



Family Update – Friday 13th March

Dear Families,

Spring has definitely sprung! Amidst the busyness of school life, we have taken time out to appreciate the more frequent glimpses of sun, the appearance of spring flowers and lighter mornings and evenings.

These seasonal changes are a timely reminder that during the season of Lent, we look forward with hope to the time when we celebrate Easter, the resurrection of Jesus and light overcoming darkness.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT AT ST. MARY'S

We would like to share a recent Collective Worship theme - **Spiritual Development** - with you. Children and staff alike thought about how Spirituality is recognising that we are part of something larger than ourselves. This recognition encouraged us to wonder about the world, ask big questions and think about what gives life meaning and purpose. For many people, spirituality is connected to faith, for example the words from the Bible in John 10:10, which speaks about "life in all its fullness". However, it is not dependent on religious belief. Spirituality can also be explored through everyday experiences such as appreciating nature, caring for others and noticing moments of beauty and kindness.

In school, spiritual development helps children and staff alike to grow as thoughtful, curious and compassionate individuals. We encourage each other to develop a sense of wonder, reflect on our own values and learn to appreciate the world around us. We aim to help everyone flourish, develop empathy and confidence, and grow into and be thoughtful individuals, who can make a positive difference in the world.

To support this at St. Mary's, we use a simple framework called **Windows, Mirrors and Doors**.

- **Windows** to look out at the world and notice its wonders and challenges. The whole curriculum and life itself are full of opportunities to recognise this sensitively.
- **Mirrors** to give time to reflect on thoughts, feelings and values. In school, we allow time for this for individual and group reflection, and sharing of perspectives.
- **Doors** to encourage us all to respond through actions, creativity and positive choices in all areas of life. It can also be expressed powerfully through music, art, drama, dance and sport; additionally through social action or specific acts of giving.

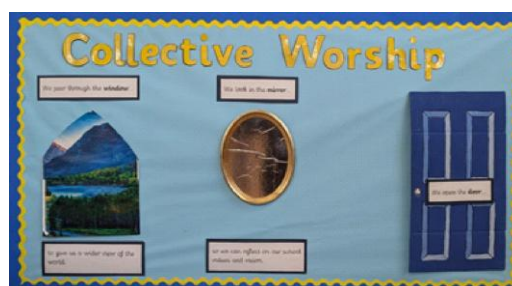
Window, Mirrors and Doors

(A framework for a common reflective structure for spirituality)

We peer through a window to give us a wider view of the world.

We look at the mirror so we can reflect on our school's values and vision.

We open the door, so we are open to opportunities and challenges.



So, we look outward, inward and forward to understand the world, oneself and how to act accordingly. Spiritual development happens

in all aspects of school life and beyond. There are many opportunities in the classroom woven throughout our curriculum, and space and time is given during our Collective Worship and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural learning.

TCS London Mini Marathon

We are delighted to have secured 30 entries for the TCS London Mini Marathon on Saturday 25th April. This is a unique opportunity to run the final mile of one of the most famous races in the world! Children will run one mile through the heart of Westminster and then cross the iconic TCS London Marathon Finish Line. They will also receive a TCS Mini London Marathon medal.

The event is open to children **in Years 2-6** and places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

To register your child for the event, please complete the Google Form here:

<https://forms.gle/YeocGq2Y9cf92Lhb8>

Your child will receive a letter confirming their place, along with further details, by 20th March. Please note, we will not know our wave time start until this is shared with us, by the organisers, after the Easter holidays.



If you are interested in practising between now and the mini marathon, why not take part in a Junior Parkrun? The Junior Parkrun at Paddington Rec, happens every Sunday at 9am. For more information, click [here](#).

World Book Day

World Book Day was a truly joyful celebration across the school, on 5th March, and our school really did "Go All In"! From the moment the gates opened, the excitement was clear to see. The children arrived in fantastic costumes, proudly representing their favourite characters and stories, and it was wonderful to see such creativity and enthusiasm on display. Not to be outdone, the staff fully embraced the fun with a brilliant "Where's Wally?" theme, which certainly elicited bemused smiles and jokes galore (from parents to children)!



Alongside our joyous assembly launch, which included a word perfect and articulate reading of the classic story, "We're Going on A Bear Hunt", from one of our Early Years' children and a magnificent whole school costume twirl.

One of the highlights of the day was our special "Stop Everything & Read" time, when the whole school paused to share the simple pleasure of reading. With the beautiful weather on our side, many classes were able to take their books outside, turning playgrounds and outdoor spaces into reading spots. Children could be seen stretched out with a story, sharing books with friends, recommending favourites and discovering new adventures between the pages.



Events like these remind us just how powerful reading can be. Seeing children so engaged with books, sharing them, and simply getting lost in them - a wonderful reminder of why stories matter so much.



Throughout the day, there were poems learned and performed, mini books written by budding authors, and many opportunities for children to talk about and share the stories they love. In Nursery, the wonderful book-cover door display - created by our youngest - transformed the entrance into a colourful celebration of a beloved story.



We hope the joy, discoveries and smiles throughout the day have inspired our children to keep turning pages and become lifelong readers.

Most of all, World Book Day was full of smiles and the pure pleasure of reading. The day reminded us that while reading can be celebrated for a day, the pleasure of reading should last a lifetime. A huge thank you to everyone for embracing the day so wholeheartedly, and truly "going all in" to celebrate the magic of books!





Nursery & Preschool News

Our Nursery and Preschool children have been very busy exploring our new topic, **"On the Farm."** The children have been learning about farm animals, farmers and life on the farm through stories, play and creative activities. For **World Book Day**, we created our very own story door inspired by the book *Farmyard Hullabaloo*. The children loved dressing up as their favourite characters and celebrating our love of books together.



In **Maths**, we have been exploring **height and length**. The children measured themselves and compared who was **taller or shorter**, which was lots of fun!



The children have also been busy making beautiful **Mother's Day cards** ready for this Sunday.

In **RE**, we have started learning about **Easter** and the idea of **new life**. Outside, we have been looking carefully for **signs of Spring**, spotting new flowers and changes in the weather.

It has been a joyful and busy time of learning and discovery! 🌱 🐣 📖





Growing and Thriving in Reception!



Reception have been learning all about the nature of **Growing and Changing**, for humans, animals and plants. We observed how we have changed over time by looking back at pictures from the past and also, observed how plants change over time by spotting signs of spring and planting our own rainbow of primrose primulas.



Meeting Michael De Souza & World Book Day!

Reception had a fantastic "GO ALL IN" for world book day, wearing brilliant costumes of characters from their favourite books and reenacting some of our favourite class stories in role-play!

We also met the spectacular Michael De Souza and had a wonderful time reciting some of his amazing poetry! He brought us joy and made us laugh. It was simply "FANTABULOUS".



In **Maths**, Reception have been working together to explore height and length through tower building. We have also explored and discussed the concept and vocabulary of time, by making yummy sandwiches. We have also been working hard at subitising the numbers 9 & 10 and finding their number bonds.





FoSMA Easter Bake Sale

**Volunteers
Group**



**School
playground**



DATE: 26TH MARCH 2026

TIME: 3:20 PM

Attendance

Well done to Year 4, our attendance winners this week, just pipping Year 3 to the post!

Congratulations Year 4. Keep up the good work!

Class	Attendance figures
Nursery	95.7%
Reception	96%
Year 1	95.7%
Year 2	97.8%
Year 3	98.8%
Year 4	98.9%
Year 5 /6	93%

Dear God,

Thank you for this changing season and the hope that it brings. Help us, by your spirit, to look outwards to the world around us. Help us to look at one another with your eyes, so that we see others and ourselves as uniquely made and loved by you.

May we show our school's values of Love, Honesty, Curiosity, Respect, Forgiveness and Feeling safe in school, in our homes and in our schools so that we can be light and love to all those we encounter.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

Dates for Diaries

Important events for the remainder of the academic year. All of these dates are also on our school website calendar here: <https://www.stmbs.org.uk/diary/grid/2024/09/>

Date	Time	Focus	Led by/who is invited
Thurs 26th Mar	3.15pm	FoSMA Easter Bake Sale	Whole School
Wed 25th Mar	2.30pm	Easter Church Service	Whole School
Fri 27th Mar	1.30pm	End of Term	Whole School
Easter Holidays			
Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April			
Mon 13th Apr	8.45am	Start of the Summer Term	Whole School
Tues 28th Apr	3.20pm	International Evening	Whole School
11th -15th May		Key Stage 2 Assessments	Year 6
Mon 18th May	11.30-1pm	Mother's Day Lunch (belated)	Whole School

			(one female relative per child/family unit)
Wed 20th May	2.30pm	Church Service	Whole School
Half Term Holiday Monday 25th May – Monday 1st June			
Tues 2nd June	8.45am	Start of the Summer Term	Whole School
Thurs 4th June		Nursery and Reception 'Stay and Play' with Southbank Sinfonia	Nursery, Reception and their younger siblings
8th – 12th June		Year 1 Phonics Check	Whole School
Wed 10th June	8.30am - 6pm	Year 2 Trip to West Wittering Beach	Year 2 + 1 parent per child
15th to 19th June		Art Week Art exhibition at School Wednesday 17th June (3.30pm - 4.30pm)	Whole School
15th June	11.30-1pm	Father's Day Lunch	Whole School (one male relative per child/family unit)
22nd to 26th June		Science Week	Whole School
Mon 29th June		Class Photos	Whole School
Wed 1st July	10am	Sports Day at Paddington Rec	Years 1-6
Thurs 2nd July	9.30am	Sports Day In school	Nursery and Reception
Fri 3rd July		End of Year Reports to Parents	
Tues 7^h July	3.30pm - 4.30pm	Parent Report Drop in	Whole School
Thurs 9th July	2pm - 5pm	Summer Fair	Whole School
Mon 13th July		Year 6 Show	Year 6 parents
Tues 14th July	4pm – 5.30pm	Year 6 BBQ	Year 6 pupils
Wed 15th July	2.30pm	Year 6 Leavers' Service	Whole School
Fri 17th July	1.30pm	End of term and the start of the summer holidays!	Whole School