



Family Update

Friday 9th October



Dear Families,

We have had a busy couple of weeks in school with lots of learning taking place in the classroom, through workshops and through visits off-site.

It is always so striking to see how children and staff live out our school values and our vision of 'Excellence with Compassion'. Excellence takes many forms in our school, from emergent writing and mark-making in Nursery and Reception, to Art, museum ambassadorship, work in classrooms, learning on residential at Sayers Croft, conversations and shining our lights brightly on school trips.

Harvest Church Service

At this time of year, along with the wider church family, we turn our attention to the festival of Harvest. It is a time of thankfulness, sharing and caring for those around us.

Our Harvest service will be held at St Mary's Church, on Wednesday 21st October at 2:45pm. This is a special time for us to give thanks for the food we eat and celebrate the gifts of the harvest.

As part of our tradition of sharing and caring, we will be collecting donations for The Social Supermarket, which is run by St Mary's Church. This gives families who need it the opportunity to purchase food and household essentials for £3 (or a donation).

Please consider bringing one or more items, from the list on the next page, to school on Monday 19th October or Tuesday 20th October. We look forward to celebrating with you!

'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)

Harvest continued

- Canned vegetables (beans, carrots, peas, sweetcorn and potatoes etc)
- Canned meats (tuna, corned beef, chicken etc)
- Canned fruit (peaches, pears, pineapple, prunes etc)
- Canned soups (chicken, tomato, vegetable etc)
- Drinks (any teas, coffee, squash, etc)
- Cereals (weetabix, corn flakes, rice krispies etc)
- Sauces (tomato, mayonnaise, brown, pasta, curry)
- Rice
- Lentils
- Biscuits
- Chocolate
- Cooking Oil
- Jams, marmalades and honey
- Chocolate spread and peanut butter
- Cleaning products (washing powder, washing up liquid, cleaning sprays, bleach etc)
- Personal hygiene (toothbrushes, toothpaste, body wash, soap, shampoo and conditioner)
- Feminine hygiene products



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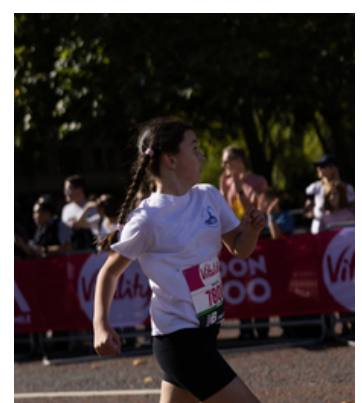
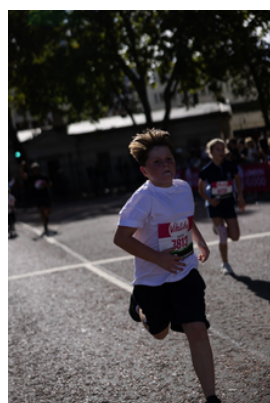
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The Westminster Mile

Every year, we take children to participate in The Westminster Mile. It is always such a fun-packed occasion and we love bringing home the medals. This year, because of our continued participation, and our ongoing partnership with the Youth Sport Trust, we were given the honour of choosing one of our pupils to start our wave. We were incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupil who started the race - she embodied all of our school values and was a superb ambassador for the school.

A huge 'Thank You' must be extended to all of the staff who gave up their Saturday to ensure that this event went ahead. We all know how precious weekends are, and we are grateful to the adults who gave up part of it for this event.



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Lunches

We are very fortunate to have an on-site kitchen and a great catering team, who provide the children with nutritious, well-balanced meals each day. Stir, the school catering company, are able to adapt menus to take into account allergies or intolerances.

It is wonderful to see so many children having a school lunch each day, and as the weather changes and the cold weather creeps in, it will be even more vital to make sure children have a hot, healthy meal. The school menu can be found [here](#).

Stay and Play

We are incredibly proud to be the Tri-borough Music Hub's Lead Music School (primary) in Westminster. Music is at the heart of all we do here at St Mary's and the joy that it brings through Collective Worship, curriculum Music lessons, individual and small group instrumental lessons, sung transitions and much more can be seen everywhere.

This year, we begin a three-year partnership with our orchestra-in-residence, [Sinfonia Smith Square](#). Our aim is to ensure that musicians from the orchestra will play for and work with every child in the school, every year for the next three years. Yesterday, Year 1 went to Smith Square for a concert with Sinfonia Smith Square and London Rhymes.

On Thursday 22nd October at 9:10am, we are hosting an orchestral 'Stay and Play' session for children in Nursery and Reception. The musicians will take our Early Years on a magical, musical journey.

We would like to invite younger siblings of children in Nursery and Reception, to stay for the workshop. **A parent or guardian will need to stay with any younger siblings.**

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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
Tues 13th Oct	am	Royal College of Music Jazz concert	Year 6
Wed 21st Oct	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 Nov	3:30pm - 4:30pm	Light Disco - Children are welcome to bring a change of clothing to school (no Halloween costumes)	Whole School
Mon 9th Nov	3pm - 6pm	Parent/Teacher Meetings	Whole School
Thur 19th Nov	9am - 10am	FoSMA AGM	At School
Mon 23rd -27th Nov		Maths Week	Whole School
Fri 27th Nov	2:30-3:30pm	Maths Business Fair	Children from Nursery to Year 6
Mon 30th Nov	3:30pm - 4:30pm	Christmas Fair	Whole School
Fri 11th Dec	3:30pm - 4pm	Christmas Bake Sale	Whole School

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Half Term Activities



Family Events

Whether you have ten minutes or two hours, join our family events to explore the Collection in fun and creative ways. From armour handling to art workshops and storytelling, our programme offers something for all ages.

What's On



Rachel Kneebone: Creative Clay Workshop

On 29 October, get creative in our hands on clay making workshop with artist Miranda Lopatkin.



Coat of Arms Creative Workshop

On 30 October, get creative in our Coat of Arms workshop with artist Caroline Dorset



The Big Draw: Relaxed Family Morning

On 31 October, explore our collection through multisensory activities designed for neurodivergent children and families.



The Big Draw: Drawn Together

On 31 October, join in and add your ideas to our collaborative landscape for The Big Draw.



Museum Detectives: The Big Draw Family Tour

On 31 October, join us on this interactive family tour, where we experiment with mark making to make our own unique portraiture.



Hands on Armour: Paint your Power

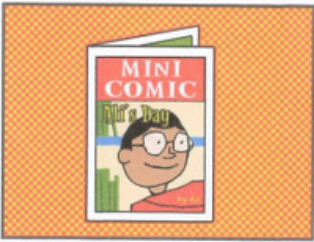
On 31 October, join in and try on real and replica armour during our monthly Hands on Armour event.



HALF TERM WORKSHOPS

October 2026

For children aged 8-14



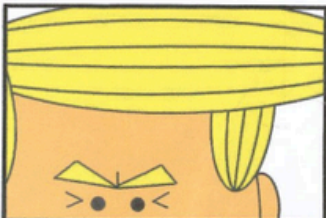
Make a Mini-Comic



Mythical Manga



Create a Comic Strip



Fun With Faces

Details: cartoonmuseum.org/whats-on-events



RCM Woodwind Festival – 25th October

A day of Woodwind music-making for any young musician at the Royal College of Music on the 25th October. Please view more details [HERE](#) and the booking form [HERE](#) with a deadline of 16th October 11pm to register!

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Attendance

Class	Attendance This week	Attendance this year so far
Nursery	95%	93.0%
Reception	98.3%	96.0%
Year 1	97.2%	95.5%
Year 2	99.5%	94.4%
Year 3	100%	96.2%
Year 4	98.3%	96.3%
Year 5	97.7%	98.0%
Year 6	95.8%	96.7%

Congratulations to
Year 3, our
attendance winners
this week, on
achieving 100%
attendance.

Well done Year 3!

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you that as seasons change around us, we are able to delight in
Your creation. Help us to be reminded that whilst change is constant,
Your love remains steadfast.

We give You thanks for all the learning, friendship-forming, playing and
joy that has filled our school this half term. Help us to live out our
school values, so that we may all flourish.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen



Year 1 Autumn 1 Learning



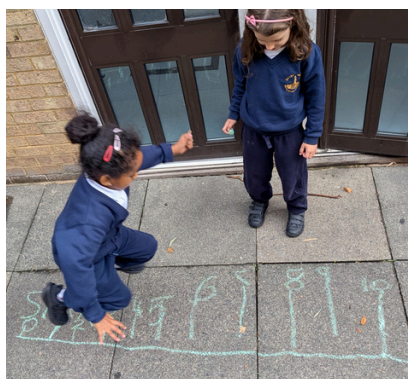
Year 1 have had a very busy and exciting start to the year! There has been curiosity in abundance and endless enthusiasm, as they have begun settling into new routines and lessons. Well done for a fantastic start to the year!

In **Geography**, we have been learning about the local area. We have looked at aerial photographs, built our school and drawn maps of our school. We are loving learning about the world around us!



In **Science**, we have been learning about the human body. We have been exploring our senses and learning that messages are sent to our brains.

In **Maths**, we have been learning about place value, including finding one more and one less and the inequality symbols for greater than and less than. We also made giant number lines!



Linked with our **Music** learning, we went on our first trip of the year! We had a fantastic time singing, dancing and listening to a wonderful show by London Rhymes, at Sinfonia Smith Square Hall. They also have a family show on Saturday 10th October - tickets available here: <https://www.sinfoniasmithsq.org.uk/event/london-rhymes/>

Has someone ever harmed you or made you feel...?

Scared,
Trapped

Humiliated,
Threatened

Controlled,
Afraid

Intimidated,
Powerless

Coerced or
Pressured,
Isolated



We can support you with:

- * Increasing your safety
- * Understanding your options and rights
- * Accessing safer housing options
- * Emotional support and linking you with group work and counselling
- * Connecting you to other ongoing specialist support you may wish to access
- * Attending court and the criminal justice processes

The Angelou Partnership

**We support young women and girls
aged 13+**

- * Free, confidential, and non-judgmental support if you have been subjected to domestic and/or sexual violence or abuse, and live within the London boroughs of Westminster, Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington and Chelsea.



For Domestic Abuse

Freephone 0800 059 0108

Monday–Friday 10am - 6pm
and Thursdays 8am - 9pm

✉ angelou@advancecharity.org.uk

For Sexual Violence Support

Freephone 0808 801 0660

Monday–Friday 10am - 4pm
and Wednesdays 6 - 9pm

✉ advice@wgn.org.uk
Webchat: <https://www.wgn.org.uk/>

In an Emergency
Call 999

24 hour Freephone, National Domestic Abuse Helpline 0808 2000 247
If you are male please call the Men's Advice Line 0808 8010 327