



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."

7<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear Parents,

Thank you all for helping to make Sports Day run so well. (no pun intended!) It was a very happy and fun day. The children really did compete with one another, but win or lose they went along happily and eagerly to the next event. Great sportsmanship and resilience shown by all. Parent participation was equally competitive and enjoyable. We look forward to the EYFS Sports Day next Tuesday.

**Fund Raising** - Thank you to all parents organising and / or supporting the recent fundraising events. The £10, 000 target will enable us to continue to provide Miss Carmen to teach Spanish in KS2 and Mrs Simon to continue to teach Music for two days each week.

A parent has secured £1000 match funding for the school. We would encourage other parents to explore if your business corporation has similar opportunities to offer match funding for school fundraising initiatives.

We welcome parents to future meetings of the Fundraising committee in the Autumn term, meetings will be at 8:30am on Fridays September 15<sup>th</sup>, October 13<sup>th</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup>. 2024 meetings will be January 12<sup>th</sup>, February 9<sup>th</sup>, March 1<sup>st</sup>, April 19<sup>th</sup>, May 17<sup>th</sup> and finally please note change of day Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June. The committee have planned a very exciting and entertaining calendar of events that will need your input and support so please get on board to offer your ideas and support. Many thanks in advance.

The £10,000 target thermometer designed and made by a very willing and creative parent will be displayed in the foyer. Thank you Mr Whittlesea. So far the £1000 mark has been reached from the lollipop sale and refreshments during sports day. Thank you all for your support.

Due to your commitment to this fundraising initiative your children can look forward to Spanish lessons for Years 3-4 and Mrs Simon continuing her two day music provision next year which will include all Year groups.

The Summer Fair will be held on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July from 12 - 3pm. Please invite friends and neighbours to come along. More details can be found on the school website.

**Staff Changes** – Sadly Mrs Nelson, Mrs Johnson and Ms Anna are all leaving at the end of this term due to the reduction in school budgets that is affecting many schools at present. We will not be replacing them next year. Mrs Nelson and Mrs Johnson have between them given 39 years of loyal service and hard work to our school community.

Ms Anna has been with us for 6 years and Ms Veda's one year contract also comes to an end and she leaves to join another school. I cannot thank these staff enough for their service to our school community. I will provide a more detailed staff structure for the next academic year when it is finalised.

**Music update** - We will not be continuing with Year 4 Strings and sadly say goodbye to Gavin and David for the foreseeable future. There will be a final concert for parents of Y4, 5 and 6 strings players on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 2:30pm in school hall. We thank Gavin and David for their work with the children and hope to resume this service in the future when finances allow.

**Reports** - Reports will be sent home by next Wednesday as we await the KS2 SATS Results which DFE have delayed issuing until next week.

I have enjoyed reading end of year reports and am impressed with how your children demonstrate such excellent attitudes to their learning and are making good progress. They really have worked so hard and I hope you will be as proud of their achievements as their teachers are.

It will be necessary for some children who are still 'working towards' or 'below' standards to practise basic skills through the summer to keep up to speed. Teachers will be in contact to provide ideas and resources. All pupils will be invited to complete summer reading and maths challenges, as we do every year. See below for details.

**Summer Learning Activities** – Please keep a check on website under 'Pupils' tab and in 'Summer Activities' section where the [Summer Reading Challenge](#) has already been placed. Various other activities will be placed in the Summer Activities section over the next few weeks. You will need to sign up to access the challenge activities.

The Mathematics 'Summer Exploration Challenge' is full of maths activities for your child's year group. Details will be posted on website when available.

**Half Moon Theatre Summer Project for Year 6** - Free Summer 'Next Steps' project for Year 6 pupils to build their confidence as they move on to Secondary School. Y6 have been given the letter with booking details.

**Leavers Mass** – Year 6 pupils are preparing the Leavers' Mass which will be celebrated on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 9:30am in the school hall. We will give thanks and pray for all the pupils and staff who will be leaving our school. After the Mass Y6 will share their Leavers Assembly for their parents.

**Tower Hamlets Competition** – Congratulations to all the children who won at the Tower Hamlets Story competition, budding writers from Year 2 – 6 were presented with certificates at the Town Hall. Their stories were judged by writers and poets who were extremely impressed with the quality of writing and imagination these children displayed. We were very proud that so many pupils work was acknowledged and celebrated, well done and thank you to all pupils who entered stories and the teachers who supported them.

**English Martyrs Church Art competition** - Winners of the English Martyrs Church Art competition were awarded their prizes at assembly today. Copies of their artwork will be displayed in the school corridor.

**Summer Holidays** - School closes on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July at 2.00pm. Pupils return to school on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss B Nugent