



Family Update

Friday 25th September



Dear Families,

It has been a joy to see the new term get off to such a positive start. The children have settled into their classes beautifully, and it has been wonderful to see them reconnecting with friends, forming new friendships and becoming familiar with the routines and expectations of the year ahead.

Walking around the school and seeing the children engaged in their learning has been particularly lovely. There is a real sense of purpose in classrooms, with children getting stuck into their work, asking questions, sharing ideas and enjoying the opportunities that this new term brings.

There is lots to look forward to between now and December, with a wide range of events, activities and opportunities taking place across the different year groups. Please do keep a close eye on the dates shared in our newsletters and on the emails sent to parents, so that you don't miss any important information or special moments throughout the term.

We are looking forward to all that the coming weeks will bring and to sharing another busy and rewarding term together.

Thank you

Thank you to all of the parents and family members who have donated books and musical instruments from our wishlists. We were fortunate enough to have a group of volunteers from Skanska, a firm working locally, come into school over the summer to refurbish our library and make space for extra books.

'EXCELLENCE WITH COMPASSION'

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. And love your neighbour as yourself.' (Mark 12:30-31)



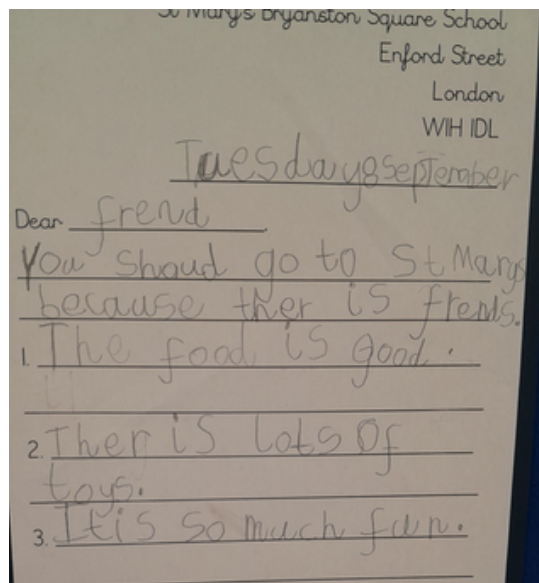
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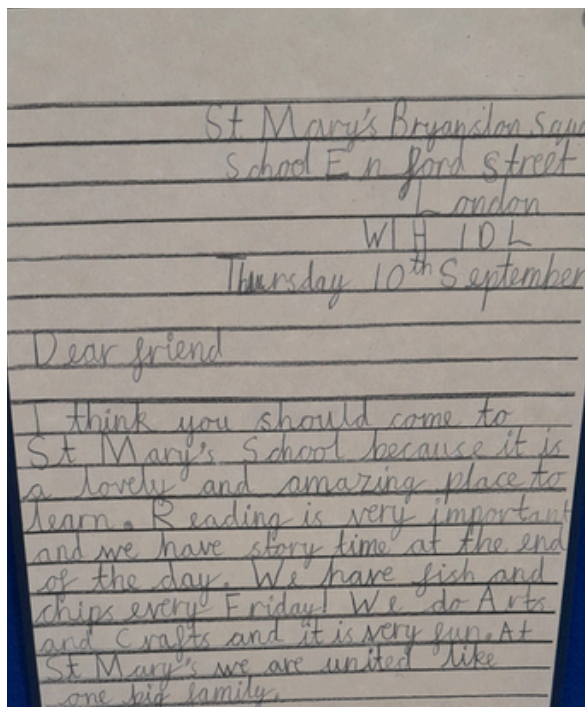


Writing Across the School

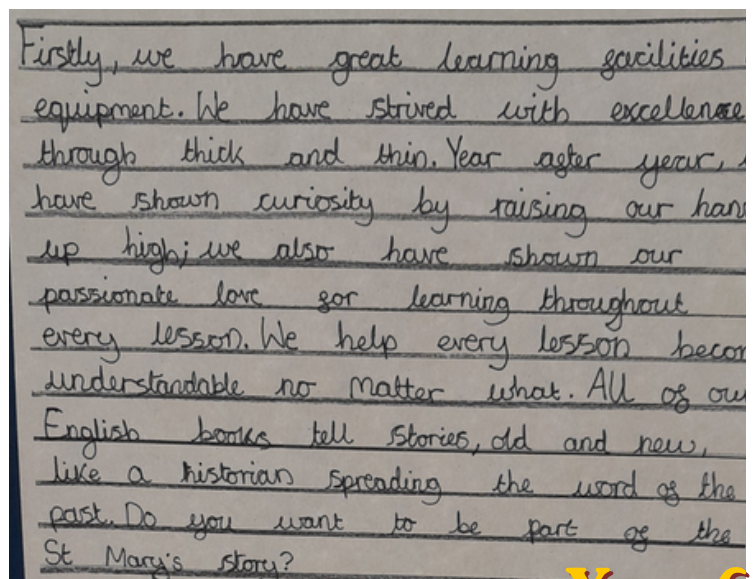
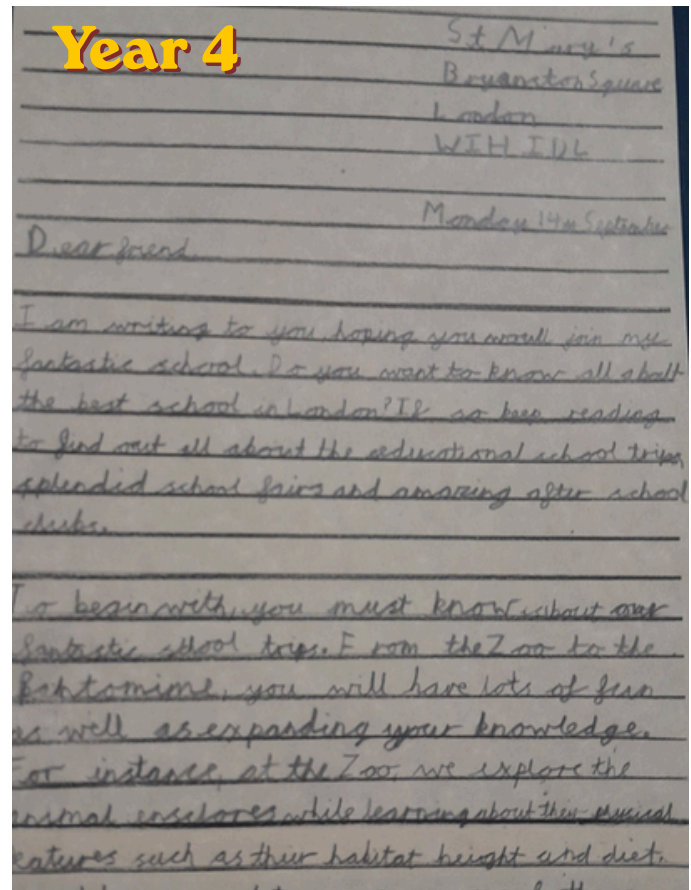
At the start of each academic year, children write a letter to a friend telling them about the school and why they should join us. Here are some examples from Years 1 to 6.



Year 1



Year 2



Year 6

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School Values

Our school has six Christian values, which guide us in our daily lives and work in school. These values support our school vision of:

Excellence with Compassion

This is based upon the biblical text:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind and with all your strength. And love your neighbour as yourself."

Mark 12 : 30-31

This half term, our school value is the value of **Love**.

How do we as a community, individual or group demonstrate love to those around us? In our Collective Worship, we have been exploring what Love looks like in action. We have been talking about Love being more than just a feeling. Love is an act of will. It is the deliberate choices we make with our words and actions.

Over the weekend, we ask that you talk with your child about how they can demonstrate this value to people at home, people at school and others within our community. Remind them that this could be a simple gesture such as holding the door open, or saying 'good morning'.

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Food in school and birthday treats

St Mary's is a nut-free school. There are members of our school community for whom nuts can cause severe allergic reaction, anaphylaxis or fatality. For this reason, we ask that parents do not send food into school that contains nuts, traces of nuts and foods containing sesame. This includes Nutella as well as chocolate treats and things like baklava that are so often generously given to members of staff.

The severity of the allergy means that these rules must be observed at all times, to ensure the safety of all our pupils. We also ask that for birthdays, parents do not bring party bags, doughnuts or iced cakes in for children's birthdays. If you would like bring a treat for your child's birthday, please make fruit kebabs or bring in plain un-iced fairy cakes. These will need to be shared off school premises and handed to parents rather than children.

Friday Collective Worship

Every Friday, the whole school meets to celebrate the successes of children around the school. The focus for the start of the academic year has been establishing routines and helping children settle into school.

Starting next week, we would like to begin inviting parents and carers to join in with the celebrations. Due to space restrictions, we ask that **no more than two adults per family attend** and that families stick to the dates below.

Collective Worship is a mobile-free zone. No mobile phones should be in use or visible during this time.

Timetable for parents

Reception and Nursery - Friday 2nd October

Year 1 and Year 2 - Friday 9th October

Year 3 and Year 4 - Friday 16th October

Year 5 and Year 6 - Friday 23rd October

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EYFS Autumn 1 Learning



Preschool and Nursery children have made such a wonderful start to the new school year! They have settled in so well and are beginning to feel happy and confident in their new surroundings. It has been lovely to see them learning to play alongside one another, sharing, taking turns, and making new friends. As part of our 'Only One Me' topic, they have also been busy creating their own self-portraits, exploring their features and celebrating what makes each of us unique. We are so proud of how beautifully they have settled in and look forward to seeing them continue to flourish together.



What a wonderful start to Reception! We have been busy getting to know one another, exploring our new classroom and learning what it means to be part of our Reception family. We have talked about different feelings and how we can recognise and manage them, created our own class rules together and thought about why they help us feel safe and happy at school. We have also been learning about kindness and friendship – how to listen, share, take turns, help others and include everyone in our play. Through stories, songs, creative activities and lots of play, the children are already becoming confident, caring and curious learners. We are so proud of how well they have settled in!





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Dates for the diary

Please add the dates below to your diary so that you don't miss out.
All of the dates are available on the school website too.

Date	Time	Focus	Led by/who is invited
Sat 26th September	am	Westminster Mile	Registered pupils in Key Stage 2
Wed 30th Sept - Fri 2nd Oct		Sayers Croft Residential	Year 6
Thur 8th Oct	am	London Rhymes Concert at Sinfonia Smith Square	Year 1
Thur 8th Oct	pm	Christmas Song Writing Workshop	Year 6
Fri 9th October	am	Year 6 Tag Rugby Competition	Invited pupils (Year 6)
Tues 13th Oct	am	Royal College of Music Jazz concert	Year 6
Fri 16th October	pm	Restart a Heart workshop	Year 5
Wed 21st October	2:45pm - 3:30pm	Harvest Church Service (pick up from the church)	Whole School (clubs will take place as normal)
Thurs 22nd Oct	9am - 9:40am	Sinfonia Smith Square 'Stay and Play'	Nursery, Reception and their younger siblings . A parent must remain with any younger siblings.
Half Term (26th October to 30th October)			
Mon 2nd November	3:30pm - 4:30pm	Light Disco - Children are welcome to bring a change of clothing to school (no Halloween costumes)	Whole School

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Attendance

Class	Attendance figures
Nursery	87.7%
Reception	95.3%
Year 1	97.6%
Year 2	91.9%
Year 3	94.3%
Year 4	98.9%
Year 5	97.5%
Year 6	92.5%

Well done to **Year 4**, our attendance winners this week.

Congratulations!

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for the joyous start to term. We give thanks for the learning that has taken place so far, and the forming and deepening of friendships.

We pray that our school will be characterised by Your love and that all members of our school community will know Your peace which passes all understanding.

Amen



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Meet the Leadership Team



Mr Lee Duffy

Executive Head Teacher

Central London Church School Partnership



Mrs Sasha Marius-Beeko

Head of School



Mrs Jadwiga Stepinska

Assistant Head Teacher



Mrs Katherine Hardie

Assistant Head Teacher

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Welcome to St Mary's!

FROM

FoSMA

Friends of St Mary's Association



A very warm welcome to all of our new families!

We hope you and your children are settling in well and already beginning to feel part of the St Mary's community. FoSMA (Friends of St Mary's Association) is the school's parent and community association. We are a group of parents who work together to support the school, bring families together and help make our children's school experience enjoyable and enriching.

What we do

FoSMA organises and supports a variety of activities throughout the year, including:



School fairs and community events



Fundraising to support school projects



Pre-loved uniform sales & reuse



Raffles and special initiatives



Staff appreciation activities



Other projects that benefit our children and the school

Meet the FoSMA Committee

If you see us at the school gates, please come and say hello!



Shez
Co-Chair



Hannah
Co-Chair



Adrian
Treasurer



Shaun
Co-Secretary



Marcella
Co-Secretary

There's a place for everyone



You can join FoSMA officially, volunteer informally when you have time, help at a single event, share a skill or useful contact, suggest a fundraising idea, or simply lend a hand when you can. There is no expectation that getting involved means committing to everything.

Get in touch!

Have an idea, question or want to get involved? Come and speak to us at the school gates or contact FoSMA:



friendsofstmb@gmail.com



Join our parents WhatsApp group:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/EtvnfzMUY9o1OiMF9ihGnw>



Every contribution matters. Together, we can make our small school community even stronger.

We look forward to meeting you and your family!

— Shez, Hannah, Adrian, Shaun & Marcella | FoSMA