



3rd February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all of you this week, who have been very supportive and understanding of the school being closed on Wednesday. It is not an easy decision to make for any of us involved.

On Monday, Luke, Raffaella, Finley, Valentina, Michael, Avisha, Bernice, Jimoh, Thomas and Kajetan from Year 5 had an afternoon focusing on 'young sports leader training'. They spoke about what sport leaders are, how they can help others and learnt lots of new skills and games to share with other children during lunch times and playtimes.

Today during assembly, all 10 young sports leaders were presented with a certificate. The sport coordinator, who ran the training, couldn't speak highly enough of our pupils, how mature, empathic, caring and friendly they all were. We are all super proud of them.

This Thursday, St James the Great class led the KS1 assembly. They based their assembly on the fabulous book they have been reading in class: 'There's a Rang-Tan in My Bedroom'. They shared with us the effects the need for palm oil is having on the rainforests and the habitats of many animals. They even shared some tips with the children in how to live and shop for products that are more environmentally friendly! They reminded us of our duty to care for God's creation. Thank you once again to all the adults who attended. It was fantastic to have you join us.

This morning, Mrs Watts came into talk to the Reception children about being a veterinary nurse. The children were very excited and had many questions to ask her. This was supporting their learning from the book 'Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy.'



In other news, Ms Miller and her husband welcomed their baby boy this week. Mum and baby are doing very well. We wish them all the very best at this happy time.

Break-time Snacks



At break time we provide Early Years and KS1 with fruit, as a healthy snack. KS2 children are allowed to bring in a snack to enjoy at break time. In recent weeks we have seen an increase in snack bars, crisps and sweets. These are **not** allowed. We are a healthy school and we have children with severe allergies. The children are only allowed to have fruit as their break-time snack.

February

30th – 10th: St Alphonsa Swimming
6th – 10th: Children's Mental Health Week
7th: St Mary's Transport Adventure Trip
7th: Parents' Evening & [Art Exhibition](#)
7th: Safer Internet Day
9th: Parents' Evening & [Art Exhibition](#)
9th: BBC Radio 5: The Big Green Money Show
10th: St Joseph's Transport Adventure Trip
10th: Valentine's Day Cake Sale – After School

13th – 17th: Half Term

20th: INSET Day
21st: Children return to school
22nd: Ash Wednesday

March

1st: World Book Day (**Rearranged from 2nd March**)
2nd: NEU Industrial Action
6th -17th: St Paul Miki Swimming
13th-17th: Science Week
15th: NEU Industrial Action
16th: NEU Industrial Action
16th: Year 3, National Maritime Museum
20th – 31st: St Josephine Swimming
21st: Year 1 trip to Docklands
23rd: Year 2 trip to Florence Nightingale Museum
27th – 31st: School's Holy Week
31st: School Closes 3pm

Lost Property / Uniform

Whilst the teachers and children were not in school, the support staff and I did spend the day tidying and organising resources. This included all the lost property in the two huge containers we have in the hall and under the canopy. Hardly any of the items were named. Therefore, we have washed and returned all the unclaimed uniform to the uniform 'swap-shop'.

Please write your child's name in their jumpers and coats, so that we are able to return them.

If you need any uniform, please speak to the ladies in the office and they will be able to check what stock we have in the sizes you require. Also, if you have any uniform at home that your child has outgrown and that is in good condition, please bring it to school. We need smaller sizes, particularly boys' trousers.

NEU Industrial Action

As you know, there are further dates planned: **Thursday 2nd March, Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March.** For further information regarding the rationale for the strike please visit the [NEU website](#).

As soon as I know more information about how the industrial action will affect St Winifred's on the subsequent dates, I will let you know.



Children's Mental Health Week



Children's Mental Health Week is taking place on 6-10 February. This year's theme is [Let's Connect](#).

Throughout the week, we will be encouraging children (and adults) to consider how we can make meaningful connections that support our mental health.

Human beings thrive in communities, and this connection is vital for our wellbeing, and our survival. When we have healthy connections – to family, friends and others – this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing. And when our need for rewarding social connections is not met, we can sometimes feel isolated and lonely – which can have a negative impact on our mental health.

Let's Connect is about making meaningful connections for all, during Children's Mental Health Week - and beyond.

Art Exhibition

A few weeks ago, we had our Art Week, where all the children studied 'Still Life'. We would like to invite you all to our Art Exhibition. We have decided to host it during Children Mental Health Week, as a way for our wider school community to connect too. The children's work from this week is to be exhibited in the main hall after school during the parent evenings on Tuesday 7th and Thursday 9th February. We are hoping that when you come to school to attend the meeting with your class teacher, that you take some time to go and see the children's art in the hall. If your child's parents' evening is after half term, please feel free to drop into the hall after you collect your child at home time.



Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday, it is safer Internet Day. This year it links beautifully with the theme for children's mental health week. Learning on this day will be based around this year's theme: ['Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'](#).

Considering how many of the children communicate on a variety of digital platforms, this day is incredibly important in helping us with our ongoing aim of promoting the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology.

Class Assemblies:

Please try to come along to your child's assembly, it was fantastic to have the Year 2 parents and carers in attendance again this week.

On the day of the assembly, come through the main gate, wait under the canopy and once I have rung the bell I will take you to the main hall.



February		March	
Wednesday 8:50am	Thursday 8:50am	Wednesday 8:50am	Thursday 8:50am
8 th : St Martin (Yr 4)	9 th : St Veronica (Yr 2)	1 st : St Josephine B. (Yr 5)	2 nd : St Elizabeth (Yr 1)
	23 rd : St John the Baptist (Yr 1)	8 th : St Paul Miki (Yr 5)	9 th : St Mary (Rec)
		15 th : St Francis Assisi (Yr 3)	16 th : St Joseph (Rec)
		22 nd : St Bernadette (Yr 3)	

Seeds

If you have any spare seeds that you could donate, we would love to have them for Science. If you are able to spare some, please drop them into the office.

Mini Marathon:

Thank you to our 40 children, who have signed up for running the mini marathon on Saturday 22nd April!



Friends of St Winifred's:

CAKE SALE 🍷 The Friends of St Winifred's are hosting a Valentine's cake sale on the last day of half term, after school - **FRIDAY 10th FEBRUARY**. We would welcome any nut-free cake donations (they don't have to be Valentine themed!). See the poster attached for more information!

EASTER EGG HUNT 🐣 The annual Easter Egg Hunt is only 10 weeks away! We are once again aiming to make sure every child gets to take home a full-sized Easter Egg after the hunt. We have reached out to organisations for Easter egg donations but if you have any contacts or would like to make a donation, then please get in touch

stwinifredsfriendsse12@gmail.com

Open Evenings:



Parent Evenings will be **next week**.

Tuesday 7th February- 3.30 - 6pm

(Last appointment 5:50pm)

Thursday 9th February - 3.30 - 6pm

(Last appointment 5:50pm)

St Kateri Class: Tuesday 21st and Thursday 23rd February (After half term)

St James the Great: Tuesday 7th February and Tuesday 21st February (After Half term)

Signing in sheets are available. You can sign up for your preferred time on the forms in the reception area at the back of the office inside the double doors. If you cannot pop in to sign up, then call the school office after 9.30am and before 2.30pm and we will do our best to accommodate you. Do not contact the class teacher to arrange an appointment, as the booking in sheets are being kept in the office.

You can make an appointment for a 10-minute discussion with your child's teacher, in your child's classroom. You will also be able to spend time looking at your child's work before your appointment if you arrive a bit earlier. **In order to ensure you don't have to wait, teachers will use timers. It is really important that appointments do not overrun but if you need more time then you are welcome to arrange a follow up meeting.**

Swimming:



Being able to swim is a vital life skill and due to this, it is on the curriculum. This opportunity stopped during the pandemic. This year we have managed to book into the Glass Mill in Lewisham. Before the pandemic these were weekly lessons, across a term. The pools have now decided that intensive blocks are more effective in being able to teach the children to swim. These blocks consist of 10 consecutive hourly lessons, over two weeks. The children in Years 5 and 6 will go swimming this term in the afternoon. Parents/carers will receive letters regarding their child's swimming lessons a few weeks before their block of lessons commence.

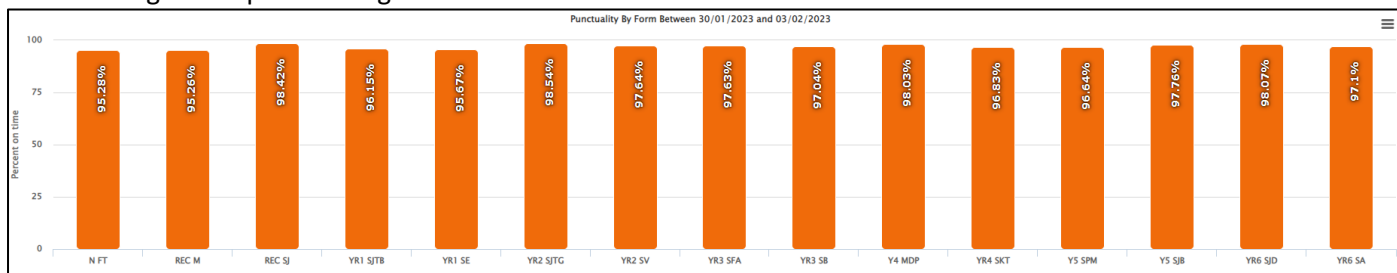
Spring 1: Year 6	Spring 2: Year 5
30 th January – 10 th February: St Alphonsa	6 th -17 th March: St Paul Miki
	20 th – 31 st March: St Josephine

Volunteers:

Now that we are able to welcome more people into school, it would be fantastic to increase the numbers of volunteers. If you are able to spare some time on a weekly basis and would like to volunteer in school, please let Mrs Carey (mcarey@swcps.lewisham.sch.uk) know. Mrs Carey can then meet with you, discuss what you would be able to offer and ensure all safeguarding checks are completed before commencing.

Punctuality:

It's incredibly important to get the children to school on time. We expect 97% + for all children. On Friday, we did leave the registers open for longer due to the train strike and the water works on the south circular.



This week's winner is St James the Great, with 98.5%! Well done.

Wednesday Word

Please see the [link](#) to this wonderful resource to share with your child, to support them in understanding the Mass Readings for the coming weekend.

Parent App:

If you need any help with downloading the app, please do not hesitate to ask us. Many parents in the school use it to update our records and to inform the office of absence.



Social Media:

Just to remind you, follow us on:



St Winifred's Catholic Primary School



St_winifreds_lee



@stwinifredslee

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter,

Claire Gillespie