Crescent News – St. Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School Newsletter
Wisdom and Faith | @StMarysLambeth | www.st-marys.lambeth.sch.uk
Friday 6th November 2026

Message From Miss Doody

I hope you all had a lovely half-term break and enjoyed some well-deserved time together. It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school this week, and they have settled back into their routines really well.

Attendance and Punctuality
A gentle reminder of the importance of children attending school every day and arriving on time. Every school day matters, and regular attendance is essential to ensuring that children make good progress, develop positive relationships and make the most of all the opportunities available to them. Arriving on time also ensures that children can begin their learning calmly and confidently with their classmates. Thank you for your continued support in making school attendance a priority.



Our Catholic Life and St Mary's Values
On Monday, we came together for a special liturgy to celebrate the feasts of All Saints and All Souls. We remembered and gave thanks for all the saints who have shown us how to live lives of faith, love and service, as well as remembering those we love who have died. We reflected on how we can follow the example of the saints through our own actions and by showing kindness, compassion and love to others.
During our Key Stage liturgies this week, we also revisited our St Mary's values and reflected on what these mean in our everyday lives. Our values are at the heart of who we are as a school community. We have high expectations of all our children and expect them to demonstrate these values not only in school but also at home and in the wider community.

Court Refurbishment – An Exciting Transformation!
As I am sure you have all noticed, work is well and truly underway on our court refurbishment! The old court has already been demolished, and over the next four to five weeks, the new court is due to take shape. We are very excited about the improvements this will bring to the children's outdoor learning, play and sporting opportunities.
The new surface will be a 3G pitch. To help us look after it and ensure that it remains in excellent condition for many years to come, children wishing to play football on the pitch during lunchtime and other playtimes will need to wear **astroturf trainers (suitable for 3G surfaces)**.

Please also remember:

- On PE days, children must bring their normal trainers to school.
- On school uniform days, children must wear their school shoes and change their footwear at break and lunchtime when taking part in activities on the court.

We will share any further information with you as the project progresses.

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OPAL Play – Water Play and Donations

We have introduced water play as another exciting addition to our lunchtime OPAL provision. The children are enjoying having new opportunities to explore, create and play together.

For children to take part in water play, they must wear the wellies provided by school and a waterproof coat. Please ensure that your child brings a **school-coloured, waterproof coat with a hood** every day. Without suitable waterproof clothing, children will not be able to play outside when it rains or take part in water play. The St Mary's school coat, available from Wearabouts, is ideal as it is waterproof, smart and warm, with a fleece lining.

We would also welcome donations of **bread crates and old tyres** to help us continue expanding and developing our OPAL play provision. If you have access to either of these, please do get in touch with the school. Your support makes a real difference to the children's play experiences.





Christmas Celebrations – Dates for Your Diary

Christmas is fast approaching! Please take a few moments to read through the Christmas dates attached to this newsletter so that you can plan ahead and join us for the many lovely celebrations and events taking place. We always love welcoming parents and families into school to share in the children's Christmas performances, liturgies and celebrations.

Nursery and Reception Admissions

A reminder that if you have a child who will be three years old by January, please ensure that you apply for a place in our Nursery so that they can join us in January. We offer three Nursery intakes each year: September, January and April.

For parents with children due to start Reception in September 2027, the deadline for submitting your Reception application is **15th January 2027**.

If you would like any further information about our Nursery or Reception provision, or would like to arrange a visit, please do not hesitate to contact the school. We would be delighted to show you what makes St Mary's such a special place to learn and grow.

Finally, please note that our next **Parents' Evenings** will take place during the week commencing **30th November**. Further information about booking appointments will follow shortly.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for being such an important part of our St Mary's family.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

With best wishes, 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.**

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

Trip to Cineworld – Years 1-6 – 25th November – Consents Still Outstanding

If you have not already given consent for this free trip please do so now as the day is fast approaching. Please login to your child's Arbor account and give consent. This is required as soon as possible and by no later than 13th November. We will be unable to bring children if consent is not given by this time.

If you have not logged into your child's Arbor account because you are experiencing problems with this, please contact a member of the School Admin Team to help you with this.

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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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.







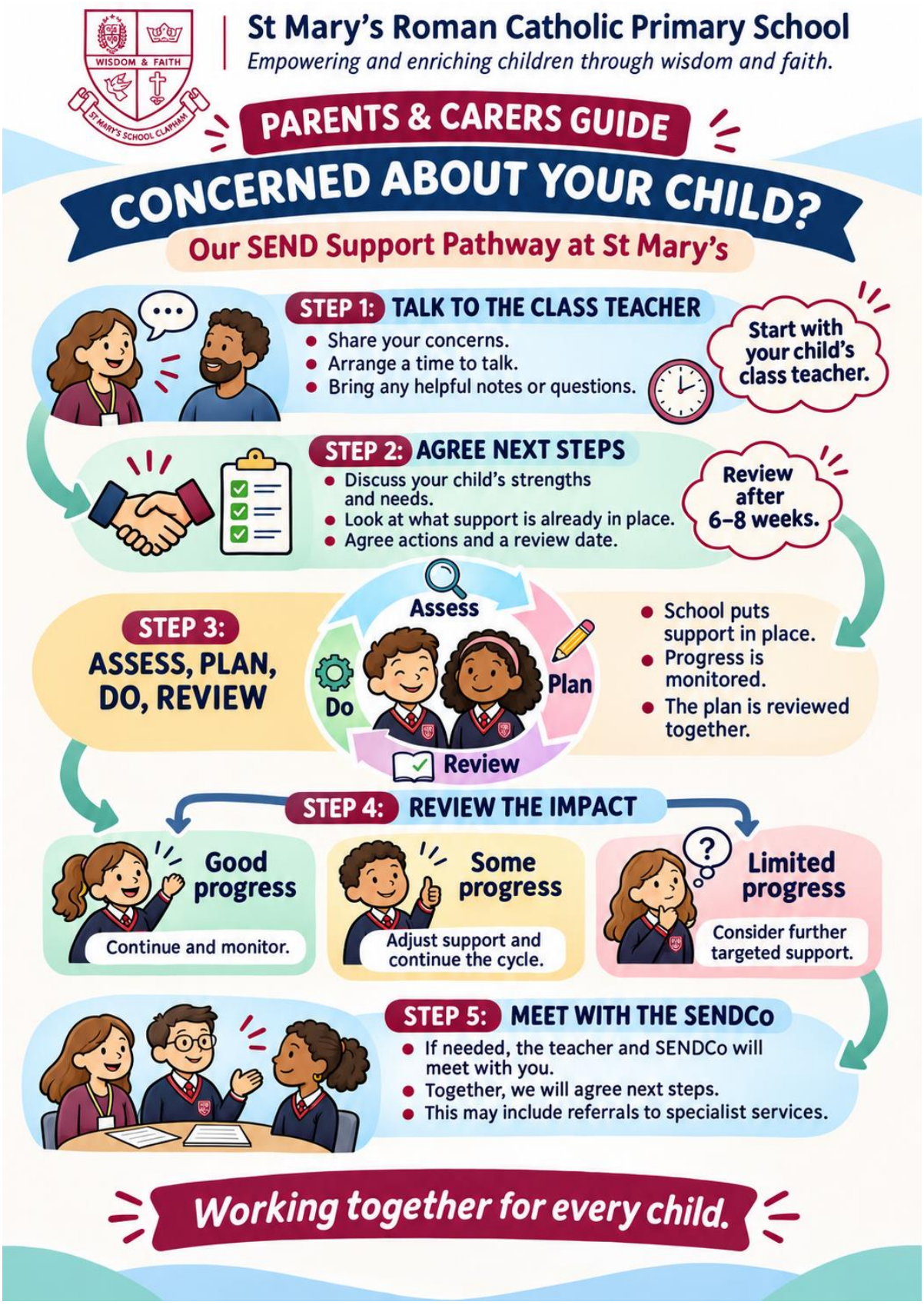






HAPPY BIRTHDAY




St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School
Empowering and enriching children through wisdom and faith.
PARENTS & CARERS GUIDE
CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR CHILD?
Our SEND Support Pathway at St Mary's
STEP 1: TALK TO THE CLASS TEACHER
Share your concerns.
Arrange a time to talk.
Bring any helpful notes or questions.
Start with your child's class teacher.
STEP 2: AGREE NEXT STEPS
Discuss your child's strengths and needs.
Look at what support is already in place.
Agree actions and a review date.
Review after 6–8 weeks.
STEP 3:
ASSESS, PLAN, DO, REVIEW
Assess
Plan
Do
Review
School puts support in place.
Progress is monitored.
The plan is reviewed together.
STEP 4: REVIEW THE IMPACT
Good progress
Continue and monitor.
Some progress
Adjust support and continue the cycle.
Limited progress
Consider further targeted support.
STEP 5: MEET WITH THE SENDCo
If needed, the teacher and SENDCo will meet with you.
Together, we will agree next steps.
This may include referrals to specialist services.
Working together for every child.

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Dates For Diary

11th Nov	Remembrance Day
16th Nov	Anti Bullying Week begins
20th Nov	Odd Socks Day
25th Nov	Yr 1-6 Cinema Trip
27th Nov	**Open Morning -9.30** Prospective parents meeting and tour of the school
27th Nov	**Turning on the Christmas Lights** Selected children will sing at this event in the evening