



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."

Dear Parents,

16th March 2021

Belated Mother's Day wishes to all our mothers and grandmothers, I hope you were all well and truly spoiled during the weekend.

Fathers can enjoy some special time also this week as Friday is the Feast of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Workers and fathers. Pope Francis said the coronavirus pandemic has heightened his desire to reflect on St. Joseph, as so many people during the pandemic have made hidden sacrifices to protect others, just as St. Joseph quietly protected and cared for Mary and Jesus. Children in school are following a Week of Prayer to St Joseph, we will pray for all our families to stay safe and well.

St Patrick's Day - Children have asked if they may wear an item of green clothing to mark St Patrick's Day tomorrow, of course they can!

Return to school update - We are delighted to have nearly all pupils back to school. They have settled back into the classroom routines, but most importantly they are enjoying playing and talking with their friends. Thank you for your cooperation with the staggered opening times and entry points, as well as keeping social distance at the gates. Hopefully some of these restrictions will be relaxed after Easter.

Teachers are working hard to establish some form of normality in the classroom. We are keeping together the bubbles of N /R, Y 1/2, Y3/4 and Y5/6 while still in lockdown and will review the situation after Easter when the next phase of the 'Roadmap' is unveiled.

We are reluctant to offer Breakfast club as it would bring all bubbles together and we want to avoid unnecessary closure of the school, should there be a case in the breakfast club.

Our Risk Assessment has been updated to reflect the recent guidance and can be viewed on the Website in Covid - 19 section under Home tab.

Please do not send your child to school if they have symptoms of covid-19 and if any member of your household tests positive, the school must be informed.

Emotional Wellbeing - Teachers are very mindful of the effect of the recent closure on pupils and have been working with the pupils to gauge how they are feeling due to closure and how they are coping with their return to school.

In January last year a number of staff undertook training in Mental Health Awareness, not realising how relevant this would be during a pandemic we never anticipated.

Teachers have been providing your children with many opportunities to share their thoughts and feelings through art, poetry, prayer, Place2Be art therapy and teaching of the RHSE programme.

We will also provide you with resources to help manage home learning and your child's wellbeing.

Please advise us if your child has had a bereavement, experienced significant trauma, or showed signs of restlessness or anxiety during the closure or since return to school. Our staff are prepared and willing to support your children's mental health and wellbeing or signpost you to other services if necessary.

School website - The Learning tab of the school website has been updated to celebrate the work your children have done during school closure and since their return to the classroom.

Wider community - We look forward to strengthening our school community further when we no longer have to wear masks and keep social distance. I will meet FOEM as soon as it is allowed. Please be mindful of new arrivals to our school, in the spirit of welcome I know you will find a way to welcome new parents and pupils and encourage your children to offer friendship to all in their class.

Poetry Competition - The children have composed poetry with a work of art background for Fr Alex and Fr Ray. Two entries from each class will be selected for a poetry book to reflect aspects of the past year; the pandemic, the seasons, people or emotions. I think they will find it difficult to choose from your children's wonderful work.

Half Term / Holiday Childcare Scheme - The Holiday Childcare Scheme is open to children of working parents and will be held in Malmesbury Primary School, Coborn Street, Mile End, E3 2AB from Monday 29th March until Friday 9th April. Applications can be made through the Tower Hamlets website or by ringing 020 7364 0523.

Our school is closed for the Easter Holidays from Friday 2nd April until Friday 16th April, as a Catholic school we choose to be in school during the Holy Week for Easter.

Local Elections and Referendum - The school will be closed on Thursday 6th May for Elections. Details of online learning will be provided nearer the time.

School Photographer - The school photographer will come to school on Monday 19th April to take individual, siblings and class photos. Your child will take the proofs home for you to place your order.

Fluoride Application - The Dental Outreach team will visit school on Thursday 20th May to apply fluoride varnish to children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1. Please use the following link to give permission for your child to participate in the scheme. <https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/forms/dental-service-fluoride-varnish-permission-only-form/>

Summer uniform - Hopefully the 'summer' will have arrived when we return to school on Monday 19th April. Children in Years 1 - 6 return to school wearing their summer uniform. Please follow the guide below to help ensure that every child is in 'uniform' - all wearing the same style and colour of clothing. Summer uniform for boys consists of grey shorts and plain white polo shirt, black shoes and plain navy jacket without logo. Summer uniform for girls consists of pink check summer dress available from Marks & Spencer in store or by shopping online using the link <https://www.marksandspencer.com/girls-pure-cotton-gingham-dress/p/clp60438202?color=PINK&prevPage=srp> or using the code T766481, a navy or white v-neck cardigan and navy/black or white school shoes (no open toe sandals) and white/navy jacket without logo. The alternative summer uniform for girls is a plain white polo shirt with navy skirt, skirt or culottes. Nursery pupils wear plain coloured t-shirt and navy shorts and Reception wear plain white polo shirt and navy shorts.

Thank you all for your continued support and cooperation. Stay safe.
Yours sincerely,

Miss B Nugent