



# St Mary's Newsletter

News for our families and friends

[www.st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk](http://www.st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk)

Friday 20th December 2019

Volume 36

## Dates for your diary

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

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**Epiphany Worship in St Mary's Church 08/01 9:25**

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**HALF TERM**  
**17/02 - 21/02**  
**SCHOOL CLOSED**

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**Book Week 02/03 - 06/03**

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**Parents evening**  
**21/03 2:00 - 6:30**

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**END OF TERM 03/04**  
**SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 1PM**

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## 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.'*

**Matthew 5:9** *'God blesses those who make peace. They will be called his children.'*

*"Be the peace you wish to see in the world."* **Martin Luther King**

*"Peace begins with a smile."* **Mother Theresa**

**Respect**

**Peace**

**Love**

**Forgiveness**

**Responsibility**

**Faith**

Dear Parents and Carers,

How quickly time has flown since the beginning of the academic year and we find ourselves at the Christmas break. I would like to thank our wonderful children for their focus and hard work throughout the term. They have enjoyed learning from an enriching curriculum and we are proud of their achievements and progress. As always, we have managed to pack a huge amount into the last eight weeks, much of which is highlighted in this edition of the newsletter.

I was delighted to see such overwhelming support for our Christmas Fayre, a fantastic event where we raised over £1,000. None of this would have been possible without the support of our parents and carers, the 'Friends of St Mary's' and our school community. To everyone that made this happen and supported the event, thank you! Another highlight was the Christmas nativity performance and carol service. Watching our pupils stand on stage and perform with such confidence was a real privilege. Well done to all involved.

I would also like to convey a huge thank you to our parent 'Reading Champions', who have come into school weekly, to support our children with their reading. Your invaluable work is truly making a difference to all of our pupils.

Please can I take this opportunity to inform you that Tracey Manning and Judith Moore from our school office are moving on to new roles, we wish them all the very best and thank them for their contribution to our school. Throughout the term, staff have worked incredibly hard as we continue to improve the quality of education that we provide for our pupils. I would like to publicly thank each one of them for their unwavering commitment and for the contribution that they make to St Mary's school.

On behalf of the staff and governors at St Mary's Primary School, I would like to wish all pupils and parents a very happy and peaceful Christmas and every blessing for the New Year.

Christine Bernard

## School Values - Peace

We have explored Peace in many ways this half-term, including taking time to reflect on inner peace and calmness. Our values are rooted in the Bible and we will continue to reflect during Advent and await the birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, as prophesised in the book of Isaiah.

**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.'*



**THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND EDUCATION OFFICE**

**St Mary's is an Excellent School**



### Christmas Fayre

We enjoyed an amazing Christmas Fayre as all of the School community joined together for a wonderful event. Among the many activities were Santa's grotto, Christmas raffle with 20 amazing prizes, food, drinks, live music, choir performance, face painting, stalls and games. There was so much to enjoy and we were delighted to have raised nearly £1,000 for the school. All of the money raised will support the children in their learning. Thanks to all those that helped organise the event, especially to the Friend's of St Mary's.



*"It was fantastic, I liked it when I bought some slime and I had my face painted and I visited Santa's grotto." Jia Yi, Year 3*



*"The Fayre was excellent, my favourite game was knock down the cans because you could get a good score and win a prize." Remell, Year 3*



### Tesco Express

Many thanks to our friends from Tesco Express in Rushey Green who kindly contributed a wide range of delicious crisps, snacks and confectionary to our Christmas Fayre. Their kind contribution was much appreciated by everyone who attended the Fayre.





### Visitors from Bentley Court

Having visited earlier in the week to sing carols, we were delighted to welcome our friends from Bentley Court to St Mary's school for some festive entertainment. Our elderly visitors enjoyed watching the Nativity show, before spending time with some of the children in the Community Hub, where they received Christmas presents. Finally, they rounded off a lovely morning by joining the whole school for a delicious Christmas lunch.



*"The visitors told us a lot of stories about when they were young. We found out some similarities and differences between our generations." Calvin, Year 6*



### Nativity Show

The children from Year 2, Year 1, Reception and Nursery produced a wonderful Nativity show enjoyed by our families and friends. A video of 'It's a Party' will be available on the website soon.



### 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.





### Turning of the Year

Our School choir took part in a memorable concert at Blackheath Halls. They performed two songs to a packed audience of hundreds. Their singing was of an excellent quality and the children sang with joy. In addition, our choir, composed of over 40 children, joined with eight other schools for several group performances.



*"We loved the song 'I wish it could be Christmas'. Performing in front of so many people made me nervous but it also made me bold."* David M, Year 3

### Times Table Challenge

St Mary's enjoyed an amazing Maths Times Tables challenge. All of our children practised their times tables and took part in class heats – well done everyone and keep practising! The 2 highest scorers from each class faced off against each other in our exciting finals! Over 15 questions, the champion from each class were crowned. In many cases, despite the most challenging quickfire questions, both players scored 100% and a sudden death round was required.



*"It was fun because we got to take turns so everyone played. Sometimes we didn't win but we learned and then when we won a match we were impressed with ourselves. We used teamwork and we felt like we achieved something."* Roberta and Chelsea, Year 5



### Girl's Football Tournament

Our Year 5 and Year 6 girls football team took part in an exciting football tournament against seven other schools from across Lewisham. On a cold evening, they performed brilliantly, showing off their super soccer skills and demonstrating our school value of respect. The highlight was a stunning 2-0 win in our second match, with goals from Almarie and Chelsy, and we were proud to be awarded the GLA Plate runners-up 2019 trophy.



### Nursery celebrations!

Nursery class have been learning about different types of celebrations. They started by looking at Birthdays and focused their learning around the book Kipper's Birthday. The children have been very busy making birthday cards for Kipper, writing invitations to their party, wrapping presents for Kipper, decorating birthday biscuits and even playing party games!



*"We cooked some soup. It tasted good."* Israel, Reception  
*"The man and the woman and the boy and the cat pulled the turnip."* Lucian, Reception



### Reception class enjoy 'The Enormous Turnip'

Children in the Reception class have been reading 'The Enormous Turnip' as part of their Talk For Writing literacy. The children have enjoyed using the small world characters to verbally retell the story and they have enthusiastically joined in with the repeated refrains. Alongside using a turnip to look at, feel and smell, the children have also been decorating turnips. They also made some delicious vegetable soup.



*"We made super popcorn. We used plastic bags for our capes because they were light."* Nickarah, Year 1

### Year 1 are superheroes!

In Design and Technology, Year 1 used their super senses to smell, feel and taste sweet and salty popcorn. They also made popcorn for their Teddy Bear's Picnic, where they read the story of the Three Super Pigs. Thank you to all parents who attended our Teddy Bear's Picnic.

In addition to that, they tested different materials to see which one would be the best for a superhero cape. Then, Year 1 designed and tested their very own Superhero capes.





### Year 2 develop their Art skills

Year 2 have been developing their art skills. Some of the children used paints and pastels to create some wonderful firework pictures and a group of children explored how colours make us feel at the Tate Modern Art Gallery.



*"I enjoyed the trip because we got to make music and the teacher recorded it. We got to write and draw."* Che Misha, Year 2

*"The colours make me feel happy because I loved to see the paintings."* Sameera, Year 2



### Year 3 solve Maths Problems

Our Year 3 children learnt how to problem solve using trial and improvement. They worked in pairs to put back together the pieces of a 100 square that Miss Egunjobi had accidentally muddled up. However, the 100 square did not have numbers on it. It had symbols! Therefore, the children had to use their knowledge of patterns to solve the puzzle. It took lots of collaboration!

*"It was fun because we needed to solve the questions in symbols, we knew that one diamond was one and three diamonds were 100, it was like a jigsaw puzzle."* Ebenezer, Year 3

*"This was an amazing lesson because we got to pull the rock with a Newton meter. It would have been hard work for the Egyptians. I enjoyed learning about Egypt and colouring in a cartouche with oil pastels."* Marzan, Year 3



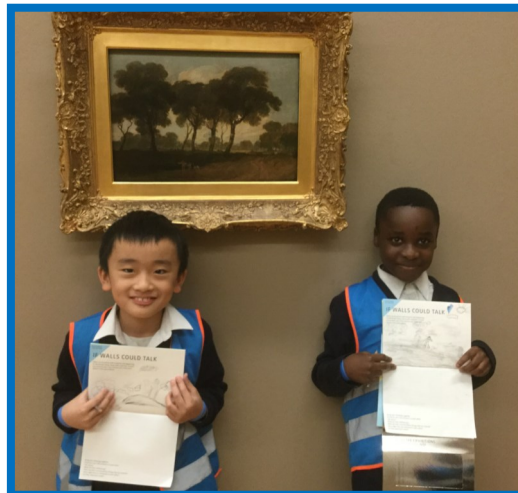
### Year 3 learn about forces in Ancient Egypt

Year 3 have been learning about forces in Science. 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.



#### Year 4 visit the Tate Britain Art Gallery

The Year 4 children were excited to visit Tate Britain Art Gallery to see their class photo in a special Steve McQueen exhibition. It was amazing to see the photograph that was taken of the class last year when they were in Year 3 up on display for the world to see. It was even more fun to be able to be in an Art Gallery and be allowed to make lots of noise! The children then reflected on how their lives had already changed so much since Year 3 and enjoyed comparing all their new 'favourites' with their friends. After looking at their photo, the children visited the Turner gallery and spent some time choosing their favourite piece of art, which they then tried to copy. It was lovely to be able to relax in this gallery and look closely at some very impressive paintings.



*"When we went to the Tate there were 7,500 pictures and we were all amazed. Our picture was at the top. We learned that we are the future." DJ, Year 4*



#### Year 5 create Remembrance artwork

Year 5 produced artwork inspired by the theme of Remembrance. They used mixed media to create images based on the poem 'Flanders Fields'.

#### Year 6 learn about Life Cycles at the Horniman Museum

Year 6 enjoyed an amazing trip to the Horniman Museum in Forest Hill where they were able to consolidate their learning of life cycles. They explored the Butterfly House, observing butterflies in all stages of life and took part in a butterfly-inspired workshop, finding out all there is to know!





**ST MARY'S LEWISHAM  
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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.



**After School Clubs**

We continue to offer a wide range of after school clubs to promote the unique gifts and potential of our children. In response to feedback from children and parents, we are delighted to be able to offer our children the following opportunities for the Spring term:

- Musical Theatre - Y4 Y5 Y6 - Tuesday 3:30 - 4:30 - £5 a session
- Ballet - Rec Y1 Y2 Y3 - Wednesday - 3:15 - 4:15 - £5 a session
- Gymnastics - Y2 Y3 Y4 Y5 Y6 - Friday - 7:45 - 8:45 - £4 a session

These clubs will be run by teachers from 'Graylite Dance' and 'Beaming Stars Gymnastics'. In order to be able to provide these clubs, we will require parents to commit to these clubs for the whole of the Spring term - 9 weeks. If you would like to take advantage of these exciting opportunities, please return the letter that will be sent home in January or speak to the office.

**St Mary's Parents are Reading Champions!**

We are very excited that several of our parents have become Reading Champions. They received training before volunteering to read with our children every week. They are doing a fantastic job in supporting learning at St Mary's and we hope that they have inspired other parents to join them and also become Reading Champions. Please speak to a member of staff to get involved!



**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.

**TERM DATES**

**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](mailto:admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk)