

ST MARY'S LEWISHAM
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL



FAITH LOVE
COMMUNITY

Dates for your diary

HALF TERM 25/10 - 29/10
SCHOOL CLOSED
~ ~ ~

Thu 18th November PM
Parents Evening
~ ~ ~

Fri 19th November
Children in Need
Own Clothes Day
~ ~ ~

INSET DAY FRI 26/11
SCHOOL CLOSED
~ ~ ~

Fri 10th December
KS1 and EYFS
Nativity Performance
~ ~ ~

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

TERM ENDS FRI 17/12 1PM

RESPECT

Matthew 7:12

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

Philippians 2:3

'In humility consider others better than yourselves.'

St Mary's Happy News!

News for our families and friends

www.st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk

Friday 22nd October 2021

Volume 50

Dear Parents & Carers,
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 our children enjoy and bring the curriculum to life. They loved learning to cook African and Caribbean recipes, playing the Djembe Drums and listening to storytelling as part of our Black History Month celebrations. They have also enjoyed making links in their learning through their school trips and visits, especially their visit to welcome Amal the giant refugee puppet who travelled through Deptford



today.

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. I would like to extend a huge thank you to all of our parents for their 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.

I am pleased to announce that we have also arranged for a £15 Asda 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



Football Champions!

Our Year 5 and Year 6 children played in an exciting tournament held in Sydenham, competing against teams from other Lewisham Schools. After some close-fought group matches, both teams qualified for the finals! The girls team picked up Silver medals as the runners-up, whilst the boys went one better and picked up Gold medals and a trophy as the 2021 Champions!



Build a Burger and Scoop a Sundae

The children enjoyed a very special lunch as they designed their own delicious burgers and ice-cream sundaes.



Governors receive the Bishop's Certificate

Congratulations to our dedicated Governing Body who have achieved the Bishop's Certificate in Governance. Julia Pring, Chair of Governors, received the award at Southwark Cathedral from Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark.

Walk with Amal

St Mary's were involved in a wonderful event as we welcomed a giant puppet, Amal, to Lewisham. Amal has journeyed all the way from Syria, across Europe, on a journey to raise awareness of child migrants. We ensured that Amal received a warm welcome as our children made bunting and waved flags amongst the large crowd gathered in Deptford High Street.

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.

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**.



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

A reminder that this vital funding, which we rely on to maintain the school premises, is due by the end of October. Please pay via Parent Pay - £30 for the year or £10 a term, sibling discounts are available.

Maths Problem Solving

Reasoning and Problem Solving lie at the heart of our Maths curriculum. The children love to solve real problems in a context so that they can put their Maths learning into practice. This term, our focus was 'Trial and Improvement'. After a whole school Worship, each class then enjoyed their own challenges, using physical resources, pictures and symbols to solve Maths Problems.



Iroko Theatre Workshops

Each class enjoyed a fantastic workshop from Iroko Theatre, learning a combination of Nigerian Music, Song and Dance to tell traditional stories.

Harvest Festival

Father Max led a wonderful worship in St Mary's Church as we celebrated Harvest together as a School Community. The generous donations from our families were blessed by Father Max before being shared with those in need in our local Community. Well done to all of our children as each class created a beautifully decorated box to display the donations. Many thanks to our School Governor Kate Riches for baking a beautifully decorated Harvest loaf, which the children enjoyed.



Reading Picnic

Year 1 and Year 2 enjoyed a fabulous reading picnic, held in the Therapeutic Garden in the grounds of St Mary's Church. As the children tucked into jam sandwiches and juice, their teachers brought some wonderful stories to life. Following this, the children enjoyed reading their books, sharing a story with the many soft toys that joined us at the picnic.

Free School Meal Vouchers

I am pleased to announce that we have arranged for a food voucher to cover the half-term holiday 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).



Year 1 visit St Mary's Church

Father Max welcomed Year 1 to St Mary's Church as they learned about Christian Baptism.



Year 2 visit Lewisham Fire Station

Year 2 enjoyed a fantastic trip to Lewisham Fire Station, where they climbed aboard the engines and sprayed the water from the hoses!

Year 5 and Year 6 visit the Migration Museum

Both classes enjoyed a visit to the Migration Museum in Lewisham Shopping Centre, supporting their Thematic Curriculum learning about Caribbean Islands.



African Drumming

Each class enjoyed a fantastic African drumming session with Abram, a talented drummer and regular visitor to St Mary's. The fantastic finale was a performance by some of our most talented drummers - with the whole school clapping and singing along!

Autumn Walk

Year 2 used all of their senses as they enjoyed a walk in the grounds of St Mary's Church and Ladywell Fields on a beautiful Autumn day.



Super Senses

The children in Year 2 enjoyed using all of their Super Hero senses in this Science lesson!



Prayer Day

St Mary's Church and Therapeutic Garden were the perfect setting for a day of Prayer, Reflection and Peace. 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, symbolised by pebbles.
- Peace chain - children wrote prayers and drew images of Peace to add to an ever growing chain, which stretched right across the Church by the end of the day.
- Musical prayer - many thanks to Mr Stringfellow, School Governor, who led this outdoor musical prayer focusing on Respect and Faith.
- Prayer Tree - children shared their reflective prayers of Love and Respect, before hanging these on the tree.



**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:

- [Internet matters](#) - support to keep children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) - support for parents and carers 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 2021

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

Monday 1st November - Friday 17th December

INSET DAY - Friday 26th November

Spring Term 2022

Tuesday 4th 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