



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Living and learning, inspired by our faith

www.stmaryschiswick.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

Week 18 Friday 23rd January 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 26th January – Year 3 Retreat – Reconciliation – in school
Wednesday 28th January – Year 5 Class Assembly – 9.05am – please note change of date
Wednesday 28th January – Year 6 Trip to Brentford Stadium
Thursday 29th January – Open Morning – 9.30am
Friday 30th January – PTA Uniform and Book Sale – 3.15-4.00pm in Nursery
Friday 30th January – GIFT Team MUFTI Day for N-Y6 – Bright Colours for a Bright New Year
Monday 2nd February – Year 3 Class Mass – 10.00am at Church
Tuesday 3rd February – School Library Service Visit
Wednesday 4th February – Year 3 Class Assembly -9.05am
Wednesday 4th February – Year 4 Trip to Gunnersbury Museum – Victorian Workshop
Week beginning Monday 9th February – Children's Mental Health Week
Monday 9th February – Year 6 Trip to House of Parliament
Thursday 12th February – Year 1 Theatre Workshop in school - 9.30am
Friday 13th February – KS2 Author Visit – Eve Wersocki-Morris -am
Friday 13th February – EYFS and KS1 Perform Drama Workshop – pm
Friday 13th February – Half Term – school finishes at 3.15pm

School Closure this week

I would like to thank you all – children and parents – for your response to our school closure this week. I know that this was not easy. In addition, some of you were without water at home. This is a decision that is not taken lightly and is always the last resort. Unfortunately, like all of the schools in Chiswick, we were without water and so were unable to meet basic needs. Fortunately, we are prepared for such situations and were able to put our plans into action at short notice. I would also like to thank our amazing staff who prepared learning to go online and also took on other roles on that day. A huge thank you to Mrs Collis and Mr O'Reilly who took on key roles with communication. Thank you all for your understanding and resilience.

Nursery 2026

We are hoping to extend our Nursery offering from this September to full days. Our warm and welcoming Nursery provision develops and nurtures the whole child, preparing them for a seamless transition to school. Our dedicated staff are experienced in meeting children's individual needs, developing essential skills and giving them the confidence to grow and

develop foundations for a lifelong love of learning. If you have a child of Nursery age – 3-4 years, or who will be turning 3 in the next academic year- or know someone else who has, please email the office or drop in to find out more about how to apply. There will be Nursery Open Mornings on Thursday 26th February and Thursday 5th March at 9.30am, when we return from Half Term, so that you can find out more information.

National Year of Reading – Reading Surveys

2026 is the National Year of Reading. It is a national initiative, which is designed to help more people rediscover the joy of reading. Reading expands minds, builds vocabulary and fuels creativity. Yet, with more distractions and less time, reading for pleasure is in decline across many groups. The National Year of Reading aims to change that, by reconnecting reading with everyday culture.

We will soon be completing reading surveys with the children to find out more about their reading habits, preferred authors and reading genres so that we can have accurate information about their reading diet. Please keep reading to your child at home, let them see you reading and also make time to hear them reading every evening. If a child reads for 20 minutes a day, in 1 year they will have read over 1,800,000 words.

Attendance and Punctuality

I am asking again that everyone makes a real effort to be in school and on time every day. School gates open at 8.45am and are closed at 8.55am each day. Anyone arriving after this time is late and is missing out on valuable learning time. Registers are taken at 9.00am, children who arrive after this are late. Registers close at 9.15am. Any arrival after this is an unauthorised absence. For any children arriving after the gates are closed, parents will need to come into Reception and sign the late book, giving a reason for lateness. Persistent absentees or latecomers will be asked to meet with the headteacher so that we can work in partnership to ensure that children are brought to school on time and not missing out on vital learning time. As you know, our attendance data is closely monitored by the DfE and our Local Authority. I am only able to authorise absences in exceptional circumstances. Holidays should only be taken outside of term-time and appointments should be made outside of the school day as much as possible. Our term dates for this academic year and next can be found on our website and app. Every minute in school counts, lateness equals lost learning opportunities - 10 minutes late each day is 6.5 days lost! 15 minutes late each day is 10 days lost! 20 minutes late each day is 13 days lost! 30 minutes late each day is 19 days lost!

Building Works Update

At present our construction team are working on internal and external works. Completion of some structural work this week to support the existing structure will allow them to begin demolition of the existing ground floor external brick wall next week. Due to unforeseen complications with structural work, our finish date will now be after the end of the Summer Term. We will continue to share updates with you.

Save the Date – PTA Quiz and Children's Cinema

This will take place from 7.00pm on Friday 27th February in the Parish Centre. More details to follow. A fun night for all the family!

Celebrations



Happy Birthday to Holly (Y2), Catalina (Y3), Erela (Y3), Musawir (Y2), Archie (Y5)

Star of the Week

Amelia (YR), Talia (Y1), Yara (Y2), Erela (Y3), Naya (Y4), Cora (Y5) Hugo (Y6)

Teacher's Award

Presley (YR), Teo (Y1), Lily (Y2), Bella (Y3), Roman (Y4), Eloise (Y5) and Daniel (Y6)

Reader Award

Ezra (YR), Phoenix (Y1), Eddie (Y2), Santi (Y3), Massimo (Y4), Lilly (Y5) and Jahzarah (Y6)

With Best Wishes for the Weekend,

Miss Keane NPQH

Headteacher