

# **FAITH, FAMILY AND FELLOWSHIP**

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

March 2022

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

Welcome to the fourth issue of our Federation Newsletter.

It has certainly been another busy half term with nine Easter services, three Easter bonnet parades, Year 6 Mock SATs week, mock GCSEs and our first ever Year 12 mock exams. Residential trips have taken place for the first time since the pandemic started and we have completed a whole Spring term uninterrupted since 2019.

Unfortunately, the effects of COVID have continued to have an impact on the Federation and its communities. Staffing has been extremely challenging to manage with high cases of COVID hitting our different schools at various times. Staff absence has put a further strain on everyone and leaders have worked so hard in order for us to keep all classes open with face-to-face teaching.

The Easter break will be an opportunity for staff and pupils to reset, refresh and reflect on the term. We are very proud of the many successes and achievements that have taken place over this term and would like to thank all the staff for going above and beyond.

We hope you enjoy reading about our good news stories this month. With best wishes for an enjoyable Easter break.

Mrs Harrison and Mrs Wainwright

We are very pleased to announce that St Mary Magdalene has been awarded a Bronze award for one of London's Healthy school. The primary phase have worked hard to promote a healthy lifestyle, which including encouraging children to eat a healthy snack for break times and eating a healthy lunch. The children also engage in lots of physical activities which promotes well-being and a healthy lifestyle.



### **Easter Prayer**

God of glory,  
by the raising of your Son  
you have broken the chains of sin and death:  
fill your Church and your world with faith and hope;  
for a new day has dawned  
and the way to life stands open  
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen

May God bless you this Easter.

# Primary Phase

## World Book Day 2022

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022, the primary campuses celebrated World Book Day. Our theme this year was 'animal stories' and we all spent a fun-filled day learning about and listening to new and traditional animal stories from all over the world.

The children enjoyed a range of exciting activities. Some of the activities were: Year 5 made origami Elephant bookmarks inspired by the story 'The Girl Who Stole an Elephant', and Year 2 went on a minibeast hunt! Year 6 read the poem 'The Owl and the Pussycat' and made pompom owls and Reception played games and created artwork based on traditional animal tales and Year 2 made egg-box crocodiles inspired by Roald Dahl's 'The Enormous Crocodile'.



The highlight of the day was a story telling assembly led by Reverend Dominic. Reverend Dominic told us all two stories: a traditional Yoruk story, 'How the Animals Got Their Tails' and the Aesop's Fable 'The Lion and the Mouse'. We listened in wonder as Reverend Dominic brought these animal stories to life using puppets and his wonderful story telling technique. It was great fun when we all got to join in with the actions and songs.

World Book Day 2022 was a brilliant day, enjoyed by all. We already can't wait for next year!

Miss John, Miss Baptiste and Mrs Gibbs

## Bishop's Lent Call

The primary campuses will be collecting coins for Lent to support the Bishop's Lent call and presenting a cheque from each campus at Southwark Cathedral when the pupils visit on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May. The theme is **Home** - Isaiah 32:18 is the scriptural theme.

As well as the many projects the Bishop's Lent Call fund across the continent of Africa, this year they are also supporting a local project called Robes, a local charity that supports homeless people in the local area. We are asking pupils across the campuses to bring in any spare coins to make a house with which will be photographed. On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April, the Pupil Faith Teams will lead a Collective Worship about it in each campus. More information about the Lent call can be found using this website - <https://southwark.anglican.org/news-events/events/lent-call/>

## Mother's Day Workout – St Mary Magdalene

On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March Mr Bamigbola led a dance routine that the children had learned during their dance club for the Mother's Day workout. About 30 Mums at the Woolwich campus attended and they were joined by their children and other classes.

The Mums really enjoyed themselves and said there should more events like this! Miss Thomas (HSLW)





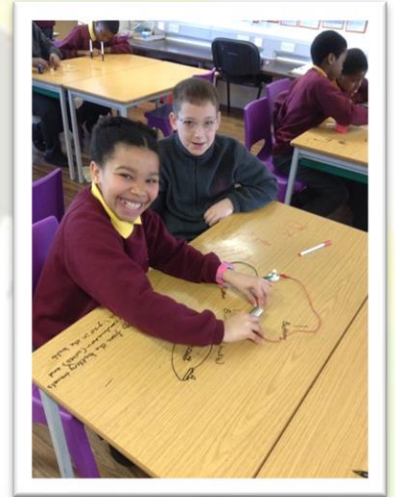
# Primary STEM Week

In the week beginning the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022, Christ Church and St Mary Magdalene Schools celebrated STEM week. Their theme this year was 'Why?' Throughout the schools we explored a range of exciting scientific investigations over the week based on this theme.

## St Mary Magdalene, Woolwich

Year 6 investigated why it is important to brush your teeth. They looked at the chemical reaction of vinegar on egg shells to understand the effect of plaque acid on our teeth and then we compared different toothpastes by analysing their effectiveness. Year 2 explored the difference between magnetic and non-magnetic materials and questioned why some materials are drawn to magnets. It was very exciting to see the results!

Year 4 looked at different varieties of plants and asked questions about why they look and smell a certain way and what they need to survive. Year 3 investigated the question: What is the quickest way to melt ice and why? Predictions were made and then investigated – it was a fantastic afternoon! Year 5 created electrical circuits and questioned why some electrical circuits will light a bulb, whilst others will not.



The Reception and Year 1 classes explored the theme of growth. Year 1 created their own slime and used their measuring skills to see how far their slime would stretch! Makeba class investigated how and why seeds grow into plants and they enjoyed planting their own seeds in individual pots. Hawkins class used their knowledge of measuring to record their heights. They then created repeating patterns to show how tall they are.

STEM Week 2022 was a fantastic week, enjoyed by all. To quote our Year 1 children: "We love Science Week!"

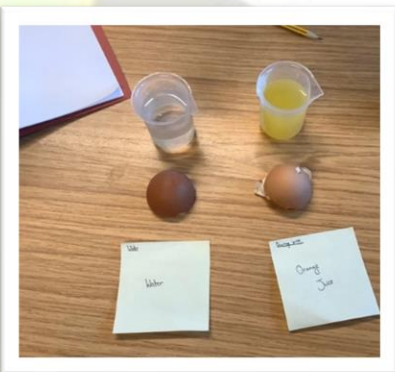
## St Mary Magdalene, Peninsula

Reception Class made their own exploding volcanoes!



Year 1 created their own slime and use their measuring skills to see how far their slime would stretch!

Year 2 learnt about sorting materials. They used marbles and Lego as materials and investigated how they could roll their marbles away from the Lego without picking them.



Year 6 investigated the effects sugary drinks has on teeth! They placed eggs in a range of drinks. After several hours, they then identified the effects the drinks had on the egg shell.

## Christ Church

In Year 6 at Christ Church, they were testing and investigating blood circulation by doing head stands! Faces turn pink, your head hurts, your head feels funny and when you come back up you feel dizzy. One pupil also said their feet went a bit numb!

Year 5 were having fun learning about electrical circuits, testing which components will affect the brightness of a bulb. Making predictions and testing them.

They looked at 'The Big Question' which coincided with our theme of the year- WHY.





# Secondary Phase

## Year 8 Poetry Pilgrimage

A group of year 8 students took part in an interactive walking tour of Central London to learn about the history of English poetry from Chaucer to the modern day. The students had a brilliant day exploring sites such as: Borough Market, Westminster Bridge, St. Pauls Cathedral and the oldest street in London! The students learnt lots about poetic form and structure and gave brilliant answers as well as asking thought-provoking questions. Well done Nekemka, Ezra, Ameer, Ela, Robin, Kayla, Luxci, Abigail, Billy and Gavin!

Miss Geldart

## Jack Petchey Event

On 10th February, 30, Year 10 students took part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge workshop. They spent the whole day finding their voices and wrote speeches about topics they had a passion for. After a tough day of performing and rigorous writing, the first set of competitions took place. Through this process, two students (Abraham Bruce Ruyonga and Nneamaka Odu) were elected to represent our school in the regional borough finals at John Roan School.

On 30<sup>th</sup> March, Abraham and Nneamaka proudly represented our school in the regional competitions. The competition was extremely tough and they were up against worthy competitors. Although St Mary Magdalene didn't win, it took great courage for both students to stand up on the stage and speak in front of strangers. The English department is immensely proud of both candidates and hopes it encourages students to participate for the JPSOC next year.



Miss Jacobs

## Hamilton

On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February our secondary students performed an adaptation of the critically acclaimed musical, Hamilton. The performing arts department, led by Mr McInnis, put on a spectacle of a show to staff and students which included singing, dancing and acting with over 60 performers involved. Alexander Hamilton was played by Jericho 8CDK, definitely a superstar in the making!



A special thank you to Mr McInnis, Miss Douglas, Ms Fahy and Miss Mensah.

Our Dance group are now preparing for a performance at the Queen's Jubilee this June.

## Tuesday Lunchtimes

Every Tuesday lunchtime, Greenwich Youth for Christ take over the chapel at St Mary Magdalene, Peninsula campus. Offering games, topical conversations, fun and qualified youth workers to talk to – our young people discuss the news headlines of the week and what they mean to them, discuss issues of faith and dilemmas. They play games and laugh a lot.

GYFC run youth activities across this area and work with local churches to support them to engage with local young people in positive ways.

Rev Hubbuck



# Sixth Form

## Lion King

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March the Sixth Form students went to the Lyceum Theatre to watch The Lion King.

It was a great experience for the students which they all greatly enjoyed.

Sixth Form are hoping to plan more trips like this in the near future.



## Higher Education and Careers Event

On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March the Sixth Form students took part in a Higher Education and Careers Event with an opportunity for students to speak with visitors relating to their university applications and experiences.

The table below include the speakers of the day and what they discussed with the students.



Provider	Talk
Civil Service	What is the Civil Service?
Ravensbourne University	Creative Progression Routes and Careers
University of Greenwich	Academic skills and university transition workshop
Middlesex University	Choosing a Course and University
Westminster University	How to Apply

# Residential Trips

## Year 4 School Journey – Primary Campuses

On 13<sup>th</sup> March until 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022, our Year 4 pupils from across the primary campuses went to the PGL centre in Swindon.

The pupils activities for the week included, climbing, zip lining, archery, giant swing, a challenge course, abseiling, raft and buggy building, canoeing, a sensory trail followed by a disco on the final night. The pupils showed great enthusiasm and resilience, overcoming any fears and gaining great personal achievements on their own. The pupils also showed superb teamwork throughout the week, establishing great bonds with the pupils in different Year 4 classes across the campuses.



## KS4 Iceland

On 4<sup>th</sup> March, Year 10 and 11 students along with Miss Brady, Miss Hickman and Mr Freeburn visited Iceland as part of their Geography project work.

The students stayed in Iceland for 4 days and took part in activities in the Blue Lagoon as well as all day excursions to the Golden Circle and South Shore.





# This Half Term's Sports News

## U13 Girls Rugby

The U13 Girls Rugby Team won the Greenwich Schools Tournament and qualified to represent Greenwich in the London Youth Games where they competed against schools across London. The team remained unbeaten through the group stages, winning two and drawing two. They then progressed to the knockout stages and finished with an impressive fourth place!

Players of the Tournament: Tamilore and Idman.

## U13 Boys Rugby

The U13 Boys Rugby Team competed in the Greenwich School Spring Cup and put on a dominant display. They won all of their games, scoring a total of 32 tries and conceding just 3!

SMM 7-0 Trinity School

SMM 7-1 Thomas Tallis

SMM 9-1 Harris Academy Greenwich

SMM 9-1 Leigh Academy Blackheath

Players of the Tournament: Elroy, Nekemka and Ameer.

## Y8 Boys Football

The Y8 Boys Football Team unfortunately just missed out on a place in the final of the Blackheath Cup after defeat in the semi-final. The team were unbeaten in all competitions up until this point, an excellent run!

Player of the Competition: Sonny.

## Y11 Boys Football

The Y11 Boys Football Team unfortunately just missed out on a place in the semi-final of the London Cup after defeat in the quarter-final. This is the furthest any team from SMM has got in this particular competition.

Player of the Competition: Michael.

## Y9 Girls Netball

Our Girls Netball Team recently came second in the Greenwich Schools Netball Tournament. The team won all of their games through the group stages but unfortunately were beaten in the final. Second place is an excellent effort and well deserved after all of their recent hard work!

Player of the Tournament: Sacha.

## All Years Athletics

We have lots of exciting opportunities in Athletics coming up in the next few months. We will be competing in the Greenwich School Championships, Cambridge Cup, London Athletics Championships and SMM Sports Day. There is an 'open invite' Athletics Trial Day at Sutcliffe Park on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April. If you would like to enter yourself for an event, please speak to Mr Lawrence. This is a great way to compete and try out new events against likeminded pupils from across the borough.

Mr Lawrence