



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.”

Love - Respect - Honesty

27<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents,

We are half way through this first half term and all classes are working hard to do their very best in all aspects of the school. We have been reminding pupils of our school rules, values and mission to generate a sense of pride and respect for all in our community. These have been shared with all staff, governors and visitors. Your children are amazing in their enthusiasm to do their best and be their best, I see this at assembly, hymn practice, and in lessons. We still have some work to do in the dining room and playground for a small number. The return to wearing school uniform every day has helped improve the attitude for learning and is a good reminder to pupils that the classroom is a place for learning. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

**School industrial action** - I am sure you will be aware from recent media reports that the National Education Union (NEU) has declared strike action, which will take place on **Wednesday 1st February 2023**. I am writing to inform you that the school will stay open on that day. The NEU has indicated that they will continue strike action for a further three days after this first strike on the **2nd March and 15th to 16th March**. I will inform you of our opening arrangements in advance of each date.

**Feast of The Presentation** – Year 1 and 2 are preparing a Liturgy for the Feast of The Presentation on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 2.30pm. All parents are welcome to attend.

**Racial Justice** - KS2 pupils participated in Christian Unity Week of prayer for racial justice prior to Racial Justice Sunday 29th January. We regularly say our community prayer “Let us pray for one another, no matter what our culture, nationality, disability or gender, let us all be one in His name.”

The Year 5 and 6 assembly yesterday focused on Holocaust Memorial Day and today we shared a story about migration and welcoming the stranger. This Sunday is Racial Justice Sunday, I hope you will join us in encouraging your children to have a welcoming heart for all the nations that make up our world.

**Reading Books** - Each class has a list of books which every child is expected to have read by the end of the year. Please check at home for books belonging to school as some are missing from class. Be assured that there is no blame or shame in returning school property!

**Dates for 2023 -2024** - The Governing Body will meet on 1<sup>st</sup> February and should approve the dates for 2023 -2024 and they will be posted on the school website.

**Half term holiday childcare scheme** - The Tower Hamlets half term holiday childcare scheme will be held in St Mary & St Michael Primary School, Sutton Street, E1 OBD from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> until Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February (5 days). Applications can be made at the [Tower Hamlets](#) website.

**Parents’ Workshop** – Parents of pupils in KS2 are invited to a ‘Reading and Grammar Workshop’ on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 9:15am in the school hall.

**Safeguarding & Childrens’ Mental Health Week February 6<sup>th</sup> / Place2Be - [Parenting Smart](#)**

Place2Be is a children’s mental health charity that provides mental health support and advice for parents and carers of children aged 4-11. Please visit their website if you would like advice on any of the following and more:

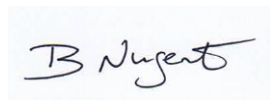
- ‘My child has meltdowns!’
- Safe social media for primary aged children
- Supporting healthy gaming habits for children

**School Food Improvement Programme** - We are working with Tower Hamlets Council to ensure they are offering the best possible lunchtime experience for your children. We will also be working towards a Silver and a Gold Healthy Schools Award from the Mayor of London for this work. We want to work with you to offer our children the healthiest and most nutritious school lunch possible.

We would really like to hear your ideas about the school food, whether you have packed lunches or a school dinner or a combination of both. Please use the following [link](#) to complete a survey, we would really appreciate as many parents completing this as possible. We will also be offering some opportunities to give your ideas in person and we will ask pupils their opinion as well. This is the first stage in making the school food and the school food environment as healthy and happy as possible and we look forward to hearing your ideas and working with you to achieve the best outcomes for our children.”

Thank you for your support and cooperation. Wish you all happy and restful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Nugent', is displayed on a light blue rectangular background.

Miss B Nugent