



Dates for your diary

HALF TERM 26/10 - 30/10
SCHOOL CLOSED

END OF TERM 16/12

RESPECT

This half-term we have been exploring Respect in many ways, including self-respect and respect for others, difference, rules, property, the world we live in and learning. Our values are rooted in the Bible and we are guided by the life and teachings of Jesus. His message of equality is shown in the way he lived his life, showing Respect for all and standing up for the marginalised in society.

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.'



Respect

Peace

Love

Forgiveness

Responsibility

Faith

St Mary's Newsletter

News for our families and friends

www.st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk



Friday 23rd October 2020

Volume 41

Dear Parents and 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.



I am impressed with all the educational support that you have given to your children, during their time away from school. Our recent assessments have shown that the children have all made progress in their learning, 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.

The thematic curriculum continues to provide many rich learning experiences that our children enjoy. They loved learning to cook Caribbean recipes, playing the Djembe Drums and listening to storytelling as part of our Black History Month celebrations. The children also enjoy taking part in immersive audio experiences through our 'Now Press Play' programme where every child uses a pair of wireless headphones. Immersed in sound, they become a main character in a story, meeting people, solving problems and discovering places on an educational adventure they'll never forget.

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 successfully applied for funding to ensure that every child receives breakfast in the morning. We are now able to offer all children a warm, buttered bagel, every day, which they really enjoy.

I am pleased to announce that we have 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. 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>

Thank you for your continued support and for working in partnership with us at school.

Christine Bernard, Headteacher



St Mary's is an Excellent School



Sickness Absence

If your child is absent from school due to sickness, please remember that you must contact the school every day that your child is off, to avoid receiving a phone call. We do understand that these are changing times and we are working hard to provide a safe, secure and consistent environment that allows our children to learn and be happy. Please call 02086902613 or email: admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk. Please click [here for useful NHS guidance 'Is my child too ill for school?'](#)

Year 6 Applications for Secondary School

The deadline for applications for secondary school is **31st October 2020**. It is very important that you apply before that date otherwise you will be less likely to be granted one of your preferred schools. This year, because of the pandemic, parents are being asked to apply for schools before children sit any selection tests that parents may have opted for them to do. It is in your child's best interest that you put a mix of selective and non-selective schools, if you have decided to enter your child for a selective test. Please ensure you read any admissions criteria on the secondary school website so that you can gauge whether you are likely to be granted a place at that school. Admissions is a legal process so every detail must be correct! If you have a query please email admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk with a Secondary Transfer Query and we will do our best to support. Please click on this link if you haven't applied for a secondary school [here](#).

ParentPay



Thank you to everyone that has activated their ParentPay accounts, 92% have already been activated. If you haven't done so already please click [here](#) and activate your account ASAP. We are a cashless school and will also be using ParentPay as a main platform to communicate with you via email. Thank you in advance.

School dinners

School dinners must be paid for in advance on our online platform ParentPay. Dinners cost £2.30 or £11.50 a week. Children must stick to the same meal pattern for at least half a term. If you would like to change your child's meal pattern you must contact the school office.

Future School Closures and Home Learning

You will be aware that some schools have experienced incidences of school partial or full closures under Covid-19 restrictions. We cannot stress strongly enough how much we wish to avoid this eventuality at St Mary's School. We have been working hard to ensure our Blended Learning (a combination of paper and online learning) is effective for all our children. You may have noticed that if your child is in Year 5 or Year 6, they have been practicing using Microsoft teams for their Home Learning and completing work online.

We hope this will provide the reassurance of the continued high quality curriculum and learning experience your child will enjoy in any eventuality. Our teachers worked hard throughout the lockdown last year to ensure that high quality learning was planned and accessible for every child. Should we need to trigger these actions as part of increased restrictions, we will write to you with clear guidance and instructions.

School day

Thank you to the vast majority of our parents who have been on time (and even better, early) to drop-off and collect every day. Please can we remind you that the school day runs from **8:45 - 3:15**.



FOOD BANKS - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

We appreciate that for some of our families, this is a challenging time and you may require extra support with receiving food. Thanks to the generosity of Reverend Charles, we have been able to provide families with food bags this half-term. If you have any concerns, either financial or practical, about feeding your family, please get in touch with our School Home Support Worker, Marta Tildesley, by emailing the school at:

admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk

or by ringing the school on **0208 6902613**

or Mrs Tildesley on **07811 997648**



NRPF Free School Meals

Any family who has No Recourse to Public Funds will be entitled to free school meals under new rules, even if you are working. Many families have successfully applied and are now receiving free school meals. Please contact Mrs Tildesley who will help you with the form.



Citizens UK

St Mary's school have been working closely with Citizens UK for the last 2 years in order to support community projects that make a big difference. We have been part of an Immigration Action Project and Citizenship Campaign, which won an award and included the opportunity for our children and parents to have their voices heard by the Council and Government.

What is community campaigning?

Thanks to the generosity of St. Mary's parish, Citizens UK are continuing to work at St. Mary's with both pupils and parents. Hannah from Lewisham Citizens came in to visit Years 5 and 6 to talk about what community campaigning is. To illustrate this she asked Mrs Tildesley to sit on a table. Then Hannah asked what the pupils felt strongly about and asked them to try and lift the table single-handedly as a symbol of trying to make a change. Of course no-one could lift Mrs Tildesley and the table single-handedly, but working together the pupils did achieve their task. Working together we can make a change!

Magic Breakfast & Kellogg's Grant

We are delighted to have secured funding to be able to provide our children with tasty bagels to enjoy every morning. We also have cereals for any child who requires an extra boost to keep their energy levels up throughout a busy day of learning. Places are available at our Breakfast Club (from 7:30, cost £4) and must be booked in advance via the School office.



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).



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

African Drumming

Working in partnership with a local charity, we are delighted that the children of St Mary's were once again able to enjoy a day of African drumming workshops. The children were learning from an experienced and talented performer and every class made great progress. They also learned about West African culture and the importance of Drumming throughout the History of the region.



Caribbean Cooking

Every class enjoyed a fun cooking activity with Miss Brown. They learned how to prepare delicious salt-fish and banana fritters.



Storytelling Workshops

We were joined by three storytellers who delivered an exciting and hands on workshop to each class. We had a fantastic time learning the African Art of Storytelling thanks to IROKO Theatre Company. We learned about why story telling was important in African cultures and many cultures across the world. Storytelling was how morals and history were passed through generations (preserving culture). We learnt some of the key elements needed to be a great storyteller such as voice projection, props, repetition, enthusiasm, choral speaking and expression.



Traditional dress and 'celebrate your hair' day

Thanks to everyone who shared their beautiful and colourful traditional clothes and their wonderful, natural hair.



Harvest collection and Church worship

The whole school shared a special worship together in St Mary's Church, led by Reader Marion. Each class had contributed a Harvest box filled with generous donations from our families. Thanks to everyone who contributed, the food will be shared with LEWCAS to help support asylum seekers. Marion helped us to reflect on everything that we should be grateful for in our lives, sharing the parable of the ten lepers and her own experiences growing up in an Indian leprosy hospital. Children from Year 6 delivered the Bible readings and prayers. At the end of the worship, Marion blessed a special Harvest loaf, kindly made by one of the parishioners, Kate.



Children make their own lunch!

We enjoyed a special lunch as the children got to 'Build a Burger' and 'Scoop a Sundae'. The children added some healthy toppings to their burgers and ice-cream sundaes and their feedback was very positive!

The activity enriched our curriculum by:

- Engaging children in designing their own food – linking to the Design Technology curriculum
- Supporting children's knowledge of a healthy and balanced diet – linking to the PSHE and Science curriculum
- Encouraging children to try a range of healthy fruit and vegetables
- Providing the children with a fun and engaging lunchtime experience

School Council

Congratulations to the class representatives who have been elected onto the school council:

- Year 1 Temi & Roshane
- Year 2 Romina & Reggie
- Year 3 Victoria & Jephthah
- Year 4 Melanie & Kingsley
- Year 5 Seren & Benjamin
- Year 6 Roberta & Jonathan

The council had their first meeting last week. After consulting with their classes about what would make St. Mary's an even better place, the school council will be deciding on the issues they would like to work on at their next meeting. They will also be working on ideas to make St. Mary's the most welcoming place it can be for all our community. Watch this space!

Growth Mindset

Children and staff have been learning these positives ways to help us as learners:

Challenges help me grow my brain.

I learn from my mistakes.

I can't do it yet.

What other strategy can I try?

The Little Red Hen visits Reception class

Reception have been having a hentastic time in class. After joining in with retelling the story of the Little Red Hen with actions, they have been busy feeding hens, making puppets based on the story and cooking in the hen's very own bakery. They talked about how the hen was feeling after all her hard work and used their knowledge of sounds to write speech bubbles for her.



Year 2 are all authors!

We have been reading the story "Here we are". We have been making our own booklets about how we treat each other with respect on Planet Earth.



Nursery class learn about space

On our first days in Nursery, we have explored the resources, learned the rules of the classroom and we have made friends. We have been reading the book 'Here We Are', learning about space, planets and how wonderful Earth is. It showed us how important it is to be nice and look after each other. We have been building rockets, making aliens out of playdough and designing our own imaginary planet.



"My planet looks like Saturn!"
Summya

"I have built the biggest rocket!"
Murat

"My alien has got 3 eyes!" Ada



Year 5 enjoy practical lessons

In Maths, we have been enjoying using some new playing cards to investigate place value and rounding. We got competitive with each other and tried to see who could make the largest and smallest numbers to score points. In Literacy, we have been learning to re-tell the story of 'Zelda Claw' in our new Talk for Writing Unit. As we follow our story map, we put actions to the words to help us remember the story.



Super learning in Year 1

Year One have been exploring numbers through indoor and outdoor play. We have been counting and ordering numbers using different resources. We also enjoyed counting backwards and finding one more and one less than a number up to 10. We have also been sounding out CVC words using magnetic boards and writing them down.



"I love drumming." Roshane

"That was fun! Can we do some more?" Dina

Year 3 Maths superstars

This half-term in Maths Year 3 have been looking at place value. We have been learning that two digit numbers are made up of ones and tens and can be partitioned. Year 3 then went onto exploring different ways to partition two digit numbers.



Year 6 have been reflective

We have enjoyed reading 'Here We Are'. We took part in some thought provoking discussions about how to keep the world healthy for generations to come and considered what we can do as future leaders to tackle social justice issues such as racial, gender and religious discrimination. Not only that, we explored our own 'who we are' and 'what we aspire to be' and wrote some emotive poems. It has been an amazing start to our first term in Year 6.

In Religious Education, we explored the story of Siddhartha and reflected on its importance to the Buddhist faith. Through learning about Buddhism, we learnt a lot about ourselves and created our own eightfold path to living.



**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

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 I 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:

- [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 2020

HALF TERM - Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October

Monday 2nd November - Wednesday 16th December

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS - Monday 21st December - Friday 1st January

Spring Term 2021

Tuesday 5th January - Friday 12th February

INSET DAY - Monday 4th January

HALF TERM - Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February

Monday 22nd February - Wednesday 31st March

EASTER HOLIDAYS - Thursday 1st April - Friday 16th April

Summer Term 2021

Monday 19th April - Friday 28th May

MAY DAY Bank Holiday - Monday 3rd May

HALF TERM - Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June

Monday 7th June - Wednesday 21st July

INSET DAYS - Friday 18th June / Monday 5th July / Thursday 22nd July

Newsletter by email: If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, please email us and let us know at admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk