



English Martyrs School, St. Mark Street, London E1 8DJ  
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[www.englishmartyrs.towerhamlets.sch.uk](http://www.englishmartyrs.towerhamlets.sch.uk)  
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.”

10<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents,

You will be pleased to hear that all the children have settled really well into the new routines established after the lengthy school - closure. Their teachers have enjoyed renewing their relationships with their class and reflecting on their experiences during closure. Through prayer and meditation they have created some beautiful and thoughtful work to celebrate this ‘September - *Season of Creation*’ in response to Pope Francis’ call to look after our world and each other.

We give thanks to God that we are all back safe and well and pray that we will enjoy the school year ahead without any interruptions. Fr Alex offered Mass in English Martyrs Church today for a happy and successful school year.

We welcome all our new parents and children and hope your time at English Martyrs will be happy and safe. We thank you in advance for your understanding and support as we start the new academic year with continuing restrictions. While parents are not allowed in school without an appointment you can still communicate with any staff via text and telephone.

Please do not send your child to school if they have signs of illness, especially a persistent cough, high temperature or loss of smell or taste. Schools must send children home and advise you to follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.

All children will move on to their new classrooms tomorrow, please note that they will continue to come in at the allocated time of 8:45am for Years 6, 4 and 1 and 8:55am for Years 2, 3 and 5. Years 5 and 6 will continue to use the St Mark St entrance.

We have reconsidered how siblings enter and leave and request that you use the allocated gate at the start and end of each day to avoid mixing with other class groups. Siblings in the afterschool club will use the same exit.

Teachers will soon provide you with details of their plans for school and home learning during the term. They will plan to deliver the full curriculum with a strong focus on Reading and Writing, please support with daily reading with your child.

Spanish lessons in Years 3-6 began on Wednesday with Ms Carmen Muros.

Music lessons will resume in October.

Mr Costello will start the weekly chess lessons in Year 5 on Friday.

The Sports coach will start lessons the week beginning September 21<sup>st</sup>. After School sports lessons will be confirmed later. These will be on a rota basis for specific year groups to keep ‘bubbles’ separate, Years 5/6 will be offered Autumn term, Y 3/4 Spring and Y1/2 Summer. Sports lessons will be in the playground as the hall is in use for after school club pupils.

**School Building Fund** - The School Building Fund is £45 per pupil per year or £100 for a family of three or more pupils. Whilst your contribution to the Building Fund is voluntary we trust that you will recognise the need for parental support in order to maintain our school buildings. Please contact the school office staff for details of payment methods including termly installments and Gift Aid.

**Pest Control** - We are aware of the increase in rodents around the school grounds, perhaps caused by the constant building works in the area. Please avoid dropping food in or around the school premises as this will exacerbate the problem.

**Water bottles** - Pupils should bring their water bottles to school daily as it is not permissible to use the water fountains.

**Governor Vacancy** - We would like to thank our two Parent Governors, Paulo and Tomas, for their hard work and dedication to our school. Paulo's term of office ended in May and Tomas has resigned his position due to work commitments which leaves two vacancies for the Parent Governor positions. You are invited to nominate yourself or another parent for the position. Details will follow to outline the role of governor and explain procedures for nominations and elections. I am happy to answer any queries you may have about the school or governing body role.

**Texting Service** - The school uses a texting service to inform parents of any changes to the normal school week. Please make sure that the school has up-to-date mobile telephone numbers to ensure we are able to register you for this service.

**School newsletter** - To ensure you receive all correspondence, please register on the school website at [www.englishmartyrs.towerhamlets.sch.uk](http://www.englishmartyrs.towerhamlets.sch.uk) and fill in your details on the 'Subscribe to newsletters' section at the foot of the Newsletters page under the News tab. Please inform the office if you would like a paper copy of the newsletter.

**Contact sheets** - Please ensure you return the yellow contact sheet with your current contact details to school as soon as possible with at least two parent/emergency contact numbers.

Yours sincerely,

Miss B Nugent