



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Living and learning, inspired by our faith
www.stmaryschiswick.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

Week 16 Friday 9th January 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 14th January – Writing Workshop for Reception parents – 2.45pm
Thursday 15th January – closing date for Reception applications
Thursday 15th January – Open Morning – 9.30am
Monday 26th January – Year 3 Retreat – Reconciliation – in school
Thursday 29th January – Open Morning – 9.30am
Monday 2nd February – Year 3 Class Mass – 10.00am at Church
Tuesday 3rd February – School Library Service Visit
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

Welcome back and Happy New Year to you all

I hope that you all had a wonderful, joyful holiday spending time with your loved ones. Thank you all for your kindness, generosity and good wishes last term. It was uplifting to see the children return to school on Tuesday with smiling faces, eager to share their good news. The term has got off to a very good start, and there are plenty of exciting learning opportunities planned for the coming weeks.

Feast of the Epiphany

We returned to school this week on the Feast of the Epiphany. Years 3-6 attended Mass in Church. It was a beautiful way to begin our term, coming together in worship with our Parish Community and also marking the end of the Year of Hope. Thank you to Years 5 and 6 who contributed to the Mass through Altar Serving, Reading and Bidding Prayers and to everyone who joined in the singing of the carols. Thank you also our parents who joined us at Mass. You are always welcome to join us at Mass, even if it is not your child's year group who is attending. Mass was followed by an Epiphany Celebration of the Word at school for our children in Reception, Years 1 and 2. They listened to the story of the Wise Men visiting baby Jesus and helped to retell it, showing impressive recall. We even had a huge star which we lit up to help guide the Wise Men to the stable.

National Year of Reading

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 are planning lots of exciting events throughout the year to promote reading for pleasure. Mrs Norris has booked an author to visit Years 3-6 in school later this term and we have theatre workshops booked for EYFS, Years 1 and 2. We will hold our annual Book Week later in the Spring Term and our Year 6 Reading Ambassadors will also be promoting reading throughout the year. 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.

Building Works

There was great excitement in school this week as an enormous crane arrived at school on Wednesday morning to lift the heavy steel beams which are needed for our new hall. A 50-tonne mobile crane was used on site. Its primary purpose was to lift one 5-tonne, 11-metre-long steel beam into position against the building, which will later form the opening between the existing hall and the new extension. The crane was also used to lift additional heavy steel members to enable the commencement of the brickwork support works.

Aluminium trackway was installed from the bollards to the site entrance to reduce the risk of crane instability and ground failure under load. This provided ground protection while the crane was travelling and lifting, helping to prevent overturning and ensure safe operations. Everyone was thrilled to see the crane, which literally towered over the skyline and could be seen from the M4. Thanks to our amazing construction team it all went smoothly, without a hitch and as our EYFS children told me, the crane then vanished in the afternoon! Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support during the building works. The children have been so responsible and adaptable as we have had to make changes to our routine.

Clubs for Spring Term

If you haven't signed up for clubs yet, please take a look at our offerings for Spring Term clubs on our website. There is a wide variety of clubs available. This can be found in the Parents section. There are still a few places available. Please enquire at the Office if you need assistance.

Celebrations



Happy Birthday to Lucas (Y2), Esa (YR), Israel (Y4), Ala (Y4), Holly (Y3), Maya (YR)

Star of the Week

Lana (YR), Jack (Y1), Musawir (Y2), Holly (Y3), Lottie (Y4), Ayda (Y5) and Zarino (Y6)

Teacher's Award

Jemima (YR), Caellum (Y1), Elizabeth (Y2), Levaria (Y3), Ala (Y4), Chinyere (Y5) and Josie (Y6)

Reader Award

Tomasso (YR), Sophie (Y1), Stefan (Y2), Leona (Y3), Theo (Y4), Isla (Y5) and Valentina (Y6)

With Best Wishes for the Weekend,

Miss Keane NPQH

Headteacher