Crescent News – St. Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School Newsletter
Wisdom and Faith | @StMarysLambeth | www.st-marys.lambeth.sch.uk
Friday 25th September 2026

Message From Miss Doody



We started the week with a lovely visit from Father Casper during our whole-school liturgy. Thank you very much, Father, for taking the time to visit us and for blessing our school candle. It was a beautiful way to begin our week together in faith.
Today, Mr Griffin, myself and five members of our Growing in Faith Team attended the Beginning of the Year Mass at St George's Cathedral, alongside many other schools from across the Southwark Diocese. What a wonderful Mass it was, and what a fantastic group of children we had representing St Mary's. They were a real credit to our school and I was incredibly proud of them.

A big thank you also goes to our PSA, who led their AGM on Wednesday morning. Thank you to all the parents who attended, shared ideas and offered suggestions for fundraising this year. A special congratulations to our new Co-Chairs, Lizzie and Anna, and Deputy Chair, Anne Marie. We look forward to working closely with you throughout the year.
At the AGM, we discussed one of our key priorities for St Mary's this year — OPAL. One of the main areas we would like to develop for the children is a large sandpit in the playground, made using sleepers and filled with sand. We will begin fundraising towards this, but we would also be very grateful if any parents have contacts within the building or construction industry who may be able to donate or offload sleepers, sand or other suitable materials. If you think you may be able to help, please do get in touch with the school.
We would also like to say a huge thank you to two very generous parents, Martin and Paulo, who have delivered lots of PE equipment to school, including mini trampolines, agility tables, tennis balls and basketballs. We are extremely grateful for your generosity and for the time you have taken to help our children. It really is very much appreciated.

It was also lovely to hold the PSA AGM in our new small hall, with many parents commenting on what a lovely space it is. We are looking to make better use of our school spaces and would be interested in hearing from anyone who may wish to hire the small hall or any of our other spaces. If you, or someone you know, may be interested, please speak to our School Business Manager, Miss Coley, who will be happy to provide further information.

Today we also celebrated European Day of Languages. A huge thank you to the children and staff who helped us celebrate the wonderful range of languages spoken within our school community. During a special assembly, we heard songs and words in different languages that the children had learned, and it was lovely to celebrate and value the languages and cultures that make our school community so special.

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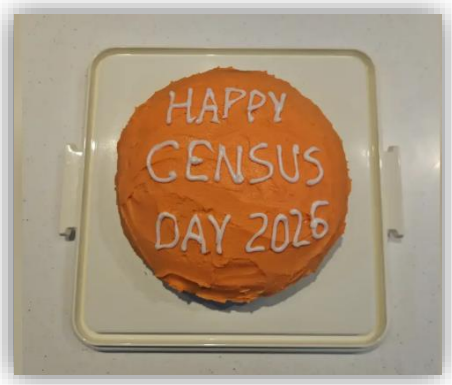

Thursday 1 October is Census Day! On this day, the children will be treated to a special lunch and will also have the opportunity to win some prizes, thanks to Olive Dining. Children are welcome to wear their own clothes to school on this day.
It is really important that all children attend school on Census Day, wherever possible. The information collected on this day is used to determine the funding the school receives for the year ahead, so having as many children in school as possible helps to ensure that we receive the correct level of funding for our pupils.

For our Year 6 parents, the PGL information slides were shared this week and ParentPay is now live, so payments can begin to be made towards the trip. If you have not received the slides, please let the Admin Team know. There is some important information included, and we will also hold a meeting nearer to the time to go through all the finer details with you.

Finally, a reminder about our online communication systems. Please make sure that you can access Arbor, as important information from school will be sent to you through Arbor. For homework and class-related information, please make sure you are logging into Google Classroom. If you need any help accessing Arbor, please speak to the Admin Team, and for support with Google Classroom, your child's class teacher will be happy to help.
It is so important that we can keep you informed and that you have access to all the information you need to support your child.

As we move further into this new school year, it is a lovely time to remember that God is with us in all that we do. Our school candle, blessed by Father Casper this week, is a wonderful reminder of Christ's light shining within our school community. As we continue to learn, grow and support one another, let us carry that light with us — showing kindness, compassion, forgiveness and love to those around us. May God bless our St Mary's family and guide us through the year ahead.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school. There has been lots to celebrate this week, and it has been wonderful to see our children learning, representing our school so proudly and making the most of the opportunities available to them.

Have a lovely weekend.
Kind regards,
Miss Doody
Headteacher

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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 of 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 2025**
Applications must be made through your **home borough**.
Please check if your chosen schools require supplementary forms, as deadlines and requirements may vary.

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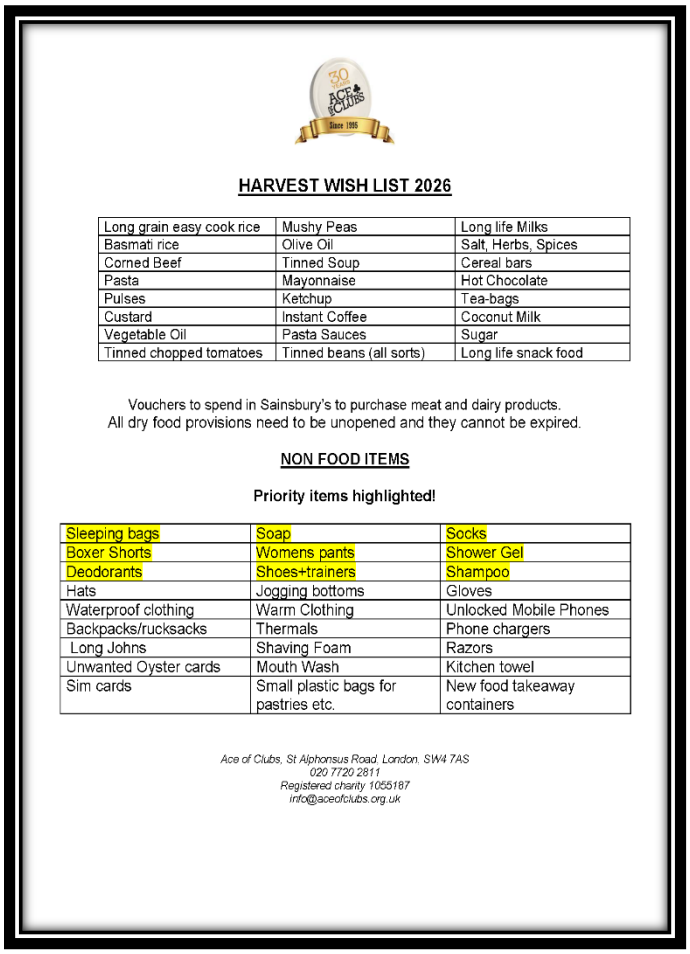
Harvest Festival

Please bring your donations into school from Monday 20th September until Friday 2nd October.

Thank you, in advance, for your kindness towards some of the most vulnerable in our local community.





HARVEST WISH LIST 2026

Long grain easy cook rice	Mushy Peas	Long life Milks
Basmati rice	Olive Oil	Salt, Herbs, Spices
Corned Beef	Tinned Soup	Cereal bars
Pasta	Mayonnaise	Hot Chocolate
Pulses	Ketchup	Tea-bags
Custard	Instant Coffee	Coconut Milk
Vegetable Oil	Pasta Sauces	Sugar
Tinned chopped tomatoes	Tinned beans (all sorts)	Long life snack food

Vouchers to spend in Sainsbury's to purchase meat and dairy products.
All dry food provisions need to be unopened and they cannot be expired.

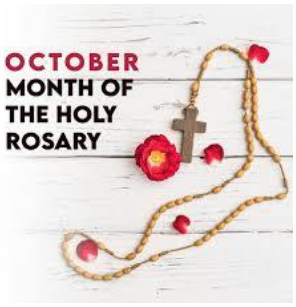
NON FOOD ITEMS

Priority items highlighted!

Sleeping bags	Soap	Socks
Boxer Shorts	Womens pants	Shower Gel
Deodorants	Shoes+trainers	Shampoo
Hats	Jogging bottoms	Gloves
Waterproof clothing	Warm Clothing	Unlocked Mobile Phones
Backpacks/rucksacks	Thermals	Phone chargers
Long Johns	Shaving Foam	Razors
Unwanted Oyster cards	Mouth Wash	Kitchen towel
Sim cards	Small plastic bags for pastries etc.	New food takeaway containers

Ace of Clubs, St Alphonsus Road, London, SW4 7AS
020 7720 2811
Registered charity 1055187
info@aceofclubs.org.uk

October: Month of the Holy Rosary



As we approach October, we are reminded that this month is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary, with the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary celebrated on **7th October**. In a world often filled with noise, worry and distraction, the rosary is a simple yet profound prayer of peace. Praying it daily can bring calm to our hearts, strengthen our families, and intercede for peace in the world.
To help the children share in this devotion, **Mr Griffin will be leading Rosary prayer every Friday lunchtime during October**, and all pupils are warmly invited to join.

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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 a Instrument lessons form.

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.

Secondary School Applications

A reminder to all Year 6 parents and carers that secondary school applications must be submitted to Lambeth by **31 October 2026**. Please make sure that you leave plenty of time to complete the application and carefully consider your school choices.
For children with an EHCP, the deadline for secondary school applications is earlier: 30 September 2026. If you have any questions or would like support with the process, please come and speak to us at school. We are very happy to help.
For our Year 5 parents and carers, it is also a good idea to start looking at secondary schools now. Visiting schools, finding out about open days and beginning to think about your preferences will mean that you are in a good position to make your application when this time comes next year. Please do not forget to inform the school office in advance if you are taking your child out to visit a secondary school so they do not get an unauthorised mark.

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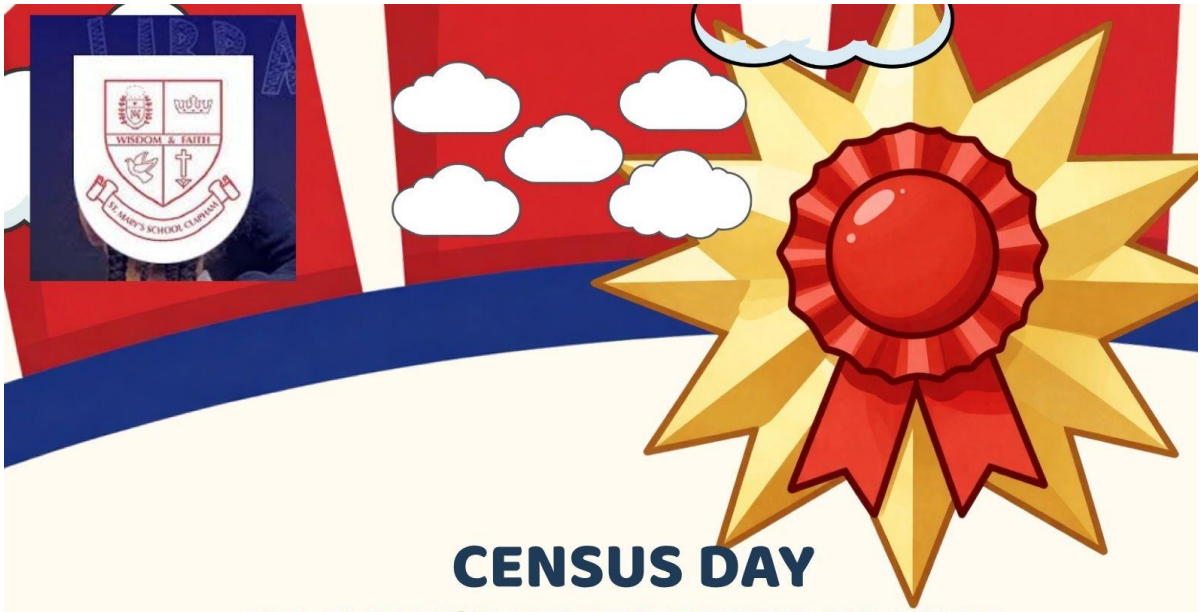

CENSUS DAY

ST MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER

Own Clothes Day!	Children can wear their own clothes on Census Day!
Special Lunch	Special Favourites Menu — featuring students' most-loved dishes!
Win Prizes!	Find a special sticker under your school plate to WIN!
Prizes	Cinema Vouchers & Book Vouchers — 3 lucky winners chosen at random!
Activity	Fun student engagement activity with exciting prizes up for grabs!

We look forward to seeing all our children in school on Census Day — good luck everyone!

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Celebration Assembly

Well done to all those who received certificates this week.













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