

# ENGLISH MARTYRS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



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## NEWSLETTER

Friday 6th February 2026

Dear parents and carers

This week was all about **storytelling**! As part of the National Year of Reading, this week we had a themed week on all sorts of stories. Every day of the week, children read or listened to stories told by teachers, children and others online. At our worship and good news assemblies we also reflected on stories told by Jesus while he was preaching.

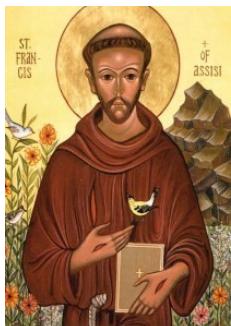
This week we received some news we are really proud of. The Hon Bridgett Phillipson, Secretary of State for Education wrote to me to congratulate the school for the **significant achievement of our results particularly those for disadvantaged children**. (see extract of letter on page 3 of this newsletter).

Today **Class 4J** led our Friday assembly in which they told us about their recent work on their current topic '**Ancient Egypt**', their class Saint, St John Bosco as well as Catholic Social Teaching.

We now look forward to **next week** which is the final week of this Spring 1 half term and yet another week full of special days and events such as:

- Children's **mental health week**
- **Safer Internet day** on Tuesday 10th February, and
- **Year 1's trip** on Tuesday and **Year 4** on Thursday.
- The Year 6 **residential trip** to Grosvenor Park in Kent from Wednesday to Friday.

Thank you and have a good weekend.



### YEAR OF ST FRANCIS

This year 2026 has been chosen by Pope Leo XIV as the Year of St Francis - a humble saint from Italy who is well known around the world for his virtue of Poverty, the Order he founded, (Franciscans) as well as his interest and admiration of God's creation and natural beauty.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



The following are some of the important dates to remember:

**Monday 9th February 2026**  
Beginning of  
**CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK**

**Tuesday 10th February 2026**  
**SAFER INTERNET DAY**

**Wednesday 11th to**  
**Friday 13th February 2026**  
Residential Trip - Year 6

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

**Wednesday 18th February 2026**  
**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
Beginning of the Season of Lent

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

**WORSHIP TOGETHER - ASPIRE TOGETHER - EXCEL TOGETHER**



## YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL TRIP

Wednesday 11th to

Friday 13th February 2026

Parents who have not yet cleared the payment for this trip are kindly asked to log on to **Arbor** to make the final payment.



## ATTENDANCE PERCENTAGES THIS WEEK

Well done to **Year 4** pupils who registered the highest attendance percentage this week - very close to 100%

YEAR GROUP	ATTENDANCE
Reception	93.2%
Year 1	98.3%
Year 2	91%
Year 3	94.4%
Year 4	98.6%
Year 5	97.2%
Year 6	98.4%

## ATTENDANCE and PUNCTUALITY

We are very proud of our high percentages of our pupils' school attendance over these last few years. However, parents 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:**  
**Rose, Esosa**

**Reception:**  
**Khalid, Victor, Raphael O**

**Year 1:**  
**Ayla, Louis**

**Year 2:**  
**Tiffany, Deyler**

**Year 3:**  
**Valeria, Yasmin**

**Year 4:**  
**Nadia, Edwin**

**Year 5:**  
**Khadijatu, Elijah, Simone**

**Year 6:**  
**Joshua, River**



## 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.

# FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL THIS WEEK

## CLASS 1K

In 1K this week we have been reading a book called **'Yeti and the bird by Nadia Shireen'**. From the book we have been creating our own narratives, thinking about **past tense words** and **noun phrases** to describe different objects **using est words**. In maths we have been learning how different **2D and 3D shapes** and their properties. In Science we have been looking at **animals including humans**, we have also been learning how to classify **different animals**. In RE we have been



looking at the life of Jesus from his birth and how he grew up as a child and what he did in the church.

## CLASS 3M

In 3M, we have been learning about the different **types of rocks** and identifying where we can find them. In English, we have continued our work on the **Pied Piper** and are creating our own **traditional tales**. In RE, we have been discussing God's love for us and reflecting on how important that love is.

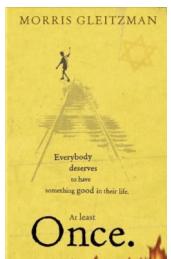


3M Built their own 3D shapes using their knowledge of the properties of each shape. They identified the vertices, edges and 2D faces on each of their shapes.

## CLASS 5E

This week in 5E, we have been immersing ourselves into **National Storytelling Week**. Children have written their own raps (also known as 'rhythm and poetry'), focusing on **rhyme** and the theme of superpowers. The children have revealed a passion for **poetry and performing**.

In Reading, children have been engrossed by **Morris Gleitzman's** humorous yet serious novel, **'Once'**, about a boy called Felix and a girl called Zelda set during Nazi Occupation of Poland in World War II. The children took part in a fabulous debate on this statement: "When terrible things happen, imagination runs out." The class was nearly evenly split and conducted a high-level **debate**, drawing on their oracy and reading skills this term.



In Science, children developed their recording and observing skills when exploring which materials dissolve in water.

Meanwhile, in Collective Worship, Prosper and Deborah led the class in a well-planned and thoughtful session to mark the **Presentation of Our Lord**.





## 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**  
**40 years**



WIGGETT  
GROUP

