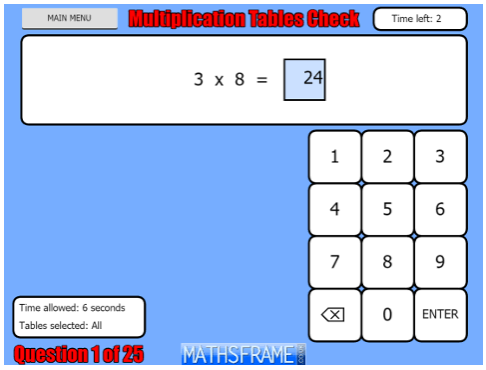
Crescent News – St. Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School Newsletter
Wisdom and Faith | @StMarysLambeth | www.st-marys.lambeth.sch.uk
Friday 9th October 2026

Message From Miss Doody

Dear Parents and Carers,

A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our **Year 1 Phonics Workshop** and **Year 4 Multiplication Workshop**. Phonics and multiplication facts are incredibly important skills that children need to learn, practise and become confident in, as they provide the foundations for so much of their learning throughout their school life. We really appreciate the time our teachers give to lead these workshops and, equally, the time you give to attend and support your children with their learning at home. Your involvement makes such a difference.





This week, we have also finalised our **new school prefects**. A huge well done to every child who put themselves forward, completed an application and took part in the interview process. We were incredibly proud of all of the children who applied. Being a prefect is a real privilege and a big responsibility, and we expect every prefect to demonstrate **exemplary behaviour, kindness, responsibility and leadership** at all times. We know they will be wonderful role models for the rest of our school.

Yesterday, some of our prefects had a very special opportunity to begin their role by stepping into a little piece of history. They travelled with us to see the newly installed **blue plaque for Dr Annie McCall** where they met Cathy Power, Blue Plaques Manager for The English Heritage who answered lots of questions and Trevor Ramsey who is the only person in London that installs the plaques.
Dr Annie McCall was a pioneering doctor and campaigner who worked to improve healthcare and opportunities for women at a time when women faced significant barriers in medicine. She established a hospital for women in her own home on Jeffrey's Road, providing much-needed medical care and support.

Our own St Mary's pupils played an important part in campaigning for Dr McCall to be recognised with an English Heritage blue plaque. This work began back in 2018, as part of our children's work exploring the history of women and the local community, alongside our wonderful governor Michele Reilly. It has taken until now for English Heritage to approve and install the plaque, and we were particularly delighted to be told that the work of our school and our pupils was instrumental in bringing this about.

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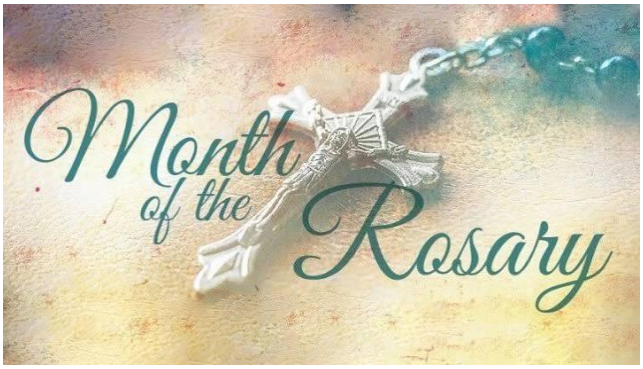
A very special well done to those pupils who were involved in this work all those years ago. What an incredible legacy to have left behind!
I hope our prefects enjoyed being part of this very special moment and watching the plaque being installed. They were also invited to take photographs outside the building which was once Dr McCall's home and hospital. It was wonderful to see our children representing St Mary's and witnessing a piece of local history being made.



October – The Month of the Rosary

As we continue through October, the month of the Holy Rosary, I would encourage all of our families to find a little time at home to pray the Rosary together. It does not need to be a long or complicated prayer time – even praying a decade together as a family can be a lovely way to pause, reflect and place our intentions in Mary's hands.
We are continuing to pray the Rosary together in school too. Mr Griffin will lead the children in praying the Rosary each Friday, giving our pupils the opportunity to come together in prayer and deepen their relationship with Mary and with God.
If you are able to, please consider joining us in this at home and perhaps asking your children to teach you one of the prayers or mysteries they have been learning at school.



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Important Dates and Reminders

Wednesday 21 October – Open Classroom, 2:45pm
Parents and carers are invited to come into school and see your child's classroom, look at the work they have completed so far this year and celebrate their learning with them. You will then be able to take your child home with you.

Thursday 22 October – Open Morning, 9:30am
Our first Open Morning of the year will take place on Thursday 22 October at 9:30am. Prospective parents are warmly invited to meet me, hear more about St Mary's and have a tour of our wonderful school.
Please do tell friends and family who may be looking for a school place for **Nursery or Reception in September** that they are very welcome to join us. They simply need to sign up through our school website. Parents who are looking for a school place during the school year are also very welcome to attend.

Wet Weather Reminder

As the weather has now changed, please remember that children must come to school with a **plain navy or black waterproof coat**. Children will not be able to play outside in wet weather if they do not have a suitable raincoat.
We would also be very grateful for **donations of wellington boots** that children can borrow during the wetter months when needed. If you have any children's wellies that are no longer needed at home, we would be delighted to receive them.
Please also note that a **St Mary's waterproof, fleece-lined coat** is available from Wearabouts. This is an ideal option for keeping children warm and dry during the colder and wetter months ahead.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school. It has been another wonderful week of learning, leadership, faith and opportunities for our children, and I am very proud of everything they have achieved.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

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 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.

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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Dates For Diary

21st Oct	**Open Classroom -2.45** Visit your child's classroom
22nd Oct	**Open Morning -9.30** Prospective parents meeting and tour of the school
26th Oct	**HALF TERM BEGINS**
2nd Nov	**INSET DAY**
3rd Nov	**Children return to school**
5th Nov	**Open Morning -9.30** Prospective parents meeting and tour of the school

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