Crescent News – St. Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School Newsletter
Wisdom and Faith | @StMarysLambeth | www.st-marys.lambeth.sch.uk
Friday 16th October 2026

Message From Miss Doody

Dear Parents and Carers,
As we come to the end of another busy week at St Mary's, I would like to thank you for your continued support and for working with us to ensure that our school remains a happy, safe and nurturing environment for all our children.

Safeguarding Reminder: Home-Time Arrangements

The safety of our children is always our priority, and I would like to remind all parents and carers of our home-time procedures. Your cooperation is essential in ensuring that every child is dismissed safely.

- **Please wait for the teacher to call your child.** Children must remain with their teacher until they are called. Please do not wave your child over to you from across the playground.
- **Wait for the teacher to acknowledge you.** Children will be called one at a time, so please wait patiently for the teacher to see you and call your child before leaving.
- **Leave the playground once you have collected your child.** Please do not remain in the playground or allow your child to play once they have been dismissed. This can cause confusion about which children have been collected and creates a safeguarding risk for others.
- **Bikes and scooters must not be ridden in the playground.** This applies to both children and adults. Please ensure that bikes and scooters are walked while on school grounds.
- **Alternative collection arrangements must be communicated to the office.** If someone different is collecting your child, please inform the school office in advance. They must also have been given the special collection code for your child. Without the correct arrangements and code, we will be unable to release your child to them.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. These procedures are in place to keep every child safe, and I appreciate your support in helping us maintain consistent and secure home-time arrangements.

Open Classroom – Wednesday 21 October

We are delighted to invite parents and carers to our first **Open Classroom of the school year on Wednesday 21 October, from 2.45 pm**.

This is an opportunity to visit your child's new classroom, look through their books and see some of the wonderful learning they have been doing so far this year. We hope you will enjoy seeing how your child has settled into their new class and the progress they are making.
Following your visit, you will be able to take your child home directly from the classroom.
We look forward to welcoming you into school and sharing a little of your child's learning journey with you.

OPAL Play – Donations Welcome!

Our OPAL playtimes continue to develop, giving children more opportunities to be creative, active and imaginative during their breaks.

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We would be extremely grateful for donations of **plastic crates and old tyres** to help us expand the resources available to the children. If you work in a supermarket, tyre shop or another business where these items may be available, please do get in touch with the school if you are able to help.

Thank you to everyone who has already supported our OPAL project. Your contributions make a real difference to the children's play experiences.

October: The Month of the Rosary



October is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Rosary, and we will continue to take time throughout the month to pray together as a school community.
Thank you to our Growing in Faith team for helping the children to learn about and participate in this special devotion. Families may also wish to take a few moments at home t o pray the Rosary together, reflecting on the life of Jesus and asking Mary to guide and pray for us.
On Thursday, some of the Growing in Faith Team and children from the Lower Juniors joined an online Rosary prayer led by the Archbishop John Wilson. It was a wonderful, prayerful experience. The sight of thousands of children praying the Rosary together was joyful to behold.

'Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.'

Half-Term Reminder

Next week is our final week before the half-term holiday. Please make a note of the following dates:

- **Last day of term:** Friday 23 October
- **Return to school:** Tuesday 3 November

We hope that everyone enjoys a restful and enjoyable half-term break when it arrives.
Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school. It is a privilege to see our children growing in confidence, learning together and living out our school values each day.
I look forward to welcoming you all next week for our Open Classroom afternoon.
Have a lovely weekend.

Warm regards,
Miss Doody

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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

Applications for the January Intake 2026 for nursery should be in by **Tuesday 3rd November 2026.**

Secondary Transfer (Year 7, starting September 2027)

Application deadline: Before midnight **31st October 2026**
Applications must be made through your **home borough**.
Please check if your chosen schools require supplementary forms, as deadlines and requirements may vary.

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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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.

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Celebration Assembly

Well done to all those who received certificates this week.





HAPPY BIRTHDAY



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