Crescent News – St. Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School Newsletter
Wisdom and Faith | @StMarysLambeth | www.st-marys.lambeth.sch.uk
Friday 2nd October 2026

Message From Miss Doody

Dear Parents and Carers,
As we come to the end of another busy and positive week at St Mary's, I would like to thank you for your continued support and for all that you do to help our children learn, grow and thrive.

Harvest – Giving to Others



This week we held two wonderful Harvest assemblies, giving us the opportunity to reflect on the importance of being thankful for all that we have and, importantly, remembering those who may not have the same things that we do.
A huge thank you to all the families who have already brought in food items for **Ace of Clubs** and who have taken the time to fill envelopes for **CAFOD**. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.
If you have not yet had an opportunity to contribute, we are extending the deadline until **Friday 9 October**. Ace of Clubs will then collect the donations from school.
Ace of Clubs supports people who are homeless or vulnerable in the London area, providing practical help, food, warmth, friendship and support. **CAFOD** works with communities around the world, supporting people experiencing poverty and injustice and helping communities to build a better future.
As a Catholic school, this is an important part of our children's education. Through our actions, we teach our children that we are called to look beyond ourselves, to recognise the dignity of every person and to **love our neighbour and stand alongside those who are less fortunate than ourselves**. This is at the heart of **Catholic Social Teaching** and the Gospel message.

Family Fast Day – Friday 2 October

Today, **Friday 2 October, is CAFOD Family Fast Day**. Family Fast Day is an opportunity for us, as a Catholic community, to pause, pray and think about people around the world who do not have enough food or the opportunities that we may take for granted.
It reminds us that our faith is not simply about what we believe, but also about how we live and how we respond to the needs of others. We encourage our children to think about how even small acts of kindness, generosity and compassion can make a difference.

National Poetry Day

Thursday 1st October was **National Poetry Day**. It was wonderful to see the children writing such imaginative and thoughtful poetry and learning about a range of different poets.
Poetry gives children a chance to play with language, express their ideas and emotions, and see the world in different ways. It was lovely to see so many children enjoying the opportunity to be creative with words.

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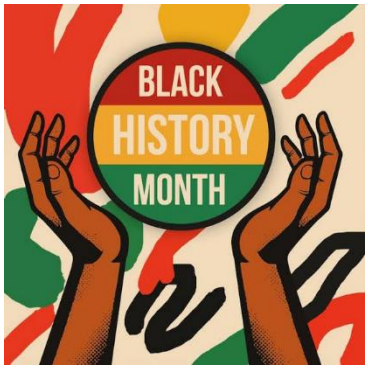
Black History Month



Thursday 1st October also marked the beginning of **Black History Month**. Throughout the month, our children will be learning about significant Black people from history and the present day, including people whose contributions are sometimes overlooked or forgotten.
It is important that our children learn a rich and diverse history and understand the contributions, achievements and experiences of Black people both in Britain and around the world. We look forward to discovering some new names, stories and achievements together throughout the month.

Parent Workshops

We are looking forward to welcoming parents into school next week for two important workshops:
Tuesday 6 October – Year 1 Phonics Workshop
This will take place after school in the **new small hall**. We look forward to welcoming our Year 1 parents and thank the staff in advance for preparing and leading this session. As a reading school, we know how important it is for children to read regularly at home and develop a love of books alongside their phonics skills.
Wednesday 7 October – Year 4 Multiplication Check Workshop
This workshop will also take place after school in the **new small hall** and will provide parents with information about the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check and how you can support your child at home. Secure times-table knowledge is an important foundation for many areas of mathematics, helping children to develop fluency and confidence when working with multiplication, division, fractions, problem-solving and more.
We hope to see as many Year 4 parents as possible — and, if possible, all of you! Thank you in advance to the staff for putting this session together.

Follow us on Instagram

Finally, if you don't already follow us on Instagram, please do!
https://www.instagram.com/st.marysrcprimary/
Our Instagram gives you a glimpse into daily life at St Mary's, with photographs and updates showing the wonderful learning, play, creativity and experiences taking place across our school.
Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school community.

Have a wonderful weekend and enjoy some precious family time together.

Miss Doody

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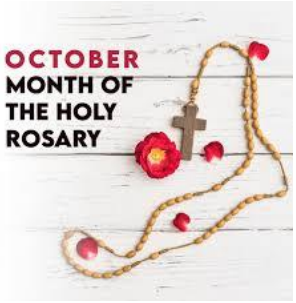
October: Month of the Holy Rosary



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.

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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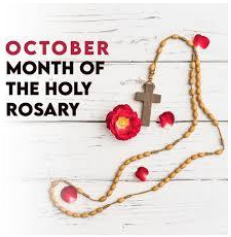

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INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

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 an 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.

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Celebration Assembly

Well done to all those who received certificates this week.











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