



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

13th January 2020

Dear Parents,

On behalf of all staff I wish you a belated happy, healthy and peaceful New Year and welcome back for Spring term 2020. I hope you had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends. We welcome our new pupils and hope they settle in well and feel very safe and happy in our school.

Condolences - We were sad to hear about the death of former member of staff and parishioner Mrs Margaret Bowen. She was a much valued and loved Teaching Assistant and Midday Meal Supervisor. Her artistic talent and sense of humour was much appreciated by all who worked with her, may she rest in peace. Her funeral will be at 11:00 a.m. from English Martyrs Church on Thursday 16th January. We extend our sincere sympathy to her daughter Colleen and family circle.

Curriculum Vision - In preparation for the National Curriculum 2019 Governors and Staff have been evaluating the curriculum we provide for all pupils. We have implemented our new 'Thematic Curriculum' for one year and are confident that it provides the full curriculum required. There is stronger emphasis on Phonics and Reading, without these skills pupils will be unable to access the wider curriculum. Our vision statement and revised curriculum will be published on the Website. Meanwhile teachers will inform you at the start of each term what they plan to teach across the curriculum, please keep up to date and share in your child's learning experiences.

Attendance and Punctuality - While attendance is generally quite good the number of late arrivals remains a concern. To help improve our attendance and punctuality please ensure your children arrive in the playground before 9.00am each morning and enter school accompanied by their class teacher. Pupils who arrive late will be given a 'late card' by the class teacher and will be required to remain in classroom during morning or lunchtime play to make up for lost time. It may also be necessary for your child to remain at the office until the lesson ends to avoid disturbing teachers and other pupils in their learning.

Autumn term 2019	% Attendance	Number of late arrivals
Nursery	88%	5
Reception	94%	67
Year 1	94%	93
Year 2	97%	131
Year 3	94%	67
Year 4	97%	56
Year 5	97%	89
Year 6	94%	90

Some worrying facts - 90% attendance amounts to 3½ weeks absence from school, missing approximately 90 lessons. 5 minutes late each day is equal to 3 days lost learning time, 10 minutes late each day equals 6½ days lost learning time and 15 minutes late each day equals 10 days lost learning time. Please consider the impact of absence and lateness on your child's learning.

Parental Support - Further to the assessments at the end of Autumn term we will be arranging workshops for parents to help guide you and inform you of best practice in helping your child with reading, spelling and writing. If you need any specific support with your child's learning please contact teachers or myself and we will assist as best we can.

Health and Safety and Security - To familiarise pupils with the various alarm sounds we will be practising fire drill, school evacuation to English Martyrs Church and 'safe space' in classrooms in the coming weeks. Please ask at the office if you need further details. Can we please remind parents and visitors to the school not to allow unknown people to follow them into the school.

Holiday Childcare Scheme - The Holiday Childcare Scheme will be held in St Mary and St Michael School, Sutton Street, London, E1 OBD from Monday 17th February until Friday 23rd February. Applications can be made through the Tower Hamlets website or by ringing 020 7364 0523.

School Council Toy Sale - The school council will shortly be holding a toy sale to raise funds to buy new equipment for the playground. They have asked children to bring in their unwanted toys to school from Monday 13th until Friday 17th January to be sorted for sale this term. Last Friday, the school council held an assembly where they explained the impact that throwing away toys has on our environment. They asked pupils to bring in toys that are in good condition that they no longer want and are happy for them to be sold to other pupils. A date for the sale will be given soon.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Miss B Nugent