



English Martyrs School, St. Mark Street, London E1 8DJ

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Headteacher - Miss B Nugent

Mission Statement "We are special people on a journey, growing and learning together in search of excellence, as we follow in the footsteps of Jesus."

Love - Respect - Honesty

Dear Parents,

10th February 2023

I wish you and your children a restful and healthy half term holiday. School reopens for all on Monday 20th February. Hopefully the weather will feel more like spring and we can shake off the bugs and infections that have caused so much misery this term.

Please pray for the people in Turkey and Syria affected by the earthquakes, as a school community we will respond to what we have seen on the news and encourage each class to think of a way to help. This may be through prayer, charity or other action. You too may wish to support the crisis through DEC, Disasters Emergency Committee. <https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/turkey-syria-earthquake-appeal>.

Catholic Life of the School - Thank you to Mrs Briggs our RE coordinator for the latest newsletter about RE in school and thank you to teachers and pupils for their hard work. Please see the newsletter on the website. Thank you to Fr Alex who has welcomed several classes into the church to teach them about The Eucharist and Sacrament of Reconciliation. Fr Ray supports the Faith Friends in their work to create opportunities for prayer and worship, they really appreciate his help. We will attend Mass in English Martyrs Church to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday as we start our Lenten journey.

Dates for 2023 -2024 - The Governing Body met on 1st February and approved the dates for 2023 -2024 which have been posted on the school website. Please take note of these dates and avoid booking holidays in term time as these cannot be authorised.

Half term holiday childcare scheme - The Tower Hamlets half term holiday childcare scheme will be held in St Mary & St Michael Primary School, Sutton Street, E1 OBD from Monday 13th until Friday 18th February (5 days). Applications can be made at the [Tower Hamlets](http://Tower Hamlets website) website.

Parents' Workshop - Thank you to EYFS parents who attended the Reading workshop with your children, I hope you got lots of ideas to encourage your child's reading, speaking, listening and imagination. Check out the poster 7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home under the 'Letters & Leaflets' section under the 'News' tab on our school website.

It was good to see some KS2 parents at the Grammar and Reading workshop. Parents who missed the workshop (especially from Years 5 and 6) should look at the Power Point Presentation in your class learning portal on the website.

Parent / Teacher Meetings - Open evening to meet with teachers to discuss your child's progress has been arranged for Tuesday 28th February. You will receive your appointment time after half term.

Home Learning - Please ensure that your child is able to access the following programmes that we have purchased for home learning.

Mathletics - Mathletics is a web-based learning program that integrates home and school learning via the internet. At English Martyrs we have noted a strong correlation between Mathletics use and good results in Maths. Pupils in Years 1 - 6 are set weekly tasks on Mathletics that are linked to the topics being covered in class. Please remind your child that they should work with a notebook for their jottings to acquire the correct answer. Videos with tutorials are attached to each task if extra support is necessary. Parents are encouraged to sign up to the Mathletics parent portal to receive Weekly Reports. These reports will provide you with details on your child's progress and achievement.

NumBots and Timetable Rockstars (TTRS) (Yr 2) - [NumBots](#) is an online maths game which supports children with their understanding, recall and fluency in mental addition, subtraction and number bond facts, so that they move from counting to calculating.

Pupils in Year 2 will be set a target of **12 minutes of NumBots per week**. In order to get the best out of NumBots, children should regularly play for short bursts so we would ask you to give them 3 minutes, four times a week. Additional information regarding NumBots, including instruction videos and parent guides can be found on the Year 2 class webpage.

Times Table Rock Stars (Yr 3-6) - [Times Tables Rock Stars](#) (TTRS) is a maths programme that takes all the worry out of learning times tables and has a proven track record of boosting children's fluency and recall in multiplication and division.

Pupils in Years 3 - 6 will be set a target of 15 minutes of Times Tables Rock Stars per week. We recommend a "little and often" approach; 3 minutes practice a day, 4 or 5 times a week. In particular, Year 4 pupils should embed this practice in preparation for their multiplication test in June.

Additional information regarding Times Tables Rock Stars, including instruction videos and parent guides can be found on your child's class webpage.

Sports News - Our playground ambassadors have prepared a rota to encourage a range of sports at playtimes so that we can enter teams into local tournaments. We will be entering Y5/6 teams in football, hockey and tag rugby competitions in the next half term. They already participated in a gymnastics competition and came 3rd and 5th, well done all. Year 3/4 events we could not attend due to other arrangements, hopefully there will be opportunities for them to compete in the future.

Choir - The choir from Years 6 & 5 will be participating in the 'Classical Roadshow' in Cadogan Hall on 9th March, the theme this year is the Battle of Britain.

Creative Writing Competitions - Congratulations to all our amazing Young Writers who used their imagination and creativity to write a story of 100 words in 'A Twist In The Tale' creative writing competition. Each of their stories will be published in 'A Twist In The Tale - Magical Tales'. Well done to all these aspiring young writers and thank you Mrs Pasha for nurturing their talent.

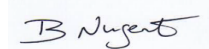
After half term all KS1 and 2 pupils will have creative writing workshops with Tower Hamlets Schools Library Services and the opportunity to enter this year's competition. Last year two pupils had their stories published, let's hope for more this year!

Lunch time menu - The menu will change in April, staff from Toby Lane catering service will provide a tasting session for parents to try a selection of the new dishes so you can encourage your child to try new foods from the new menu. The session will be held in the school hall from 2:30pm on Thursday 23rd March.

Education and Business Partnership - We are delighted to start our reading and number partner scheme with The Switch Partnership. City workers volunteer to spend time in school during lunchtime to help pupils with reading and maths. We had six volunteers starting this week.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Miss B Nugent

Dates for your diary

Ash Wednesday Mass in English Martyrs Church
World Book Day
School photographer
Easter Meditation
Reception Class Screening

Wednesday 22nd February 9.30am
Thursday 2nd March
Tuesday 14th March
Tuesday 28th March 2.30pm
Wednesday 29th March