

YEAR 5 CLASS NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2026



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to St Mary's, we hope that you and your family enjoyed a peaceful Summer break. The children have settled well into their new class and we are looking forward to our year of learning together. Your support in ensuring that your child completes their Home Learning every week will continue to help your child to make accelerated progress and reach their full potential. We look forward to seeing you at the **year 5 Class Parents' Meeting on Wednesday 16th September at 8:45am.**

Curriculum

We will continue our Maths and Literacy learning by building on the key skills that the children learned last term. Our topics this term will be **African Kingdom** and **Detectives**. We will be delivering a lot of the learning in Science, History, Geography, Art and Design Technology through our topics, with links to the learning in Literacy and Maths. Below is an outline of what we will be covering in our curriculum.

English 	In English, we will be reading 'Children of the Benin Kingdom' by Dinah Orji. They will focus on writing effective diary entries in role as different characters. In addition, we will read 'Freedom Bird' by Jerdine Nolen. Based on this text, children will write a diary entry and a detailed recount using the writing techniques modelled by the author.
Destination Reader 	This term, we will be learning about our reading strategies of clarifying, inferring, summarising, making connections, predicting, evaluating and questioning. We will be reading the book 'Children of the Benin Kingdom' to practice combining these reading strategies. Please ensure that you hear your child read every day and update their Reading Record.
Maths 	This half term we will be focusing on number and place value. The children will learn to recognise the place value of the digits up to 1,000,000. In the second half of the term, we will be learning about Fractions. We will find equivalent fractions and solve word problems involving fractions of numbers and quantities. We will be launching our Times Table challenge before half-term, so please continue to practice your multiplication tables at home.
RE 	In RE, we will be learning about what it means to be a Buddhist and we will discuss what the Beatitudes are and what they mean to Christians.
Topic 	Our Topic for this term is 'African Kingdom and Detectives'. Please see the attached pupil topic map to see what will be covered in these areas of the curriculum through our learning in Science, History, Geography and Art.
Values 	We will be focusing on the whole school values of Respect and Peace . We will be exploring these values throughout this term and children will have the opportunity to learn how these values can be displayed, referring to examples from Bible stories and influential figures.
Computing 	In Computing, we will be learning how to use technology safely. We will be learning about how computer systems and search engines work.
Music 	The children will learn to play a well-known musical piece using boom whackers and other percussions.
PSHE	We will be following the Jigsaw scheme of work in our PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education). This term we will be learning about ' Being Me in My World ' and ' Celebrating differences '.

Key Dates

- September – we are welcoming any donations for our annual Harvest collection, please donate any non-perishable food items (tins, jars and packets) to support those most in need
- **5-week Sailing Workshop at the Docklands Centre** -Monday 7th Sept to Monday 5th October
- Parents welcome meetings – Wednesday 16th September 8:45 a.m.
- Tue 29th September – **SCHOOL PHOTOS**
- Wed 30th September 9AM – Harvest worship in St Mary's Church
- **Mon 19th October – Fri 30th October – HALF TERM**
- Tue 3rd November 8:45AM – Friends of St Mary's AGM and planning for the Christmas Fayre
- Thu 12th November – PARENTS EVENING
- Fri 13th November 8:45AM – Friends of St Mary's Present Wrapping
- Fri 27th November 3:10PM – Christmas Fayre
- Fri 4th December – Pantomime at Greenwich Theatre
- Tue 15th December 2:00PM – Candlelit Service in St Mary's Church
- Fri 18th December – 1:00PM – End of Autumn Term
- Tue 5th January 2026 - Children return to school for the Spring Term

Key Reminders

- Please be on time at the beginning (8:45) and end (3:15) of the school day
- Please ring the school office if you have arranged for a new person to collect your child



PE

Please note that the children must bring the correct PE kit (plain navy blue/black jogging bottoms, plain white t-shirt and plain black plimsolls/trainers) to every PE lesson. Our PE coach, Mr Tientcheu, will lead the children in the PE curriculum alongside their teacher. **PE lessons will be on Friday.**



Jewellery

We advise that the children do not wear **any** jewellery to school although plain stud earrings are acceptable. Please bear in mind that if your child is wearing earrings they need to be able to remove them themselves for PE lessons.

Clothing

Please make sure that all of your child's items of clothing are clearly labelled with their names. This applies to all items of school uniform, PE kit and coats. School shoes should be plain and black.

Home Learning - will be set on Friday and should be completed by Tuesday. In addition to the learning set, your children should be regularly practicing their times tables, spellings and reading every day.

There is a clear expectation that every child fully completes their Home Learning every week and we will be keeping a record and contacting parents where this is not the case.

Reading - It is vital that your child reads to you every day. Please complete their reading journal and ensure that they bring it into school **daily**. Your child will be given books, which we will aim to change on a weekly basis. If you have any concerns or would like some support with this, then please contact the school.

Appointments - If you have any queries or wish to make an appointment, please ring the School office on 0208 6902613 or email admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk

We greatly value your support with your child's learning.

Ololade Kuku (Class Teacher) Oana Visan(Teaching Assistant)