



St Mary's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Friday 13th February 2026



A special Lenten Fast

Give up harsh words: use generous ones.
Give up unhappiness: take up gratitude.
Give up anger: take up gentleness and patience.
Give up pessimism: take up hope and optimism.
Give up worrying: take up trust in God.
Give up complaining: value what you have.
Give up stress: take up prayer.
Give up judging others: discover Jesus within them.
Give up sorrow and bitterness: fill your heart with joy.
Give up selfishness: take up compassion for others.
Give up being unforgiving: learn reconciliation.
Give up words: fill yourself with silence, and listen to others.



Dear Parents and Carers,

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School, we value open and positive relationships with parents and carers. From time to time, concerns may arise, and we encourage these to be raised promptly and in a spirit of partnership so that we can work together to resolve them constructively.

While teachers are happy to say a quick hello at the start or end of the day, this is not the best time for longer conversations, as their priority is supervising pupils. If you have something you would like to discuss, please book an appointment so we can give you our full attention.

We are committed to keeping parents informed, involved, and supported. Below is a guide to how we communicate with families.

Our Main Communication Channels

1. Fortnightly Newsletter

Sent every two weeks in paper form (in line with parental preference).

Includes key dates, reminders, school and class news, celebrations, and important updates.

2. Text Messages

Used for urgent messages, reminders, last-minute changes, and emergencies.

Please ensure the school has your correct mobile number.

3. Class Events and Meetings

Each class holds one event per half term such as reading breakfasts, assemblies, liturgies, parent meetings and curriculum sessions.

These provide opportunities to see learning and speak to staff.

4. School Website

Contains policies, term dates, letters, and key information.

Updated regularly and a useful first point of reference.

5. Coffee Mornings and Whole-School Events

Includes coffee mornings, school fairs, and international events.

Open to all parents and families and provide opportunities to get involved in school life.

6. Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher

The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher are usually on the playground or at the gate most mornings and are happy to speak to parents if concerns arise.

7. New School Facebook Page (Coming Soon)

We are launching a Facebook page to share school updates, events, and celebrations, including photos.

Please complete and return the updated permission form for your child.

Contacting the School

If you have a question or concern, please follow this pathway:

- Speak to your child's class teacher first
- Contact the school office: admin@marycps.brent.sch.uk or 0207 6241830
- Senior leaders are available by appointment

We aim to respond within a reasonable timescale and appreciate your patience.

Thank you for your continued support.

Supporting Our Wellbeing Together – Mental Health Week at School

This week we celebrated Mental Health Week by introducing our Wellbeing Ambassadors, who are leading a whole-school project for every child to design a square that represents themselves for a special display. Children took part in an assembly led by ConnectEd, focusing on feeling happy, feeling safe and understanding where they belong. Year 2 and Year 5 then continued these important discussions in workshops, where they reflected on who makes them feel safe and where they feel they belong, writing their ideas on leaves to create a thoughtful branch display. **If parents would like support talking about mental health with their child, these websites offer helpful, child-friendly advice and activities:**

- YoungMinds: <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>
- Children's Mental Health Week: <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/resources/>
- Every Mind Matters: <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/supporting-others/childrens-mental-health/>



Practical Science in Action

Practical science plays an important role in helping children understand the world around them. By following the Primary Knowledge Curriculum, we ensure that pupils build strong scientific knowledge while developing the skills to question, investigate and think like scientists.

As part of this approach, classes regularly take part in hands-on investigations. Below are photos of Year 5 exploring water resistance using plasticine and water, Year 3 observing and discussing how rocks are formed, and Year 6 building electrical circuits to deepen their understanding of how they work.



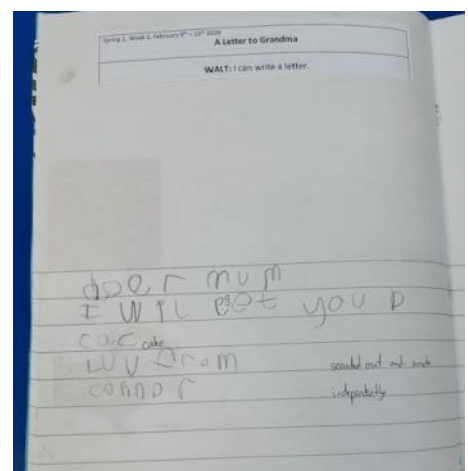
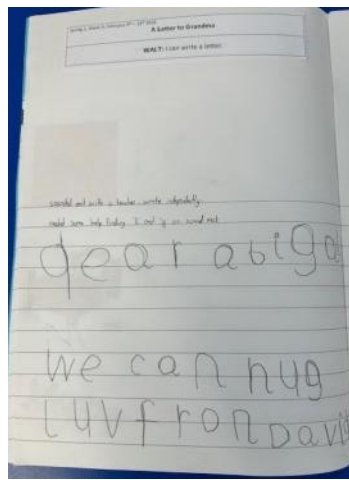
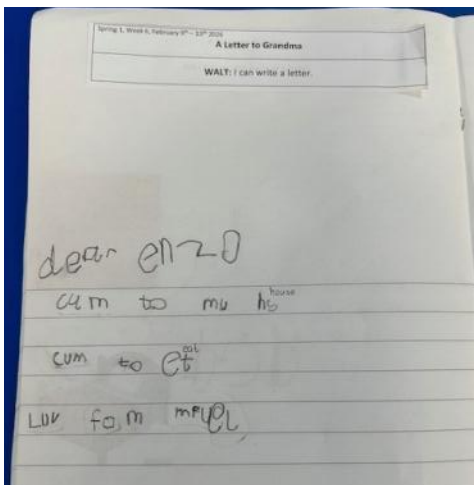
Building Strong Foundations in Reading and Writing

Reading and writing are at the heart of children's learning, opening the door to every other subject and building confidence in communication. In Early Years, we place great importance on developing these skills from the very start.

In Nursery, children have been taking part in daily phonics sessions and practising their letter formation. They have been exploring letters using chunky letter shapes and a range of writing tools, helping to strengthen both their recognition and fine motor skills in a fun and engaging way.

In Reception, children are now applying their phonics knowledge to write simple sentences independently. This week, inspired by Little Red Riding Hood, they wrote letters to family members, just as Little Red wrote to her Grandma. They learnt how to begin a letter with "Dear..." followed by the person's name, and how to sign it off at the end. The children carefully sounded out words and remembered to use finger spaces between them.

Well done to our Nursery and Reception children for their fantastic effort and progress.



Clubs and Academic Support Opportunities

We are proud to offer a wide range of opportunities that support both the academic progress and wider development of our pupils.

After half term, we will begin our academic study groups for children across the school who would benefit from additional support in specific areas of the curriculum. These groups are carefully planned using individual pupil progress data, ensuring that support is targeted and responsive to each child's needs.

Alongside this, we continue to provide a variety of enrichment opportunities. Year 5 and 6 pupils are currently enjoying Football Club with Connect Stars on Mondays, and Year 5 Choir takes place every Wednesday. After half term, Year 4 will take part in Multi-Sports sessions. Year 4 are also benefiting from cricket coaching during the school day, which will culminate in a tournament on 25th June. In addition, Year 3 will begin swimming lessons after half term, further enhancing their physical development and confidence in the water.

We are excited to be expanding our offer with the introduction of a needlework club, which will involve a small contribution towards materials (further details to follow), as well as a focused handwriting group to support presentation and fine motor development.

There is a great deal happening across the school, and we are delighted to provide so many opportunities for our children to grow, achieve and develop new skills both in and beyond the classroom.

Safeguarding

If you are ever concerned about a child's safety or general well-being, please arrange a time to speak with **Mrs Pratley**, who serves as our Designated Safeguarding Lead. Should the situation be urgent, do not hesitate to contact the police immediately. Our school can also offer guidance to families through Brent's Early Help Assessment. If you are facing issues such as difficulties with housing, financial pressures, or health-related challenges, **Mrs Pratley** can point you towards the right services and organisations for further assistance.

You may also find these contacts helpful:

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000

Brent Social Services: 020 8937 4300

Star of the Week

Last Week

This Week

Nursery & Reception	Celine	Nursery & Reception	Shakai
1 Yew	Kaius Reign	1 Yew	Shawn
2 Rowan	Nazion	2 Rowan	Ramjon
3 Beech	Adonay	3 Beech	Sean
4 Elm	Elizabeth	4 Elm	Jacob
5 Willow	Oreoluwa	5 Willow	Avner
		6 Oak	Charley

Writer of the Week

Last Week

This Week

Nursery & Reception	Christine	Nursery & Reception	Miguel
1 Yew	Naomi	1 Yew	Ethan
2 Rowan	Kairo	2 Rowan	Regina
3 Beech	Gracie	3 Beech	Halletta
4 Elm	Nabiel	4 Elm	Hussein
5 Willow	Athena	5 Willow	Camilla
6 Oak	Amelia	6 Oak	Ameera

Birthdays:

Acorns	Eric
	Liam
Cherry	Asher
1 Yew	Ramjon
2 Rowan	Nazion
	Clementine
3 Beech	Aghata
	Yasmin
4 Elm	Maria-Clara
	Giana
	Shakira
5 Willow	Lamara
	Netanya
	Lana
	Gabriella
	Camilla
6 Oak	Caitlin
	Ali
	Analice



Attendance:



This week the classes with the highest attendance is **3 Beech and 4 Elm with 100% attendance**

Dates for your diary:

Monday 23rd February—School begins at 8.20am

Monday 2 March—Parents evening

Monday 2nd March—Reading Week to begin

Monday 2nd March—Assembly to launch school sponsored read

Tuesday 3rd March—Parents evening

Wednesday 4th March—Oracy day: Children to promote a recently read book.

Thursday 5th March—World book day: Dress as your favourite book character (**Prizes to be awarded**)

Friday 6th March—Year 4 class Lenten Liturgy 2.30pm (**Parents invited to attend**)

Wednesday 11th March—Penitential led by Fr Philip and Year 6

Wednesday 18th March—Voice in a Million—Year 5 to sing at Wembley OVO arena

Thursday 19th March—Palm Sunday Liturgy led by Nursery and Reception class 2.30pm (**Parents invited to attend**)

Friday 20th March—CAFOD Lenten Assembly. Children to take part in "The Big Lent Walk"

Thursday 26th March—Year 1&Year 2 Lenten Liturgy 2.30pm: The Last Supper (**Parents invited to attend**)

Friday 31st March—Easter bonnet parade Nursery and Reception 2.30pm (**Parents invited to attend**)

Wednesday 1st April—Year 3 Lenten Liturgy: Good Friday 9.00am (**Parents invited to attend**)

Wednesday 1st April—Last day of school **1pm finish**

Thursday 2nd April—INSET Day

Monday 20th April—Children begin back at school at 8.20am

