

# **FAITH, FAMILY AND FELLOWSHIP**

## **Celebratory news from across the Koinonia Federation**

October 2022

### ***A message from the Executive Co-Headteachers***

We hope you enjoyed the half term break.

Welcome to our first edition for this new academic year. As always, we have plenty of news to celebrate and share with you.

Earlier in the term all phases and campuses took the time to reflect on the gifts God provides for us and how we can share these. Thank you to everyone who donated food which has been gratefully received by the food bank.

Last month we celebrated Black History Month and our final week of the half term included lots of fun activities for the primary phase and an opportunity to celebrate our diversity. We would like to say a special thank you to Miss Shah who organised the week across our primary campuses.

Some of you may have seen our secondary phase on BBC's Panorama TV documentary recently. Mr Kirkham, alongside all of the secondary Heads of Year and pastoral team work tirelessly to support our students with so much compassion and perseverance. We are really proud to see our Federation's ethos shine through in the documentary highlighting the support we give our students.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Harrison and Mrs Wainwright

#### **A prayer from Rev. Dominic Hubbuck**

In a fast-paced world of changes and growth, it is vital that we remember the things that don't change.

God love for us, the beauty of God's creation (Faith), the people around us who are there to support and encourage us (Family), and those who gather for the same purpose as us - learning and growing in good ways (Fellowship).

As we look back, let us give thanks for the things that have gone well.

As we look forward, may we pray for wisdom to grow and improve.

As we remember, help us to love as Jesus loved, live as the Apostles lived who tried to bring Good News and strive as those who work for justice and peace in our world.

Amen.

# Harvest

This term all of our students and staff took part in our Harvest services across all phases and campuses.

We considered the largest gift we have been gifted – God's amazing World, we thought of the most special presents we have been given and thought of Jesus being a gift given to change the world for us, and we thought of the gift that God continues to give each day – whether we recognise it or not – His eternal and unfailing love for us.

His world, His Son, His love. And as we reflect on these gifts, we receive and pass on gifts for our food bank to show love to those who are in more need than we are.

Rev Hubbuck

## St Mary Magdalene - Woolwich

We were delighted to have our harvest service at St Mary Magdalene Church. Thank you to all the parents that have donated so much especially in this challenging time. With the food collected we are able to support our local community as well as 12 of our families.



## Christ Church

At Christ Church School, we collected donations for the Harvest service and then took them to the Greenwich Foodbank. We donated a massive 112.9kg of food!!



## St Mary Magdalene - Peninsula

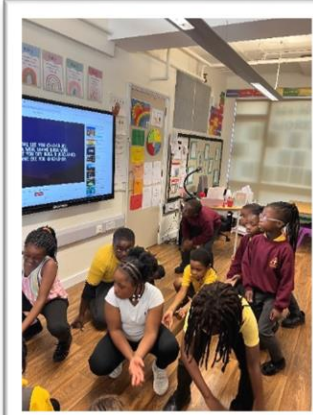


We celebrated Harvest festival at the Peninsula Primary Campus on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October. It was led by Rev Dom and the pupil faith team. We appreciate your donations which go a long way to help local families who use the foodbank. It was lovely to have some parents join us for our service.



# Black History Month

## Black History - St Mary Magdalene Woolwich



Year 3 Perry children listened to different genres of music such as reggae, afrobeat, soul and gospel. The class talked about how the music made them feel, they talked about the instruments they can hear. The children danced to Jerusalem (South African) and Buba (Nigerian). They had fun doing all the dance steps.

Mrs Amao

In Cooper Class, the children have been very busy celebrating Black History Month. They took part in a workshop exploring the foods of African countries and even designed our own meal.

They also put a lot of work into our Key Person projects and presented them to the class. They learnt about footballers, singers, actors, politicians and more who have influenced our lives and deserve to be celebrated. The children read the story, "Why the Sky is Far Away", a Nigerian Folktale. The moral of the story was not to waste and appreciate what we have. We chose to recreate some of the beautiful pictures from the story so that we can retell the story in the future.

Mrs Laird



In Reception Hawkins Class they learnt about the author Floella Benjamin and her book coming to England and also made patterns in the colours of the Jamaican flag. The children played the African drums and created African musical beats.

Ms Shah

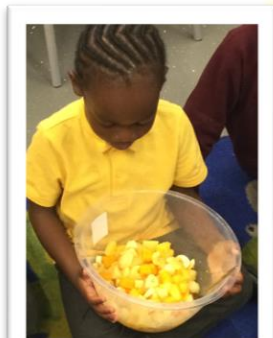


## Black History - St Mary Magdalene Peninsula



The Nursery children read the book 'Sulwe' and did some mark making and discussion about the story. The book is by author Lupita Nyong'o, and is about colourism and self esteem and learning that true beauty comes from within. Nursery also learnt about a popular Afro-Caribbean fruit called plantain and we had a go at making & tasting it ourselves. Yum!

We have had a busy week in Reception celebrating many aspects of Black History! We started the week learning about the impressive Maasai jumpers and giving it a go ourselves. We have also been learning about the Djembe drums, played in West African countries and we learnt how to play the beat which is traditional to djembe drumming 'The King Is Coming.' We also celebrated the amazing artwork of Alma Woodsey Thomas and created our own artwork inspired by the dots and bright colours she used. To end the week, we made 'After-Chop' a West African fruit salad- it was delicious and we especially enjoyed the ripe mango! Not to mention, learning about Floella Benjamin and her journey from Trinidad to England.



Pupils in Year 5 got to take part in a Black History workshop and looked at African fashion, patterns & symbols. Year 5 and 6 attended a dance workshop led by Miss Bofo, who taught the children some afrobeat dance moves. The children really enjoyed taking part in a dance off battle between each other.

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October we had parents join us for an International Food Tasting session. Many thanks to those who joined us and also provided food for all to taste. The parents had some noodles, dumplings, cheesy pasta, spinach rice, sweet and sour chicken, chicken kiev as well as a Russian salad to try.



Pupils in Year 4 were taught the dance moves to **"Peru"** an Afrobeat song by Fireboy DML who did a collaboration with Ed Sheeran. Hoping for a shout out on social media from Fireboy.

A message from Fireboy:

*Shout out to the pupils at the primary phase of St Mary Magdalene CE School in Greenwich. As part of their learning during Black History Month, they have learnt some dance moves to \*Peru\*. Hope you sang along and enjoyed the rhythm of the song.*

<https://twitter.com/StMaryMagPri?s=08>

### **Christ Church – Black History Month**

Throughout October the pupils at Christ Church took part in a number of events and activities to learn about and celebrate Black History Month.

During the last week of term, the whole school celebrated Black History Month with daily sessions that focused on widening the children's knowledge and experiences. Pupils learned about many figures in black history, about different cultures, music they also heard stories from around the world.



### **Workshops**

All classes took part in a range of interactive workshops where the children learned about different aspects of Black History. The themes of these workshops included: The Power of Symbols, The Power of Fashion, Icons and Heritage, Science and maths, Education and Food, Multiculturalism

Pupils also attended the local library where they took part in storytelling and drumming workshops.



### **Home Learning Projects**

We are really proud of all the pupils who carried out home learning projects to find out about significant individuals from Black History. These projects were well researched and presented creatively.

### **International Food Tasting Day**

We finished the month by holding an international food tasting day. This was a wonderful opportunity for the pupils to share food from the different cultures represented in our school community. Pupils came to school dressed in clothing that represented their cultural heritage. Classes enjoyed sharing the different dishes and learning about one another. We would like to say a huge thank you to all the families who contributed food for this event

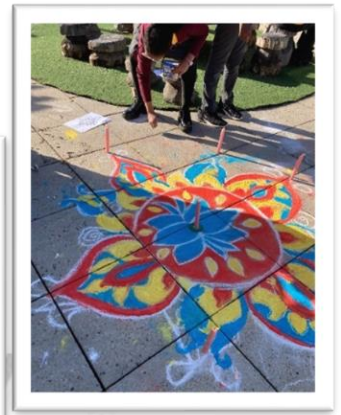




# Primary Phase

## St Mary Magdalene - Woolwich

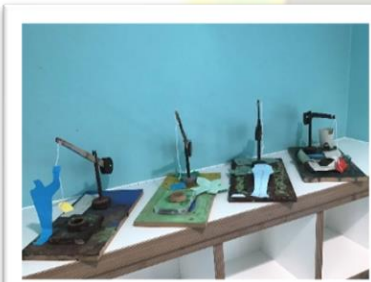
Royal Museums Greenwich and the Old Royal Navy College are collaborating on an extraordinary illuminations display to celebrate Diwali, a programme curated by the South Asian arts collective Common Ground. Year 6 Einstein created rangoli patterns for an Art competition, which is going to be held at the Queen's Building in Greenwich.



By participating in this project pupils have the opportunity to explore global celebrations and traditions and see their creations projected onto a major venue in the centre of Greenwich. The show also includes Reflections, a captivating sound art installation projected onto the Queen's House facade, the film has never been seen in London before and is created by musician, composer, and producer BISHI. Rangoli patterns are drawn near door steps during the Diwali festival, in Hindu culture. Rangoli patterns are a sign of how Hindus invite Goddess Lakshmi into their homes. Children in Year 6 worked as a team and used chalk and powder paints to produce this rangoli pattern on the roof terrace. We are very proud of their results which we have entered into the competition.

Ms Virdee

## Ancient Egyptian - St Mary Magdalene Peninsula



Year 4 enjoyed researching, designing and making Ancient Egyptian Shadufs. With the help of the secondary DT department, we constructed our structures and painted them. We are very pleased with our shadufs as they actually move!

Mrs King

## Macmillan Cake Sale - St Mary Magdalene Woolwich

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September, parents and staff donated cakes home made and shop bought to sell after school to raise money for Macmillan cancer research. A total of £141.65 was raised!

Ms Thomas

## Pre-Loved Uniform

Are you looking for school uniform?

Are you worried about the cost of school uniform?

Are you happy for your child to wear pre-loved school uniform? If you can answer YES to all these questions then speak to your Home School Link Worker

Ms Thomas – SMM W

Ms Williams – SMM P

Ms Lamont - CC

If you have any uniform that you would like to donate and is still in good condition, please speak to our Home School Link Work

Primary Home School Link Workers

# Secondary Phase

## Baroness Garden of Frognal visit

Year 11 History and A Level Politics students were delighted to welcome Baroness Garden of Frognal to school to speak about her role in the House of Lords. The Baroness told students all about the history of the House of Lords, who can be a peer, what their role is and a range of other interesting facts. She then answered their questions about her role, parliament and politics in general. A Level student had researched the Baroness prior to her visit and were well prepared to ask her about a range of political topics that she answered with incredible detail. What a wonderful, once in a lifetime morning for our students!

### Student Quotes:

Jake: "The fact that the Baroness could come into school in her own time just to educate us was incredibly considerate of her."

Aiste: "It was inspirational to see how someone from an ordinary background could come and educate other ordinary people about her extraordinary work in the House of Lords."

Kenzo: "It gave me a new perspective on peers as she has a very welcoming aura and was incredibly down to earth."

Ms Leach



## Uniform Swap Shop

The St Mary Magdalene Uniform Swap Show is now open. We appealed to parents for donations of uniform and in return offer a free breakfast latter in the week.

We really do feel this could be a fantastic opportunity for the school to help provide practical support for our community and with your help I am sure we could make this a success.

Mr Gayle



## Secondary Phase

## BBC Panorama

The BBC Panorama team has been investigating how Covid lockdowns have left a legacy of persistent absence amongst some students, and some schools are under pressure to get them back through the gates. The BBC education editor Branwen Jeffreys focused on three schools and how they have had different approaches to this challenge. Our school highlighted the challenges behind school attendance. The work we do with the charity Football Beyond Borders. It's positive and supportive approach has led to increased attendance; engagement and attainment of its students with Bradley currently in Year 11 and Head of Year Mr. Kirkham, featured in the documentary which highlighted our caring and compassionate ethos.



### New York Trip – Year 10 & 11

At the start of October some of our Year 10 & 11 students visited New York. After an extended journey due to the seemingly ever-present airline delays, St Mary Magdalene finally made it to New York City. All tiredness washed away as the edifices of New York emerged on the horizon. Students and staff alike were overwhelmed as we disembarked our coach into the bombast of Times Square. Dinner gave students a proper taste of Broadway as the waitresses offered a side of showtunes to accompany the American cuisine. Appetites fully sated, the group ambled past Broadway's billboards to their hostel and bed.

The rest of the week was filled with site-seeing and culture. Students and staff alike got their steps in (minimum of 40,000 a day) as they went on a whirlwind tour of the Guggenheim, Museum of Natural History, Top of the Rock, the Statue of Liberty, Museum of Immigration and Central Park, before staff finally relented and allowed students to engage in some retail therapy.

Legs suitably sore and sites seen, our intrepid explorers embarked on a red-eye return flight to London.

I would like to extend my thanks to students for being excellent ambassadors for our school, as well as to staff for their support.

Mr Freeburn





# Sixth Form

## Year 12 volunteering

This term the new Year 12s have begun weekly volunteering as a part of their 6<sup>th</sup> form careers provision, with the aim to increase interpersonal skills and employability whilst also fostering compassion for their community. Some of the places our students are volunteering are charity shops, libraries, primary schools and tutoring younger students within our secondary school.

## Y12 Guest speaker – Minal Sthankiya (National Security Communications)

Across the Autumn term the Y12s who expressed interest in public sector, creative & business careers have been attending careers sessions in school, before they swap to volunteering in the community in Spring. Recently the students were visited by Minal Sthankiya, a member of National Security Communications for Prime Ministers Cabinet office. The students were able to gain an insight into working in the Ministry or Defence as well as other areas of the Civil Service.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Form Guest speaker – Kat Jones (Ardent Recruitment)

An assembly was delivered to the 6<sup>th</sup> form by Kat Jones, a member of Ardent Legal Recruitment. The focus of this was looking at what labour market information (LMI) is and how to access LMI specific to both Greenwich specifically and also London. This will help students to assess which career sectors are likely to grow and expand in the coming years and thus have a larger number of jobs, as well as what salaries look like in different jobs and sectors. Students were also provided with information on what employers are looking for when hiring entry level graduates, in terms of both hard skills and soft skills.

Ms Botha



# This Half Term's Sports News

## Y8 Football

Bexleyheath Academy 1-5 SMM  
Prendergast Ladywell 5-3 SMM – Blackheath Cup first round

## Y10 Football (Photo of game vs BA to the right)

SMM 5-3 Greenwich Free school  
SMM 2-1 Bexleyheath Academy

## Y11 Football (Team photo below)

SMM 14-1 Greenwich Free School  
St Thomas More 2-2 SMM (SMM win 1-3 on penalties).



## Y10/11 Girls Football

Colfes 3-5 SMM – Blackheath Cup first round

## Y7 Rugby

Y7 played an in-house friendly Rugby match at Charlton Park Rugby Club and loved it!





### **Y9 Netball**

The Y9 Netball Team finished top of the league at the Greenwich Schools Netball Tournament on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October. They won 3 of their games and drew 1 of their games. Player of the Tournament: Sacha Stewart!

### **Cross Country**

Well done to those who ran in the Greenwich Schools Cross Country Event on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October. The team had to run a 3km cross-country route against pupils from different schools within the Greenwich Borough.



### **Primary Woolwich Campus Sports Update**



Each week in Year 4, the children have been learning new cricket skills with coaches from Platform Cricket. We have been learning how to bat, bowl with a straight arm and how to field well as a team. Well done to everyone in Year 4!

Children from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 have competed in bench ball and dodge ball competitions against other local schools in Nightingale School. The children represented themselves and the school really well. They even came second in the dodgeball tournament. Well done to everyone who took part!

Mrs Laird

