

Care, grow and flourish in
God's loving hands.

St Mary's C of E Primary School

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Newsletter No. 1

Wednesday 9th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this first newsletter of the academic year finds you all well and that you had a restful and enjoyable summer. We had three wonderful days in school last week, and it has been a real joy to welcome the children back.



Reception 2026:

It has been wonderful to welcome Reception to our St. Mary's family. Their classroom has been brimming with enthusiasm and fun learning! We are all looking forward to learning the children's names and getting to know them all.

Meet the team:

Next week, we'd like to invite parents and carers to pop into classrooms **straight after home time** to meet your child's teaching team and see the learning environment. Please see two different dates below. **Teachers will dismiss the children at the usual time and children must be supervised by a parent/carer at all times after home time.**

YR, Y1, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6: Monday 14th September

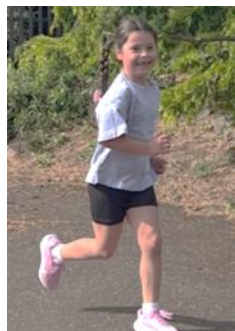
Y2: Friday 18th September

Please note that this is a casual, brief look around rather than an opportunity to look at your children's books or speak to the staff about your child's learning. Please don't worry if you can't make it; it's a very informal hello! We will have consultations later this term for more formal conversations about your child's learning.



Curriculum letters:

We have uploaded curriculum letters to the website and emailed these out to you. Please take a look at the learning that's coming up over this half term. Letters contain essential information about home learning and PE days too.



Y2 Rosie raising money for St. Mary's:

Rosie will be taking part in The Vitality Westminster Mile on Saturday, 26 September 2026, starting on The Mall and finishing in front of Buckingham Palace! 🏃💖

She has decided to use the challenge to raise money for the Friends of St Mary's, who work so hard to support our school with fundraising.

Any donation, no matter how big or small, would mean a great deal to Rosie and would be very gratefully received. [Here is a link to her fundraising page](#). Thank you so much for supporting her!

Premises work over the summer holiday and parental contributions:

The flat roof above the hall and YR was replaced over the holiday. We were also able to build a canopy outside Y2 to enable us to extend learning provision outside in all weathers! We were able to secure a grant from the diocese to make the roof replacement and canopy project possible. Additionally, the parental donations that we collect as a Voluntary Aided (VA) School have also gone towards this work.

Thank you for your financial support with helping to fund these essential projects.

To ensure that we can continue to keep making necessary future improvements to school, we ask parents/carers to make the following contribution via School Money for the school year:

- £75 for one child
- £110 for two children
- £140 for three or more children

You can find out more about why our school requests these contributions as a VA school [here](#).

Breakfast Club and After School Club:

A reminder that we offer a full wraparound care service at St. Mary's with breakfast club starting at 7.45am (no need to book) and The Grove after school club operating until 5.45pm (which we ask you to book).

We still have availability on most days in The Grove, and sessions can be booked for the whole year or just ad hoc when needed. From September, we have begun a reduced rate offer of £7.50 when a sibling books at full price. Take a look [here](#) for information on how to book.

Please call the office if you have any specific questions.

Holiday Camps:

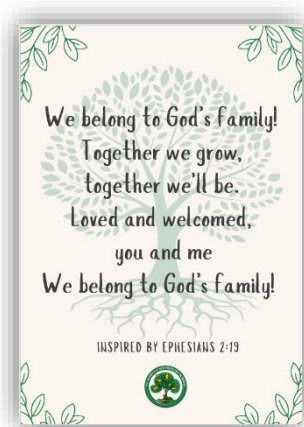
We are hoping to run camps here at St. Mary's in school holiday time, starting with October half term, followed by February half term and then in every holiday thereafter. More information to follow shortly...

Collective Worship:

Our focus this half term will be centred around *belonging to our community*.

We began our first week back by reflecting on the parable of the mustard seed. This parable is the theological underpinning of our school vision and ethos, and is also captured in our school logo.

It encouraged our thinking about 'starting small' and achieving great things in our learning and in wider life, which could include providing for others in time, just like the birds who nested in the mustard tree's branches. Years 1 to 6 have written beautiful 'start the year' class prayers inspired by the parable. Their prayers are rooted in love and care, which is wonderful.



Attendance and punctuality:

It's essential that children are in school every day and that they arrive on time, **by 8.55am**. This is so that children can achieve well at school.

Term time holidays **should not** be taken as this is highly disruptive to the children's education.

The school can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their child from school, where the child is of compulsory school age.

Please note that the fine for a fixed penalty notice for 5 or more unauthorised absences within 10 weeks is £80 per child, per parent. This money is paid to local authorities.

Great Athletes:

We are very excited to welcome a professional athlete into St Mary's very soon. We are working with the company [Great Athletes](#) whose mission is to inspire every child to lead an active, resilient, and healthy life. Look out for more about this soon...



Flu Vaccinations:

Flu vaccinations will be happening on 26th November in school for children **whose parents have provided consent** via the link that will be shared with you shortly. Please look out for this.

Supporting our pupils' independence:

To help the children in Y2 and the junior classes with settling at the start of every day, please try to say goodbye to them at the gate rather than coming into the main playground. It really does make a huge difference. As an exception, we understand that children in YR and Y1 may still feel that they need an adult to come to the door with them.

Parents are discouraged from coming into the building unless they need to speak to a member of office staff or if they have an appointment.

We appreciate your cooperation and support.

A message from Rev. Alec Corio:

Do you have a child who might want to be prepared for baptism or to begin receiving communion? If so, please let us know. Previously, we have met at school with groups or individuals who would like to explore this step in their faith. You can reach me at St. Mary's Church to find out more by sending an email to administrator@stmaryseastbarnet.org

Key dates in school:

- Monday 14th September: meet the team straight after school for children in YR, Y1, Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6.
- Friday 18th September: meet the team straight after school for children in Y2.
- Thursday 1st October: Harvest festival – food bank donations welcome. More details to come...
- Thursday 26th November: Flu vaccinations



From all of us at St Mary's School, stay safe, stay well and our love and prayers are with you as always.

Maria Constantinou

Headteacher

