

Message from the Headteacher

Happy half term to all of our families,

After several icy days and the rare treat of snow it is lovely to see the sun returning at school and our children have enjoying the run of all of our grounds at lunchtime.

We have a staffing change in one class. We are bidding farewell to Mrs Valder in Year 3 as she is returning to Leeson's school, so we will still see her on occasion! I would like to thank her for all of her hard work with Year 3 and wish her every future success and happiness. Pearl class will be welcoming two teachers sharing the class for the rest of this school year; Mrs Chandler has worked at the school many times in the past and will be here for three days a week, Miss Rae will be joining the school after half term and will support several classes across the school but specifically Pearl class for two days a week. I am sure that they will receive a warm welcome from our school community.

4. Unwanted kitchen utensils or equipment, pots, pans and sinks (nothing sharp please)

Thank you to our PTA who have organised two movie nights when we return after half term, EYFS & KS1 Monday 20th February at 3:30pm, and KS2 Tuesday 21st at 3:30pm. The money that has been raised by the PTA so far has helped to pay for buses to transport Year 5 to the Greenwich Observatory and all of our other planned trips. Please speak to the PTA if you are ever able to help out at any of the events planned for our children and sometimes families too!

Parent Reading Volunteers

Thank you to those parents who have volunteered to come in and read with children (yours and others) during the school day, we plan to be in contact with those volunteers and we are keen to recruit more!

OPAL Initiative



We try to encourage the children to be active in their playing in school at break and lunchtimes, this is why we promote OPAL (Outdoor Play And

Learning). If any families are able to donate items to the school to support our can you please bring in **clean and safe** articles that you may have at home or in your work environment:

1. Crates, planks, tarpaulins, empty cable reels
2. Duvets and sheets
3. Old suitcases, briefcases, big bags, travel bags, and handbags

Hoblingwell Parkrun

As several classes at school have enjoyed a cross country run on St Mary Cray recreation ground, I would like to encourage families to have a go at the Hoblingwell children's parkrun. This a free event that takes place every Sunday at 9am (so plenty of time for a lie in before!). The event is free to run and is marshalled by volunteers. You need to register to get a barcode that records your results registration form. Please speak to other parents as some children will enjoy running with friends, (parents are allowed to run with their children).

<https://www.parkrun.org.uk/register/?section=form&eventName=hoblingwell-juniors&e=hoblingwell-juniors>

Gordon Jamieson
Headteacher



St Mary Cray Primary Academy

Spring Term 1

10th February 2023



Dates for your Diaries

Please note that these dates may be subject to change

February 2023		
Mon	20	Spring Term 2 Begins
Mon	20	PTA Event – Movie Night (EYFS & KS1) 3:30pm – Purchase tickets directly via PTA members
Tue	21	PTA Event – Movie Night (KS2) 3:30pm – Purchase tickets directly via PTA members
March 2023		
Thu	2	World Book Day
Thu	2	Themed Lunch - World Book Day
Fri	3	Year 2 – Onyx Class Trip to Hemsley Conservation Centre
Fri	10	Year 6 – Ruby Class Trip to Imperial War Museum
Fri	24	PE Immersion Day
Fri	31	Last Day of Term
April 2023		
Easter Holidays: 1st – 14th April		
Mon	17	Summer Term Begins – Children Return to School



Excellence Award Winners – Spring Term 1

Well done and congratulations to all of our Excellence Award winners this half term!



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Attendance News

Attendance this Half Term:

Well done to Year 3 Opal Class, who achieved an amazing **96.7%** attendance for this half term!

1 st Place	YR3 Opal	96.7%
2 nd	YR6 Ruby	96.0%
3 rd	YR5 Emerald	95.9%
4 th	YR3 Pearl	95.4%
5 th	YR0 Sapphire	95.1%
6 th	YR4 Diamond	94.2%
7 th	YR2 Onyx	94.1%
8 th	YR1 Topaz	93.7%

Attendance Reminder

If your child is late you must bring them to the office to register them. **They should not come into school alone.** If they arrive after 9.00 am once registers are closed this is marked as an absence and counts towards their attendance.

Remember in the first 30 minutes children will greet friends, have conversations with teachers, learn phonics and are a part of planning the day

ahead. If you have difficulties in the morning please speak to either your class teacher or myself to see if we are able to offer any support.

Please ensure that you call the school **every day** of absence. As a school, part of our safeguarding procedures are around monitoring attendance. School attendance is a legal requirement and children under 90% are classed as 'persistent absentees'. I will be sending out letters every half term to make you aware of your child's attendance.

We know that good attendance means good academic progress and makes following routines, maintaining friendships and feeling confident all so much easier. This half term, attendance at St Mary Cray has improved, but we can still do better!

Please feel free to contact me via the school phone line or Dojo if you have any questions or concerns.

Miss Coupe - Pupil Support Lead



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Breakfast and After School Club

Please be advised that the booking window for sessions next half term (20th Feb to 31st March) HAS NOW CLOSED.

Any sessions required during this time will be charged as adhoc.

Contracted Booking Deadlines

Please find below details of booking deadlines for contracted sessions:

Term	Term Dates	Booking Window	
		Open	Closed
Autumn Term 1	Mon, 5th September to Fri, 14th October	24/06/2022	08/07/2022
Autumn Term 2	Tues, 1st November to Weds, 21st December	05/09/2022	07/10/2022
Spring Term 1	Weds, 4th January to Fri, 10th February	01/11/2022	14/12/2022
Spring Term 2	Mon, 20th February to Fri, 31st March	04/01/2023	03/02/2023
Summer Term 1	Mon, 17th April to Fri, 26th May	20/02/2023	24/03/2023
Summer Term 2	Mon, 5th June to Fri, 21st July	17/04/2023	19/05/2023

External After School Clubs

Spaces are still available for the Lego and Artikids after school clubs for next half term, at a cost of £3.99 plus VAT per session (6 weeks).

To book, please visit:

Monday Lego Club:

www.kidswithbricks.com

Tuesday Art Club:

www.artikids.co.uk



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Science Update with Mr Frost

This half-term has seen more scientific discovery in the classroom as we continue to have enquiry as a focus of our lessons and learning. We have continued with our weekly Science Assembly on a Monday morning, with bonus questions such as: how many horses are there in the world, and how many leaves are on the average tree provoking much debate!

We are using **Explorify**, a brilliant free website that adults and children can access at home. On Monday 6th February, we used Explorify to formulate the basis of our Science Quiz below; the questions are generated from the national curriculum and beyond, and aimed to increase in difficulty as we progress. Can your children remind you of the answers?!

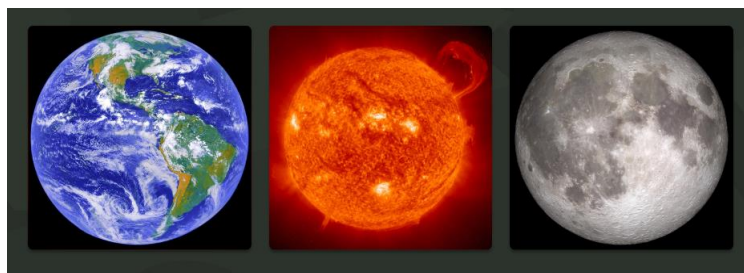
To the right are three celestial objects that your children should be familiar with. But how do they differ? Which is the odd one out and why? Does the picture on the left prove that the Earth is spherical? This activity is great for promoting observation and discussion skills!

Our questions that followed were:

1. Is the sun a star or a planet?
2. What planet is closest to the sun?
3. The Earth is located in which galaxy?
4. What is the force holding us to the Earth?
5. What is the name of Saturn's largest moon?

Bonus question - How much does it cost on average for NASA to launch a space rocket?

We have many exciting events lined up for the rest of the year that I won't ruin by sharing now, but with Science week, Earth week and Easter coming up very soon - we have some wonderful opportunities planned for the children!



Arbor



Thanks to the introduction of our ARBOR Parent App, parents now have the ability to access to their child's school profile (to amend contact details etc). This has therefore removed the need for termly data

collection sheets. With this in mind, please could we kindly request that all parents log on to their child's profile to check both consents (in particular photo consents) and your emergency contact details.

If you have not yet logged in to ARBOR, or are having any issues doing so, please contact Mrs Holmes in the School Office.

The link to log in is <https://st-mary-cray-primary.uk.arbor.sc/?/home-ui/index>.

Details on how to set up can be found on the School Wesbite here: <https://www.st-marycray.bromley.sch.uk/page/?title=Arbor+Parent+App&pid=568>



Sapphire Class

What an exciting half term we have had in Sapphire class! We began in January with the story '*Lost and found*' which is all about Antarctica. Using Google Maps we looked at pictures and learned that Antarctica is at the bottom of planet Earth. We really enjoyed playing with our ice world tough spot, which had seals, penguins, whales, polar bears and other animals that live in very cold places. When the weather turned really cold, we loved searching for ice in our outdoor classroom.

After the excitement of Antarctica, we then moved on to Superheroes! We read *Superdaisy*, *Superworm* and *Awesome Dawson* and had great

fun playing with superhero toys, even writing about our favourite heroes. One week at Forest school, we built a worm hotel and found 7 worms to go in it! Over the last few weeks we have been doing regular 'observations' to see how the worms have been tunnelling in their new home.

Every week we have been enjoying our Maths sessions and group work. We have learned about more/less, part-whole models, numbers 6, 7, 8 and measuring/comparing items. In our handwriting, we have been practising capital letters and red words: "You can't Fred a red!"

Phew... What a busy and fun time we have had!



Topaz Class

This term the children in Topaz class have been working hard! Here are some of the things that we have been up to:

Phonics is a huge focus in year 1, the children have been working hard to practise and use the skills to read and spell harder words. In English we read *Dear Greenpeace* and *How To Catch A Star*. The children have been learning to write letters, instructions and how to use adjectives to make their writing more interesting.

In Science we have been learning about materials. We carried out two fair test experiments; one to find out which material was more durable and the other to find out which material would be best to make a waterproof coat.

In Maths the children have been learning about subtraction and place value with numbers to 50.

In History we looked at how toys have changed since the Victorian times.

In Art we have been making collages inspired by Keith Haring and Henri Matisse.

The children continue to enjoy exploring at Forest school and they have been learning to peel carrots and use equipment safely.

Well done everyone for all of your hard work, have a lovely half term and have lots of fun!

Miss Mills, Mrs Matthews and Miss Wilson



Ruby Class

In what has been another jam packed term for Year 6, it has been amazing to see such amazing progress by all in the class. In History we have had a focus on World War Two, as well as post war Britain. It was especially thought provoking, learning about the Windrush generation and the contribution made by that community to help Britain and help expand our culture. We have also been reading *Goodnight Mr Tom* in English and studying about the Blitz and its effect on the major cities as well as the communities of evacuees during the war.

In Science, we have been looking at evolution and inheritance and how certain features and characteristics have adapted over time and how these characteristics can pass down through generation. As we head towards our final full half term before the SATs we have worked extremely hard on our Maths and English skills and we are beginning to see the fruits of our labour in some excellent scores in our most recent assessments.

We hope all of you have a wonderful half term.



Onyx Class

Year 2 have been learning about a range of interesting topics this half term, in and outside the classroom! We had the amazing opportunity to use our Forest School every Tuesday this term and even got to go on a local trip to Bromley Library for the Peter Rabbit Exhibition! In English we have been focusing on The Story Machine, using our acting skills to retell the story in an engaging way for our audience by using repetitive actions and changing our voices to portray different emotions. At the beginning of term we learnt about money in Maths and have now moved on to multiplication and division. Our History topic this term was The Great Fire of London, leading on from our learning of Guy Fawkes last term. We compared life from then

and now, realising we are extremely grateful that we now have the fire brigade! In Science we explored a range of living things and their habitats, researching them and grouping different animals/ plants to their correct environment. We even went on a minibeast hunt in our forest school to explore our local habitat! In Religious Education we focused on the Jewish community and why they celebrate Passover. PSHE allowed us to discuss our goals in life, the ones we have already achieved that make us proud and the new goals we aim to achieve, how will we achieve these? Finally in Art we learnt how to use a range of resources, natural and man-made to print colourful pictures using a range of printing techniques.



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Opal and Pearl Class

Both classes started 2023 with a plethora of activities planned.

In English we met the Iron Man and travelled to Australia to defeat the bat-angel like dragon. In Maths, we learnt to multiply, divide and started measuring using centimeters, millimetres and metres. We travelled back to The Stone Age and The Bronze Age in History and even met The Stone Age Boy. We developed our touching skills in ICT which was great fun.

This term we have started practicing for the Bromley Cross Country Race which will be held

18th of March at Crystal Palace, which Year 3 can take part in - more details to follow.

Sadly, we say goodbye to Mrs Valder who is moving to another trust on a permanent position. We wish her all the best and will be missed by the children and staff.

'I am sad to say goodbye to all of the wonderful children and their parents and caregivers at SMCPA. I have formed close relationships with the kids, who I have found to be charming, diligent, and welcoming while always giving it their all. All the best, Mrs Valder.'



Diamond Class

This half-term Diamond class has been working hard to develop their swimming proficiency and swimming lessons have been a weekly highlight.

In class children have been exploring the book "The Firework-Makers daughter. The children have learnt about conjunctions, and fronted adverbials. They have been trying to use these in their writing to develop their descriptive writing. In Maths we have focussed on multiplication and division.

This half term the children have been getting to grips with making use of computers in lessons

and this has culminated in a couple of days when we have made use of the computers in all of the morning sessions in order to prepare the children for working in the future.

In Science we have learnt about States of Matter and have revised the different molecular structures of a gas, solid and liquid. We have explored the concept of happiness whilst learning about Buddhism. In history we have been learning about Ancient Greece and how their culture still influences our lives to today.



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Emerald Class

Emerald class have had a great start to 2023! In January, we had the opportunity to go to the Royal Observatory and Planetarium in Greenwich, which was a truly memorable experience; we are so grateful to the PTA who were generous enough to provide funding for a coach, enabling us to travel in style, and to all the adults who contributed to the success of the trip. From beginning to end, the children were so excited and I am tremendously proud of their considerate behaviour and maturity. In English, we have been reading Viking Boy by Tony Bradman which follows the daring Gunnar and Rurik on their adventures; children have written a suspense story and a newspaper report based on these vivid characters with great success, using a

variety of writing tools. Children have been practicing their multiplication and division skills in math; each child has challenged themselves to work independently on increasingly difficult reasoning and problem-solving questions, demonstrating great ambition and resilience. We have had a lot of fun debating topics in RE and History, including whether or not the evidence suggests that Alfred the Great was truly great and whether or not traditional Sikh stories are still relevant today. Last but not least, it is important to note how impressed Ms. Sutherland and Mrs. Peel were with the swimming the children did during the Spring term; we couldn't be happier that every child has made progress!



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