



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."

Dear Parents,

8th February 2024

Thank you to Mrs Olszewska for preparing the beautiful assembly for Year 1 and 2 parents last week to teach us how Mary presented Jesus in the temple and how Simeon recognised Jesus as the Saviour and The Light. We encourage all pupils to recognise each other's 'light', this can be kindness, respectfulness or honesty and thus see Jesus at work in each other.

Nursery and Reception Parents are invited to assembly tomorrow February 8th at 9:15am to see pupils present their Chinese New Year assembly.

School Journey - Year 6 are having a great week at Gorsefield House, Stansted Mountfitchet, they have settled well into the house and feel very much at home. Thanks to Mrs Pasha, Mrs Hutton and Mrs McInroy they are being really entertained and occupied by a wide variety of activities and learning opportunities. School journey certainly tests their resilience and cooperation and we hope they return to school filled with greater confidence in their own capabilities as well as determination to keep going when faced with challenges life may bring. We look forward to welcoming them back to school on Friday and know they will certainly be glad they have half term next week!

Thank you to Mrs Pasha, Mrs Hutton and Mrs McInroy for looking after the pupils during school journey. Mrs Pasha is particularly grateful to you for your support during the Summer Fair raising £500 for school journey so they could visit Colchester Zoo.

Lent 2024 - Wednesday 14th February marks the beginning of Lent, when we receive the ashes at Mass to begin our 'journey to the cross' on Good Friday. Please help your children to recognise the significance of the cross in our faith and the importance of prayer, fasting and giving to charity, our three Lenten duties. They will be learning more about this in Religious Education lessons after half term and it is important that they have begun this journey with you as a family and Church community.

CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development - To support families during Lent **CAFOD** are sharing 'Daily Lent Reflections' Scripture, stories about people from a fishing community in Liberia, a daily prayer and suggested action you might like to take. I hope you and your children will join this journey by signing up for **CAFOD's** daily Lent emails by clicking [here](#) to sign up for **CAFOD's** daily Lent emails

Parent evening meetings - Parent Evening meetings will be held on Thursday 22nd February and at various times throughout that week. Teachers have sent you an appointment time for your meeting.

Year 1 Update - We are sorry Mrs Olszewska leaves today we thank her for her hard work and dedication to the class. Mrs Ross is looking forward to her work with Year 1 after half term and we welcome her return to our staff.

Staff changes - Our after school club assistant Mrs Lori Pluckrose has resigned from last week, we thank her for her hard work with the pupils and wish her good health and happiness as she prepares for the arrival of her new baby. We are pleased that Mrs Johnson has taken over Lori's post in the after school club.

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.

Half term - The school breaks up for half term holidays on Friday 9th February at 2pm. Pupils return to school on Monday 19th February. Please make arrangements to collect your children on time.

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 [here](#).

Intensive swimming lessons - York Hall Leisure Centre will be running intensive swimming lessons through the February half term. The price for the course is £5.75 per day for half hour lessons. For more information, click [here](#).

Non -Uniform Day- The Parent Fundraising team have arranged for non - uniform day tomorrow, pupils may wear their own clothes and pay £1.00 to raise funds for

Good News - Members of the Chess Club are currently playing in a chess tournament 'The Stepney Chess League' which takes place each month. We are currently in second position and have won many medals, well done chess players! There are four more dates left to play. Mr Costello is very proud of all his players.

Four year 5 pupils participated in a Maths Challenge at the Guildhall. 140 young mathematicians from 35 schools took part. We are awaiting confirmation of results but we have secured a second place! We are delighted - well done Year 5 group.!

I wish you all a happy and restful half term holiday and look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Monday 19th February.

Thanking you all for your support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Miss B Nugent