities were the standing long jump and the javelin."
Gloria, Year 6

Summer Reading Challenge

We were delighted to welcome Paul Little from Lewisham Library to our Achievement Worship. Paul handed out certificates to the children who had completed the Summer Reading Challenge. It is fabulous to see so many of our children enjoying reading during the holidays. The staff at all of our local libraries are always pleased to welcome children and families - why not visit them soon!



Prayer Day

On a beautiful autumn morning, the school community visited St Mary's Church for our annual Prayer Day. This provided a chance to reflect in a peaceful space and to learn that prayer can take many forms. Our school values, which lie at the heart of our vision for wellbeing and learning, were embedded within the activities. The event was planned, organised and led by the children from our Faith Group. We are very proud of our Faith Group children, who presented ideas for new activities and voted for their favourites. Many thanks to our Governor, Chris Stringfellow, who planned and led the musical activity in St Mary's Church therapeutic garden. Thanks to the parents who joined us to share the prayerful activities.



"I liked it when we wrote our name on the rocks and washed it in the water, because we got to see how peaceful we can feel when we are forgiven." Sirin, Year 4



Harvest worship

The whole school shared a special worship together in St Mary's Church, led by Father Steffan. Each class had beautifully decorated a Harvest box filled with generous donations from our families. Thanks to everyone who contributed, the food will be shared with LEWCAS to help support asylum seekers. Father Steffan helped us to reflect on everything that we should be grateful for in our lives. Children from Year 5 delivered the Bible readings and used drama to retell the parable of the ten lepers. At the end of the worship, Father Steffan blessed a special Harvest loaf, kindly made by one of the parishioners. This Harvest loaf was shared by all of the children.



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

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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!

There are many exciting and educational trips booked for each class, why not volunteer to join us on the visits?

We continue to welcome parents into the school to read with your child every morning at 8:45.



Reading books

Please can you ensure that all reading scheme and Library books are returned to school. The school have made a huge investment in reading books and we love to see children falling in love with a good book. Sadly, a small minority of parents have not been returning reading books and/or returning damaged books. This has an effect on every child's learning and so from now on we will be charging for lost / damaged books, at a charge of £5 per book.

Sickness

If your child has an episode of vomiting or diarrhoea, whether at home or at school, please keep them at home for the next 2 days (48 hours). This is consistent with guidance from Public Health England and ensures that we minimise the chance of a sickness bug being passed to other children. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



SAFEGUARDING

E - Safety - please continue to be aware of what your child is doing on-line - this could be on a mobile, tablet, laptop or computer. Many popular games that young children play on-line, such as Roblox and Minecraft, involve internet chat with other players and can potentially be used by abusive adults pretending to be children. Social media apps such as WhatsApp and Instagram should never be used by children. Please speak to Miss Stead or your child's class teacher if you have any questions.

Attendance - please remember that the school gates open at 8:45 am and the children should come straight into class to read. It's really important that they arrive promptly every day so that they can maximise their learning. Please ensure that your child is collected on time, at the end of the school day at 3:15pm or at the end of their club at 4:15pm.



TERM DATES

Autumn Term 2019

Monday 2nd September - Friday 18th October

HALF TERM - Monday 21st October - Friday 25th October

Monday 28th October - Friday 20th December

INSET DAY - Friday 15th November

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS - Monday 23rd December - Friday 3rd January

Spring Term 2020

Monday 6th January - Friday 14th February

HALF TERM - Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February

Monday 24th February - Friday 3rd April

EASTER HOLIDAYS - Monday 6th April - Friday 17th April

Summer Term 2020

Monday 20th April - Friday 22nd May

MAY DAY Bank Holiday - Friday 8th May

INSET DAY - Thursday 7th May

HALF TERM - Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May

Monday 1st June - Friday 17th July

Newsletter by email: If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, please email us and let us know at admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk