

'Aspire not to have more, but to be more'

YEAR OF PEACE

HEADTEACHER NEWSLETTER NO. 4

25th September 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

Thank you to everyone who attended our curriculum meetings this week. We hope you found them helpful and that they provided a clear picture of the exciting learning journey your child will experience this year. Each year is filled with so much to discover, and our dedicated teachers are always finding creative and engaging ways to inspire the children.

If you'd like ideas on how to support learning at home, please refer to your child's year group half termly newsletter. Each half term, teachers will give you an overview of the learning for that half term and share practical suggestions for extending learning beyond the classroom.

At St Mary's, we place a strong emphasis on developing a love of reading. We want every child to enjoy reading for pleasure, both at home and at school. To make this possible, children need secure phonics and comprehension skills, and our aim is for every pupil to be reading fluently by the end of Year 2.

Did you know that in England, 25% of children aged 10–11 do not meet the expected reading standard by the end of primary school?

This highlights just how vital it is to focus on literacy early. Reading ability plays a huge role in shaping future opportunities, and we want every child at St Mary's to be fully equipped for success.

As we shared in the curriculum meetings, our only homework request is **reading**. We encourage families to read together for at least 20 minutes a day. Just this small daily habit can expose children to as many as 1.8 million words a year, making an enormous difference to their vocabulary and literacy skills.

To put it into perspective:

- **20 minutes daily** = 1.8 million words per year
- **10 minutes daily** = 700,000 words per year
- **5 minutes daily** = 282,000 words per year

This daily reading practice has a powerful impact on vocabulary, reading fluency, and writing ability.

Reading truly is the key that unlocks the whole curriculum - it strengthens learning in every subject, from Maths and RE to History and Art. That is why it is our one and only homework focus for this term.

RESPECT



'Aspire not to have more, but to be more'

YEAR OF PEACE

Sports Clubs for Reception children

We still have spaces in our after-school clubs Gymnastics on a Monday, Zumba on a Tuesday and our Multi Sports on Thursday. If you would like your child to take part in any of these clubs please go to the school office.

Price of the clubs are £6 per session, if your child is entitled to Pupil Premium Grant funding, they are able to access one of these clubs for free.

Gymnastics is from 3.30pm-4.30pm every Monday – Pick up from St Martin Class (Year 2)

Zumba is from 3.30pm-4.15pm every Tuesday- pick up from St Francis Class (Year 2)

Multi-Sports is from 3.30pm-4.30pm every Thursday pick up from St Martin Class (Year 2)

If you are interested in your child attending any of our clubs please come to the school office or email us at office@st-mary-inf.croydon.sch.uk to enquire.

Year 2 Parents

You will now be beginning to think about the next stage of your child's education as they will be starting Key Stage 2 from September 2027.

The Junior school are having a Year 2 – 3 transition meeting on **Thursday 26th November at 9am.**

Please ensure you attend as you are required to complete application forms in order for your child to get a place in the junior school. You will also receive all relevant information you may need.

Open Mornings

We have open mornings coming up in November for perspective parents.

If you know anyone that is looking for a school, for the children aged between 3 and 7 years olds please tell them about our open mornings:

Monday 9th November

Tuesday 10th November

Monday 16th November

Tuesday 17th November

St Francis Class Assembly

St Francis class have their assembly for the school and their parents on Wednesday 7th October.

We are inviting parents from St Francis class to join in our collective worship.

It will be at 9.15am in the school hall.

Food Guidance for young Children

As you are aware all the children's safety is of the utmost importance to us here at St Mary's Infant School. We follow the guidance set by the government, and recently there has been an update on food safety for Early Years settings (Early Years is under 5s). The guidance applies to **ALL** children under 5 to minimise the risk of choking.

I am asking you please to follow this guidance if you are sending your child in with a packed lunch.

- Cut all grapes/ strawberries and cherry tomatoes in half or quarters.
- Cut melon, apples and carrots into slices rather than chunks.
- Do not give nuts or seeds to under 5s -we are a nut free and nut aware school so no nuts should be in school **AT ALL.**

LOVE

Learning to love, loving to learn.

FAITH

PEACE

RESPECT



'Aspire not to have more, but to be more'

YEAR OF PEACE

- Give your child wholemeal bread or toast as white bread can become doughy in the throat.
- Do not give popcorn as a snack.
- Do not give them chicken on the bone.

We want to keep your child as safe as we can while they are at school, so we ask you to please follow the above. If we find any of the above in ANY child's lunchbox we may have to give them an alternative lunch, in order for us to follow the guidelines set.

We would really appreciate your cooperation with this.

Allergies

Following new guidance from the Department for Education, schools are required to take extra care around food and allergies.

We would therefore like to remind everyone that we are a **nut-aware school**. Nuts and products containing nuts must not be brought onto the school premises. We have both children and staff with nut allergies, and it is essential that we do everything we can to keep everyone safe.

With this in mind, **pupils will no longer be able to bring cakes, chocolates, sweets or other food products into school to celebrate their birthdays**. Many of these products may contain nuts or have been produced in an environment where nuts are present, and we are unable to check every item and its packaging to ensure it is safe.

We understand that bringing in birthday treats has been a lovely tradition for many families, and we really appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping us keep our school community safe.



A number of children had their first iRock lesson this week, and it was wonderful to see how much they enjoyed it! They have already started learning to play the guitar, drums or keyboard and came out of their lessons with huge smiles on their faces.

There are still a few places available. If you think your child would be interested in taking part, please see the attached poster for information on how to contact iRock directly.

Coffee Morning – Croydon Mental Health Support Team



We are pleased to welcome the **Croydon Mental Health Support Team** back this year to continue supporting our children and families.

We would like to invite parents and carers to a coffee morning on **Wednesday 30th September**, where you can find out more about the support and services they can offer.

LOVE

PEACE

Learning to love, loving to learn.

FAITH

RESPECT



'Aspire not to have more, but to be more'

YEAR OF PEACE

Last year, the team supported families through an eight-week behaviour course and ran workshops to help parents understand how they can support their children with emotional regulation. They also worked directly with our Year 2 pupils on the topic of **Caring Friendships**.

We hope you can join us to meet the team, ask questions and find out more about the support available.

Celebrations this week



Our stars of the week are:

Regina in St Bernadette Class

Hazel in St Therese Class

Justin in St Francis Class

Terry in St Martin Class



Living and learning in the St Mary's Way are:

Hannah in St Bernadette Class

Sanghamitra in St Therese Class

Saimon in St Francis Class

Saatvik in St Martin Class



On the Golden Table this week for having impactable table manners are:

Jesse in St Andrew Class

Donatella in St George Class

Levy in St Bernadette Class

Michelle in St Therese Class

Bree in St Francis Class

Papa Yaw in St Martin Class

Wednesday word

CHANGE

"To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often"

St John Henry Newman

Dear Lord Jesus

Grant me the courage to change what can be changed, the peace to accept the things that cannot be changed, and the wisdom to know the difference

Amen

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and cooperation.

LOVE

PEACE

Learning to love, loving to learn.

FAITH

RESPECT



'Aspire not to have more, but to be more'

YEAR OF PEACE

God Bless you all and have a wonderful weekend

Dates for your Diary

Here are some dates for your diary. As we plan more events we will add them on and let you know in advance.

Term Dates 2026/2027

Autumn 1		Autumn 2 Term	
Week 1		Week 1	
31/08/2026		02/11/2026	All Souls Day
01/09/2026	INSET DAY – Allergy, cyber security, phonics and Oracy training	03/11/2026	St Marin's Feast day – Visit the church
02/09/2026	INSET DAY – Safeguarding training	04/11/2026	
03/09/2026	KS1 Children return to school EY home visits	05/11/2026	
04/09/2026	EY home visits	06/11/2026	
Week 2		Week 2	
07/09/2026	EY part time AM and PM Nursery 1 hour sessions	09/11/2026	Open Day
08/09/2026	International Literacy Day EY part time AM and PM Nursery 1 hour sessions	10/11/2026	Open Day
09/09/2026	EY children in full time	11/11/2026	Remembrance Day assembly
10/09/2026		12/11/2026	
11/09/2026		13/11/2026	
Week 3	Recycling week	Week 3	Anti-Bullying Week
14/09/2026		16/11/2026	Open Day Odd Socks day
15/09/2026		17/11/2026	Open Day
16/09/2026		18/11/2026	Year 2 Visit National Army Museum
17/09/2026		19/11/2026	Faith Leaders and Student council to St Aiden's for Wintershall Advent Travelling Crib
18/09/2026		20/11/2026	
Week 4	KS1 Year Group Curriculum Meetings with Parents	Week 4	
21/09/2026	St Francis to Mass	23/11/2026	
22/09/2026	Year 2 Curriculum meeting	24/11/2026	
23/09/2026	Year 1 curriculum meeting	25/11/2026	
24/09/2026		26/11/2026	I Rock performance assembly
25/09/2026		27/11/2026	
Week 5	Beginning of Black History Month	Week 5	Advent Begins
28/09/2026	St Martin to Mass	30/11/2026	Feast of St Andrew- St Andrew Class to church
29/09/2026		01/12/2026	

LOVE

Learning to love, loving to learn.

FAITH

PEACE

RESPECT



'Aspire not to have more, but to be more'

YEAR OF PEACE

30/09/2026		02/12/2026	Nursery Nativity Play
01/10/2026	St Therese Feast Day – St Therese class to visit the church	03/12/2026	Reception Nativity Play
02/10/2026	National Poetry Day	04/12/2026	
Week 6		Week 6	
05/10/2026	St Bernadette to Mass	07/12/2026	
06/10/2026	Individual school photos	08/12/2026	
07/10/2026	St Francis Assembly	09/12/2026	Year 2 Nativity Play
08/10/2026	Rosary	10/12/2026	Year 1 Nativity Play
09/10/2026	Celebrate National identities (dress in national clothes) Take 10 to Read	11/12/2026	Reception Height and weight
Week 7		Week 7	
12/10/2026	St Therese to Mass	14/12/2026	
13/10/2026		15/12/2026	
14/10/2026	Flu Vaccinations	16/12/2026	
15/10/2026		17/12/2026	
16/10/2026	Harvest festival Assembly	18/12/2026	Carols by candle light 2.30pm END OF TERM
Week 8			
19/10/2026			
20/10/2026			
21/10/2026	St Martin class Assembly		
22/10/2026			
23/10/2026	Wear it Pink Day Break up for half term		

Spring Term Dates 2026/2027

Spring 1		Spring 2	
Week 1	Staff meeting:	Week 1	
04/01/2027	INSET DAY	22/02/2027	
05/01/2027		23/02/2027	
06/01/2027	The Epiphany of The Lord	24/02/2027	
07/01/2027		25/02/2027	
08/01/2027		26/02/2027	
Week 2		Week 2	
11/01/2027		01/03/2027	St Francis to Mass
12/01/2027	Parent evening	02/03/2027	
13/01/2027	St Martin Liturgy	03/03/2027	
14/01/2027	Parents evening	04/03/2027	World Book Day
15/01/2027		05/03/2027	Mothers Day Liturgy
Week 3		Week 3	
18/01/2027	St Francis to Mass	08/03/2027	St Martin to Mass

LOVE

Learning to love, loving to learn.

FAITH

PEACE

RESPECT



'Aspire not to have more, but to be more'

YEAR OF PEACE

19/01/2027		09/03/2027	
20/01/2027	St Bernadette Class Assembly	10/03/2027	St Therese Class Assembly
21/01/2027		11/03/2027	Whole Class photos
22/01/2027		12/03/2027	
Week 4		Week 4	
25/01/2027	St Martin to Mass	15/03/2027	St Bernadette to Mass
26/01/2027		16/03/2027	
27/01/2027	St Francis Liturgy	17/03/2027	St Bernadette Class Liturgy
28/01/2027		18/03/2027	
29/01/2027		19/03/2027	
Week 5	Children's mental Health week	Week 5	
01/02/2027	St Bernadette to Mass	22/03/2027	St Therese to Mass
02/02/2027		23/03/2027	
03/02/2027	St Therese class Liturgy	24/03/2027	
04/02/2027		25/03/2027	Annunciation LAST DAY OF TERM - Finish 2pm
05/02/2027		26/03/2027	Good Friday Bank Holiday
Week 6			
08/02/2027	St Therese to Mass		
09/02/2027	Safer Internet Day		
10/02/2027	Ash Wednesday		
11/02/2027			
12/02/2027	INSET		

Summer Term Dates 2026/2027

Summer 1		Summer 2	
Week 1		Week 1	
12/04/2027		07/06/2027	
13/04/2027		08/06/2027	
14/04/2027		09/06/2027	
15/04/2027	Reception Screening tests	10/06/2027	
16/04/2027	St Bernadette Feast day – St Bernadette class to visit the church	11/06/2027	
Week 2		Week 2	Phonic Screening week
19/04/2027	St Bernadette to Mass	14/06/2027	
20/04/2027		15/06/2027	
21/04/2027		16/06/2027	St Andrew class Liturgy
22/04/2027		17/06/2027	
23/04/2027	Feast of St George	18/06/2027	Father's day Assembly
Week 3		Week 3	
26/04/2027	St Therese to Mass	21/06/2027	
27/04/2027		22/06/2027	St George Class Assembly

LOVE

Learning to love, loving to learn.

FAITH

PEACE

RESPECT



'Aspire not to have more, but to be more'

YEAR OF PEACE

28/04/2027	St Andrew Class assembly	23/06/2027	
29/04/2027		24/06/2027	
30/04/2027		25/06/2027	
Week 4	Month of Mary	Week 4	
03/05/2027	BANK HOLIDAY	28/06/2027	
04/05/2027		29/06/2027	
05/05/2027		30/06/2027	
06/05/2027	Ascension of The Lord	01/07/2027	
07/05/2027		02/07/2027	
Week 5		Week 5	
10/05/2027	St George to Mass	05/07/2027	
11/05/2027	St George class Liturgy	06/07/2027	
12/05/2027		07/07/2027	
13/05/2027		08/07/2027	Governors Meeting
14/05/2027		09/07/2027	
Week 6		Week 6	
17/05/2027	St Andrew to Mass	12/07/2027	
18/05/2027	Sports Day	13/07/2027	Reception Graduation
19/05/2027		14/07/2027	
20/05/2027		15/07/2027	Year 2 leavers Mass
21/05/2027		16/07/2027	Nursery Picnic
Week 7		Week 7	Staff meeting:
24/05/2027		19/07/2027	Whole school to Mass?? TBC
25/05/2027		20/07/2027	End of Term
26/05/2027		21/07/2027	INSET
27/05/2027		22/07/2027	School Closed
28/05/2027	St Mary's Feast Day Picnic End of Half Term	23/07/2027	School Closed

LOVE

PEACE

Learning to love, loving to learn.

FAITH

RESPECT

