

# St Mary's News



7th October 2022

I can not believe how quickly this term has whizzed by –from the definite early morning chill to the influx of seasonal produce in the shops – summer feels a long time ago...!

Rounding off this half term brings great joy as we look back and reflect on some of the things we've achieved; our new Nursery and Reception children are beautifully settled, our after-school clubs and musical offerings are full and thriving, our pupil leadership teams are well underway and making an impact plus the new ovens in the Design Tech Hub have been throwing out healthy pizzas and cakes for Daddy bear! A fun, full seven weeks focused on learning and making a difference.



## Harvest Collection

The collection of goods for the Thurrock Food Bank was overwhelming; thank you. We collected 141kg of food, which during a time of nationwide financial challenges, is incredibly impressive. The Food Bank were exceptionally grateful. Please also remember that we are foodbank voucher provider, if you feel we can support in this way please contact us in the utmost confidence.

## Governor Focus Morning

On Friday 14th October we welcomed our school Governors as well as Mr Bertrand Emecheta (Chair of the Christus Catholic Trust Board) to St Mary's as part of our Governor Focus Morning. Mr Emecheta and the Governors were so impressed with our children and their learning. The school council conducted tours of the school and their confidence and articulacy stood out. A huge thank you to all involved.

## Science Deep Dive

This week we welcomed Mr Andrew Binnell, an education consultant, who supported us in reviewing our science learning and provision across the school. He commented on the excellent learning in the nursery and described the children's books as "strong examples of our skills based curriculum". Mr Binnell also gave us some top tips to make our science curriculum and learning even better so watch this space!!



---

## Site Updates

Following the summer holidays you will have noticed some changes around our school and I'm pleased to say the roofing repair project is finally finished which means the scaffolding can come down – hooray!! There are still some internal "making good" things to finish which will hopefully be completed in the half term holiday.

Over the summer we also transformed the Rainbow room into a Design and Tech Hub, creating a bespoke space where the children can complete their Design and Technology learning and have a safe space to cook! It truly is amazing. We also transformed the Nursery outside space and the Reception garden had a mini makeover – the children are thoroughly enjoying their new learning spaces.

A huge thank you to Mr Smith for project managing the whole 'shebang' and to Miss Page who is always look to get the best deal for us without any compromise on quality.

---

## Uniform:

Please remember that after half term children must be in full winter uniform – button shirts and ties please – no polo t shirts.

May I also remind everyone that earrings must be removed for PE – this includes swimming. Furthermore children's water bottles should only contain water – no fizzy drinks or juice please.

## Attendance Cup!

A huge well done to year 2 who have won our attendance cup for this half term with an excellent 98.4% attendance score!! Special mention to year 1 and year 3 who came second and third respectively. Year 2 will keep the cup for this half term and we'll see if another class can knock them off the top spot next half term!



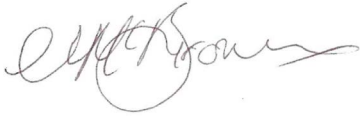
## Upcoming dates:

24th - 28th October	Half Term Holiday
31st October	INSET Training day - school closed
31st October	Deadline for Year 6 Secondary School Applications.
From 31st October to 31st March	NEW LUNCH Menu -
1st November	School resumes
3rd November	Phonics Workshop (YR, Y1 and 2)
4th November	Carnival Day. Celebration of Black History. Children may wear traditional costumes or the colours of their National Flag to school (no football kits).
7th November	NHS Flu Immunisation Team in school - further details to follow
8th and 9th November	Parent's Evenings Meetings -
24th November	Years 5 & 6 attending the Walk Online Roadshow
1st December	Ukulele Concert to parents at 9.15am
7th December	Rock Steady Concert to Parents at 9.15am
7th December	Choir to Lakeside to sing Christmas Carols
8th December	Reception & Nursery Nativity Performance - 10am and 2.30pm
12th December	Community Singalong hosted by the school's choir
13th December	Year 1 & 2 Nativity Performances (10am & 2.30pm)
13th December	Year 5 Carol Service in the Church at 3.30pm
16th December	Christmas Dinner and Wear a Christmas Jumper Day
16th December	School Disco - Times for each year group to follow
19th December	Class parties
20th December	School closes at 2pm for the Christmas Holiday
5th January 2023	School resumes

## Farewells

Today we say goodbye and a fond farewell to Mrs Raven who mainly works in our school office and leads the lunchtime team. Mrs Raven has worked at St Mary's for 12 years so it with sadness that we say goodbye but we send her every good wish for the future.

All that remains is for me to wish you a wonderful half term – healthy and peaceful with plenty of rest and fresh air!



Mrs V L McBrown  
Headteacher



In times of difficulty, Lord,  
we appreciate the support and encouragement of others.  
In better times we feel stronger and more secure.  
Remind us then to co-operate with other people  
and look out for the needs of others,  
being ready to offer a smile, a word,  
and other support and encouragement.  
**Amen.**