



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Friday 4th September 2026



Living Our Faith at Home and at School

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention

Each month, we join the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, in praying for his monthly prayer intention. This September, we are invited to pray for the care of water, recognising water as a precious gift from God and remembering those around the world who do not have reliable access to clean and safe water.

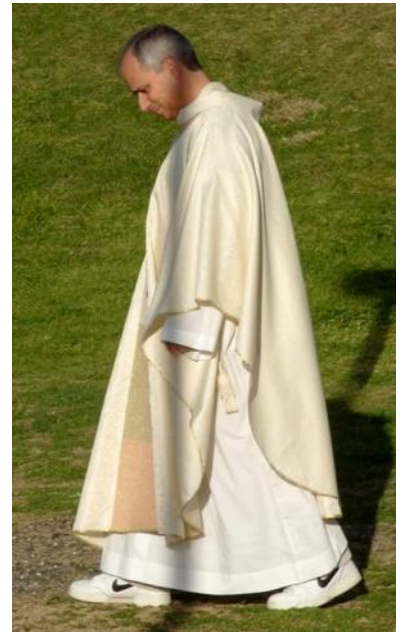
At home: As a family, give thanks to God for the gift of water and think of simple ways to care for this precious part of God's Creation – perhaps by turning off taps, taking shorter showers and being more mindful of the water we use.

Catholic Social Teaching: The Dignity of the Human Person

This half term, the children will begin learning about the first principle of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) through Caritas Westminster's Rooted in Love programme: the dignity of the human person.

Catholic teaching reminds us that every person is created in the image and likeness of God. This means that every human life is sacred and that each person should be treated with love, dignity, compassion and respect.

At home: Encourage your child to carry out a special act of love or kindness for someone else. Afterwards, talk together about how their actions showed that person that they are loved and valued by God.



The Year of St Francis

This the Church celebrates the Year of St Francis, marking the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi. St Francis reminds us to recognise God in Creation, care for our common home and show for those who are poor or vulnerable.

Together as a Catholic school community, we will continue to help our children understand that Catholic Social Teaching calls us to put our faith into action – loving God, loving our neighbour and caring for God's Creation.

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

Mini Vinnies—Applications Now Open!

We're excited to announce that Mini Vinnies applications are going out!

Mini Vinnies gives our children a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in our school and wider community, putting their faith into action through kindness, compassion and helping others.

If your child is interested in becoming a Mini Vinnie, please look out for the application form coming home.



Birthday Own-Clothes Day!

We're excited to introduce a new birthday treat this year!

From now on, children can wear their own clothes to school on their birthday – our little way of making their special day feel even more special!

If a birthday falls on a weekend or during the school holidays, we'll make sure children have an alternative day to celebrate.

Free Before-School Breakfast Club

From Monday 7th September, we are delighted to be offering a free Before-School Breakfast Club for children from Reception to Year 6.

The Breakfast Club will run every school day from 8.00am to 8.30am and is a welcoming way for children to start the day, spend time with friends and enjoy some fun activities before school begins.

Children can enjoy a range of activities, which may include Lego, board games, drawing and colouring, indoor games and outdoor play.

A healthy breakfast will also be available, including cereal with milk, fresh fruit and toast.

Children who would like breakfast should arrive by 8.10am so that they have enough time to eat before the start of the school day.

Please bring children attending the Breakfast Club to the main school gate from 8.00am onwards. The usual soft start will continue as normal from 8.20am at the side gate.

There is no need to come every day – children are welcome to attend whenever it is helpful for your family. We would love to see lots of our children enjoying this new opportunity and starting their day together with friends!

If your child would like to attend, please let the school know so that we can plan for the number of children attending.

Dates

Below are a list of dates. We will be adding to these during the half term.

Monday 7th September—Breakfast club to begin at 8am

Wednesday 9th September—Meet the teacher 3.15-3.40. Meetings will take place in your child's classroom.

Thursday 10th September—Welcome to Reception Mass: 2.15—Reception parents are invited to attend.

Sunday 13th September—Education Sunday: Families are encouraged to attend Mass.

Thursday 17th September—Year 6 secondary transfer/Residential trip meeting at 3.20pm in the hall.

Friday 25th September—Harvest donations: Bring in an item for the food bank and wear your own clothes.

Wednesday 30th September—Year 1 parents phonics workshop in the hall at 8.45

Friday 2nd October—Harvest donation blessing at 2.30pm—Parents are welcome to attend

Monday 5th October—Design and Technology Week

Friday 16th October—Last day of the half term

