



English Martyrs School,
St. Mark Street, London E1 8DJ
Tel: 020 7709 0182

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.”
Values: Love - Respect - Honesty

Dear Parents,

21st December 2023

We wish you all a holy and happy Christmas, may your homes be filled with peace, joy and love as we welcome Jesus into our lives again at Christmas. We look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Tuesday 9th January. On behalf of all staff we thank you for your kind and generous Christmas wishes and gifts.

School Uniform - Please make sure children return to school in January in correct school uniform which includes a **navy** coat or jacket.

Departure of Fr Ray - We are very sad at the sudden news that Fr Ray will be relocated to Edinburgh parish of Leith. Fr Ray has been a weekly visitor to school to work with the Y5 and 6 Faith Friends and guide them in leading assembly each Friday as well as other aspects of our Catholic life and mission. We will miss his presence in our school and will pray for him in his new role. Our loss will certainly be the Leith Parish's gain. We will pray for him as he begins another new chapter in his missionary life. Fr Ray leaves on Tuesday 9th January, his leaving service in English Martyrs Church will be 11am Mass on Sunday 7th January.

Falling rolls - Schools in this part of the Local Authority are experiencing falling numbers due to low birth rate and lack of affordable housing development. We have places available in all year groups and welcome applications from Catholic and Christian families as well as families from other faiths and none. I would appreciate it if you would please signpost new families in your community to our school.

We have banners which will be placed at English Martyrs and St Patricks churches advertising school places. We have posters available that could be placed on community notice boards in local housing developments, if you are able to help place these they can be collected from the school office.

Parent Fundraising - Many thanks to the fundraising committee for their hard work and dedication this term as they prepared and manned events such as the Silent Disco, Wreath Making, Christmas Fair, Pantomime and Quiz Night. These events were really lovely opportunities to gather as a school community to relax and socialise together. Thank you to all parents who managed to support.

Parent Meetings in Spring term - Please make note of the letter from Mrs Moore regarding parental support for learning. It is important that you make note of these dates and times and support the teachers in helping your child in specific areas they may find difficult. We hope that with this advanced notice more parents will be able to attend the information sessions. Children will be looked after in after school club while these meetings take place.

- Year 3 and 4 meeting - 3pm Wednesday 17th January
- Year 5 and 6 meeting - 3pm Thursday 18th January

Traffic issues - Please contact the Local Authority to complain about heavy traffic in the St Mark Street to Alie Street area which is causing damage to the pavement areas and posing significant trip hazards for our street users.

RSE Consultation - This is a gentle reminder for you to participate in our RSE consultation. This is a subject which we feel is important to hear your views.

Option for the Poor - Thank you for your generous donations to the homeless shelters, refugee centre and local food bank. Sean has delivered your donations which were gratefully received.

After school activities - Afterschool multi-sports lessons resume the week of 9th January on Tuesdays 3:15 until 4:15 for years 1 and 2. Lessons cost £60 per child per term. Please register interest at the office. There is a maximum of 15 places available.

Term Dates - The term dates for 2024-25 have now been placed on the school website.

Thanking you all for your support and cooperation.

Merry Christmas

Yours sincerely,

Miss B Nugent

