

St. Mary's CE Primary School

Head Teacher:

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**TERM DATES**

School Year 2023-24

Autumn Term

INSET Day: 4th and 5th Sept

First day of Term: 6th Sept

Half Term:

23rd Oct to 27th Oct

Last day of Term: 20<sup>th</sup> Dec

INSET Day: 21<sup>st</sup> Dec

Spring Term

INSET Day: 8<sup>th</sup> Jan

First day of Term: 9<sup>th</sup> Jan

Half Term:

12<sup>th</sup> Feb to 16<sup>th</sup> Feb

Last day of Term:

28<sup>th</sup> Mar

Summer Term

INSET Day: 15<sup>th</sup> Apr

First day of Term: 16<sup>th</sup> Apr

Bank Holiday: 6th May

Half Term:

27<sup>th</sup> May to 31<sup>st</sup> May

Last Day of Term:

24<sup>th</sup> Jul

# IN TOUCH



Friday 11th January 2024

Issue 680

**VISION: Delivering excellence, allowing all to flourish**  
**MISSION: Creating a culture of wonder, guided by Christian Faith**  
**VALUES: COMPASSION - ENDURANCE - THANKFULNESS**

Happy New Year ! I hope you all had a wonderful break over the Christmas period and a chance to recharge your batteries with family and friends. Thank you all for the generous gifts, thoughtful messages and cards which you sent to us, they were greatly appreciated. It has been good to be back into our normal routine this week and to see all of our families returning after the holidays. The children have settled back into school well and are already hard at work.

Thank you to Reverend John and Mrs Bishop for leading worship this morning. As you will remember, Mrs Bishop will be leading the school on the days when I am fulfilling a secondment at St. Michael's Primary in Southfields. Today was one of those days and so Mrs Bishop had the pleasure of awarding the children with their first Learning Warriors certificates of 2024, as well as Secret Good Manners and Eco Warrior Certificates.

Also in worship this morning, we launched our next FoSMS fundraiser—our sponsored bike ride from base camp to the summit of Everest and back again. Huge thanks to Gary Hunter, former parent of St. Mary's for a fabulous teaser video for the event. Sponsorship forms will be coming home next week and five family points will be awarded to all children who return them with one sponsor, regardless of the amount. Although we hope this event raises further funds for Phase 2 of our playground development project, it also promises to be a great deal of fun for everyone at St. Mary's. Many thanks to Heidi Wales for organising this event. I'd better get on my exercise bike and start training now...

Speaking of our playground development project, we were delighted to announce in the first edition of St. Mary's News this year that we had reached our goal of £50,000 by Christmas. Thanks to Ruth, Rochelle and the amazing FoSMS Committee and wider team for such an amazing vision and the energy and enthusiasm to make it a reality. We are fortunate to have such great support from our parent body, not only in terms of finances but in creating events which make our school such a special place to be. I think our cycling event is going to be one such event and I can't wait to see everyone peddling away in the hall!

As you can see, whole school attendance dropped below 96% at the end of the Autumn Term. Attendance is a particular focus for the Department of Education and the Local Authority and is a key performance indicator for our school. The only reason children should be missing school is if they personally are too unwell to attend. I ask for parent/carers help in reaching our target of 97% this year. In particular, I ask parent/carers to ensure that holidays are booked outside of term time. There are also unusual levels of sickness at the end and beginning of term... We ask that parent/carers are honest about the reasons for absence, bearing in mind that unusual levels of/patterns of sickness can result in the Education Welfare Service—which is part of Children's Social Services—asking to meet some families to discuss these further. I thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

Finally this week, some fabulous news to end this edition of 'In Touch'. Mrs Adams entered some of the felt work that children created as part of our Summer Art Fair for a local competition. We have been notified that St. Mary's is one of the winners of the competition and as a result some of the children's work is going to be displayed at Wandsworth Town Hall. Once the art work is installed we will be invited to visit the work and to receive some vouchers for Art supplies for the school. Congratulations and a huge thank you to Mrs Adams and all of our artists here at St. Mary's.

This is the last time I will sign off In Touch for a little while as Mrs Bishop will be authoring our weekly newsletter on Fridays for the foreseeable future. So, I wish you and yours a very fun but restful weekend and look forward to seeing you at the usual time on Monday!

Very best wishes,  
Cheryl Payne  
Head Teacher

**School Attendance 23-24**

TARGET	97.0%
Autumn	95.5%
Week Beginning	%
08/01	97.0%
15/01	
22/01	
29/01	
05/02	
12/02	
Total:	95.6%

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024**

**Family Points**

425

294

376

455