



## Dates for your diary

### YEARS 1 - 6

**Thursday 2nd September**

**Group A return to school for the new school year / Group B learn at home**

**Friday 3rd September**

**Group B return to school for the new school year / Group A learn at home**

**Monday 6th September**

**All children return to school**

### RECEPTION & NURSERY

**Children will have different start dates and attendance patterns over the first weeks of term.**



### FAITH

**Hebrews 11:1**

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

**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

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

**Respect**

**Peace**

**Love**

**Forgiveness**

**Responsibility**

**Faith**

# St Mary's Happy News!

News for our families and friends

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

Friday 23rd July 2021

Volume 48

Dear Parents and Carers,



It is hard to believe that we are coming to the end of another school year! I am delighted that St Mary's continues to be judged as a good and rapidly improving school, despite the challenges of the Pandemic. Our recent Inclusion Centre of Excellence award and Sanctuary School Status demonstrates our commitment to our vision and core values. I would like to extend a huge thank you to all of our families for working in partnership with us to support your children's learning, we value all that you have done. I am also appreciative of our staff and Governors for their care of the children throughout the past year and for their effort and dedication to support the learning experiences for all the children and families in our school.

I am especially proud of our children's achievements, you will see from their school reports that they have worked really hard to catch-up on lost learning. Our children have made rapid progress in many areas of the curriculum— great job! The thematic curriculum is both creative and enriching and provides opportunities for our children to explore and interact through practical activities. KS1 and our Early Years children were excited to hatch baby ducklings and chicks. They observed them carefully and learnt about their lifecycles as part of our science curriculum. In KS2 the children enjoyed poetry, storytelling and cooking workshops. All children also enjoyed our Health and Wellbeing week which focused on healthy foods and packed lunches, the week ended with sports day where our children showed great sporting talent, teamwork and resilience.

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

We would also like to say farewell and wish those staff leaving us all the very best for the future; Miss Safo, Miss Jackson, Miss Octave and Miss Silverton. Thank you for your wonderful contribution to the school! I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Miss Enyoisi on her appointment as Year 3 class teacher.

I am wishing all of our school community a restful and safe summer break.

Best wishes,

Christine Bernard



School of  
**SANCTUARY AWARD**  
Welcoming People Seeking Sanctuary



St Mary's is an Excellent School



### School of Sanctuary

St Mary's became only the third school in London to achieve this status. The award has been made in recognition of our work and ongoing commitment to the City of Sanctuary vision of fostering a culture of welcome and being a place of safety for all and proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution.



### Justice & Democracy - Home Office consultation

Some of our amazing children took part in a Zoom meeting with the Home Office to discuss and give their views on a range of issues related to NRPF, Immigration and British Citizenship. They were given the opportunity to talk about how these issues affect them and their families. In addition they gave their views on how unfair they felt the system of applying and paying for Child British Citizenship was.

The purpose of the consultation was for the Home Office to listen to children, to hear their views and to make some changes accordingly. The children made some great suggestions for improvement including the use of translators, simplifying language used in forms and letters, being fairer and transparent to all who use the Home Office and maybe letting parents pay fees in instalments.



We are so proud of our children who displayed all the values we talk about in school including responsibility, respect and community. The children received certificates from the Home Office for their contributions.



### Grammar School

Well done to three of our Year 6 pupils who have secured a place at Grammar School. They had to work hard to complete extra study, revise and take entry tests.

### We are here to help!

If you have any concerns related to your family's wellbeing, finances or practical issues, please get in touch with our School Home Support Worker, Marta Tildesley, by emailing the school at:

[admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk) or by ringing the school on **0208 6902613** or Mrs Tildesley on **07811 997648**.



If you require a referral to Lewisham foodbank at any time, please contact Mrs Tildesley.

[www.lewisham.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.lewisham.foodbank.org.uk)



### Inclusion Centre of Excellence

St Mary's received this award in 2019, reflecting our Inclusive practice. We were also nominated as a Centre of Excellence in order for us to share our practice with other schools. Please follow this link to read the [report and the 2021 annual review](#).



### Message from Father Steve

A year ago we had all had a difficult time with Covid. We never thought a year later things would still be so difficult.

As we come to the end of term and the summer holidays, our prayers from St Mary's church are with everyone at school. We give thanks for all our teachers and staff – thank you Ms Bernard for keeping everyone safe.



We give thanks for all our children and their families, for their hard work and for their joy and happiness through all the difficulties and changes this year. And we pray for those who will leave us now, for our year 6 children moving on to secondary schools and for other staff and children who are moving on.

We wish you God's blessing for a lovely summer break and we look forward to seeing you again in September – when we hope you will see more of new Fr Max at St Mary's!  
With God's love and blessings, Fr Steve & Fr Max

### Fantastic Fred Mental Health Workshops

Fantastic Fred and the Professor visited to tell each class about the importance of looking after your brain, which is like an amazing computer. To do this they talked about: Food; Rest; Exercise; Devices - should be limited to 1 hour a day. These 4 areas all contribute to our good mental health - children and adults alike.



### Thank you Reverend Charles & Projectfivek

Many families at St Mary's have received food vouchers and food bags during the Covid-19 pandemic. This has all been thanks to Reverend Charles - a long time supporter of St Mary's school and his new charity called Projectfivek, which aims to feed those families who might otherwise struggle to make ends meet. We are so grateful to Charles and his wife for their hard work and support of the families in our school. They really have made a difference!

*"The vouchers have been very useful, they have helped to put food on many families' tables. The food makes a real difference to families' lives. We would like to thank Reverend Charles."*  
Parent of a child in Year 6

### Free School Meal Vouchers

I am pleased to announce that we have arranged for a food voucher to cover the Summer 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>

### 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).**





## Health Week and Sports Day

### Promoting Positive Mental Health & A Healthy and Active Lifestyle

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, fruit kebab making 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 six athletic challenges and a sprint race. Many more photos have been added to our website and you can view these here: [WEBSITE - SPORTS DAY](#).



*"You can keep your body healthy in fun ways"*  
Kajanika, Year 4



*"I can take deep breaths and enjoy silent moments"*  
Ebenezer, Year 4



*"The Maths lesson was fun because we got to do exercise"*  
Kaya, Year 4



### Year 4 have been active!

Congratulations to our Year 4 class, who completed an intensive 2 week swimming course during June. Learning to swim is a vital life skill and our children had missed out during Covid-19 lockdowns. Undaunted, they rose to the challenge, arriving at school early every day and making great progress in the pool. They even found time to also enjoy some cricket coaching back at school!



### Football tournament champions

We have missed the opportunity to take part in Sports tournaments against other schools during the pandemic. So, it was a wonderful experience to take part in 2 football competitions. The Year 5 boys can be very proud as they held their own against teams that were a year older than them, scoring in every match. Meanwhile, our Year 5 and Year 6 girls put in an outstanding performance to win their competition. We forgot about the disappointment of England's loss in the Euro 2020 final as the girls brought football home (to St Mary's)!



### Farewell to Year 6

We are so proud of our amazing Year 6 children as they take the next steps on their learning journey and transition to Secondary School. They produced a wonderful performance of 'Aladdin' which was enjoyed by our parents. We were led in Worship at St Mary's Church by Father Steve for our Leaver's service, each child received a Bible as a gift. We look forward to our Year 6 children visiting us next year as they will always be a part of the St Mary's family.



### Year 5 have been busy Sailing and Soaring...

Congratulations to our Year 5 pupils, who have demonstrated courage and determination to learn how to sail on the river Thames. Each child enjoyed two days of sailing in small boats, learning new skills and creating memories that will last a lifetime. They also enjoyed a trip to the London Eye and the Sealife Centre.



### Life Cycles - Hatching Chicks and Ducklings

Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 learned about life cycles as they carefully observed chicks and ducklings hatching from their eggs. The children learned how to care for the babies, providing them with food, water and shelter. The children in Nursery were thrilled when they watched their ducklings swimming for the first time in a tray of water!





### World War 2 Cookery

Year 5 and Year 6 stepped back in time in their History lessons to learn about rationing during World War 2. They carefully planned some wartime recipes in their Design Technology lessons using only the ingredients that would have been available 80 years ago. Finally, they spent a day using a range of cookery techniques to cook some delicious jam and biscuits.



### Year 1 visit to St Mary's Church

As part of their Religious Education learning about Saints, Year 1 class were welcomed to St Mary's Church by Father Steve. They explored the Church and found many different pictures and sculptures of Mary - including in the stained glass windows. Father Steve taught the children about the life of Mary, the mother of Jesus.



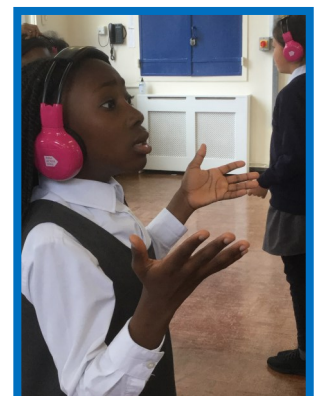
### Clay modelling inspired by Ancient Greece

Year 5 have learned a range of clay modelling techniques in their Art lessons, including rolling, slabbing, pinching and coiling. The children created these ancient Greek Olympic medals by using tools to make surface marks and decorations.



### Now Press Play

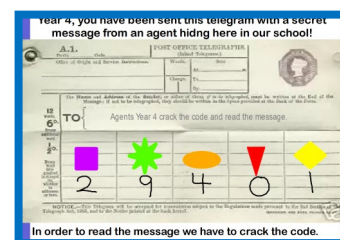
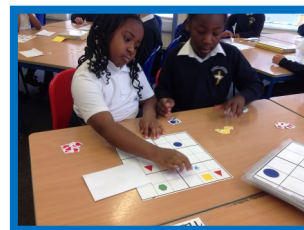
Year 5 enjoyed immersing themselves in an interactive story to support their learning in History about World War Two. Now Press Play enables each child to listen to a range of stories and respond through drama to the unfolding events, which link to all areas of the curriculum.





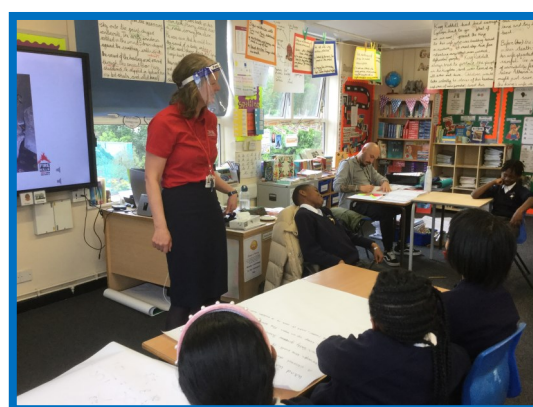
### Maths Problem Solving

Every half-term, the children at St Mary's focus on a different Problem Solving skill in Maths and this term we learned about Logical Reasoning. In worship, Year 3 and Year 4 worked as a team to solve equations using symbols to crack a secret code, linked to their Communication topic. Back in class, Year 3 solved Sudoku style Maths problems, developing their resilience and teamwork. Meanwhile, Year 2 were busy exploring multiplication.



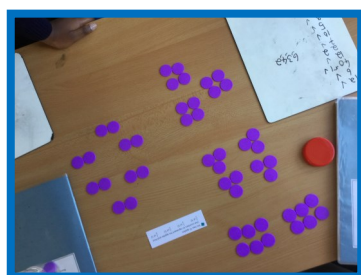
### Year 1 enjoy a nature study in Ladywell fields

As part of their 'Animal Magic' topic, Year 1 enjoyed a visit to Ladywell Fields. They explored a range of habitats and spotted signs of Spring.



### Fire Safety

Year 2 and Year 5 welcomed an important visitor to St Mary's. London Fire Brigade taught the children about fire prevention and how to stay safe in the event of a fire.



### Year 5 Maths

At St Mary's we use a wide range of resources to help us in our Maths lessons. Year 5 used counters to find fractions of a quantity.

### Year 2 make boats

The children conducted a science experiment to find out which material is best for the sail of a boat. They measured how far the boat could travel with each type of sail.



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

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Friends of St Mary's  
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[fosm@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto: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

**TERM DATES**

**Autumn Term 2021**

**Thursday 2nd September - Friday 22nd October**

*NOTE - children in KS1 and KS2 attend on either 02/09 OR 03/09, all children in KS1 and KS2 attend from Monday 6th September. EYFS will have different start dates, which have been communicated.*

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

**Monday 1st November - Friday 17th December**

**INSET DAYS - Tuesday 31st August / Wednesday 1st September / Friday 19th November**