

**TERM DATES**

School Year 2023-24

**Autumn Term**

INSET Day: 4th and 5th Sept

First day of Term: 6th Sept

Half Term:

23rd Oct to 27th Oct

Last day of Term: 20<sup>th</sup> Dec

INSET Day: 21<sup>st</sup> Dec

**Spring Term**

INSET Day: 8<sup>th</sup> Jan

First day of Term: 9<sup>th</sup> Jan

Half Term:

12<sup>th</sup> Feb to 16<sup>th</sup> Feb

Last day of Term:

28<sup>th</sup> Mar

**Summer Term**

INSET Day: 15<sup>th</sup> Apr

First day of Term: 16<sup>th</sup> Apr

Bank Holiday: 6th May

Half Term:

27<sup>th</sup> May to 31<sup>st</sup> May

Last Day of Term:

24<sup>th</sup> Jul

# IN TOUCH



Friday 17th May 2024

Issue 694

**VISION: Delivering excellence, allowing all to flourish**  
**MISSION: Creating a culture of wonder, guided by Christian Faith**  
**VALUES: COMPASSION - ENDURANCE - THANKFULNESS**

Congratulations to all of our Year Six children on completing their SATs this week. It is always amazing to me that the majority of children say they would do the whole week again. Although this may have something to do with the slap up breakfast they have had each morning—it is in a large part down to the preparation and support of the Year Six Teaching Team. My thanks go to them and to all of the staff who have supported the administration of the tests this week from the breakfast to the very last angle measurer! Thank you all!

Following a week of rigorous testing, the Year Sixes have headed to Wandsworth Park to let off some steam before the hard work begins again on Monday. Although, some view SATs as the end of a child's time at primary school, the children still have nine weeks of their education here at St. Mary's remaining and some would say what happens in those weeks is not only a rite of passage but just as important as the time that has gone before. I am very much looking forward to the KS2 performances in July which our Year Six children will lead and to watching them continue to grow as learners and young people over the remainder of the year.

One of the rites of passage that Year Six pupils look forward to is wearing their leavers hoodies until the end of term. This week's photo shows them all sporting their hoodies in the park! Looking good Year Six!

What a grand and glamorous evening we all had at the grandiose Great Gatsby Gala on Saturday! Huge thanks to Nikki for masterminding the event and to Baldo for a delicious meal that will have us all heading to Novikov in Mayfair. As always, at our events, it was fantastic to see the community coming together to have fun for the good of our school and most importantly for the children! Thank you to everyone who donated, bid and/or gambled at the event—or at home; and to everyone who helped to create or take down the event. I hugely appreciate all of the hard work that went into putting the event together, making it happen and tidying up afterwards. The total raised so far is estimated to be over £13,000 which is just AMAZING! Thank you everyone!

Three classes have been out on trips this week, extending their learning beyond the classroom. Year One and Two went to Holly Lodge, visits to which are now a fixed part of our outdoor learning curriculum. Year Three were invited to London's Central Mosque where they were able to see and experience in person the features of a mosque. The purpose built Central Mosque is an excellent example of a traditional mosque and children were encouraged to extend their understanding of the Islamic faith as part of their ongoing learning in Religious Education. As always, my thanks to the teams that sought out and made these experiences possible for the children.

Attendance has been great this week! We have achieved our target of 97% and it would be good to maintain this so that the overall figure at the end of the year is well over 97%. Attendance is currently a hot topic for the Department of Education and the Local Authority and we are being encouraged to monitor our figures rigorously. You can help us with this by ensuring your child is in school every day it is open and booking all holidays outside of term time. You can also help us by being honest about the reasons for absence. This would reduce the time that staff spend investigating where families are and means they can focus on the core purpose of their role which is ensuring your children receive the best education possible. We thank you for your support in this key area of our work.

Next week is national 'Walk to School Week' when children and their families are encouraged to try to walk ideally for all, but if not in part of their journey to and from school. We will be completing sticker charts in school. If you drive or get the bus—could you park a way from the school or get off the bus one or more stops earlier than usual and walk the rest of the way?

It's been great to be home at St. Mary's this week especially as the sun is out in force today. It always brings lots of smiles with it and it has been wonderful for the children to enjoy the weather outside. Long may it continue over the weekend. Whatever you are doing we wish you a very restful but fun week's end. Very best wishes, Cheryl Payne—Head Teacher



**School Attendance 23-24**

TARGET	97.0%
Autumn	95.5%
Spring	93.7%
Summer	
Week Beginning	
15/04	95.5%
22/04	94.9%
29/04	96.2%
06/05	96.4%
13/05	97.2%
20/05	
Total:	95%

**Family Points**

