



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.”

26th January 2024

Dear Parents,

We have had a busy start to 2024. Thank you to parents in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who attended the meetings with teachers. We want to work in partnership with you to ensure that every child reaches their potential. The workshops in Key Stage 2 highlighted the expectations for each year group and suggestions about how you can help your children with their homework. Reading, comprehension, spelling and maths activities completed with your support can make a huge difference to your child's progress.

Just to remind you that end of year Statutory Assessments will include ‘Good Level of Development’ across 12 areas of learning for Reception, Year 1 phonics check, Year 4 multiplication check and Year 6 reading, writing, grammar and spelling and mathematics assessments. All classes will also complete English, Spelling, Grammar (Years 3,4,5) and Mathematics NFER tests at the end of each term and we hope that with your assistance, teachers will be able to report improved progress at the end of the year.

We provide additional support for children who are working below expected standards. Mrs De La Cruz works with pupils in Year 1 and 2. Ms Hancock works with Year 3 and 4 and Ms Freeman works with Year 5 and 6. They are supported by Speech Therapist Lesley Kabogo and Education Psychologist Alana Laing. They have been meeting with parents of children they work with to share strategies and offer support for parents to use at home, however if you have not yet been able to meet them please contact the office to arrange an appointment.

Parent evening meetings - 1 – 1 meeting will be arranged for Parent Evening on Thursday 22nd February. Mrs Moore will meet Year 5 parents before this half term. Year 1 parents also will have separate dates, please see note below.

Year 1 Update - We will be sorry to say goodbye to Mrs Olszewska who has been teaching Year 1 since Mrs Briggs left for maternity leave. She will be leaving at the end of this half term. We thank her for her hard work and dedication to the class. We welcome Mrs Ross who will begin teaching Year 1 on February 1st. She will work alongside Mrs Olszewska with Year 1 until half term.

Year 1 Parent - Teacher meetings - Mrs Olszewska will meet parents during the week of February 5th to inform you of their progress and Mrs Ross will also attend so you all get an opportunity to meet each other.

Year 1 and 2 assembly – Mrs Olszewska is preparing an assembly to celebrate the Feast of ‘The Presentation of the Lord’ on Friday 2nd February at 2.30 pm. All parents are welcome to attend.

Congratulations Mrs Briggs - Mrs Briggs had her baby girl, Emma, just before Christmas and both are doing well.

Healthy School award - We are pleased to have been awarded silver. Please see the letter 'Fantastic Food in Schools' which explains our work with Tower Hamlets to improve the school lunchtime experience.

Religious Education - We are sad that Fr Ray has been relocated to Edinburgh. He worked each week with our Faith Friends to support them in leading prayer and liturgy and in reaching out to support our local community. The Faith Friends continue to meet weekly to prepare the weekly assembly.

Food allergies - We currently have several pupils and a member of staff in school with severe nut allergies. We must also be vigilant to the possibility of any pupil in school with an undiagnosed nut allergy. We do NOT allow any chocolate, nuts or nut products into the school. Please be aware of this when providing your child with a packed lunch. We do not accept cakes and chocolate sweets for birthday treats. Birthday treats are limited to one small party bag, again no chocolate or nut content please, which will be distributed at the end of the school day.

School uniform - Please check the website for the school uniform policy and make sure your children wear the correct clothing, black school shoes, navy coat and have neat hairstyles. It is important that you support us and help instil self-discipline in your children, encourage pride in their appearance and respect for self and others. It also helps the older children with their transition to secondary school, where the rules are often very rigid.

Holiday Childcare Scheme – February half term childcare scheme is now open for bookings. It will be held in St Mary and St Michael Catholic Primary School, Sutton Street, E1 0BD. More information can be found on our website www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/hcs.

Swimming lessons – By the end of Year 6 pupils are expected to swim 25metres and most of our children meet this standard. Unfortunately, we only provide swimming lessons for Years 3 and 4. Children in Years 5 and 6 who have still not met the standard would really benefit from attending the following half term lessons or other opportunities for swimming.

The GLL will be running intensive swimming lessons through the February half term at York Hall Leisure Centre. The lessons will take place every day from Monday 12th – Friday 16th February between 9:30-10:00am, 10:00-10:30am, 10:30-11:00am or 11:00-11:30am. The price for the course is £5.75 per day for half hour lessons. Pupils will attend lessons all week at their chosen time. For more information visit better.org.uk/swimming-lessons.

Thanking you all for your support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Miss B Nugent