

# ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



## NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY 2026

Spring is nearly here and it's already nearly half-term! It's hard to believe that the children have now completed almost half of this school year. I hope you all enjoy the half-term break (16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> February). Remember Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February is an INSET day so the school will be closed.

### Lent

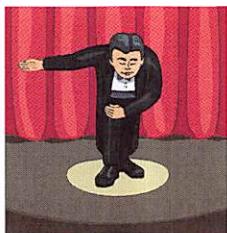
We are also moving towards the season of Lent, a wonderful time of renewal. As you know Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday 18th February (it is during the half-term break this year).



Maybe these weeks of Lent could be a time for us to make a big effort to change and grow as we get ready for the feast of the Resurrection of Christ at Easter.



### Spring Performance - Year 3!



The children in Year 3 are to be congratulated for their dedicated preparation for their performances of 'Tuishi Pamoja'. All have been working hard and co-operating well to prepare. In their recent performances for the other children the singing, dancing and speaking were of such a high quality. We could see from the faces of all in the audience how much the other children and adults of the school enjoyed the performances. Thank you very much children for your hard work. Also a sincere thank you to the teachers, teaching assistants and volunteers who spent many hours of their own time planning and preparing and then guiding the children through. Thank you to the parents who helped with practices, scenery and costumes.

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February AM:  
Performance for Parents with Babies and Toddlers

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February AM:  
Performance for Adults



### Illegal Parking



We had the zig-zag lines outside the school re-painted a number of years ago. Although we think they are very visible there are still a small number of adults parking on the zig-zags however generally in order to drop off or collect children from school.

Parents parking on the zig-zags are parking illegally and putting our children in danger. To avoid this please be prepared to come a bit earlier, park legally and walk a little bit with your child if necessary in order to keep the road in front of the school clear. This is also a healthier option as we focus on children having the option to walk a little bit each day especially now that our School Street is in place.

Please try not to park across the driveways of our neighbours on Durants Road, across driveways in the other roads around the school or in the car park which belongs to the Italian Centre and Mary Mother of God. I know the majority of our parents and others who bring children to school don't do this.

Thank you to all who respect the zig-zags and keep them clear.

If you are late for school please do not abandon your child on the road outside. You must come in to school with your child.



Parents a huge thank you to so many of you for your wonderful support for our School Street. More and more children are walking, cycling or scooting to school. [Videos](#) | [School Streets](#) | [Let's Talk Enfield](#)

As you are aware we were delighted to be awarded a Travel for Life Gold Level accreditation recognising all of the work done by all members of the community to support active travel.



#### Re-establishing the Friday Penance

As you are aware a key resolution of the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales, released after their May 2011 plenary meeting, was "to re-establish the practice of Friday penance in the lives of the faithful as a clear and distinctive mark of their own Catholic identity".

This act of common witness formally came into effect on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2011 (the anniversary of the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to the UK). As you know we formally began our practice of not serving meat to the children / staff on a Friday right from the start of September in 2011. Thank you parents for not including meat as part of your child's packed lunch on a Friday.

Although our children are young we know that you agree that it is good to establish the practices of our faith right

from the start. This good habit formed when young will hopefully be part of your child's way of life as he / she grows up. He / she will see abstaining from meat on a Friday as a distinctive mark of his / her Catholic identity. Parents thank you for your wonderful support with the re-establishment of the Friday penance.

**Don't forget to log on to the school website -**

[stmarysenfield.co.uk](http://stmarysenfield.co.uk)

#### Open Evening

You are very welcome to attend our Open Evening on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February (1.30pm-4pm and 5pm-6pm).

The school will close on the 10<sup>th</sup> February for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children at 12.30pm and for Year 3 to Year 6 children at 12.45pm. We would be very grateful if you could take your children off the school site on time on the 10<sup>th</sup> as you do at the end of the day to give us a chance to prepare for Open Evening.

Your child's teacher will meet with you in the Hall. You are very welcome (either before or after you meet with your child's teacher) to look at your child's work as well as classroom displays.

If you would prefer to have a phone call from the teacher to update you on your child's progress and targets please just let the office staff know and they will arrange the time and date of this for you.



### School Fund

Each family is asked to make a contribution towards the School / Governors' Fund each year. Your contributions are used to pay towards the costs of repairs and general school maintenance and improvements.

As our school is a voluntary aided school we depend in part for your voluntary donations to fund projects.

Each year if we build, extend or develop the school building in any way, we apply for and thankfully have been lucky enough to receive a capital funding grant from the Government. However in all works (when we receive grant funding) we are required to raise a percentage of the cost of the project ourselves. Over the past few years the school has had many improvements

All of the improvements to the school were of course

completed with the aim of making the learning environment better for our children. To date we have received £1457.00 in school fund contributions. Thank you to all who have made contributions.

This year we have 240 families in our school. If each family paid its School Fund for one year we would have at least £20,000 in donations! This money would make a real difference to our school and to our provision for the children.

School Fund costs £2.00 per week / £25.50 per term / £76.00 per year for one child. For two children School Fund costs £2.50 per week / £32.00 per term / £95.00 per year.

If you have three children in the school School Fund costs £3.00 per week / £38.00 per term / £114.00 per year.

### Developments in the Curriculum

Thinking Hats - Our staff have completed training on Edward de Bono's Six Thinking Hats for Education. This is a whole school thinking programme which can be used across the curriculum in all subjects.



Dr. de Bono is a pioneer in the teaching of thinking in

education. He has written 60 books in the general area of thinking and his material is used all over the world. We have re-launched our 'thinking hats' this term. Ask your child to tell you about the different hats.

As you may be aware the school community was awarded (following two days of rigorous assessment by an external assessor) the Dr. Edward de Bono Thinking Schools' Award.

### Thinking Maps



Thinking Maps were designed by Dr. David Hyerle in the late 1980's. Hyerle based his ideas on the initial research and development of a model of thinking processes by Dr. Albert Upton. He revised the Upton model as the foundation for Thinking Maps as a set of tools for learning. They are a visual tool to aid thinking. There are eight thinking maps, each based on a fundamental thinking process and used together as a set of tools for showing relationships. We hope that you will have the opportunity to see these maps being used across the curriculum.

Habits of Mind - 'Successful people keep moving. They make

'... mistakes but never quit' - something Conrad Hilton said. Staff have also received training on 'Habits of Mind' - these are a set of habits or dispositions which focus on developing a mature, independent and successful learner / citizen in the long term. You will recognise many habits of mind immediately as you will have tried or are currently trying to develop these dispositions in your own children. There are sixteen in total. They are:

- Persisting,
- Managing impulsivity,
- Listening with understanding and empathy,
- Thinking flexibly,
- Metacognition,
- Striving for accuracy,
- Questioning and posing problems,
- Applying past knowledge to new situations,
- Thinking and communicating with clarity and precision,
- Gathering data through all senses,
- Creating, imagining, innovating,
- Responding with wonderment and awe,
- Taking responsible risks,
- Finding humour,
- Thinking independently,
- Remaining open to continuous learning.



We are again gradually introducing these to the

children. Ask your child if he / she has focused on any of the habits of mind in school. Don't hesitate to ask the teacher about the current habit of mind focus in your child's class / across the school.

### Roblox

Roblox is used by children from a very young age, with many starting in primary school and a particularly large number of players aged around 8 - 12. There is no fixed minimum age to play, and children often share games and social spaces with much older users. This mix of ages, combined with user-generated content and social features such as chat and voice chat, means children's experiences can vary widely.

Helpful lines of curiosity include:

What games are they accessing, and are they age-appropriate?

Is chat enabled, and who can message them?

Have they come across anything violent, hateful or worrying?

Are they using private servers or public spaces?

Are parental controls or age settings in place and actively used?

Does the parent feel confident managing the platform?

What helps most in practice includes:

Regular, interested conversations about what children enjoy playing, who they play with, and what they notice online

Adults showing curiosity, including watching or playing alongside children, so games are not treated as a secret or separate world

A clear understanding of personal information, including why chats should stay about the game and when to tell an adult

Agreed rules around spending, with children knowing when real money is involved and when permission is needed

Reassurance that worries should be shared, including exposure to upsetting content, mean behaviour or hate-based language

Confidence using block and report tools, so concerns can be addressed calmly and practically

Active use of safety settings, including age-appropriate controls, chat restrictions and parent account oversight

More information can be found here: <https://corp.roblox.com/safety-by-age>

Download an editable table of settings:  
<https://6282.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Roblox+Safe+settings+January+2026.docx>

### Online Safety

#### Resources for children and young people

As half term approaches, children and young people may spend more time online and many will play games for entertainment over the break.

Band Runner is a fun way for 8-10s to learn about safer use of technology.

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/band-runner/>

They will learn to:

- distinguish between safe and unsafe behaviours online
- feel more confident to seek help from a

trusted adult when they need it

- understand how they can use our 8-10s website to seek advice and support

[https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/4-7s/Hello\\_I\\_am\\_Jessie](https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/4-7s/Hello_I_am_Jessie)

Visit the CEOP Education 4-7s website with your child.

Featuring characters from *Jessie & Friends*, the 4-7s website helps children to recognise worrying or scary situations online through four interactive badges covering: watching videos, sharing pictures, online gaming and chatting online. Children collect stars and certificates by answering questions to help characters Jessie, Tia and Mo to 'Tell A Grown Up' when something happens online that is worrying, scary or upsetting.

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/jessie-and-friends/>

*Jessie & Friends* is a series of three animations that follow the adventures of Jessie, Tia and Mo as they begin to navigate the online world, watching videos, sharing pictures and playing games. There's also a storybook for each episode, to help you and

your child keep the conversation going.

The key message throughout *Jessie and Friends* is that if a child is ever worried by anything online, they should tell a grown-up they trust, who will help them.

<https://www.enfield.gov.uk/news-and-events/2024/11/keep-your-child-safe-online-the-tech-approach>

From the Children's Commissioner:

[What I wish my parents or carers knew...: A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives | Children's Commissioner for England](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives)

Parent webinars on county lines and criminal exploitation (Ivison Trust)

The Ivison Trust (formerly Pace) is a national charity working to keep children safe from exploitation by supporting parents, disrupting exploiters, and working in partnership with police and family services. Their work is grounded in a trauma-informed, family-centred approach.

During March 2026, the Ivison Trust is delivering a series of live webinars for parents and

carers focused on county lines and criminal exploitation. The sessions help parents understand how exploitation happens, how children are groomed, what warning signs to look out for, and where to access advice and support. Each webinar includes local context, time for questions, and input from a parent with lived experience.

More information and booking details are available at:  
<https://ivisontrust.org.uk/webinars/>

### What is mental health?

We all have mental health. Mental health is about our feelings, our thinking, our emotions and our moods.

Looking after our mental health is important. We all have small feelings every day: These sometimes feel strong and overwhelming, whether happy or sad, but they go away before too long.

Sometimes we experience big feelings: These feel strong and overwhelming for a long time. They stop us doing what we want to in our lives.

Young Minds also has a parent helpline:  
<https://youngminds.org.uk/>

From 'Place 2 Be':

<https://youtu.be/tPhAn0qACCk> 'This is my Place!'

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>

### Christian Meditation

As you know the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM) has worked to develop videos which provide short meditation sessions which children and young people can participate in, whether in school or at home. These sessions are inspired by meditation in the tradition of John Main OSB.

Full details are available here: <https://www.cathchild.org.uk/meditation-with-children-young-people/>

### Holidays and Absences

I would urge you to try not to book holidays during term time as time away from school can unsettle children and affect their progress.

Any requests for time off (for special circumstances only please) must be put in writing to the Headteacher.

It is not school policy to provide homework for time off which is taken during term time.

We are required to ask for a written note to explain any

absence from school and to report all absences.

Please remember that your child's absence from school affects our total absence figures. It was 4.46% at the end of the last school year (5.2% in schools nationally) Our absence was 5% at the end of the autumn term (5.19% in schools nationally) and 4.9% up to the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

Well done everyone for trying your best in these times which are still a bit more challenging for all families trying to cope with these coughs and colds which seem to be around at the moment.

Our absence level is higher than in past pre-Covid years but with time this should continue to improve.

Up to the end of Autumn 2025, the classes with the highest attendance over the term were Year 3, St. Bernadette and Reception, Hope (97.2%) very closely followed by Year 6, St. Catherine (97%). Then Year 6, St. Christopher (96.7%), Year 4, St. Peter (96.5%), Year 3, St. Cecilia and Year 5, St. Anthony (96.1%) and Year 5, St. Joseph (95.3%).

Up to the end of January 2026, the classes with the highest attendance since the beginning of the school year were:

1. Year 6, St. Catherine, Year 6, St. Christopher and Reception, Hope (97.1%)

2. Year 3, St. Bernadette (97%)

3. Year 4, St. Peter (96.8%)

4. Year 3, St. Cecilia (96.1%)

5. Year 5, St. Anthony (95.6%)

6. Year 5, St. Joseph (95%)

Please (unless of course your child is ill) ensure your child is in school each day.

The DfE's persistent absence threshold is 10% (from Autumn 2015)!

The DfE's guidance on the 2014/15 school census explains that from the 2015/2016 academic year onwards, a pupil will be considered to be persistently absent if he/she is away for over 10% of school sessions in an academic year.

Pages 72-73 of the DfE's guidance, linked to above, contains a table which sets out the estimated thresholds that will be used to define persistently absent pupils.

	15 per cent	10 per cent
Half-term 1	10 or more sessions	7 or more sessions
Half term 1-2 (autumn term)	22 or more sessions	14 or more sessions
Half term 1-3	30 or more sessions	20 or more sessions
Half-term 1-4 (autumn term and spring term combined)	38 or more sessions	25 or more sessions
Half term 1-5	46 or more sessions	31 or more sessions
Half term 1-6 (full academic year)	56 or more sessions	38 or more sessions

**100% Attendance Autumn 2025**  
84 pupils had 100% attendance! Well done children and parents!



### Spring Term Reminder!

Don't forget the pattern of the Easter holidays this year.

Half-term holiday = 16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

INSET Day (no school for children) = 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026.

Easter Holiday = 30<sup>th</sup> March - 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

### Summer Term Reminder!

School opens for the summer term on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

Half-term holiday = 25<sup>th</sup> May - 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

May Bank Holiday = Monday 4th May 2026.

INSET Day (no school for children) = 5th May 2026.

Last Day of the School Year = 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026.



### Tissues

We have very few tissues and hundreds of runny noses! We are no longer able to afford to provide tissues for classrooms. Donations of



boxes of tissues would be so very gratefully received. If your child has a cold please try to send some tissues to school in his / her school bag.

### School Uniform

Try very hard to ensure your child wears the correct uniform.

Some pupils (a very small few) are not wearing the correct colours in their hair or stud earrings. One or two are wearing trainers instead of shoes. This really is not acceptable. Our uniform is part of our identity as St. Mary's School.

Thank you to the majority of parents who always encourage their children to wear the right uniform neatly in school every day.

### Remember!

Try very hard to ensure your child is on time for school i.e. in the classroom before 9am when school begins

### Sickness



We have been advised by the London Borough of Enfield that any child who has been sick must not return to school for 48 hours. Unfortunately there are some nasty bugs still going

around at the moment. Please support us in helping them not to spread.

Also on occasions parents have reported finding nits in their child's hair. Unfortunately these are easily spread and can be quite difficult to eradicate. We would appreciate it if you could check your child's hair. Please also ensure that all long hair is tied back at all times.

We have also seen the occasional case of ringworm. Please check any unusual rashes and encourage your child to wash his / her hands thoroughly.

### Volunteers

A sincere thank you to all who have volunteered to help in classes and with various activities in school. We really value the time and support you give to children and staff. Remember if you have time to spare that we always need volunteers. All who work in classes must be police / DBS checked for the safety of all children at St. Mary's.

**Please encourage your child to leave all toys, football cards, jewellery, mobile phones etc. at home. Children become very upset if their personal belongings are lost or broken at school.**

### Recycling!

We are still recycling shoes too. Send in any old pairs.

### Home School Agreement

Thank you to the great number of parents who have already returned their child's Home School Agreement. Remember if you haven't already done so to read, sign and return one of the copies as soon as possible (you should have received two copies - one is for you to keep at home). If you need a new copy just ask at the Office.

We are trying to learn / say The Angelus each day at 12 noon in the Junior classes. This is a wonderful prayer which reminds us that God the Son became man in order to save us.

You might like to say this prayer with your child at home. It can be said in the morning, at noon or in the evening.

### The Angelus

The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:  
And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary...

Behold the handmaid of the Lord:  
Be it done to me according to your word.

Hail Mary...

And the Word was made Flesh:  
And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.  
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us Pray.  
Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may be brought by his passion and cross to the glory of his resurrection, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.  
May the divine assistance remain always with us and may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

These are the prayers we say each day with the children. You might like to say these prayers with your child at home. It's good practice to have a little quiet prayer time each day. I know many of you already encourage your child to pray at home.

#### Morning Offering

O My God, you love me,  
You are with me night and day.  
I want to love you always in all I do and say.  
I'll try to please you Father.  
Bless me through the day. Amen

#### Night Prayer

God our Father, I come to say,  
Thank you for your love today.  
Thank you for my family,  
And all the things you give to me.  
Guard me in the dark of night.  
And in the morning send your light.  
Amen.

#### Grace Before Meals

Bless us O Lord as we sit together,  
Bless the food we eat today.  
Bless the hands that make the food.  
Bless us O Lord. Amen.

#### Grace After Meals

Thank you God, for the food we have eaten,  
Thank you God for all our friends.  
Thank you God for everything,  
Thank you God. Amen.

#### Our School Prayer

This is our school.  
May we all live here  
Happily together.  
May our school be full of joy.  
May love dwell here among us  
Every day.

Love of one another,  
Love of all people everywhere,  
Love of life itself,  
And love of God.

Let us all remember that  
As many hands build a house,  
So every child  
Can make this school  
A lovely place. Amen

#### Phone calls

Your child is welcome to phone home (in emergency only). We would welcome a voluntary contribution towards the cost of any phone calls your child makes.



#### Play Equipment

Parents please support the school by not allowing your children (including toddlers) to play on the playground equipment at the end of the school day. This request is made purely for health and safety reasons.

Children are also asked not to cycle or use their scooters / bicycles / tricycles while on the playground after school. As the area is very crowded it is easier and safer for all if children walk with their bikes or scooters until they leave the school premises.

Parents / childminders please keep your children with you once you have collected them from the classroom / teacher.

Thank you as always to the great number of parents who are very supportive of all school requests. We have only noticed a minority of pupils doing the wrong thing this school year. With the support of their parents or child minders this will easily be sorted out.

#### Year Group Addresses:

[nursery@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk](mailto:nursery@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk)

[reception@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk](mailto:reception@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk)

[year1@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk](mailto:year1@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk)

  
[year2@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk](mailto:year2@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk)  
[year3@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk](mailto:year3@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk)  
[year4@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk](mailto:year4@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk)  
[year5@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk](mailto:year5@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk)  
[year6@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk](mailto:year6@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk)

**Some Dates for Spring 2026**

2<sup>nd</sup> February - The Presentation of the Lord - School Mass for Years 2-6

3<sup>rd</sup> February - Year 3 Spring Performance Dress Rehearsal AM (parents with babies and toddlers welcome).

4<sup>th</sup> February - Year 3 Spring Performance AM (adults). Years 5+6 to Parish Mass at 9.30am.

6<sup>th</sup> February - NSPCC Number Day! Dress Up! Wear a Number!

9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> February - Children's Mental Health Week.

10<sup>th</sup> February - OPEN EVENING (1.30pm-4pm and 5pm-6pm) Early Closing at 12.30pm Infants and 12.45pm Juniors.

11<sup>th</sup> February - Our Lady of Lourdes - World Day of the Sick. Catholic Children's Society Lenten Appeal - "Small Deeds, Big Difference".

12<sup>th</sup> February - Year 2 classes to Parish Mass at 9.30am

13<sup>th</sup> February - Own Clothes' Day.

16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> February - Half - Term Holiday. No School! Ash Wednesday falls during half-term week. Lent begins.

23<sup>rd</sup> February - INSET Day. No School!

25<sup>th</sup> February - Year 4 classes to Parish Mass at 9.30am.

26<sup>th</sup> February - Class Photos

5<sup>th</sup> March - World Book Day! Pasta Making Workshop for School Council.

Year 3 classes to Parish Mass at 9.30am.

11<sup>th</sup> March - Mass in School Hall at 9.30am. Infants to attend.

13<sup>th</sup> March - Year 4 Production AM (parents with babies and toddlers)

16<sup>th</sup> March - Year 4 Production AM (adults).

17<sup>th</sup> March (St. Patrick) - Years 3 to 6 Mass in the church at 9.30am.

19<sup>th</sup> March - Feast of St. Joseph, School Mass at 9.30am in the church (Years 2-6 to attend the Mass)

25<sup>th</sup> March (Annunciation of the Lord) - School Mass. Years 2-6 to attend.

End of Term Class Parties PM

26<sup>th</sup> March - Years 5 and 6 classes to parish Mass at 9.30am followed by Reconciliation.

27<sup>th</sup> March - End of Term School Mass (Years 3-6 to attend the Mass). Last day of Spring Term. Own Clothes' Day. Early Closing at 12.45pm EYFS and Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 at 1pm.

Holidays begin until 13<sup>th</sup> April

29<sup>th</sup> March - British Summer Time begins (clocks go forward one hour).

*Return to school on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April for the summer term.*

*Palm Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March (Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord- Blessing of Palms at all Masses).*

*Holy Week begins- In Holy Week the Church celebrates the mysteries of salvation accomplished by Christ in the last days of his earthly life, from his messianic entry into Jerusalem, until his blessed Passion and glorious Resurrection. Lent continues until Maundy Thursday.*

*Maundy / Holy Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April*

*The Paschal Triduum of the Passion and Resurrection of the Lord begin with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper (on Maundy Thursday), has its centre in the Easter Vigil, and closes with Vespers (Evening Prayer) of the Sunday of the Resurrection.*

*Good Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April*

*Holy Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> April*

*Easter Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April*  
*The Paschal Candle remains near the altar for the whole of the Easter Time until the end of Pentecost Sunday (24<sup>th</sup> May 2026). It should be lit for the*

more solemn liturgical celebrations during this season.

On occasions it is necessary to change dates. I apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.



#### Best Wishes

Thank you for your continued support both for me and for the staff of St. Mary's. It is greatly appreciated.

Mrs R. Martin  
Interim Headteacher



#### ADMISSIONS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/2026

*Due to the fact that there are now fewer pupils in London (there is a continued*

*decrease in the population of children) and the issues with finding affordable housing we currently have places in our Nursery, Reception, Years 1-4 2025-2026 year groups.*

**Thank you parents for recommending our school and helping to build up our pupil numbers. Please continue to do this.**

#### Active Enfield reveals updated timetable for 2026

The new Active Enfield timetable is now live and ready to take bookings. [Take a look at the Active Enfield website](#) for all the available classes, including the brand new strength and conditioning sessions at David Lloyd and Enfield Vineyard Club. Alternatively, why not check out our Better leisure centres in Enfield. Did you know that Edmonton Leisure Centre's Teaching Pool reopened earlier this month, offering a warm and comfortable environment for those learning to swim? To find out more about this pool, and all the other activities in our leisure centres, [visit the Better Enfield website](#).

#### Prayer -From Parent to Child

I gave you life, but cannot live it for you.  
I can teach you things, but I cannot make you learn.  
I can give you attention, but I cannot be there to lead you.

I can teach you right from wrong, but I cannot always decide for you.

I can buy you beautiful clothes, but I cannot make you beautiful inside.

I can offer you advice but I cannot accept it for you.  
I can teach you to share, but I cannot make you unselfish.

I can tell you about lofty goals, but I can't achieve them for you.

I can teach you about kindness, but I can't force you to be gracious.

I can love you as a child and I can pray for you.  
I can teach you about Jesus and I can show you how to walk in the footsteps of the Lord.

# ST MARY'S MESSENGER

Created by Akuol and Rachel who are part of the Digital Disciples team.



Welcome to our new Religious Education based newsletter. We will be releasing a new newsletter every term keeping you up-to-date with RE in our school!



Our school is named after Mary who was the mother of Jesus. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is a central figure in our faith, remembered for miraculously conceiving and bearing Jesus and serving as his first follower. She's a prominent subject in Western art and culture, known through biblical accounts and traditions like the Immaculate Conception and Assumption, appearing as a model of faith, grace, and spiritual motherhood across Christian denominations. We are proud to be named after her and strive to follow her example in all that we do.

## WHAT HAVE WE BEEN EXPLORING IN OUR RE LESSONS?

### CREATION AND COVENANT

In the first half of the autumn term we began our journey with the new 'To know you more clearly' curriculum by exploring creation and covenant. This topic introduced us to God as a loving creator and the author of all life, focusing on the deep relationship he desires with humanity. Younger children typically experienced this through stories like Genesis, learning that the world is a beautiful gift to be cherished. As they move up through the school, pupils explored the concept of a covenant a sacred, binding promise through the lives of biblical figures like Noah, Abraham, and Moses, ultimately seeing Jesus as the fulfilment of these promises. Throughout this unit, we were encouraged to develop a sense of stewardship, reflecting on how we can care for our common home in line with Pope Francis' Laudato Si.

### PROPHECY AND PROMISE

In this second half of the Autumn Term, we explored the Christian understanding of the teaching of the prophets as they point to the fulfilment of God's promise in a messiah, Jesus Christ. We explored the expectant waiting for the Messiah through the Advent season and how this speaks to Christians today as they wait for Christ. We looked in detail at the story of the nativity of Jesus and the mystery of the incarnation.



## IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE SPRING TERM

- 6/1/2026 – The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
- 11/1/2026 – The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
- 21/1/2026- Parish Mass for years 3 and 4
- 27/1/2026 - Holocaust Memorial Day
- 2/2/2026 – Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
- 4/2/2026- Parish Mass for years 5 and 6
- 12/2/2026- Parish Mass for year 2
- 15/2/2026 – Racial Justice Sunday
- 18/2/2026 - Ash Wednesday
- 25/2/2026- Parish Mass for year 4
- 5/3/2026- Parish Mass for year 3
- 6/3/2026- Women's World Day of Prayer
- 11/3/2026- Mass in School Hall for EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2
- 17/3/2026 - The Feast of St Patrick
- 19/3/2026 – St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 25/3/2026 – The Annunciation of the Lord
- 26/3/2026- Parish Mass for years 5 and 6 followed by Reconciliation Service
- 27/3/2026- End of Term School Mass for years 3-6
- 2/4/2026- Maundy/Holy Thursday
- 3/4/2026- Good Friday
- 4/4/2026- Holy Saturday
- 5/4/2026- Easter Sunday

HE IS NOT HERE  
*he is risen*

## INTERVIEW WITH A MEMBER OF STAFF

Each term we will interview a member of our staff about their faith journey or their own Religious Education journey and understanding. Ms Joseph was first in the hotseat; here are her questions and answers!

Q1) Why do you like RE?

A) Because it deepens my understanding of my faith.

Q2) What is your favourite thing to teach in RE?

A) Scripture. Getting the children to understand the meanings behind the scripture passages.

Q3) What is your favourite thing about Lent?

A) My own family traditions around this time e.g. we eat very little meat for the whole 40 days and we consume more fish.

Q4) What do you know about Lent?

A) Lent is a time when we recognise the sacrifices that Jesus went through for us. It is really a time when I connect with my faith.

Q5) What do you like most about the Rosary?

A) It's a meditation, a time when I get to show Mary how much I honour her, I recognise that all my prayers being said connect around the world to give hope to others less fortunate.

Q6) What do you know about Mary our Mother?

A) She lived a life more perfect than anyone of us could ever hope to achieve, she was devoted to God our Father and continued to be an obedient servant to God throughout her role as Jesus' mother.



# Online Safety Newsletter ➤ February 2026

## CBeebies Parenting and Apps

CBeebies Parenting is full of useful information from creative activities, recipes and information about the CBeebies apps.

CBeebies apps are free to download with no in-app purchases. Their apps include:

- Playtime Island - Fun Games for Kids App. This app includes 40 free games.
- CBeebies Learn - Early Years Learning App. This app includes games and videos and is based on the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.
- Get Creative - Open-ended Creative Activities App. This app is free and includes lots of drawing and painting activities.
- Storytime - Reading Stories App. This app includes interactive story books.

You can find out more here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/parenting>

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version:  
<https://www.knowsleylcs.org.uk/february-2026-primary/>

## Using AI to alter images

AI image generator and moderator tools are widely available and often used by children. Whilst these tools can be used for creative purposes, we need to ensure our children are aware of the appropriate way in which to use them and the circumstances when they should not be used, even if harm is not intended.

### What are AI image generator and moderator tools?

It is when Artificial Intelligence is used to create or modify images, for example it could be used to swap faces, change expressions or for more sinister reasons, such as to remove clothes. These images are often very realistic and therefore difficult to see that they are fake.

### Privacy concerns and consent

If your child is using these tools, they need to be aware of potential loss of privacy and the importance of consent. They should know that they should only use images of other people with consent.

### What does my child need to know about using these tools?

- Children shouldn't use AI tools to manipulate images of school staff. Even if the child's intention is not malicious, children should not use AI tools to create or edit photos of teachers under any circumstances.
- Manipulation of images of friends or other children – if you are using images of other people, then consent **must** always be sought.
- The tools should not be used to create images that can embarrass or hurt others - this is a form of online bullying.
- Copyright issues – who owns the copyright? These images could be reused by others, which can affect their own digital footprint.

### What should I do?

- Chat to your child if they are using these tools and ascertain the reason why. Ask them to show you the images that they have created.
- Check the age ratings of any apps/websites that your child is using and set up appropriate parental controls.
- Develop your child's digital literacy by teaching them to recognise online risks and to behave responsibly online

### Further information

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-to-children-about-ai>
- <https://oursaferschools.co.uk/2025/02/18/understanding-image-consent-at-schools/>

# TikTok

**You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok.** TikTok is a social media platform for sharing and watching short video clips. If your child is using TikTok then make sure appropriate security / privacy settings are applied.

## Account set up

It is important that your child enters their real date of birth as accounts are tailored by age e.g., Direct Messaging is disabled for accounts aged 13-15. In addition, advertisements are tailored by age. By default, accounts for people under 16 are set to private. You can read more about the other settings available, such as switching off comments and restricted mode here: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings/privacy-and-safety-settings-for-users-under-age-18>



## Family Pairing

Family Pairing allows you to link your own account to your child's account. You can then set controls such as restricted mode or tailor your child's 'For You' feed by selecting keywords that TikTok will use to filter out posts. You can find out more here: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety-hc/account-and-user-safety/family-pairing>

## What do I need to be aware of?

- Inappropriate content and themes:** whilst against guidelines, explicit and inappropriate content can be found on this platform, for example nudity/sexual content and hate speech. Some of the songs available to lip sync to may contain inappropriate lyrics/themes.
- Challenges:** We often see viral challenges on social media, some of which can be **risky/dangerous**. Sadly, there are reports that children have died whilst attempting online challenges. Children may not yet have developed the skills and ability to critically analyse that what they see online is not always safe for them to replicate.
- Stranger contact:** chat to your child about how people may not be who they say they are when online.

## Refresh your feed

You can refresh your "For You" feed to update the content recommended: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings/refresh-your-for-you-feed>

## Blocking and Reporting

Show your child how to use the safety features available.

## Further information

- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok>
- <https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 01.02.26. The inclusion of any links does not imply any affiliation with or endorsement of the linked websites, documents, or videos, nor are we claiming any ownership or copyright in the content of the linked materials.

## Balance screen time tips

Internet Matters have created simple tips to help you develop healthy online habits for your child. They also answer key questions such as "how much screentime is too much" and "is gaming bad for children." Access this information here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/creating-a-balanced-digital-diet-with-screen-time-tips>

## 7 Steps to Good Digital Parenting

The Family Online Safety Institute have created seven steps to assist you as a digital parent. Find out more here:

<https://fosi.org/program/7-steps-to-good-digital-parenting/>

## Children's Commissioner launches new guide for parents and carers

The Children's Commissioner has released a new guide to help you in managing your child's digital life. The guide was written with direct involvement from children.

It includes advice on setting boundaries such as no devices in the bedroom and how to chat to your child. You can find the guide here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/blog/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-childrens-commissioner-launches-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>



# Think measles!

**Measles is circulating, it's very infectious and can make you very ill if you catch it.**

You can catch measles at any age. If you are unvaccinated and get measles you can easily spread the illness to anyone unvaccinated.

The MMR vaccine is safe and effective. You need 2 doses of MMR at least one month apart to be fully protected against measles, mumps and rubella. It's time to make measles a disease of the past.

**It's never too late to be vaccinated.**

Measles symptoms include: high fever; sore, red, watery eyes; coughing; aching and feeling generally unwell; a blotchy red brown rash, which usually appears after the initial symptoms.

**If you or your child have symptoms of measles, contact NHS111 or speak to your GP Practice.**



For more information speak to your GP surgery, read the leaflet from the QR code or visit: [www.nhs.uk/mmr](http://www.nhs.uk/mmr)



**NON STOP Action!**  
SMALL STEPS, BIG FUTURES

# FEBRUARY CAMP 2026



\*Childcare vouchers accepted

**Monday 16th - Friday 20th February**

**MOSS HALL JUNIOR SCHOOL (Multisports)**

NETHER STREET, WEST FINCHLEY, N3 1NR

**MILLBROOK PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL (Football and Dance)**

SCHOOL HOUSE LANE, MILL HILL, NW7 1JF

Times

**10AM - 3PM  
9AM - 4PM**

Moss Hall Camp

For 5-12 YRS

Millbrook Camp

For 4-12 YRS

Week Booking

**£122**

(10am - 3pm)

## Activities:

- ✓ Talent Show
- ✓ Seasonal Crafts
- ✓ Winter Olympic Day
- ✓ Parachute Games
- ✓ Coaches Challenge
- ✓ Beat The Goalie
- ✓ and more...

## Multisports:

- ✓ Cricket
- ✓ Hockey
- ✓ Tennis
- ✓ Gymnastics
- ✓ Handball
- ✓ Dodgeball
- ✓ and more...

**EARLY BIRD  
DISCOUNT  
AVAILABLE**

**Book before  
SATURDAY 24TH  
JANUARY 2026**



**BOOK ONLINE NOW**  
[www.NonStopAction.co.uk](http://www.NonStopAction.co.uk)



  
**Ofsted**

## Online Course

# Stronger Relationships

For parents and other adult carers living together or apart. **For Enfield Fathers and Male Caregivers Only,**  
Group starting on Wednesday 18 February at  
7:30pm



- Do you want to get some new ideas to help you be an even better parent?
- Would you like to reduce the arguments and disagreements in your family and cope better with stress?
- Would you like to enhance your relationship with your current partner, or improve communication with your ex or the other people helping to raise your children?
- How about learning at a time that suits you?



### What to expect...

- Information on strategies to identify and reduce arguments.
- Hear from other parents and carers.
- Downloadable worksheets and hand-outs.
- Videos, quizzes and interactive activities.
- Do sessions at a time that works for you.
- Weekly support from our course experts.

### Topics covered...

- Healthy adult relationships.
- Identifying and managing disagreements.
- Understanding how conflict affects your children.
- Enhancing parent-child relationships.
- Managing stress, anger and emotions.
- Strategies to resolve conflict and create a parenting agreement

### Group discussion...

1. Speak to a course expert and get answers to some of the questions you might have
2. Talk about how the strategies are going at home.
3. Address other difficulties relating to your relationships.
4. Hear from others about what works for them.

Find out more or register for the course by scanning the QR code or emailing us at:  
[sfscparent@racefound.org.uk](mailto:sfscparent@racefound.org.uk)



# Join a GP today

Anyone can  
register for free

Health support for  
you and your family



[nhs.uk/register](https://nhs.uk/register)

**ENFIELD**  
Council 

# Get the right care for you and your family by registering with a GP practice

Being registered with a GP practice helps make sure you and your child can get the right care, at the right time - from vaccinations and check-ups to everyday health concerns.

## Anyone can register with a GP practice

You are entitled to register and receive care from a GP practice, regardless of your circumstances.

### You do not need:

- Proof of address
- Proof of immigration status
- Identification (ID)
- An NHS number

### How to register

Simply contact your local GP practice:

- Visit the practice and ask the reception team for help to register

Or find out more at [nhs.uk/register](https://nhs.uk/register)



[nhs.uk/register](https://nhs.uk/register)



TOGETHERNESS

NHS

## Daily steps towards confident parenting

Online learning about child development, behaviour and wellbeing.

