



Dates for your diary

BANK HOLIDAY 02/01/23
SCHOOL CLOSED
~ ~ ~

INSET DAY 03/01/23
SCHOOL CLOSED
~ ~ ~

Wednesday 4th January
All children return to school
~ ~ ~

Friday 6th January 9AM
Epiphany Worship in
St Mary's Church
~ ~ ~

Monday 16th January
Poetry Competition Launch
~ ~ ~

Friday 20th January
Chinese New Year
celebrations and own
clothes day
~ ~ ~

TERM ENDS FRIDAY 10/02

PEACE

Isaiah 9: 2-6 'The people
who walked in darkness
have seen a great light... for
unto us a child is born... and
his name shall be called
Wonderful, Mighty God, the
Prince of Peace.'

John 14:27 'Peace I leave
with you, my peace I give to
you... Let not your heart be
troubled, neither let it be
afraid.'

Respect

Peace

Love

Forgiveness

Responsibility

Faith

St Mary's Happy News!

News for our families and friends

www.st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk



Friday 16th December 2022

Volume 60

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

Dear Parents & Carers,

I would like to thank our wonderful children for their hard work throughout the term. They have enjoyed learning from an enriching and creative curriculum and I am proud of their achievements and progress.

Our KS1 Nativity show ([CLICK HERE TO WATCH](#)) was outstanding! The children performed confidently and were very professional. Our KS2 Carol Service was a lovely celebration of singing and choral speaking. Thank you to all of our families who attended both events.

We were blessed to have such a huge turnout at our school Christmas Fayre, which was a brilliant success. We raised over £1,600! None of this would have been possible without the support and dedication of our parents and carers, the 'Friends of St Mary's', especially Stephanie Ansell who sourced and organised all of the gifts for the event. A huge thank you to all those parents who made wonderful food and cakes; you are a real blessing to our school. I know that each and every parent and child has contributed to the school's continued success and you should all feel very proud.

I am hugely grateful to our school governors who give their time freely to attend meetings and events to support and lead the school. Thank you also to our staff for their hard work and commitment to ensuring that our children receive the very best education.

Christmas is such an exciting and special time in the Christian calendar. A time to meet with family and friends to celebrate the birth of Jesus or just to eat, drink and enjoy each others company. During this period of fun and celebration, it is worth remembering that Christmas can also be a tough time for many people, including those who are homeless, recently bereaved, lonely or struggling to make ends meet. Let's remember to keep them in our hearts, thoughts and prayers. On behalf of the staff and governors at St Mary's Primary School, I would like to wish all of our children and parents a very happy and peaceful Christmas and every blessing for the New Year.

Best wishes,

Christine Graham, Headteacher



Values-based Education
VbE Quality Mark



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
EDUCATION OFFICE

St Mary's is an Excellent School



Message from Father Steve

As the year comes to a cold and wintery end, we send warm blessings and God's love to all our children, staff and families at St Mary's School for a peaceful and happy Christmas. As so often happens at this time, we know there are problems in our world and suffering in our community. Yet we know God is with us and as we celebrate the birth of his Son into our world, scripture speaks of the 'light that shines in the darkness: and the darkness cannot overcome it'.



May God's love and light fill your hearts and homes this Christmas and may we all be blessed in the new year ahead. Happy Christmas! Fr Steve, Fr Max and all at St Mary's church.

St Mary's Crib Service at 5.00pm on Christmas Eve – fun for all the family.
Christmas Family mass at 10.00am on Christmas morning.

Travelling Crib Nativity at Lambeth Palace

Children from Years 4, 5 and 6 enjoyed a magical Christmas experience. Set in the grounds of Lambeth Palace, they were led on a dramatic retelling of the nativity story, featuring real animals.



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.



Advent and Eucharist Worship

Our traditional Advent worship was held at St Mary's Church. The Advent candles were lit and we learned about the significance of this period of reflection as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Year 6 shared Bible readings from the Old and New testaments. Following the recent First Communion classes, we incorporated Eucharist into the worship. Father Steve reminded us of the symbolism of the Bread and Wine, recalling Jesus' words at the Last Supper.

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**.



Times Table Challenge

Congratulations to all of our children who practised hard, learned their times table facts and took part in their class heats. Two finalists from each class battled it out in front of the whole school to find our 2022 champions!



Choir perform at Turning of the Year

Our School Choir represented St Mary's with pride and a high quality performance at Blackheath Concert Halls. As well as performing two solo songs 'Siyahamba' and 'Mary's Boy Child' they also performed in several group songs alongside other Lewisham schools.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Please see below for lots of useful links and guidance and speak to a member of staff if you require any additional support. [CLICK HERE FOR LOTS OF FAMILY ACTIVITIES TO ENJOY IN LEWISHAM.](#)



No child should go hungry

Our parents, children and staff have starred in an inspiring video, which was filmed at St Mary's. The video celebrates the work of St Mary's in partnership with Citizens UK in campaigning for equal rights for all of our children.

Family Information Service

Family Information Service offers free and impartial advice to parents and carers. From childcare to accessing the 2, 3 & 4 year old free early education entitlement, FIS can help signpost to the services that are available for families, children and young people aged 0-19 years (or up to 25 years if they have additional needs). We also have volunteering opportunities for parents who are looking how to best support and help their own family, give back to the community and further their training or employment prospects. Please follow [THIS LINK](#) or ask Mrs Tildesley for further information.

Free School Meal Vouchers

I am pleased to announce that we have arranged for a food voucher to cover the Christmas 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.](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).



CHRISTMAS 2022 AT ST MARY'S



Christmas Fayre

Thanks to all of the parents and children who joined us for a fantastic celebration. There were many outdoor games to enjoy including hook a duck, tombola, raffle, ring toss, balloon pop, coconut shy, basketball and tin can alley! Food and drink were enjoyed and there was live music.



Thank you Tesco!

We are extremely grateful to our local Tesco Express on Rushey Green for generously donating vouchers and an amazing Christmas Hamper as Raffle prizes, which boosted our ticket sales!



Parent Elves

A big thank you to our parents who came to wrap 100s of presents for Santa's grotto! If Santa's elves go on strike St Mary's parents could cover it no problem!





Nativity

Year 2 starred in our production of 'Whoops A Daisy Angel' as they retold the Nativity story with wonderful acting, singing and dance performances. Year 1 and Reception looked amazing as they joined in with the singing and dancing.

Many thanks to the staff team for creating the wonderful costumes and set and thank you to the many parents who were able to join us for such a special event. [CLICK HERE TO WATCH!](#)



Carol Service

All of the children from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 created a wonderful and reflective atmosphere in St Mary's Church. Each class excellently performed their Choral reading, sharing key Bible passages to tell the story of the birth of Jesus.

Christmas Carols were sung by the whole congregation and the choir also performed, before Mrs Graham shared her Headteacher's address.



Special Visitors

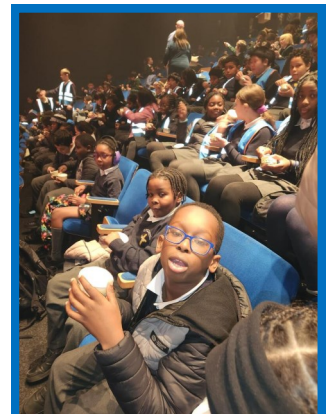
We were delighted to welcome members of our local school community from Bentley Court and Glebe. Our visitors enjoyed a Nativity performance, carols from our choir and a delicious Christmas lunch!



Pantomime

KS1 and KS2 visited Greenwich Theatre for a Christmas treat, enjoying a lively and exciting performance of 'Robin Hood'.

We didn't forget our children in Nursery and Reception, who stayed at school for a wonderful production of their own - Dick Whittington.



[Year 1 trip to West India Quay](#)

We went on a trip to West India Quay to look at different types of buildings.

We enjoyed our journey on the DLR and we had fun sketching the buildings.



[Gymnastics](#)

This well attended before school club has seen the children make rapid progress in developing their gymnastic skills using a range of apparatus.

[Year 1 share their learning](#)

Year 1 were proud to share their learning in a special class worship. They told the story of The Magic Porridge Pot, counted backwards from 20 and even sang a song in French!

Follow this [LINK](#) to watch some amazing videos of the event!



[Forest School update](#)

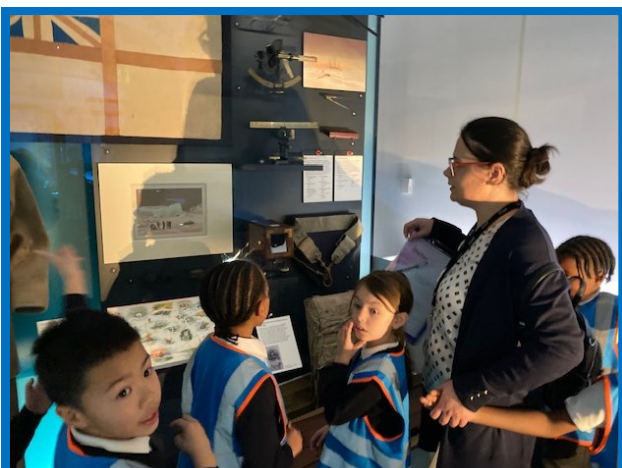
We have been making full use of our new outdoor space in our Forest Friends club. We have made bird feeders, planted bulbs and made forest art.

Our fantastic volunteers from Fit Gym visited the garden and were busy moving the compost bays, planting jasmine, cleaning and planting the pond with oxygenating plants and constructing a natural screen around the pond.

[Year 4 Trip to Greenwich Maritime Museum](#)

We visited the Maritime Museum to learn all about Polar Explorers as part of our learning in History. The children worked as a team to plan an expedition to the North Pole.

We went into the museum galleries to research what food we could eat, clothes we could wear, how we could make a shelter, travel and keep ourselves entertained!





Year 6 share their learning

Year Six had our first Class Worship since the Covid Lockdown and we loved it!

Our parents got to see all of our hard work: our scary stories; West African inspired masks; non-chronological reports and lots more.



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.

Year 6 are Junior Citizens!

Our Year 6 class developed their understanding of communities and their role as citizens both locally, nationally and globally.

The event was held at Lee Fire Station and the children explored themes including transport, fire safety, the role of the police, road safety and healthy lifestyles.



Walking through the Bible

Year 6 have deepened their understanding of the Christian Faith through weekly sessions focused on the Old Testament of the Bible. Each week, they have explored the key themes with a visiting teacher, supported by some lovely resources.

The children's increased knowledge and deeper reflection has supported their strong learning in both strands of RE - AT1 (learning about religion) and AT2 (learning from religion).

Geography trip to our local area

Year 5 and Year 6 enjoyed a trip to Ladywell Fields as part of their Geography curriculum. The children developed their mapping skills as they identified geographical features based on Ordnance Survey symbols.





Nursery Making it REAL project

There was a lovely turnout of parents for an event to launch our Making it REAL project in the Nursery. This project aims to raise early literacy levels by encouraging families to do simple low-cost activities at home like mark making, reading, talking and looking at everyday objects around them.

Every conversation with your child matters - whether on the bus or in the bath - so seize every opportunity!



Christmas Carols at Lewisham Hospital

Year 6 visited four of the Elderly Care units at Lewisham Hospital to sing carols and bring Christmas cheer! St Mary's also donated 30 Christmas gift bags and handmade cards for patients to have on Christmas Day.

The patients and staff were delighted to hear the children sing - many sang along and remembered Christmases past. Well done to all the children and especially to Mr Sandman who accompanied the children on his guitar in true style!



Big thank you to Projectfivek

A huge thank you to Projectfivek who have provided food vouchers to many of our families, not just at Christmas but throughout the year. Acts of generosity like this are a wonderful example of how important it is to support those who are in need or struggling at this time.

If you need help with food or any other basic necessities, please contact Mrs Tildesley via the school office or have a chat with her at the school gate.

Fun in the snow!

We wrapped up in our warmest clothes and enjoyed playing in the snow. For some of our families, who have recently joined us from Africa and the Caribbean, this was their first ever experience of snow. Nursery class were busy building snow people every day, as well as sweeping up! Our Forest School Garden became a winter wonderland as the children explored the changing seasons.



Thank you Mrs Savin

We said a sad farewell to Mrs Savin who has worked at St Mary's for over 25 years, as well as celebrating the care and support she has given to generations of children at St Mary's!

Competition winner!

Congratulations to one of our Year 4 pupils as she was the winner of the Lewisham Hospital design for a Christmas Card competition!



Cricket Champion!

Each week in the Autumn term, Year 4 have enjoyed extra cricket lessons from professional coaches. Later in the year, they will be competing against other schools in tournaments as well as being invited to additional training sessions in the evenings. St Mary's were proud that out of the thousands of children across London taking part in the programme, one of our sporting stars won the prestigious 'Player of the week' award!



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

329 Lewisham High
Street, SE13 6NX

Phone: 020 8690 2613

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

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 Term 2023

Wednesday 4th January - Friday 10th February

INSET - SCHOOL CLOSED - Tuesday 3rd January

HALF TERM - Monday 13th February - Friday 17th February

Monday 20th February - Friday 31st March

Summer Term 2023

Monday 17th April - Friday 26th May

BANK HOLIDAYS - Monday 1st May and Monday 8th May

HALF TERM - Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June

Monday 5th June - Thursday 20th July

REPORT WRITING / LEADERSHIP AWAY DAY - Friday 16th June