



**ST MARY MAGDALENE SCHOOL
WOOLWICH CAMPUS**
Spring 2020 Newsletter – Number 2



Welcome Back. We hope you all had a much-needed rest over the half term.

THIS TERM WE ARE FOCUSING ON FAITH AND WILL LOOK AT COMMITMENT THIS HALF TERM.

Therefore my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:58

HAPPY SCHOOL BAG

A huge thank you to all our families and staff who donated unwanted clothing items to the 'Happy School Bag' fundraising scheme. This organization helps lower our planet's pollution by recycling old clothes instead of them going to landfill. The scheme also helps disadvantaged people afford quality second-hand clothing at affordable prices. We donated a whopping 818 kilograms! As a result, this has raised £490.80 for school funds.

THURSDAY CELEBRATORY COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Class assemblies will take place through the Spring and Summer term and you are welcome to come along and find out what your children have been learning about. Please see below the Class Collective Worship schedule for parents:

Reception - Makeba Class – Thursday 12th March at 10am
Year 1 - Equiano Class – Thursday 19th March at 10am
Year 4 - School Journey Presentation – Thursday 26th March at 10am
Year 2 - Dahl Class – Thursday 2nd April at 10am

Many thanks for your continued support. The children look forward to seeing you there.

YEAR 4 SCHOOL JOURNEY

Year 4 will be off on their residential on Monday 9th– Friday 13th March. They will be going to Rock UK which is in Northampton, Norfolk Lakes. Miss Olaleye, Miss Thomas, Miss Rahman and Mrs Sullivan will be accompanying the classes. Our children will be taking part in a range of activities aimed at developing teamwork. We will send a daily text to keep you updated. The children and staff are really looking forward to going.

CLASS TRIPS

Our children thoroughly enjoyed their class enrichment trips last half term. Year 6 visited the Old Operating Theatre, offering an insight into the history of medicine and surgery. Year 3 spent the day at the Creekside Discovery Centre in Deptford Creek. Year 4 visited the Gurdwara Sahib in Woolwich linked to their RE topic on Sikhism. Year 5 visited the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich and Year 2, the Science Museum. Reception classes spent the morning at Woodlands Farm. Thank you to those parents and carers who were able to support us on these trips as often they are not possible without additional adults.

GOING CASHLESS

As you may already know St Mary Magdalene C of E School use School Gateway as a means of communication and for you to make payments to the school. We aim to become a 'cashless' school by September 2020 and therefore, ask for your help. Please download the School Gateway App or logging onto <https://schoolcomms.com/> via your computer or tablet to set up an account. When the school sends out a text message, if you have the app, this is where the message will appear and the school will not be charged, a great way for you to help us save money. If you are unable to make payments via the app or website you can request a Paypoint Voucher from the school office. This will enable you to make the payment at any Paypoint outlet using the voucher which will have a barcode that is unique to your child. Please speak to our office staff if you require any further information or help downloading the App.

STEM WEEK/NUMBER DAY

We celebrated STEM Week at the end of last half term. The focus of STEM week was on 'our diverse planet' and the children took part in lots of fun and exciting activities involving investigations and experiments.



The Friday of STEM week also saw the first St Mary Magdalene times table tournament. The school enjoyed fantastic performances from all the class champions and everyone was amazed by the accuracy and speed of the answers. The year group winners were:

Year 6: Deborah
Year 5: Aaron
Year 4: Isaac
Year 3: Fejiro
Year 2: Adam
Year 1: Chuwkubuyoim

In a keenly fought final, Deborah was the overall champion. Many congratulations to her. Who will be next year's winner? It could be you; start practising now. Thanks to Mr Smith who organised this event.

EARLY BIRD READING IN RECEPTION CLASSES

It is fantastic to see so many parents and carers joining their Reception child in class to read together. The children relish the opportunity to have a family member share a story book in the comfort of their classroom before lessons. If you would like to come along on a Wednesday morning and read with your child in the Reception class then please speak to your child's class teacher.

If you have any spare time and would like to be a regular volunteer reader in school, we would very much like to speak with you. In the first instance, please register your interest with Miss Thomas (Home School Link Worker).





JUNIOR TRAVEL AMBASSADORS



Mr Richardson is the school's Travel Plan Coordinator and is working closely with the Local Authority to encourage all stakeholders in sustainable and healthier ways of travelling to and from school/work that doesn't rely on car use. The Junior Travel Ambassadors are Tabitha, Temi, Sarah and Adaeze from Curie Class. They recently conducted a travel survey outside the school area; details and actions from this will follow.

Please continue to park safely when dropping off and picking up your children. Traffic Wardens have been monitoring the area on Kingsman street regularly. Please do not stop or park on the yellow zig zags as this is illegal and unsafe for our children; you could get a fine and points on your license.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE

SMMW are currently competing in football leagues, taking place after school at the Meridian Sports Club and competing against other schools in Greenwich. For the very first time we have a girls' football team. The girls' league began in December and is running until the end of April. The girls' team got off to a very successful start with several wins under their belts against Alexander McLeod, Fossdene and Christchurch Shooters Hill. The boy's league began in January and will run until June. The team have also impressed in their first few matches against local schools, including wins over Cardwell and Heronsgate. Both teams are doing the school proud and we wish them the best in their future matches. Thanks to Mrs Laird and members of staff who give up their time after school to take the children to these events.

LOST PROPERTY

There is a lost property box allocated in the playground outside Reception - Makeba classroom. Please ensure all clothing items are clearly labelled.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

WORLD BOOK DAY – Thursday 5th of March 2020. Details already sent out. Dress up as a fairy-tale character
SPORTS RELIEF – Friday 13th March – children to wear their sports clothes and will take part in a sponsored mile – details to follow
EASTER SERVICE IN THE CHURCH: Tuesday 31st March – EYFS/KS1 at 10am. Year 3 and 4 at 2pm. Thursday 2nd April – Year 5 and 6 at 10am. Parents and Carers are welcome to attend,
EASTER BONNET PARADE – Thursday 2nd April. More details to follow.
EASTER HOLIDAYS: Monday 6th April 2020 - Friday 17th April 2020. We break up at **2.00 pm** on Friday 3rd April. Parents are invited to the final collective worship at 1.15 pm. There **will be no** After School Club on this day.

The pupils' first day back to school after the holiday is **8.50 am** on Monday 20th April 2020.

THE START AND END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

School starts at 8.50am and all children should be in the playground by 8.45am. The school gates open at 8.30am every day. Pupils should be collected promptly from school at 3.15pm. All pupils line up in the playground and (apart from Reception pupils who are collected from their classroom door) should be collected from the Muga pitch at the end of the day.

~~Some children have been repeatedly collected/picked up late at the end of the school day. The school day ends at 3.15 pm. It is your parental responsibility to collect your child on time. This also applies to prompt collection if they are in attendance of any after school club. We are reviewing the current system and wanted to inform you that we may have to change or charge for children waiting for their older to be picked to be collected up siblings. The number of siblings waiting is now much greater than when we first moved into the building as well as the length of time that they need supervising. We are aware that at the end of the school day some of our primary pupils wait for their older siblings from the secondary phase to take them home. For over a year, we have been happy to provide 15 minutes free child care and supervise the children who are waiting. However, this has now become a staffing issue due to the lateness of the secondary aged students collecting their siblings. More recently, older siblings have been arriving after 3.30pm and frequently between 3.45–4pm. This has been due the secondary aged child receiving a same day detention or even forgetting that this role has been asked of them.~~

SOCIAL MEDIA

This year we have dealt with several incidents where some children have been using **WhatsApp** to say unacceptable things to one another. The legal age for having a WhatsApp account is 16+, therefore it is illegal for the children to be using this app. **Tik Tok** is a lip-syncing video app open to the world, so mature content can (and does) appear in the stream. Because of the access to inappropriate content, and the use of popular music that may contain explicit language, this is not an app for young children. **TikTok** is intended for 13+ years.

We urge parents and carers to monitor their child's use of their devices and the Apps they are accessing. Messages sent on group chats and online videos are seen by a wide audience. Therefore, please ensure that children are using Apps that are age appropriate and that they are showing respect and kindness to others whilst using their mobile phones or communicating online. **We as a school cannot accept responsibility for how the children use social media, this is the parent's responsibility.** As a school we do our best to educate our pupils in how to be safe online and also support the children to get on well with one another and resolve issues between them. Below are links where further information can be found:

WhatsApp: <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/wake-up-wednesday/whatsapp-guide-for-parents/>
 TikTok: <https://www.learningliftoff.com/what-parents-should-know-about-the-tik-tok-musical-ly-app/>

TELLING STORIES – MAKING SENSE OF THE WORLD:

This week I have had the opportunity to share stories with many of the children and young people around the federation. Stories from the Bible, stories out of books, traditional stories and also stories from my own life. Stories help us make sense of the world around us. We tell stories to explain what we are doing, how we got here and where we want to go in life. We tell stories to help us make sense of other people's behaviour, of the way people act to us and around us. We tell stories about ourselves and about other people all the time. Sometimes we tell them to other people and at other times we tell ourselves stories. But they are not always true: Elijah told himself a story that God was not with him, but God proved otherwise. Moses



ST MARY MAGDALENE SCHOOL WOOLWICH CAMPUS

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told himself a story that he was not good enough, but God convinced him that with God's help he would be great. Sometimes we tell ourselves that people won't like us, that they won't pick us, that they don't want us: But some of these stories are not true either. Why not practice telling yourself some new stories: A story that God loves you and wants the best for you, that if you do your best, give what you can and think kindly of others then good things can happen. Try remembering a story in your life when you succeeded in something, a story of when you laughed a lot, a story of when you felt cared for and encouraged. These are the stories that will help the world feel warmer and kinder. These are the stories that will help you see God at work in your life.

Rev. Dominic Hubbuck