



Dates for your diary

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Monday 5th September
**Children from Year 1 to
Year 6 return to school**

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Wednesday 7th September
**New School Year Worship in
St Mary's Church 9AM**

FAITH

Hebrews 11:1

*'Faith makes us sure of what
we hope for and
gives us proof of what
we cannot see.'*

1 Corinthians 13:13

*'So now faith, hope, and love
abide.'*

2 Corinthians 5:7

*'For we walk by faith, not by
sight.'*

Martin Luther King, Jr.

*"Faith is taking the first step
even when you don't see the
whole staircase."*

St Mary's Happy News!

News for our families and friends

www.st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk

Thursday 21st July 2022

Volume 57

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

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope that you and your family remain safe and well. It has been an amazing year at St Mary's as we have shared so many wonderful experiences with our children. I am so proud of their enthusiasm, perseverance and sense of adventure, as well as their sense of responsibility, both for themselves and to everyone they meet.



I would like to share with you some headlines from our excellent SATS results this year. The children in Year 6 made accelerated progress to close learning gaps and they have achieved above National averages in all subjects! The Combined figure for children working at the Expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths was 59% Nationally - but 10% higher at St Mary's as 69% of pupils met the Combined standard. This is a testament to the children's efforts, our hard working teachers and parental support with home learning.

Please can I take this opportunity to remind all parents of our Uniform policy, including PE kits. School shoes should be black and plain. PE kit is a white shirt and black shorts (no logos), children can wear their school jumper over their PE kit.

Community continues to lie at the heart of our school and you can find out more about the exciting events and campaigns we have shared on pages 2 and 3. There is so much going on and we are blessed to have supportive parents who contribute so much to our school community. There will be lots of opportunities to get involved next year - please join us and make a difference!

There have been so many highlights of a busy Summer term and I hope you enjoy reading all about them in this special extended newsletter. The children enjoy inspiring experiences at St Mary's, preparing them for the next steps in their lifetime journeys of learning. Construction has begun on our Forest School which will provide all children with a wonderful outdoor learning environment to explore.

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. I would also like to say farewell and wish those staff leaving us all the very best for the future; Miss Baxter, Miss Soares, Miss Abel and Miss Addo-Kyei. Thank you for your wonderful contribution to the school!

Best wishes for a relaxing and peaceful summer break.

Christine Graham
Headteacher



Respect

Peace

Love

Forgiveness

Responsibility

Faith

COMMUNITY NEWS

St Mary's win two National Campaigns!

At St Mary's we are very proud of our courageous advocacy campaigns with Lewisham Citizens which both parents and children have been part of. The first win came in March 2022 following an extensive campaign by lots of schools and charities to allow Free School Meals for all families who have no recourse to public funds. A former pupil at this school and his mum attended an MPs briefing at Westminster with Mrs Tildesley to share their experiences and this was the catalyst to the announcement made by the government. The second win came in June 2022 - a concession from the government so that not all young children have to pay £1012 to become a British Citizen. Our children have been campaigning for the abolition of the fee for a number of years and even went to the Home Office some years ago to draw attention to this. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more about the campaign which includes a quote from one of our parents. We are proud to be a Sanctuary School and we will continue to campaign for the right of everyone to be welcomed and treated with respect and dignity.



Meeting with the Mayor of Lewisham

Some of our parents and children went to Laurence House to meet up with the re-elected Mayor to remind him of the promises that he made around housing. Damien Egan promised that if he was re-elected he would work with us to improve Conditions, Care and Communications for Lewisham residents.



Parents Wellbeing Workshop

ENGAGE provided our parents with a lovely breakfast and a really useful workshop on wellbeing. We learnt about the 5 ways of keeping well which include staying active, connecting with people and learning something new. Importantly, if we model looking after ourselves well our children will learn great skills for life too!



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.

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.

Community Conversations

St Mary's is part of a Lewisham pilot scheme to raise the awareness of racial inequality in schools. We also wanted to look at how this affects our families in housing and health. From the discussions it was clear that there are lots of areas where our children face race inequality - from the variation of reading books offered to the motifs found on glasses in Specsavers for children! Health inequality also appeared to concern our parents. This is just the start of many conversations we need to have with our community in school to fully understand the issues and we need more parents to take part so do come along next time!



Cycling superstars

Congratulations to two members of our school community who successfully completed the London to Brighton bike ride - 54 miles including several steep climbs. Mr Parchment, our Premises Officer and Mr James, one of our parents, both arrived before 12:00, a great effort!



School Council News

As always, our elected School Council members have been busy! Recently they have been reviewing our school lunches, identifying areas they would like to see change around the school and helping to decorate the school!



Free School Meal Vouchers

I am pleased to announce that we have arranged for a £90 ASDA food voucher to cover the Summer Holiday 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/my services/education/student-pupil-support/free-school-meals-and-extra-support-for-your-child>

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/>

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.

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).



Special Visitors

We were blessed to be contacted by 2 former pupils, Christine and Gillian, who attended St Mary's many years ago in the 1950s and 1960s. Our Year 6 children gave them a tour of the school and the ladies enjoyed a song from Year 6 and a question and answer session with 2 of our classes, before relaxing with a cup of coffee in the Spiritual Garden.

"You made us welcome beyond any expectations, but to me the real stars were your pupils. The self assurance of your head boy and girl and the prefect team were quite amazing."

Gillian Clarke



"My memories of the school are happy ones, and it was wonderful to discover that – after almost 60 years – the school has not only continued on its path of excellence, but has developed into such a terrific place."



"Even on a single short visit, the warm, supportive, encouraging, happy, positive and 'buzzing' atmosphere at St Mary's School was immediately obvious. Every pupil we met displayed impeccable manners, was bright and engaged, and smart in all senses of the word. They were an absolute credit to both the school and their families."

Christine Browning



AHOY Sailing

Every child in Year 5 has enjoyed a two day sailing course on the River Thames - many thanks to the AHOY charity for their support.



Year 1 and Year 2 visit London Zoo

Our younger learners enjoyed a fantastic day out, meeting many exciting animals from around the world.

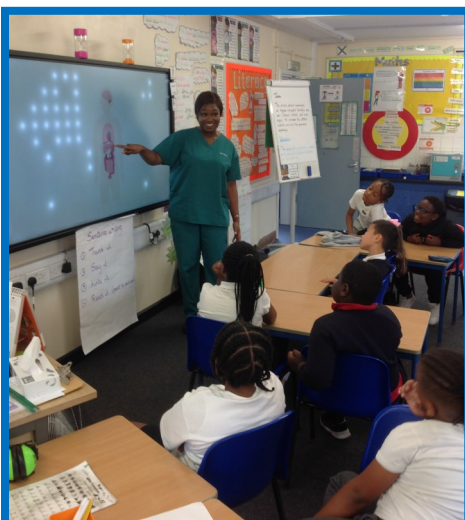
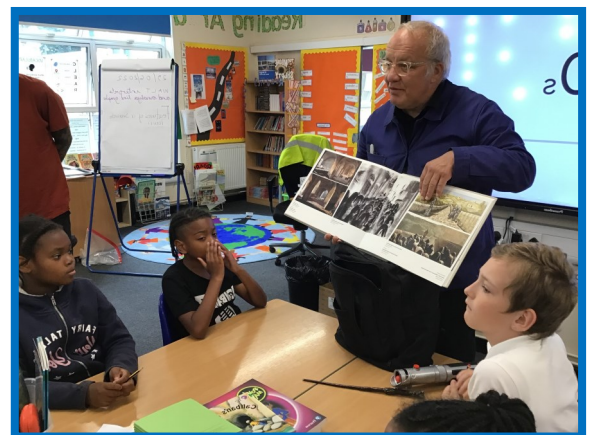
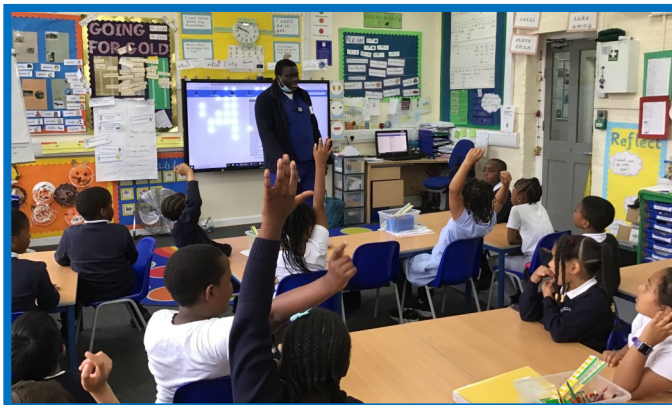


Year 5 and Year 6 visit Greenwich

The children enjoyed a fascinating workshop about Space before visiting the Planetarium to learn all about the stars in our night sky.

CAREERS WEEK

St Mary's introduced a new initiative this year, as we invited a range of professionals, including some of our amazing parents, into the school to talk to the children about a wide range of interesting careers. Our visitors included doctors, an architect, a structural engineer, an artist and coder, a film producer, a gardener and taekwondo world champion and an author and Olympic sportswoman. The aim was to broaden the children's horizons, to inspire them about the opportunities that await them and to learn about the journeys that our visitors had been on to meet their career goals. Ultimately, we want our children to know that with faith, perseverance and hard work, there is nothing that they can't achieve.



Good Luck to Year 6!

As we bid farewell to our departing Year 6 pupils we remember them with love and affection and for their fantastic production of 'Cinderella Rockerfella'! As they prepare for their transition to secondary school, we all share their feelings of hope, excitement and pride.



In June, the children enjoyed an amazing week at PGL on the Isle of Wight. They enjoyed a wide range of exciting and challenging activities!



The children attended a special Leavers Service at Southwark Cathedral.

SCIENCE DAY

Each class took part in four exciting investigations throughout a whole day focused on developing the children's scientific skills and knowledge. Highlights included making paper, designing electrical circuits, using data loggers, designing and testing parachutes, coke bottle volcanoes, building with marshmallows and spaghetti, shadow puppets, making slime, investigating sweets, designing an ice garden, making water filters, building a house for bugs and planting seeds in recycled paper plant pots.



Girls love Science!

Science is always a favourite at St Mary's and following our amazing Science Day we were delighted to be sending home special Science activity packs for all of our girls in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. These packs contain lots of resources, activities and information about women involved in science. Girls are traditionally under-represented in the science fields of work and study at university or college so it is important that we encourage the love of Science at an early age!



Keeping cool at our drinks station

During the hot weather, we have created a fun drinks station in the playground, run by children who kindly volunteer their time to make sure that everyone can keep cool with a refreshing drink. Slices of lemon, lime or orange are a tasty addition!

Spelling Bee

Congratulations to all of the children who took part, practised their spellings and tried their best in the class heats. The two winners from each class battled it out in our Spelling Bee final. The standard was extremely high and we will look forward to the children using these words in their creative writing.



Eucharist Worship

Thank you to Father Max, Father Steve and Reader Marion for leading this special worship at St Mary's Church. We celebrated the Eucharist in the Anglican tradition and children who had received First Communion took part, whilst all other children were invited to receive a blessing.



Forest School Log Painting

Lying at the heart of our new Forest School will be some beautiful artwork created by the children of St Mary's. In keeping with the natural theme, each child decorated a piece of wood which will be incorporated into the Forest School design.

Year 2 Football Stars

Our amazing team of superstars played brilliantly and represented the school with pride and enthusiasm at a tournament against local Lewisham schools.



HEALTH WEEK AND SPORTS DAY

Each class at St Mary's enjoyed taking part in a wide range of activities - focused on the theme of 'healthy mind, healthy body'. During the week, the children experienced meditation, yoga, vegetable tasting, daily exercise and some healthy maths! The week culminated in our annual Sports Day, a fantastic event held at Ladywell Arena athletics track. The children competed in their teams at Sports Day, completing seven athletic challenges and a sprint race. It was also wonderful to be able to welcome our parents back to cheer their children on and take part in a tug of war and parent's races. Congratulations to our winning teams, in KS1 the champions were the **RED** team with 220 points and in KS2 the **BLUE** team won with a record score of 646!



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

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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

Autumn Term 2022

Monday 5th September - Thursday 20th October

SCHOOL CLOSED - Friday 21st October (deferred Bank Holiday)

HALF TERM - Monday 24th October - Friday 28th October

Monday 31st October - Thursday 15th December

INSET - SCHOOL CLOSED - Friday 18th November / Friday 16th December

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY - Monday 19th December - Monday 2nd January

Spring Term 2023

Wednesday 4th January - Friday 10th February

INSET - SCHOOL CLOSED - Tuesday 3rd January

HALF TERM - Monday 13th February - Friday 17th February