



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.”

27<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parents,

**Wedding Bells** - Congratulations to Miss Lambert and Mr Briggs who got engaged last summer and will get married during the Easter holidays. We wish them every joy and happiness in their future together.

**Parents Association / Friends of English Martyrs** – I shared the school’s priorities with parents at the meeting last week and they were most supportive of our aim to improve the collections of books in all classrooms and in the library to get the children more excited about reading a wider range of books and hopefully parents as well. Other planned events included 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee celebrations such as Traditional Dance Evening, March 13<sup>th</sup> and International Day on June 19<sup>th</sup> for the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the opening of the school. Ideas for Sports Day were also discussed. Parents and Governors will be available during Open Evening to discuss these and other future events with parents who have been unable to attend meetings and would like to be part of the planning groups for school events. All voices welcome!

**Open Evening** - Open evening will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> February, you will receive appointment notices this week.

**The Passage - Westminster** – Mike Hollingsworth from The Passage Homeless Centre at Westminster spoke about their work to help the homeless when he visited our assembly on Friday. He thanked the Year 6 children for carol singing at Whitechapel station before Christmas which helped raise almost £500. He asked if we could continue to support with donations of men’s socks and underwear, a collection box will be at the office.

**Nursery Book Launch** – Mrs Bracken and Miss Maria will launch the Book Trust ‘Bookstart Treasure’ at the Wednesday Reading Group. The pack has a guide to reading which I hope you will find helpful as you continue to develop your child’s love of reading.

**Governors’ News** – The Full Governing Body and two sub committees; Finance and Curriculum meet each half term. They are fully committed to ensuring that the school works within the allocated budget and that funding is secured for the benefit of the education of all pupils. They have been actively engaged with teachers in shaping the ‘vision’ of the curriculum we teach.

***‘We aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum in which Religious Education is at the heart and allows children to know what it means to be a ‘Catholic’. A curriculum that encourages them to be critical thinkers and problem solvers who can retain and articulate their knowledge. We want our children to have positive relationships for a healthy wellbeing and to know the importance of physical health and safety for themselves and others. Vision Statement 2019***

The teaching of reading and phonics at the Early Years and Key Stage 1 is most important, without basic literacy skills pupils cannot access the wider curriculum. As a result the priority this year has been resourcing the materials needed to teach literacy and providing training for staff to strengthen their knowledge.

We have been transitioning to a new website which we hope will be more manageable for all staff to use. We hope to include a lot more information and evidence of your children's learning experiences in school. Any suggestions would be most welcome.

**Good News** - Well done to the girls from Year 5 and 6 who came 4<sup>th</sup> in the Tower Hamlets Girls' Cricket competition.

**Class visits** – Year 3 enjoyed their Pantomime visit to the Peacock Theatre on Wednesday to watch a production of Treasure Island. Tickets and transport was kindly funded by PricewaterhouseCoopers Company.

Year 2 enjoyed 'the best trip ever', (Max) to the Transport Museum, Year 1 visited The Royal Observatory in Greenwich and Year 5 attended a workshop on Materials at The Soanes Centre. Thank you to all parents who helped supervise the children.

**Parental support** – April Shepherd will be completing her Teaching Assistant placement in Year 1 with Miss Lambert each Monday.

A parent has secured a very generous donation from a group of local developers which she has offered to support the Early Years outdoor environment. We would love parents to come and share specialist knowledge to any class to support their learning.

**Year 3 2019'** - Year 4 pupils will visit the Tate Britain to see their Year 3 2019 photograph exhibited. The exhibition is free and families are welcome to visit.

'Explored through the vehicle of the traditional school class photograph, this vast new art work is one of the most ambitious portraits of children ever undertaken in the UK. It offers us a glimpse of the capital's future, a hopeful portrait of a generation to come. Turner prize winning artist Steve McQueen invited every Year 3 pupil in London to have their photograph taken by a team of specially trained Tate photographers.

**Holiday Childcare Scheme** - The Holiday Childcare Scheme will be held in St Mary and St Michael School, Sutton Street, London, E1 0BD from Monday 17th February until Friday 21st February. Applications can be made through the Tower Hamlets website or by ringing 020 7364 0523.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Miss B Nugent