

ENGLISH MARTYRS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



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NEWSLETTER

Friday 13th February 2026

Dear parents and carers

This final week of Spring Term 1 was such an exciting one for our children in so many ways. All our children have been focusing on the importance of mental health as part of **Children's Mental Health week**. We also learned about staying safe online; on Tuesday, the whole school marked **Safer Internet Day**.



On Tuesday Year 1 visited the **Horniman Museum** where they took part in different Chinese New Year activities such as role playing the story of the Nian, playing instruments, and using the chopsticks.

On Wednesday our Year 6 pupils left for their **Residential trip to Grosvenor Hall** in Ashford. It was an exciting adventure for all which included among other things, activities such as Laser quest, ZipWire challenge, group games and much more. (See more images about of some of the activities on page 3 of this newsletter).

We now look forward to a short break next week and we'll then be back in school on **Monday 23rd February**.

Thank you and have a good half term break.

Wednesday of next week is

ASH WEDNESDAY

On **Wednesday 18th February** we begin the **season of Lent**.

This is a time of repentance and renewal.



We will not be in school next week but there will be **Ash Wednesday masses** in church in the morning and evening families can attend to mark the beginning of Lent.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



The following are some of the important dates to remember:

Week beginning
Monday 16th February
Half term week.
Children not in school.

Wednesday 18th February
ASH WEDNESDAY
Beginning of the Season of Lent

Monday 23rd February
Spring Term 2 begins
Children return to school.

Friday 27th February - 8.50 am
Class Assembly - 1K
Parents of children in 1K are invited to attend in Building 1

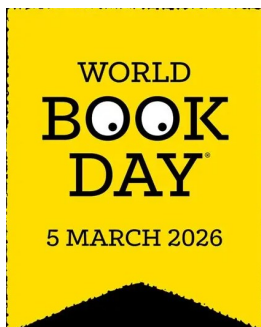
Week beginning 2nd March
BOOK WEEK

Thursday 5th March
WORLD BOOK DAY 2026
Children and staff to come to school dressed as a character from a book they read

WORSHIP TOGETHER - ASPIRE TOGETHER - EXCEL TOGETHER



WORLD BOOK DAY



We will be celebrating
World Book Day 2026 on

Thursday 5th March

One of the activities we are planning is a
Character Competition.

Children are to dress up as their favourite
book character and to be in the chance of
winning a prize.

Look out for up coming events soon.

ONLINE SAFETY

Nowadays our children are exposed to a number of **social media**
platforms that are not appropriate for their age.

One of these apps is **WHATSAPP**. Have a look at page 6 of this
newsletter to find out more about how to make sure we are all
using social media in a safe
way.



Please make sure you always
monitor what your children
are accessing on laptops or
mobile phones in order to

ATTENDANCE and PUNCTUALITY

We are very proud of our high percentages of our pupils' school
attendance over these last few years. However, par-
ents are reminded that **no holidays or travel should**
be booked during term time and that all children
arrive by no later than **8.45 am** each morning.



Year 6 SATs Revision

Vocabulary Ninja will be uploading **weekly support videos** on their
YouTube channel for the next 16 weeks!

Each video will cover important topics that are likely to come up in the
SATs tests.

Please encourage your child to watch these videos to support their
revision.

<https://www.youtube.com/@vocabularyninja>

Every week our Mid-day meals
supervisors award stars to pupils
who show our school values
during lunchtime breaks.

The following are the names of
our Star children for this week.



Nursery:

Aslan, Amaya

Reception:

Pamileri, Joshua

Year 1:

Nah'tian, Makbel

Year 2:

Dream'rae, Kane

Year 3:

Nevaeh, Juan Pablo

Year 4:

Harli, Destiny

Year 5:

Kyla, Jana

Year 6:

Akeem, Deborah



FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

THIS WEEK

CLASS 5T

This week, Class 5T have been reading the book **Anne Frank**. We have learnt about the **adversities** that Anne and her family had to endure during **World War Two**. This has deepened our understanding of the different genres of writing

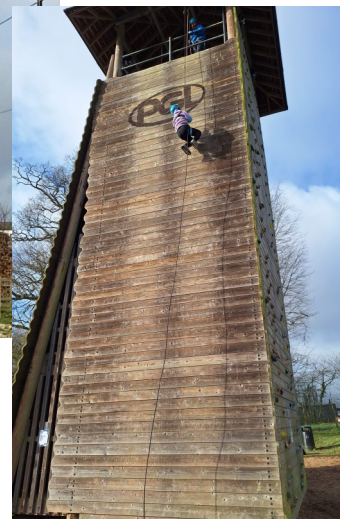
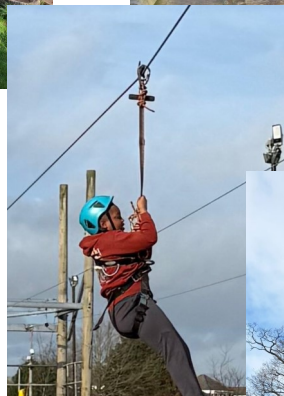
that can come from the experiences of Anne's life. Furthermore, we have **written letters** as Anne's friend, a **newspaper report** and an **obituary**. This has helped us to show off our skills using **relative clauses**, **parenthesis (for extra information)** and **noun phrases**.



In RE, for this term we have been looking at 'Inspirational People'. For **Edith Stein**, the **Beatitude**, 'Blessed the pure in heart for they will see God.' (Matthew 5:8) has given us the opportunity to look at our own lives, and how we ourselves can live that Beatitude.

YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL TRIP

All our Year 6 children will remember these last three days for a very long time! They have been away since Wednesday taking part in a range of activities at Grosvenor Hall centre near Ashford, Kent. Below are some images of activities they have been taking part in including climbing and abseiling, Zipwire and other group games.



Mr Field's fundraiser for The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)

Mr Field will be running the London Marathon in April 2026 to raise money for CAFOD. Please use the link below if you would like to donate towards this great cause.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/john-field-2>



After taking on the Great North Run for the last two years, I am excited to share that I will be taking on the London Marathon team 2026 by running in the marathon on April 26, 2026. I will be running in support of the wonderful work of CAFOD.

Through my 11 years as a teacher at South London Catholic Primary School in Southwark and 27 years as an Altar Server (and now MC) at St George's Cathedral in Southwark, I have learnt more and more about the wonderful work CAFOD do.

CAFOD is an international development charity dedicated to helping people affected by poverty, climate change, conflict, and injustice around the world. Their work is vital, as they collaborate with local experts within communities to create real, lasting change.

For instance, in Bolivia, one of the poorest countries in South America, CAFOD partners with organizations to ensure that 'the most disadvantaged people have the skills and knowledge to propose and implement strategies to change their lives and communicate their needs to decision-makers.' In Bangladesh, they have provided essential support for Rohingya refugees by offering shelter, water and sanitation services, as well as nutrition and education for children.

Donations made on my page will be sent directly to CAFOD in a fast and secure way. My target is £3,000, any donations and sharing of this would be great.

CAFOD
Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

A LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION

This week we received a letter about something that everyone at English Martyrs' school ought to be proud of.

The Secretary of State for Education Bridget Phillipson wrote to us to congratulate us for the fantastic results achieved at the end of the last school year, particularly by disadvantaged children. We thank all school staff for their hard work in supporting our children in so many ways. Thank you also to all parents for their support and for working with the school to enable all our children to continue to make good or better progress.

A big thank you naturally goes to all pupils who show how keen they are on their learning and want to continue to learn more and excel as they move from one year to the next at English Martyrs' school.

A message from Bridget Phillipson



Dear John,

Congratulations to you and your team on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at English Martyrs' Roman Catholic Primary School achieved at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement.

This success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed.

Your school's achievements demonstrate what is possible, and I hope you will continue to share your experience and best practice with others. Even the strongest schools can go further.



FEBRUARY HALF-TERM HOLIDAY CAMP



The Lions Centre, Bolina Rd, SE16 3LD



10am-3pm



Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February



£12 per day or £50 for five days



Age 5-13 year-olds



Contact: Epoole@millwallcommunity.org.uk
or telephone: 07958026876 for more information



Football, Multi-Sports and Arts & Crafts Camp

Register here or visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/3uz98zrh>



MCT
40years



WIGGETT
GROUP

