

Dear Parents and Carers,

# Welcome back

It has been wonderful to see you all back and ready of the year ahead. I hope you all had a fantastic holiday and managed to have some quality time with your families.

Year 1 and 2 have come back and are ready to learn this week. It is lovely to see all their smiley faces. As I've walked around the school this week they have all be busy and engaged in their learning and have been running around with their friends during breaktimes.

## Curriculum Information meeting



We will be running our curriculum meetings after school on the week beginning the 18<sup>th</sup> September. These meetings will give you information on what your child will be learning this year and ideas of how you can help them at home. They will be held in year groups on the following dates.

**Year 1 – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September**

**Year 2 -Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September**

**Reception – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September.**

The meeting will only be for half an hour and staff will look after the children who attend the Infant school whilst you are at the meeting.

## PE Kits



You have now all been given the days your child will be doing PE.

Please can you ensure that the children come into school on that day dressed in their PE clothes. They should be dressed in the correct PE uniform to ensure they can safely access the PE curriculum.

If you are unsure if the correct uniform please ask your child's teacher.

## EARINGS



Can I please remind you that we have a **NO** jewellery policy here at the Infant School.

This is to ensure that the children are safe and come to no harm during playtimes and PE lessons. So please take your child's earrings out before them come into school.

## Become a Friend of St Mary's

We are looking for parents who would like to become a **'Friend'** of St Mary's.

Have you got ideas on how we can raise money for the children in our school?

Do you have the time to help and organise events?

Becoming a friend of St Mary's maybe just for you!

If so come along on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 9.15am for a cup of tea / coffee and a chat to talk about how we can raise money.

I look forward to seeing you there.

## SOME HELP NEEDED



We have been lucky to have been given 15 trees, that I bid for from the Woodland Trust.

I would like them to go in the area between the Nursery and Reception outdoor areas.

It is an area that we wish to develop for the children so they have access to more nature on the school grounds.

We are asking for parent volunteers to come and help us clear the area ready for the trees to be delivered in November.

If you are available to come to give Bob, our caretaker, a hand on

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September for the morning or afternoon please come along. Many hands make light work!

God bless,  
Miss Mitchell, Head of school



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had another very successful week. All of our lovely Reception children have settled into School life so well. The way they have come in so confidently and ready to learn is something to be admired. They have learnt the routines of the class and lunch time which is a lot to learn in a week, so well done to all the children. The Nursery children have also started their sessions this week and I can see them from my office, talking and playing together beautifully which always makes me smile.

**A reminder that our school day starts at 8.55 and ends at 3.25. Please ensure you are on time to drop off and pick up your child from school. Your child will be marked as late if they arrive after 9am. After school teachers often have meetings therefore it is important that you are on time to pick your child up.**

### Curriculum meetings



A reminder that we will be holding curriculum meetings in your child's year group next week. These will give you the opportunity to see and hear about the academic expectations for your child this year. It will inform you on how you can help your child at home and we will be giving you some suggestions.

They will all be held after school between 3.30pm –4pm. During this time staff will be available to look after your children who attend the Infant School, in the hall while you attend the meeting and you can pick them up once the meeting has finished.

The curriculum meetings:

**Year 1 is on Tuesday 19th September.**

**Year 2 – Wednesday 20th September.**

**Reception – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September.**

### Become a Friend of St Mary's

We are looking for parents who would like to become a 'Friend' of St Mary's.

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Do you have the time to help and organise events?

Becoming a friend of St Mary's may be just for you!

If so come along on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 9.15am for a cup of tea / coffee and a chat to talk about how we can raise money.

I look forward to seeing you there.

### Sustainability

We all need to do our best to ensure that our world is the best place it can be for future generations. This Year we will try to cut down the amount of paper and single plastic we use in school. Most letters that come to you now will be sent via email and we are asking that you do not give your child a single plastic water bottle, but provide them with a reusable water bottle. We have drinking water at school that we can refill it with.

### School Lunches



A reminder to you all - every child from Reception to Year 2 is eligible for a **free school meal**. This is provided by the school to **ALL** the children who attend school. The menu is available from the office if you wish to see what is on offer. You are however free to provide a packed lunch for your child if you wish. Can I please remind you that we are a **HEALTHY, NUT FREE SCHOOL**, so please make sure anything you put in your child's lunch box does not contain anything with nuts in and is healthy, we **do not** want to see crisps, chocolate, chips, nuggets or sweet juices. The children receive a piece of fruit everyday which they will have either in the morning or the afternoon, and they all really enjoy it.

### Golden Table

*I had a lovely lunch today with  
Nevaeh in St Andrew,  
Gabriella in St George,  
Ireland in St Bernadette,  
Michael in St Therese  
Yohannes in St Martin,  
Akantariwon in St Francis.  
What lovely manners they all have. I  
can see why they have been chosen.  
We were also joined by Mrs  
Fernandes, who also had very good  
table manners.*

God bless,  
Miss Mitchell, Head of school

### THANK YOU

A huge thank you to  
Ms Laarni Delfino (Gabby's mum)  
Pstr Elvis Osei Bonsu (Michael & Nevaeh's dad)  
Mrs Kristina Demeter (Jonas's mum)  
Mr B Jean-Pierre (Izraela dad)  
for all the hard work they did to help clear our  
garden, between Nursery and Reception, so that it  
is ready to plant the trees that are being delivered  
from the Woodland Trust in November.  
We still have some sleepers to move and will need  
help to prepare the ground and plant the trees. If  
anyone would like to come and volunteer their time  
to help with this, it would be greatly appreciated.



Dear Parents and Carers,

We can certainly feel that Autumn is on its way this week. We will soon be talking with the children about this special time of year and it will soon be time for harvest. Our Harvest Festival Assembly will be on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October.

### Curriculum meetings



Thank you to all of you that came to our curriculum meetings this week. We hope you found them useful and they gave you a clearer picture of what and how your child will be learning this year. If you have any questions please ask your child's class teacher.

As you know phonics is a really important part of the Infant School curriculum now. It is one way the children begin their reading journey.

We will be offering a phonics meeting for parents to keep informed about how you can help your child at home with their reading and phonics.

This will be on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 9am or 2.45pm or 6pm

### Become a Friend of St Mary's

We are looking for parents who would like to become a '**Friend**' of St Mary's.

Have you got ideas on how we can raise money for the children in our school?

Do you have the time to help and organise events?

Becoming a friend of St Mary's may be just for you!

If so come along on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 9.15am for a cup of tea / coffee and a chat to talk about how we can raise money.

I look forward to seeing you there.

### Cutting down on paper

A reminder that we will try to send most of our letters and correspondence to you via email and text from now on so please ensure you check your emails regularly.

Can we also ask that you do not give your child a single use plastic water bottle, but provide them with a reusable water bottle. We have drinking water at school that we can refill it with.

Thank you

### Golden Table

*I was unable to attend the Golden table this week but Mr Francios-Williams, our Assistant Head, told me he had a lovely lunch today with*

*Chukwuka in St Andrew,*

*Barbara in St George,*

*Zoe in St Bernadette,*

*Mara in St Therese*

*Scarlett in St Martin,*

*Anisia in St Francis.*

*What lovely manners they all have. He told me he could see why they had been chosen. They were also joined my Miss Miranda, who also had very good table manners.*

**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**

We are going to take part in Macmillan's coffee morning this year. Ours will be on

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

Please come along and join us once you have dropped your child at school

If you would like to donate a cake please bring it to the school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

All the money we raise will go to Macmillan to help support the wonderful work they do.

God bless,  
Miss Mitchell, Head of school



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have spent this week thinking about how we can help people in our community and that not everyone is as fortunate as we are. As part of our Harvest Festival of Colour we are asking for donations of tinned and dried foods like rice and pasta. Just before we take all your donations to the church where they have a food bank. I know in the current financial climate this can be very hard but if you feel you are able to donate one item I know the church would be very grateful.

A reminder that we will be celebrating harvest with a Harvest Festival of Colour on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 9.15am. Please make your donations by then and come along to join us in celebrating this special time of year

Continue to help the community we have raised \_\_\_\_\_ at our Mac Millan coffee morning on Tuesday. Thank you for all your donations of cakes and money to go towards this worthwhile cause. We have all had our lives touched by cancer, whether it is ourselves, a member of our family or close friends, and to acknowledge this we have a 'Cancer Hero's' board in our front foyer, if you would like to add anyone to it please come along and write their name on a heart post it note and stick it on the board.

### **Month of the Rosary**



October is the month of the Rosary. During this time, we come together as a school to say a decade of the Rosary.

We would like to invite parents to join us, so you are all very welcome to come to the school hall at 3pm every Monday, Wednesday and Friday

### **School Uniform**



As you know we are all proud to be part of the St Mary's Family and our uniform is a way that we show others how we respect, love and care for one another, so, can I please remind you that our school uniform needs to be a navy or black coat, black school shoes, blue school woollen hat or school blue summer hat.

**Girls:** Navy trousers, navy skirt or navy pinafore dress.

Blue polo shirt

Blue school sweatshirt

Navy tights, navy sock or white socks

Blue or white hair ties / head bands/clips

Hair tied back and out of their face to prevent injury

**Boys:** Grey Trousers

Blue polo shirt

Blue school sweatshirt

Navy, black or white socks

**PE:** Royal Blue shorts

Navy tracksuit trousers

White school T-shirt

Trainers (they can take on and off independently)

**Nursery:** Navy tracksuit trousers

Blue polo shirt

Blue school sweatshirt

Trainers (they can take on and off independently)

**Please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform each day.** We always have second hand uniform for sale. So, if you would like any please speak to a member of our office staff or your child's class teacher.

### Golden Table

*I was a pleasure to have lunch on the golden table today with*

*St Andrew  
in St George  
in St Bernadette  
in St Therese  
in St Martin  
in St Francis*

*What lovely manners they all have. I could see why they had been chosen. We were also joined my Miss Garner who also had very good tables manners.*

### **Sports Clubs**

We still have a few places for Year 1 and Year 2 Sports Clubs on a Thursday after school from 3.30pm -4.30pm. If you would like your child to join please visit the school office for the details.



[Messenger - Magazine - Page 1 \(paperturn-view.com\)](http://paperturn-view.com)

*"Let the message of Christ live in you"*

*St Paul*

*"How wonderful is it to proclaim to everyone the love of God which gives meaning to our lives!"*

*Pope Francis*

*Dear Lord,*

*Thank you for all your **messengers** who help us to know you. Help us to be your faithful **messenger**, so that others will come to know the joy of loving you.*

*Amen*

God bless,  
Miss Mitchell, Head of school



**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023**  
**Newsletter Number 5**



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have spent this week thinking about how we can help people in our community who are not as fortunate as we are. As part of our Harvest Festival of Colour we are **asking for donations of tinned and dried foods like rice and pasta**. We will take all your donations to the church where they have a food bank. I know in the current financial climate this can be very hard but if you feel you are able to donate one item I know the church would be very grateful.

A reminder that we will be celebrating harvest with a **Harvest Festival of Colour on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 9.15am**. Please make your donations by then and come along to join us in celebrating this special time of year

We continue to help the community and have raised £346 at our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Tuesday. Thank you for all your donations of cakes and money, they all go towards this worthwhile cause. We have all had our lives touched by cancer, whether it is ourselves, a member of our family or close friends, and to acknowledge this we have a 'Cancer Hero's' board in our front foyer, if you would like to add anyone to it please come along and write their name on a "heart post it note" and stick it on the board.

**St Francis Class Liturgy**

I ended my day on Wednesday by being invited to St Francis Class Liturgy. It was such a peaceful and spiritual way to end a busy day.

They taught us all about New Beginnings and how we should trust God to look after us and not be worried.

**Visits to the Church**

This week St Therese Class visited the Church for their Feast Day on Monday. The children were wonderfully behaved and Father Patrick gave up his time to speak to them all about St Therese of Lisieux.

St Francis Class attended Wednesdays Mass at 10am to celebrate St Francis feast day. Mrs Fernandes told me the children were so well behaved and learnt a lot by attending Mass.

**Month of the Rosary**



October is the month of the Rosary. During this time, we come together as a school to say a decade of the Rosary.

We would like to invite parents to join us, so you are all very welcome to come to the school hall at 3pm every Monday, Wednesday and Friday

**Faith Leaders**

I would like to introduce our fantastic Faith Leaders

Anna-Rosa and Ann from St Francis Class, Caster and Jaivy from St Martin Class, Isabella and Michael from St Therese Class, Noah and Krystal from St Bernadette Class, Alexander and Nevaeh from St Andrew class and Jesse and Hannah from St George Class

These children have a great responsibility to set an example to others on how to talk to God. And I know that each and everyone of them have shown us how important it is to be prayerful and peaceful during this time

**Phonics meeting**

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October we have our Phonics Meetings. You will now have all received a letter inviting you to attend and to indicate which of the three meetings you are able to attend.

9.30am, 2.45pm, 6pm

The meeting will be approximately an hour and a half and we will explain to you why phonics is so important, we will show you all the sounds and how to pronounce them and some ideas of how you can help your child at home.

## School Uniform



As you know we are all proud to be part of the St Mary's Family and our uniform is a way that we show others how we respect, love and care for one another, so, can I please remind you that our school uniform needs to be: a navy or black coat, black school shoes, blue school woollen hat (with school logo) or school blue summer hat (with school logo)

**Girls:** Navy trousers, navy skirt or navy pinafore dress.

Blue polo shirt (with school logo)

Blue school sweatshirt (with school logo)

Navy tights, navy sock or white socks

Blue or white hair ties / head bands/clips

Hair tied back and out of their face to prevent injury

**Boys:** Grey Trousers

Blue polo shirt (with school logo)

Blue school sweatshirt (with school logo)

Navy, black or white socks

**PE:** Royal Blue shorts

Navy tracksuit trousers

White school T-shirt (with school logo)

Trainers (they can take on and off independently)

**Nursery:** Navy tracksuit trousers

Blue polo shirt (with school logo)

Blue school sweatshirt (with school logo)

Trainers (they can take on and off independently)

**Please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform each day and that it is labelled with their name.** We always have second hand uniform for sale. So, if you would like any please speak to a member of our office staff or your child's class teacher.

### Golden Table

*I was a pleasure to have lunch on the golden table today with  
Sanjay in St Andrew  
Hannah in St George  
Noah in St Bernadette  
Janaya in St Therese  
Anthony in St Martin  
Annarosa in St Francis  
What lovely manners they all have. I could see why they had been chosen.  
We were also joined my Miss Garner who also had very good tables manners.*

### **Sports Clubs**

We still have a few places for Year 1 and Year 2 Sports Clubs on a Thursday after school from 3.30pm -4.30pm. If you would like your child to join please visit the school office for the details.



**Wednesday's Word is ... MESSENGER**

[Messenger - Magazine - Page 1 \(paperturn-view.com\)](http://paperturn-view.com)

**"Let the message of Christ live in you"**

*St Paul*

**"How wonderful is it to proclaim to everyone the love of God which gives meaning to our lives!"**

*Pope Francis*

**Dear Lord,**

**Thank you for all your messengers who help us to know you. Help us to be your faithful messenger, so that others will come to know the joy of loving you.**

**Amen**

God bless,  
Miss Mitchell, Head of school



**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023**  
**Newsletter Number 6**



Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe we have almost completed our first half term of the school year, and haven't we been fortunate with the weather? The children have done some super learning this half term and have really settled into their new year groups.

Thank you all of you who attended our phonics meeting on Thursday. We hope you found it useful and were able to come away with ways to help and support your child at home on their reading journey.

If have any question please ask your child's class teacher and below is the link to the Little Wandle Letters and sounds support for parents  
[For parents | Letters and Sounds \(littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk\)](https://littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk)

**Harvest Festival**

A reminder that we will be celebrating harvest with a **Harvest Festival of Colour on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 9.15am**. Please make your donations by then and come along to join us in celebrating this special time of year. As I said to the children in our assembly on Monday, we have 230 children and staff in our school so If everyone brings in one tin or packet of dried food we will have 230 items to give to others who are less fortunate than ourselves. Please bring your donations in next week.

**Visits to the Church**

This week St Therese Class and St Bernadette Class visited the church to see where children are welcomed into God's family as part of their Baptism. Miss Malone and Miss Garner told me how beautifully behaved all the children were during their visit. This shows St Mary's Parish how prayer, and spiritual we are. Well done Year 1, I am very proud of you.

**St Martin Class Liturgy**

I began my day on Wednesday with St Martin Class Liturgy. It was such a peaceful and spiritual way to start the day. We were fortunate enough to be joined by Father James, who read the Gospel and gave us all a blessing. They taught us all about Signs and Symbols and how we are Baptised into the Church Family. It was also very moving to hear what the children do to be the light of their parent's world.

**Reception Welcome Liturgies**

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October all the families of Reception children are invited to join their child for their 'welcome Liturgy'. Please join your child's class for this act of worship. It our way of welcoming you all into our St Mary's Family.  
St George Liturgy will be at 9.30am  
St Andrew Liturgy will be at 2.45pm  
I look forward to seeing you all there

### Parents evening

A reminder that it is parents evening next week. Please ensure you sign up for either an online meeting on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October or a face to face meeting on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October. Remember there are only 15 spaces available on each day so you may not get your first choice. These meetings will give you information about your child's progress and attainment and ideas of what you can do to support them at home.

### Golden Table

*It was a pleasure to have lunch on the Golden Table today with  
Athena in St Andrew  
Teresa in St George  
Shivathmekaa in St Bernadette  
James in St Therese  
Ashton in St Martin  
Franciszka in St Francis  
What lovely manners they all have. I could see why they had been chosen.  
We were also joined by Mr Harrison, from Southwark Diocese, who also had very good table manners.*

### Missing Scooter

Athena from St Andrew class went to collect her scooter earlier this week and it was missing. It is a pink Micro scooter with her name under the handlebars. Maybe you have one that is similar and have picked the wrong one up by mistake. Please have a look, and return it to the scooter park.  
Many Thanks



## Wednesday's Word is ... INVITATION

[Invitation - Magazine - Page 1 \(paperturn-view.com\)](http://paperturn-view.com)

"Jesus invited us to build the civilisations of love together"

*Pope Francis*

"Dear young friends, I invite everyone to learn to pray every day"

*Pope Francis*

Dear Lord,

Please help us to remember that every moment of the day you are *inviting* us into your love, to share in your happiness and peace.  
Amen

God bless,  
Miss Mitchell, Head of school



Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe how fast the first seven weeks of the school year have gone. All the children are very settled in their classes and are engaged in their learning. We have packed a lot into this half term with trips to the Church, Liturgies, walks around Croydon to see the Giraffes, plus all the wonderful learning the children have completed.

I hope you and the children have restful week as next half term will be equally as busy with the run up to Christmas.

Thank you to all those who came to support the children in their Harvest Assembly today. The children did an amazing job at performing their songs and poems in front of so many people.

It was lovely to see the school full with parents.

The support you give the children and the school on these occasions means a lot.

Another big thank you for all the donations you sent in for harvest. I know Father Patrick and all the Priests will welcome it all and those who are less fortunate than us will really appreciate it.

### Visits to the Church

This week St Martin Class visited the church for Mass on Monday. Miss Miranda and Mrs O'Sullivan told me how well behaved all of St Martin class were. The congregation even gave them a clap at the end of Mass to show how much they appreciated them being there and how prayerful they all were.

Well Done St Martin Class, I am very proud of you.



### Seesaw

Just to let you know that Seesaw are updating their logo, app icon on the 27<sup>th</sup> October.

They have assured me nothing else will change but have recommended that families update the app as soon as possible after this date.

### Reception Welcome Liturgies

It was lovely to start a Wednesday morning with St George Class and their parents at their 'Welcome' Liturgy.

I also got to end a busy day attending St Andrew Class Liturgy.

All the children were very calm and spiritual and have really begun to behave in the St Mary's Way. It was very touching to hear from parents telling us why your child is so precious to you.

### **Little Wandle Phonics**

Here is the link to the parents section on Little Wandle to help you and your child pronounce the sounds (phonemes) correctly

[For parents | Letters and Sounds \(littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk\)](https://littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk)

## Year 2 Parents

Please be reminded that there is a meeting for the transition to Year 3 at the junior school, on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 3.45 in the junior school hall.

Mr McDonald is looking forward to welcoming you all.

### Golden Table

*It was a pleasure to have lunch on the Golden Table today with*

*Serena in St Andrew*

*Arjan in St George*

*Jacob in St Bernadette*

*Katie in St Therese*

*Karmelo in St Martin*

*Raphael in St Francis*

*What lovely manners they all have. I could see why they had been chosen.*

### Missing Scooter

Athena from St Andrew class went to collect her scooter earlier this week and it was missing. It is a pink Micro scooter with her name under the handlebars. Maybe you have one that is similar and have picked the wrong one up by mistake. Please have a look, and return it to the scooter park.

Many Thanks



**Wednesday's Word** **GRATITUDE** 

[Holiday Special Booklet - Magazine - Page 3 \(paperturn-view.com\)](http://paperturn-view.com)

*'The heart that knows how to say 'thank you' is a good heart, it is a heart that is content.'*

*Pope Francis*

*'In all created things recognise the care and wisdom of God, and give him thanks.'*

*St Teresa of Avila*

*Dear Lord,*

*Thank you for blessing is in so many ways.*

*Help us to be always grateful to you and show our gratitude by loving those around us.*

*Amen*

God bless, have a lovely half term  
Miss Mitchell, Head of school