Crescent News – St. Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School Newsletter
Wisdom and Faith | @StMarysLambeth | www.st-marys.lambeth.sch.uk
Friday 13th November 2026

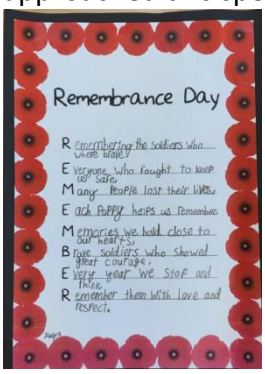
Message From Miss Doody

This week, we have taken time as a whole school community to remember and pay our respects to all those who have lost their lives in conflict, both past and present.

On Monday, we came together for a special whole-school Remembrance liturgy, providing an opportunity for us to reflect, pray and remember those who have made sacrifices for the freedom and peace we enjoy today. On Wednesday, Mr Elgey's class led a beautiful liturgy dedicated to Remembrance, which encouraged us all to think about the importance of peace, courage and gratitude.

Throughout the week, the children have engaged in a range of activities to mark **Remembrance Day**. They have created poppies, learned about the significance of the day, written thoughtful poetry and explored the importance of remembering those who have served and sacrificed. At 11 o'clock on the 11th day of the 11th month, we joined together in a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

Remembrance Day is an important opportunity for us to reflect on the impact of war, to honour those who have given their lives and to remind ourselves of the importance of kindness, peace and understanding. We have been incredibly proud of the respectful, thoughtful and mature way in which our children have approached this special week.






Looking ahead to next week – Anti-Bullying Week
Next week, we will be celebrating **Anti-Bullying Week**, with a particular focus on **'The Power of Good'** – reminding our children that even the smallest acts of kindness, compassion and friendship can make a huge difference to someone's day.
Throughout the week, we will explore how we can all use the power of good to create a school where everyone feels safe, happy, respected and included. The children will be reminded of our school's Anti-Bullying Policy and will take part in a range of activities to help them understand what bullying is, how to recognise it and who they can speak to if they are experiencing bullying. Just as importantly, we will explore how they can support someone who is experiencing bullying and the importance of being an upstander rather than a bystander.
We want our children to understand that we all have a responsibility to make a positive difference. Through our words, actions and choices, we can challenge unkind behaviour, celebrate our differences and ensure that

kindness is always stronger than bullying. **We want every child to recognise that they have the power to do good and that together, we can make our school a place where everyone belongs.**
To bring the week to a close, on **Friday 20th November**, we will be celebrating **Odd Socks Day!** This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our individuality and recognise that being different is something to be embraced. Children should come to school wearing their full school uniform but are invited to wear whichever odd socks they choose! We will also hold a special assembly focusing on celebrating our differences and reinforcing our message about the importance of being kind and standing up against bullying.





A reminder about the weather and outdoor play
As the weather becomes increasingly changeable at this time of year, please ensure that your child comes to school each day with a **raincoat**. The children will continue to enjoy playing outdoors at both playtimes and lunchtimes, whatever the weather, so it is important that they have suitable clothing to keep them warm and dry.
We are pleased to have received a good supply of wellies for the children to use during outdoor water play and, of course, for those all-important opportunities to splash in puddles! If you have any spare wellies at home that you would be happy to donate to school, we would be very grateful for any additional pairs.





Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for working in partnership with us to make our school such a caring and welcoming community.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.
Miss Kelly Doody

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MESSAGE FROM THE PSA

Dear Parents and Carers, Thank you for your patience and continued support. We know there is a lot happening at this time of year, so we thought it would be helpful to bring together some upcoming PSA activities and important reminders in one message to keep everyone in the loop.
We also have some exciting Christmas activities coming up!

🎄 *UNWANTED CHRISTMAS JUMPERS*
A little reminder that we are collecting unwanted Christmas jumpers ahead of our school 🎄
CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY
📅 Thursday 10th December
If you have any jumpers at home that are no longer needed, we would be very grateful for your donations. Please place them in the Amazon box in the school office by the beginning of December, ready for us to prepare them for the Christmas celebrations.

🎁 ***CHRISTMAS TOMBOLA BAGS***
Tombola bags will be coming home with the children tomorrow/Monday next week!
We are asking children to decorate their bags and fill them with any unwanted gifts. These could include small toys, books, accessories and other suitable items. Please ensure all donations are clean and in good condition.
Return deadline: *Friday 27th November.*
Please return all decorated and filled bags to your child's class teacher.

🎟️ ***CHRISTMAS FAIR RAFFLE TICKETS***
Christmas fair Raffle tickets will also be coming home with the children! We have some fantastic prizes up for grabs, so please take them home, share them with family and friends, and help us make this year's raffle a success.
Further information will be provided with the tickets.
Return deadline: *Monday 23rd November.*
Please return all completed raffle ticket stubs and payments by this date.

🎅 ***CHRISTMAS FAIR VOLUNTEERS***
Finally, we really need your help!
Please take a look at our volunteer sign-up list and consider giving even just an hour of your time. Whether you can help set up, run a stall or tidy away, every helping hand makes a huge difference.
https://volunteersignup.org/7KEWW
We cannot do it without our wonderful school community! Please note we rely on the support of volunteers to be able to make this happen.

🎅 ***SAVE THE DATE – ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS FAIR***
📅 Friday 4th December
🕒 3:30pm – 5:30pm

Let's all come together to make this year's Christmas Fair and festive celebrations lovely and memorable occasions for our children and the whole school community!
Thank you, as always, for your generosity, enthusiasm and continued support. It really does make a difference, and we are so grateful.
The St Mary's PSA Team ❤️

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🎄 Christmas Lunch at St Mary's – A Special Invitation! 🎄

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are delighted to offer **five parents/carers the opportunity to join us for our special Christmas Lunch on Thursday 17th December.**

This is a wonderful opportunity to spend some quality time with your child during the school day, sharing a festive meal together and enjoying a little Christmas magic at St Mary's.

How does it work?

- **Cost:** £5 per parent.
- **Date:** Thursday 17th December.
- **Booking opens:** Monday 30th November at 6:00pm.
- **Availability:** Only five spaces are available.
- **Booking:** Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please note that no additional spaces will be offered once all five places have been filled.

We hope that some of you will be able to join us for this special festive occasion and enjoy a lovely Christmas lunch with your child.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming you to St Mary's for a little festive cheer! 🎄



Admissions for September 2027

If your child is due to start school or Nursery next year, please take note of the following information and deadlines:

Reception Applications – September 2027 Intake

The closing date for Reception applications for the September 2027 intake is Friday 15th January 2027. Please make sure that you return the **Common Application Form** to your local Borough before midnight on Friday 15th January 2027.

The **Supplementary Information Form and supporting documents** should be returned to the school office in person at St Mary's or by email to admissions@st-marys.lambeth.sch.uk by **Friday 15th January 2027.** The school office is open from 8.45am until 3.45pm, Monday to Friday.

All application forms that are submitted after the closing date will be classed as late applications. Late applications **cannot** be processed until after the first round of applications have been considered.

Nursery Applications – January 2027 Intake

We are still accepting applications for the January Intake 2026 for nursery.

In Year Applications

If you or you may know someone who is interested in applying for an In Year place at St. Mary's, please contact Miss Fowley at the school office. admissions@st-marys.lambeth.sch.uk

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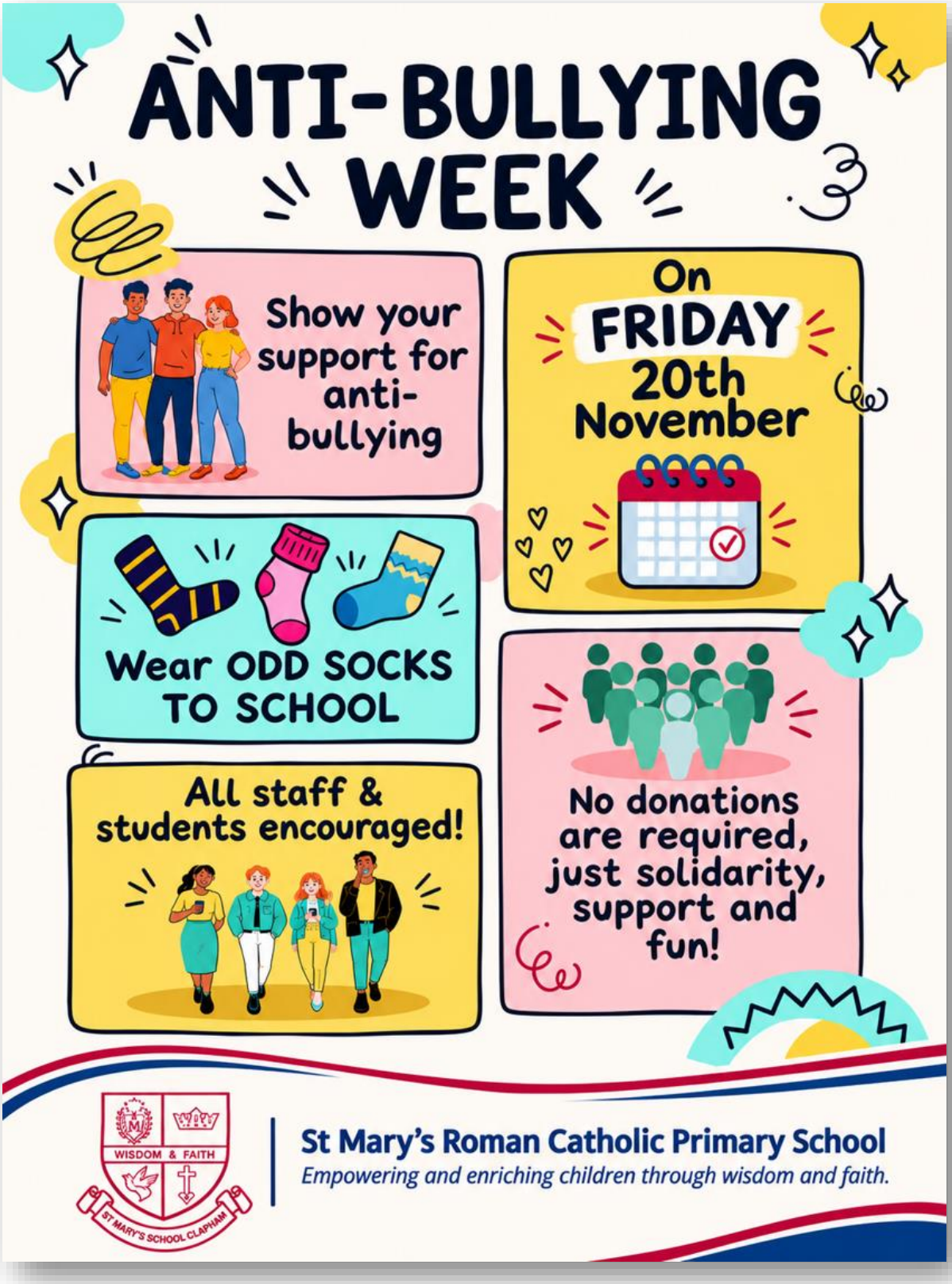

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REMINDERS

Free School Meals –Registration Still Matters
As a London school, all primary-aged children currently receive free school meals. However, we are asking all parents and carers to check whether their child is officially entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) and to inform the school office if they are.

Even though meals are free for everyone, registering for FSM is still extremely important.
When families who are eligible register:

The school receives additional government funding (known as Pupil Premium).This extra funding is used to directly support your child's education. It helps us provide additional teaching support, interventions, resources, enrichment opportunities, and wider wellbeing support. Without families registering, the school misses out on valuable funding that could benefit your child and the wider school community.

You may be entitled to Free School Meals if you receive certain benefits, including:

- Universal Credit (with qualifying earnings)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (with qualifying income and not receiving Working Tax Credit)

If you think you may be eligible, or are unsure, please contact the school office. The process is quick, confidential, and could make a real difference to the support we are able to provide.
Please let the office staff know as soon as possible so we can update our records.

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

There are still places available for instrumental lessons – if your child is in year one to year 6 and you would like your child to play an instrument please ask at the office for an Instrument lessons form.

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CHRISTMAS

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 27th Nov	Clapham Lights Switch On- Selected children	Time tbc
Wednesday 2nd Dec	Beginning of Advent Mass-Year 2-6 St Mary's Church	9.30
Wednesday 9th Dec	Nursery and Reception Nativity	2.30 pm
Thursday 10th Dec	Trinity Hospice Light up a LIfe Service- Selected children	6pm
Friday 11th Dec	Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity-School Hall	Y1 parents 10am, Yr 2 parents 11am
Monday 14th Dec	Year 3 and Year 4 Carol Service-St Mary's Church	4pm
Tuesday 15th Dec	Year 5 and Year 6. Retelling of the Christmas Story-St Mary's Church	4pm

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Celebration Assembly

Well done to all those who received certificates this week.









HAPPY BIRTHDAY







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