



Dates for your diary

Mon 4th - Fri 8th March

Book Week including Dress
Up Day on Friday 08/03
~ ~ ~

Wed 6th March 9AM

Mothering Sunday worship in
School - parents welcome!
~ ~ ~

THURSDAY 7TH MARCH
SCHOOL CLOSED - POLLING
STATION FOR LEWISHAM
MAYORAL ELECTIONS
~ ~ ~

Monday 11th March

Easter competitions start -
Bonnets (KS1) Eggs (KS2)
~ ~ ~

Thursday 14th March

Parents Evening
~ ~ ~

Friday 22nd March

Dress Down Day + Cake Sale
and Easter Games at 3PM
~ ~ ~

THURSDAY 28TH MARCH
1PM - END OF TERM

FORGIVENESS

John 10:11 'I am the good
shepherd. The good
shepherd lays down his life
for the sheep.'

Mahatma Gandhi

"The weak can never forgive.
Forgiveness is the attribute of
the strong."

Respect

Peace

Love

Forgiveness

Responsibility

Faith

St Mary's Happy News!

News for our families and friends

www.st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk

Friday 23rd February 2024

Volume 68

"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. As always I am so blessed to be given the responsibility to care for and educate our amazing children. Their imagination, hard work and love of learning have seen them make great progress as they enjoy engaging with our creative and exciting thematic curriculum. Our enriching curriculum continues to promote the highest quality of education and experiences for our children this term. Our learning will include:-

- ◆ Visits to our Forest School Garden to learn about plants and growth in Science.
- ◆ Book week activities with a visiting Author to promote children's love of reading and writing in Literacy.
- ◆ Easter Egg/Hat Competitions to encourage children's creativity in Art and Design.



This week our children and parents enjoyed a trip to the Royal Festival Hall to listen to the London Philharmonic Orchestra to develop their love of musical instruments. The children are enjoying learning to play musical instruments ranging from brass instruments to guitars. We look forward to them performing in a musical concert in the summer term.

Last term, children enjoyed participating in our annual Poetry Competition. As always, the standard of the children's performances was exceptional. Chinese New Year celebrations were supported by our generous parents who shared a wide selection of delicious food as well as leading traditional Arts and Crafts activities; there was even Dragon Dancing for each class in the school!

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. Thank you to all of our parents for continuing to work in partnership with us in school. All of your hard work and support is very much appreciated.

Christine Graham (Headteacher)



Exciting learning in Nursery class

Nursery children have been finding out about how the Lunar New Year is celebrated. They prepared meals in the Chinese Restaurant Role Play, practised painting Chinese numerals and celebrated with a dragon dance. They have also enjoyed the book "Handa's Surprise". Activities included going on a wild animal hunt outside, trying to walk with baskets on their heads and tasting some of the tropical fruits Handa carried in her basket.



Year 3 visit Mudchute Farm

Last term, Year 3 went to visit the Mudchute Farm Park. First, the children learned how we bake bread. The staff member handed out the materials and instructed the children how to follow the steps to make bread. Next, the children learned how to make butter using crème fraiche, before enjoying eating their bread and butter. Finally, the children walked around the farm to see the different animals. They were really excited to see animals from other countries, such as llamas.



Year 4 learn about Rivers and build Boats

Year 4 visited Creekside Discovery Centre to find out more about the features of the River Thames and some of the creatures that make it their home. We also studied lots of interesting artefacts that had been found by or in the river. In DT, year 4 have been making and testing boats. We wanted to find out what material and shape made the best sail.



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).



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Please see our website for [WHERE TO FIND HELP WITH FOODBANKS, HOLIDAY MEALS, COST OF LIVING AND FAMILY SUPPORT](#). There are more links to a range of support on the back page of this newsletter. Please speak to a member of staff if you require any additional support.

[CLICK HERE FOR LOTS OF FAMILY ACTIVITIES TO ENJOY IN LEWISHAM.](#)

Friends of St Mary's

Thank you to all of the parents who planned our Chinese New Year celebrations and ran the events on the day. The school community enjoyed learning about Chinese culture and tasting the delicious food kindly prepared by our parents.



Petition to fund cookery lessons in schools

Please follow this link if you would like to support this Petition that has been started by a London Primary School. This is a Petition to ask Government for more funding for cookery lessons in primary schools to help fight obesity and to support with the cost of living:

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/655975/sponsors/new?token=N0799xy1glDfWAdSli-s>

Punctuality

Thank you to the vast majority of parents who have been on time at the beginning (8:40) and end of the day (3:10). 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. [Late charges for Enrichment Club](#) apply from 5:45 and are £10 per 5 minutes.



Parents can check online to see if they are eligible for Free School Meals:

<https://pps.lgfl.org.uk/>

All children are currently getting a free meal at school, but Free School Meals eligibility entitles them to food vouchers in the holidays, access to free Holiday Club provision and importantly, thousands of pounds of funding for the school which will go directly on supporting teaching and learning.

Medication

If you require your child to take any prescribed medication during the school day, please speak to the school office and complete the required form.

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 ParentPay - £30 for the year or £10 a term. Sibling discounts are available.

Free School Meal Vouchers

We have continued to provide food vouchers to cover the school holidays 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>



CHINESE NEW YEAR



St Mary's celebrated the Year of the Dragon with wonderful support from our families from our Chinese community. A group of parents kindly prepared a wide range of delicious home-cooked Chinese dishes, which were enjoyed by all of the children (and staff!). Each class were visited by a special guest from China, who kindly shared her knowledge of Chinese culture and language. The parents also led Chinese craft workshops as the children learned calligraphy, lantern making and paper design.

Everyone in the school wore RED clothes as this is a lucky colour in China. Many thanks to Mr Scrivens, Miss Dikule and Mr Parchment who created a wonderful Chinese dragon. Every class took part in a Dragon Dance lesson, the children loved to learn a new dance technique!



Year 5 Trip to the Gurdwara Sahib Woolwich

In R.E., Year 5 have been learning about Sikhism. We visited the Gurdwara in Woolwich and we learned more about who started Sikhism, when Sikhism started, and where it first originated.

Some of the beliefs and core principles that guide a Sikh's way of life are:

1. Charity: sharing and giving to those in need
2. Honesty and integrity in all things
3. Social justice



Year 6 Vikings Day

We enjoyed being Vikings for a day. It was amazing to learn all about why they invaded England, what they believed and their daily life. We even learned how their religion influenced the names that they gave to the days of the week. Did you know that a Viking king who died was cremated on a long ship with his weapons and even a horse head?



Karrabing Film Collective

Year 6 had a great time exploring the digital art and the theme of colonisation. We were fortunate enough to be part of an amazing workshop; we learnt about indigenous film making and got to create our own takes on story telling through still pictures (polaroids) and junk modelling.



Candlemas and Eucharist

Father Steve and Father Max welcomed us for a special Eucharist service which also taught us about the importance of Candlemas, when Jesus went to the temple as a young baby. Our Year 6 children helped to lead the worship in their role as servers. They gave the readings and led us in prayer, as well as bringing the Bread and Wine to the Communion table.



**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

Where to find help - CLICK HERE

Please visit a new section of our school website, which contains information and advice for all of our families:

- **Support with Domestic Abuse** - posters in several languages
- **Cost of Living Crisis** - we know that everyone is feeling the effects of the crisis, and we want to support our families that are most affected
- **Local Authority support** - help available from Lewisham Council
- **Help with feeding your family** - details of local food banks
- **Worrying about money** - advice and guidance including hardship funds
- **A warm welcome** - local spaces offering a warm and welcoming environment
- **Local organisations that support families** - directory of local services

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. Here are some links to places where families can find additional support:

- [Loneliness and Re-connection](#) - information and a toolkit for parents
- [Mental Health Resources](#) - links to many resources for children & parents
- [Every mind matters](#) - mental health advice from the NHS
- [Government guidance for parents and carers](#) - support with Covid-19
- [Childhood Bereavement Network](#) - support for children who have experienced the death of someone important to them

E - Safety

Please continue to be aware of what your child is doing 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
- [Thinkuknow](#) - advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents and carers from the NSPCC
- [Kiddle](#) and [KidRex](#) - child friendly search engines

TERM DATES

Spring 2 Term 2024

Monday 19th February - Thursday 28th March

POLLING DAY (Lewisham Mayoral Election) - Thursday 7th March

EASTER HOLIDAY - Friday 29th March - Friday 12th April

Summer Term 2024

Monday 15th April - Friday 24th May

POLLING DAY (London Mayoral Election) - Thursday 2nd May

BANK HOLIDAY - Monday 6th May

HALF TERM - Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May

Monday 3rd June - Friday 19th July

INSET - SCHOOL CLOSED - Friday 14th June