



Dates for your diary

Sun 23rd October 10:00am

1st Communion
St Mary's Church
~ ~ ~

HALF TERM 24/10 - 28/10
SCHOOL CLOSED
~ ~ ~

Thu 3rd November 9AM
Friends of St Mary's
meeting for all parents
~ ~ ~

Thu 17th November PM
Parents Evening
~ ~ ~

INSET DAY Friday 18/11
SCHOOL CLOSED
~ ~ ~

Tue 29th November 9AM
Advent worship (Church)
~ ~ ~

Fri 9th December 1:30PM
KS1 and Reception class
Nativity Show
~ ~ ~

Wed 14th December 2PM
KS2 Candlelit Service in
St Mary's Church
~ ~ ~

END OF TERM 15/12 1PM

RESPECT

Matthew 7:12

'So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.'

St Mary's Happy News!

News for our families and friends

www.st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk

Friday 21st October 2022

Volume 59

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

Dear Parents & Carers,

I know that the 'Cost of Living Crisis' is impacting on many of our families and we want to support those families in our school community who are impacted the most. If you're struggling with your finances, please do get in touch to let us know, as there may be things that we can suggest which will help. We want to do everything we can to help you and your children through this difficult winter.

It was an exciting and busy half-term for the children at St Mary's. I am very proud that they have settled into the new term and are fully engaged and keen to learn. We continue to be very proud of the effort and enthusiasm that our children bring to their learning. The thematic curriculum continues to provide many rich learning experiences that they enjoy and helps to bring the curriculum to life. Children loved our Black History Month theme **'Time for change - Action not Words'** and learnt about past and present BAME figures in history. They learnt how to cook African and Caribbean recipes and play the Djembe Drums. The month ended in the children wearing their traditional dress and celebrating their hair as part of our celebrations. The children have also enjoyed making links in their learning through their school trips and visits, to the Fire Station, British and Maritime Museums as well as to Southwark Cathedral.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to all of our parents for your Harvest contributions. Harvest is a key event on our school calendar and we traditionally celebrated and gave thanks in our local church as we do every year.

The school has again applied for funding to ensure that every child receives breakfast in the morning. We will continue to offer all children a warm, buttered bagel, every day, which they really enjoy.

Thank you to you all for supporting our children with their home learning. Our recent assessments have shown that the children have all made progress but there is still plenty to do, to ensure they reach national standards. With this in mind, we have identified a small number of children who will receive focused targeted 1:1 or group support during the next half-term to help them 'catch-up' in key curriculum areas.

A huge thank you to all of our parents and governors who have volunteered their time to read with our children. We appreciate and value you all.

I am pleased to announce that we have also arranged for a £15 food voucher for all pupils who are entitled to a free school meal. We are in the process of accessing this voucher and will send them out to eligible families next week.



Mrs Graham



Respect

Peace

Love

Forgiveness

Responsibility

Faith



St Mary's is an Excellent School

Black History Month - traditional dress and celebrate your hair day!



Reading Champions!

Congratulations to all of our parents, governors and volunteers who joined us for a fantastic training session. The focus of the training was supporting young children to make progress with their Reading. We are very grateful that our Reading Champions have all committed to volunteering at St Mary's to regularly listen to children read. We would love for more of our parents to become Reading Champions - please ask your child's teacher if you are interested or speak to the school office.



Year 2 'Fire Fire'

The thematic curriculum topic of 'Fire Fire' included a historical study of the Great Fire of London. As the fire started in a bakery, the children decided to learn how to make bread in their Design Technology lessons. Finally, a trip to Lewisham Fire Station enabled the children to learn more about the role of firefighters and how to stay safe.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Harvest Festival

Father Max led us in a very special Harvest worship as we gave thanks for all that we have in the world. Thank you to our families, who generously donated a record breaking amount of food and toiletries, especially given the challenging times we are living in. All of the contributions will be shared with those most in need in our local community.



The children confidently sang three special Harvest songs and Year 6 delivered the readings and prayers. During the worship, Father Max taught us how bread is made before blessing a very special harvest loaf, kindly baked by one of our School Governors, Kate Riches. Back at school, every child in our school community was offered a delicious piece of the Harvest loaf, as we shared one bread together.



Ladywell Ward Assembly Meeting

We were honoured to be chosen to host our local Assembly meeting, attended by all three of our local councillors and many local residents. It provided an opportunity to share local updates, focusing on housing, transport and community events.



Engage Parents workshop - Secondary Transitions

We were pleased to welcome back 'Engage' to lead a well-attended workshop focusing on Secondary Transitions. As well as offering some valuable practical advice, it was also an opportunity for parents to share their feelings at a time of change for their children.



Thank you Reverend Charles

Huge thanks to Reverend Charles - a long time supporter of St Mary's school. We are so grateful to Charles and his wife as they have continued to support the families in our school by providing much needed food vouchers. They really have made a difference!

Teddy Bear's Picnic

Year 1, 2 and 3 travelled with some special friends to the therapeutic garden in St Mary's Church. They took their favourite Teddy Bears for a wonderful Reading Picnic. As the children munched on jam sandwiches, their teachers shared some of their favourite stories with them. Huge thanks to all of the parents who joined us and enjoyed sharing their favourite books with small groups of children. We know our children love stories, so please keep reading at home!



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.

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/>

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.

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).



Maths Problem Solving

Every class enjoyed a special day focusing on Maths Investigations and Problem Solving - a great way to deepen the children's mathematical understanding and for them to apply their reasoning and arithmetic skills. This half term we focused on 'Trial and Improvement' - having a go and learning from every attempt!



Year 6 Artwork is displayed in a local exhibition

As part of our thematic curriculum, Year 6 studied the work of Adenike Okundaye Davis, a famous Nigerian textile artist. Inspired by her designs, the children learnt new sculpture techniques in order to design and create African clay masks. The standard was so high, they were invited to exhibit their work in a local exhibition, held at St Mary's Church. The children were thrilled to see their work displayed.



Football Tournament

Congratulations to our Year 5 and Year 6 football stars, who took part in a tournament held at a local Primary school, playing matches against three other schools. All of the players performed really well and played with enthusiasm and respect.

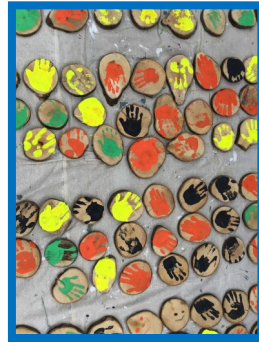
African Drumming

We are delighted that the children of St Mary's were once again able to enjoy a day of African drumming workshops. The children were learning from an experienced and talented performer from Senegal and every class made great progress. They also learned about West African culture and the importance of Drumming throughout the History of the region. A performance for the whole school was the perfect way to end the day.



FOREST SCHOOL GARDEN

A patch of unused wasteland next to St Mary's Primary School was overgrown and filled with rubbish. The School had a vision to transform this area into a Forest School garden to benefit the School and the local Community. During the summer holidays, we were thrilled to see the Forest School garden coming to life as the area was landscaped and the main features added. The Outdoor Classroom frame was constructed, alongside the Tree House, Fire Pit, Mud Kitchen and the Pond. The children have enjoyed exploring the area already and our staff have received training on Forest School activities.



GOVERNANCE

At St Mary's we are blessed to have a committed and supportive governing body who play an active role in our school community. Our governors play a vital role in organisational and educational development and challenging existing processes to drive school improvement for the long term success of all pupils in the school. I would like to say a huge congratulations to our new Chair of Governors Dave Bassford.



Dave Bassford
Chair of Governors



Julia Pring
Vice Chair of Governors



Paula Anderson
Vice Chair of Governors



Christine Graham



Vicki Stead



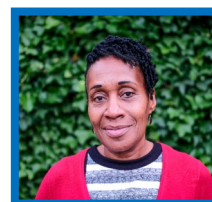
Stephanie Ansell



Mohamed Jalloh



Fr Steve Hall



Marcia Skinner



Chris Stringfellow

Kate Riches

Ayesha Lahai-Taylor



Kevin Whipps

Ioana Tica-Horvath

Year 3 have been learning about Polar Explorers

Year 3 have focused on explorers and the North and South poles as part of their thematic curriculum this term. The children enjoyed a wonderful day out at the National Maritime Museum, where they learned about Polar Explorers as part of their Geography and History learning. They deepened their understanding by creating magnet maze games in their Design Technology and Science lessons, also linked to their topic.



Year 5 learn about Benin and create amazing artwork

It's been an exciting half-term in year 5. The children explored their topic "African Kingdom" where they learned about the continent of Africa, the country Nigeria and the history of the Ancient Benin people. In Art, Year 5 enjoyed creating their own tie and dye fabric piece, inspired by the works of the Nigerian artist, Mrs Nike Ogundaye Davis. The class adapted the traditional process of making Adire and used washable glue and fabric paint.



Athletics Stars

Congratulations to our Athletics team who performed with skill and speed at a tournament held at Sydenham School. Our Year 5 and Year 6 athletes competed against local schools in field events (throwing and jumping) as well as a series of relay races.



PRAYER DAY

St Mary's Church and Therapeutic Garden were the perfect setting for a day of Prayer, Reflection and Peace. Many thanks to Father Max, Father Steve, Reader Marion and our School Governor Kate Riches, for supporting the event to ensure that everything ran smoothly. Each child in the school enjoyed 4 activities, planned and led by the Children's Faith Group. The 4 activities, which linked to our school values were:

- Sorry Stones - children asked for **Forgiveness** for things we have done wrong
- **Love** Flower Candles - children wrote prayers on flowers and drew special people, before decorating the flowers and choosing a candle to light the centre of their prayer
- Musical Prayer - many thanks to Mr Stringfellow, School Governor, who led this outdoor prayer focusing on **Respect** and **Faith**
- **Peace** Rainbow - children reflected on the value of **Peace** and then used writing and drawing to create a collage rainbow



**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

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