



### Dates for your diary

**SCHOOL CLOSURES AT 1PM ON  
FRIDAY 1ST APRIL FOR THE  
EASTER HOLIDAYS**

~ ~ ~

Tuesday 19th April  
**Children return to School  
for the Summer Term**

~ ~ ~

**MONDAY 2ND MAY  
BANK HOLIDAY**

~ ~ ~

**THURSDAY 5TH MAY  
SCHOOL CLOSED  
POLLING STATION**

~ ~ ~

### **FORGIVENESS**

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

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



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

Respect  
Love  
Responsibility  
Peace  
Forgiveness  
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)

Tuesday 29th March 2022

Volume 54

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

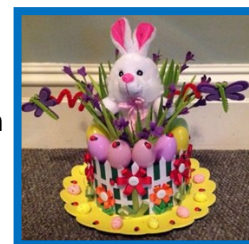
Dear Parents & Carers,

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.

Please can I remind you of our exciting **Easter competitions**; all entries must be in school by Thursday 31st March. There will be some great Easter Egg prizes to be won!

### **Nursery, Reception, Y1 & Y2 Easter Bonnet Competition**

We invite you to take part in our competition to decorate an Easter bonnet (hat)! Where possible, please try to recycle and reuse items that you already have at home.



### **Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6 Easter Egg Decoration Competition**

We invite you to take part in our competition to decorate an Easter Egg! You could create an egg out of craft materials or hard-boil a real egg to decorate. Be as creative as you like!

**Book Week** was once again a great opportunity to celebrate our children's love of reading. Well done to everyone who dressed up as non-fiction book characters. We were very lucky to be joined by Colin Stuart, a well known author who inspired the children to learn about Science and Space.

We set our school a fundraising target for **Ukraine**, and thanks to everyone who generously supported the cake sale and dress up days - we smashed our target and so far we have raised over £650!

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. Please can I remind you that **SCHOOL CLOSURES AT 1PM ON FRIDAY 1ST APRIL**. Wishing you a peaceful Easter break and we will look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Tuesday 19th April**.

Best wishes  
Christine Graham, Headteacher



### Support for Ukraine

St Mary's have been active in responding to the crisis in Ukraine. We have held fundraising events to raise much needed money to support those caught up in the conflict. An own clothes day was held with the theme of 'Blue and Yellow' to represent the colours of the Ukrainian flag. Our children's Faith Group planned a Cake Sale and designed posters. Thank you for the generosity of our parents who donated cakes and biscuits; this ensured that everyone could enjoy a sweet treat at the end of the day whilst raising money. Special thanks to our star bakers as many parents prepared delicious cakes at home - some even decorated in blue and yellow!



### Worship

Our daily worship continues to lie at the heart of all that we do as a school community. Worship focuses on our school values and how we can live these in our lives. We also mark key events in the Christian calendar - thanks to Father Steve, Father Max and Reader Marion from St Mary's Church for joining us for Ash Wednesday and Mothering Sunday.



### A special gift for our mothers!

Thanks to all of the mothers who joined us for worship and received some Spring daffodils as a gift.



### 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.

### Year 3 Ancient Egyptian Maths!

The Gods Anubis and Horus are at war and only Cleopatra can avoid disaster (with some help from Year 3)! Using their mathematical skills of division, the children were able to share out Cleopatra's treasure equally, even when Sobek (the crocodile God) joined the conflict.



### 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.



### Year 6 Make a Change

In order to raise awareness for the growing concerns that we have for the future of the world we live in, we decided to create sculptures that would represent animals endangered by climate change. Once sculpted, painted and dried, we delivered our clay walrus sculptures to Lewisham Hub where they would be used to form an exhibition.



### Sports Stars!

Our children have been busy representing St Mary's in several after school sports tournaments. They have competed with skill and shown great teamwork and respect.



### Coffee Mornings

It was great to get some of the parents together again at last in the Community Hub to socialise and chat. There was also an opportunity for the children to join them and decorate fairy cakes. Doing simple things together with your child is a lot of fun and provides important shared experiences that help you to understand and communicate with 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](mailto:admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk) or by ringing the school on **0208 6902613**.

### Free School Meal Vouchers

I am pleased to announce that we have arranged for a £30 ASDA food voucher to cover the Easter 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/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).

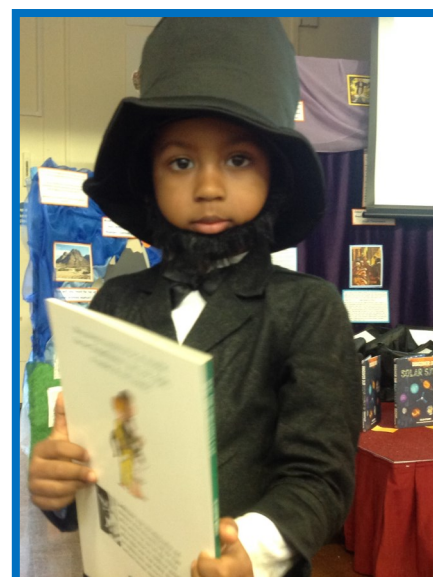
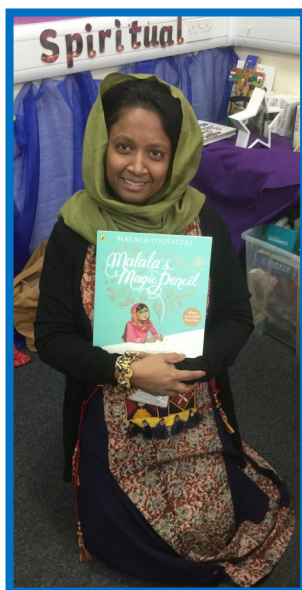




## Book Week

Once again, St Mary's enjoyed a fabulous week enjoying and celebrating books and reading. Our focus this year was non-fiction (information) books. The highlight of the week was a visit from well-known Author Colin Stuart - who inspired the children to be the first person on Mars! Colin has written books on Science and Space and he signed copies of his books for the children as well as giving them tips on how to become an Author.

Other events included a Teacher Swap as each class enjoyed books from a surprise visiting teacher! The events were linked to our curriculum and children developed their computing skills by reviewing their favourite books of the week. A Reading Banquet offered the children a captivating menu of books to enjoy. Finally, the week was rounded off in style with our 'Dress Up Day', featuring an amazing selection of famous and historical figures that feature in non-fiction books - prize winners included Abraham Lincoln, the Queen, Cleopatra and Mary Seacole!





### Year 3 Boats

Well done to everyone who completed the home learning challenge to design and build a boat, using household materials. Year 3 enjoyed a lovely morning in the sunshine, testing out the boats to find out if they floated! The quality of the designs was excellent and the boats looked amazing. Several of the designs featured extra features such as propellers, sails and cabins.



### Year 1 and Year 2 visit Greenwich Park

The children went to Greenwich Park for a workshop. They had a great time learning about plants and how they grow as part of their Science Topic. Year 1 and Year 2 also learned about food chains and the different types of trees in the park.

### Year 6 Design and Make their own Shoes!

This half term, Year 6 are learning all about the Vikings. As part of their Design Technology learning, the children considered what Vikings wore in the past and what their shoes were made from. Each child was challenged to design and make their own Viking shoes using a J cloth, thread, a needle, a pair of scissors and a marker. The results were great as Year 6 used their knowledge of different stitches (running stitch and backstitch) to join pieces of cloth together and even sew on some buttons.



### Year 2 and Year 6 Maths Problem Solving

Our focus this half-term was on solving problems by working backwards. Year 2 knew that there were some animals in the zoo and that there were 20 legs in total. They found lots of different possible combinations of animals.



### Year 5 Viking inspired printing

Year 5 found out about Urnes Viking Art and learned how to create a collagraph print. They used string, tissue paper and cardboard to create their own designs. It was a lot of fun!



**ST MARY'S LEWISHAM  
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**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**

**Spring Term 2022**

**Friday 1st April - School closes at 1PM - Last day of term**

**Summer Term 2022**

**Tuesday 19th April - Friday 27th May**

**BANK HOLIDAY - Monday 2nd May**

**SCHOOL CLOSED (POLLING STATION) - Thursday 5th May**

**HALF TERM - Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June**

**Monday 6th June - Wednesday 20th July**

**INSET DAYS - Friday 17th June / Thursday 21st July**