

# St Mary Cray Primary Academy

Autumn Term 1

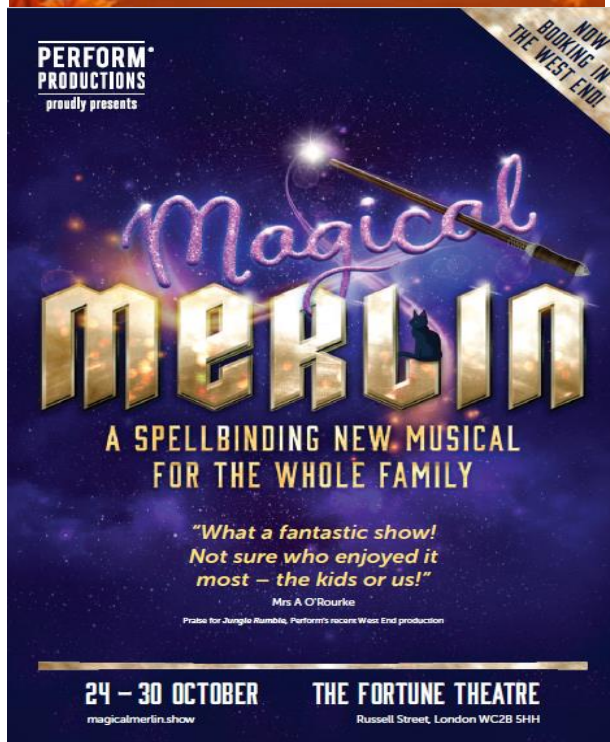
14<sup>th</sup> October 2022



## Dates for your Diaries

*Please note that these dates may be subject to change*

October 2022		
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> – Break up for 2 week October Half Term Holiday		
Mon	31	INSET Day – Children not in school
November 2022		
Tue	1	Autumn Term 2 Begins
Wed	16	Open Day for Reception Sep 2023 Intake
Fri	18	Flu Vaccination in School
Fri	18	Themed School Lunch – Children in Need
December 2022		
Fri	2	PTA Christmas Fair
Wed	14	Christmas Jumper Day
Wed	14	School Christmas Lunch
Wed	21	Last Day of Term – Break up for Christmas Holidays
January 2023		
Tues	3	INSET Day – Children not in school
Wed	4	<b>Spring Term 1 Begins</b>



## Excellence Award Winners – Autumn Term 1

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



A Spring Partnership Trust School | Registered office: George Lane | Bromley | Kent BR2 7LQ

☎ 020 3121 1149

@ springpartnershiptrust@hayes-pri.bromley.sch.uk

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## Message from the Head Teacher

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for all of those who have spoken to me and made me feel very welcome at the school. I am thrilled and very proud to have been appointed as the Head Teacher at St Mary Cray Primary Academy; I promise that I will do my very best to promote and develop our school as a safe and thriving place for your children to learn and grow.

I have already met with the core committee of the PTA who have plenty of ideas for events for our community that will also help raise funds to support and enrich the children's experience at school. In order for a PTA to be effective it needs as much parental (and grandparental) involvement as possible, therefore I feel it would help enormously with communication and organisation if **every class had two parent representatives** that can help work with the PTA. If you are happy to help, then please pass your name onto either the class teacher or a PTA member.

The money raised by the PTA will already be adding to the joy of the children's time in school as we have a drumming workshop for every class when they return on Tuesday 1st November.

### New Morning Drop-Off Procedure

I have spoken with many parents in the morning and observed our school routine at drop off over this half term. When your children arrive to

school, it is important that the Teachers are in the classroom with them, beginning and supporting their early work. To allow Teachers to focus on the children, **parents will no longer be asked to bring their children to the class door in the morning**. Instead, children should be dropped at the gate, this should allow parents to get away also. If anyone wishes to speak to specific staff, I will aim to be on the gate along with Mr Frost (Deputy Head), Mrs Mears (SENCO) and Miss Coupe (Pupil Support Lead) every day.

If parents have a message that is important for school to know, please inform one of the staff in our "drop zone", contact the School Office or the Teacher direct on Dojo. Collection at the end of the day will remain at the class door and allow a chance to speak with the Teacher if required.

### General School Reminders

Thank you to parents who encourage their children to walk to school; please where possible choose this method of accompanying your children in and out. For those that need to drive please be considerate of others, only turn where there is plenty of space at the end of the road and be patient with others who may also be in a rush.

I would like to remind parents, grandparents or carers that there is **no smoking or vaping** allowed on school premises. In the interest of child safety dogs are also not allowed on site.



## Safeguarding and Attendance News

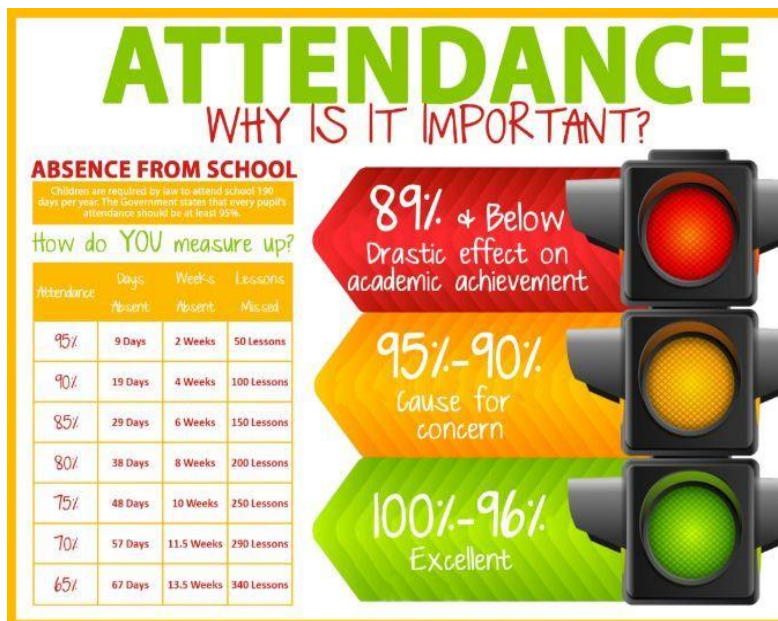
### Safeguarding

We recently held a Safeguarding assembly in which we explained how staff strive to keep the children safe at school. The children are able to identify staff Safeguarding Leads and know where the posters are around the school.

Mr Jamieson and Miss Coupe met with our community support Police Officers, and will be inviting them to school events so that children and families can say hello.

### Attendance

Our school Educational Welfare Officer (EWO) Mrs Bennett has met with the School Leadership Team to offer support for families with poor attendance. She will be making contact with some to ensure our children are at school as much as possible.



We have had some excellent class attendance figures, well done especially to Year 5. Our overall school attendance has been disappointing, it is crucial that children are in school as much as possible. Please see the graphic below that shows the impact of missing time from school.

## A Message from SENDCo Mrs Mears

Alongside educating your children, our most important mission is to keep them safe at school. A letter has been sent out to parents this week, outlining updates in our medical procedures. Please could you ensure that you update the school where necessary with any existing or future medical conditions.

School staff are only able to administer medication that has been prescribed by a medical professional.

For any medical condition to be uploaded on to Arbor a medical letter must be provided.

No medication or medical condition will be accepted onto Arbor or into school until the above have been entered into the system or/and appropriate forms signed.

Care plans cannot be written by the school; they have to be written by a medical professional and shared with the school.

If you have a problem getting any of this information, please just ask a member of SLT or the School Office and we can get this information for you.





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## Arbor Parent App

### A reminder about Arbor Parent App!

In December 2021 we migrated to a new pupil management system called **Arbor**. As part of this package, we are pleased to be able to offer you the **Arbor Parent App**. This will allow you to log in and check or amend certain details you have previously communicated to us; it could be you have a new mobile number, or you wish to change your GP surgery.



As we increase our usage of the new system, more features will become available.

In the first instance, we are providing you access to the Parent App with a view to you reviewing details on your child's profile.

We would be grateful if you could review the following information on your child's profile:

- Ethnicity
- Religion
- Language
- Home Address
- Family, Guardians & Contacts (you can only amend and view your own details)
- Dietary Requirements
- Medical
- Consents (please review consents as some of these have changed)

Details on how to log on to the App can be found on the school website under Whole School Letters ('ARBOR Parent App – First Time Logging In' or copy this link onto your browser: <https://www.st-marycray.bromley.sch.uk/page/?title=Whole+School+Letters&pid=165>

## Perform Drama & Dance- Free Trial Session and £40 Discount!



Popular children's drama and dance school *Perform* is offering a Free Trial Session and a special introductory discount of £40 for members of St Mary Cray Primary School if they sign up by **Tuesday 24th January**. Parents should quote **MRYC240123** when they book their free session by going to [perform.org.uk/try](https://perform.org.uk/try) or calling 020 7255 9120.



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## Breakfast and After School Club

**Please be advised that the booking window for sessions next term 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
<del>Autumn Term 1</del>	<del>Mon, 5th September to Fri, 14th October</del>	<del>24/06/2022</del>	<del>08/07/2022</del>
<del>Autumn Term 2</del>	<del>Tues, 1st November to Weds, 21st December</del>	<del>05/09/2022</del>	<del>07/10/2022</del>
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

### Adhocs

If you require to use either Breakfast Club or After School Club as a "one off", please e-mail the relevant club to request a place for your child:

**[breakfastclub@st-marycray.bromley.sch.uk](mailto:breakfastclub@st-marycray.bromley.sch.uk) / [afterschoolclub@st-marycray.bromley.sch.uk](mailto:afterschoolclub@st-marycray.bromley.sch.uk)**

The Club Leader will then confirm your booking via e-mail or telephone if a space is available. **Your child's place must be booked by 12:00hrs (noon) the working day prior to attending either club.** Payment for the session should then be made via ParentPay once your child's place has been confirmed by the club.

Please note that the inboxes are **not** monitored at weekends.

We would kindly ask you to follow the booking process by booking a day in advance and refrain from sending your child to either club without a confirmed prior booking to either club, as we need to ensure that the correct Staff to Pupil ratio within the club is in place prior to the club opening.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the Club Leader or email our Credit Control team on [creditcontrol@springpartnership.co.uk](mailto:creditcontrol@springpartnership.co.uk).

## Thank You!



Thank you to Specsavers in Eltham for donating Hi-viz vests to help keep our children seen and safe on school trips!



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## PTA Monster Bash



Last Friday the PTA held a Monster Bash party at school, and what a fabulous day it was! The Autumn sun was shining, apples were bobbing, doughnuts were dangling, and children were having an amazing time. Thank you to all our PTA and Parent & staff helpers for putting on a spook-tacular party!





## Science Update with Mr Frost

In Science this year our weekly 'quizzes' have begun to incorporate more Oracy elements as we continue to ensure that speaking and listening and Science are two of our main school priorities.



We are following the premise of ACE (Accept, Challenge and Expand) whilst talking in pairs or groups about a stimulus on **Explorify** - which is an excellent and free resource that we use to really engage our children. Our last focus of the half-term was all about thumbs, which really provoked some interesting debate!

***Have a go with your children - can you discuss which animal above is the odd one out and why?***

Both Mr Ricketts and I have had the chance to attend courses that should allow us to continue developing our Science curriculum and teaching. Our focus remains ensuring that children have continued opportunities to experiment and enquire with the 5 **Scientific Enquiry** types being at the forefront of our teaching:

- *Pattern Seeking,*
- *Research,*
- *Fair/Comparative Testing,*
- *Observations over Time*
- *Identifying and Classifying.*

By continually improving and evolving our practice, we are striving to have more children from SMC at some point in the future have a career involved in **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). And what better way than showing our children how interesting and fun Science is!

Mr Frost

## Our New Head Boy and Head Girl



Congratulations to both Emily and William in Year 6, who have recently been appointed our new Head Girl and Head Boy.

The new recruits have already completed the first task in their roles, showing prospective new parents around the school on Open Day.

We are sure both children will continue to uphold our school values, and make our school proud!

Well done!



### Sapphire Class

What a fantastic first half-term we have had in Sapphire class; the children have all settled in so well and are learning how to behave in 'big' school!

We read the story Anna Hibiscus, about a girl who lives in Africa. We talked about the differences between Africa and London, looked at some yams, made African necklaces out of painted pasta and even had a Djembe drumming session!

In Maths, we have been learning about matching and grouping. Using items such as welly boots,

leaves, acorns, fir cones and much more, we have sorted things into groups and talked about which group has more or less items.

On Wednesday mornings, we have really enjoyed going to forest school with Mrs Paris - it gives us the chance to explore the grass, trees and bushes while searching for bugs and creepy crawlies!

One final highlight was our Monster Bash where we all got to dress up in monster costumes and have great fun together with the rest of the school.





### Topaz Class

In Topaz class the children have had a very busy few weeks learning a lot of new skills

In phonics the children have learned new sounds, and how to apply the skills to read, write and spell new words. We have been learning how to write different genres, writing super sentences, letters, thought bubbles and questions.

In Maths we have been working on place value, we have been learning about numbers using part whole models and making number bonds to 10. In RE we have been learning about the Creation Story and how we can help to look after our planet. We also looked at symbols for greater than, less than and equals to.

In Geography we have looked at compass points, the children were given instructions to follow using the vocabulary North, East, South and West. The children created their own fantasy maps, using their own symbols and keys.

In Science we have looked at the different seasons, types of weather and how to measure how much rainfall we have in each season. We have made a rain gauge and we will measure how

much it has rained over the half term.

We went out for a walk around the local area, looking at a map to make sure we were going the right way. We then observed and identified things that can be found in the Autumn season. The children were very sensible on the walk and we are proud of all of them.

I would like to say a huge well done to all of the children in Topaz class for their hard work and fantastic start to Year 1.

I hope you all have a lovely half term and get lots of rest. Take care!





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### Onyx Class

This half term Year 2 have been learning to write their own stories in English lessons, comparing numbers in maths and orienteering in Geography!



**PERFORM PRODUCTIONS**  
proudly presents

**Magical merlin**

**A SPELLBINDING NEW MUSICAL FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**

*"What a fantastic show!  
Not sure who enjoyed it most – the kids or us!"*  
Mrs A O'Rourke  
Praise for Jungle Rumble, Perform's recent West End production

**24 – 30 OCTOBER** **THE FORTUNE THEATRE**  
magicalmerlin.show Russell Street, London WC2B 5HH

NOW BOOKING IN THE WEST END!

### THE PERFECT HALF-TERM HALLOWEEN TREAT

This October half-term, take your children on a trip back in time as they discover a world of witches, wizards, magic and mystery.

In Ancient Britain, Magical Merlin is the most miraculous wizard ever. So when the baby King Arthur is born and jealous older sister, Morgan Le Fay, starts turning people into animals, it's down to Merlin to save the day.

Teaming up with brave Sir Lancelot and beautiful Princess Guinevere, the adventurers ride a fire-breathing dragon to The Lady Of The Lake to discover where true power lies. But can they get back to Tintagel Castle before Morgan turns the baby Arthur into a hamster?

With a spellbinding mix of magic, songs and dancing, *Magical Merlin* is a spectacular mini-musical sure to enchant the whole family.

#### SHOW DATES AND TIMES

**Monday 24th October**  
2pm and 4pm  
**Tuesday 25th October**  
11am  
**Wednesday 26th October**  
11am, 1.30pm and 4pm  
**Thursday 27th October**  
11am  
**Friday 28th October**  
11am, 1.30pm and 4pm  
**Saturday 29th October**  
10am and 12.30pm  
**Sunday 30th October**  
10am, 12 noon, 2.30pm and 4.30pm



**24 – 30 OCTOBER 2022 THE FORTUNE THEATRE**

Russell Street, London WC2B 5HH

To book tickets visit  
**atgtickets.com**

Find out more at  
**magicalmerlin.show**

For Access bookings, please call 0800 912 6971



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## Opal and Pearl Class

Pearl and Opal have had a very enjoyable and busy half term. We all enjoyed getting to know each other and seeing our friends after a long summer break. In Geography, children enjoyed looking at coasts and making their own beaches. In Science, we learned all the scientific names of the bones in a human body (the names of which the children found very funny!) and investigated how muscles work. In Art, we

learned new skills of sketching eyes and portraits and using shading techniques. In English, we started the term with a magical book - *Leon and the Place Between* and ended with *Gorilla* by Anthony Browne - after imitating *Gorilla*, we invented our own story magpie-ing from the book. Place value was the topic in Maths which is the foundation for all maths. We definitely deserve a break after all the hard work we have put in this half-term! Have a lovely rest.





### Diamond Class

Diamond class have all been working brilliantly this half term; we have learned about drawing, sound, Judaism, rivers, basketball and about themselves (PSHE).

In English class we have explored topics connected to the past. First we looked at writing

instruction text about how to build a model of a Stone-age round house and to finish we have been reading Arthur and the golden rope which is an adventure story about Norse mythology.

In Maths we have covered place value, addition and subtraction.





## Emerald Class

Year 5 have made a tremendous start to the year! We have had so much fun learning about our solar system in our science lessons; we have made models of the lunar cycle using Oreos, produced space themed artwork and have investigated how shadows change throughout the day as the Earth rotates. In English, we have been reading *Cosmic* by Frank Cottrell Boyce; this text has complimented our science learning and has inspired us to write a heartfelt diary entry in character as well as a formal letter trying to persuade Mr Jamieson and Mr Frost to let Year 5 on a school trip into deep space! In maths, we have been deepening our knowledge of place value of numbers up to a million as well as refining our column addition and subtraction skills. We have also thoroughly enjoyed learning about Sikhism in our RE lessons and what the term, "commitment," means to Sikhs. Year 5

demonstrated both resilience and determination during their assessment week and everyone should be incredibly proud of their efforts and achievements.



## Ruby Class

It has been an all action start to the new academic year in Year 6 in which the whole class has shown a great dedication to their work. In English we have immersed ourselves into the wizarding world of Harry Potter, it has been a pleasure to see the children enjoying a book so much and the clear joy that can only be found through reading. We also looked at the British Value of Democracy when we held the first ever school wide vote for Head Boy and Head Girl. Well done to every child who was brave enough to create their own speech and share it with the rest of the school. Congratulations to Emily Overton-Braesyde and William Higgins on being elected Head Girl and Head Boy.



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## Notices and Reminders



### Reporting Your Child Absent

If your child is absent from school, please ensure that you contact the School Office by phone before 9am on 01689 826081. If you cannot get through, please leave a message or email [admin@st-marycray.bromley.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marycray.bromley.sch.uk).

### Lost Property

Just a reminder to label all of your child's school uniform, **especially coats and jumpers/cardigans!**

### SMS Messages from School

To enable school to send you emergency messages via SMS text message, you must first enable this on your ParentPay account. Please follow the instructions shown to set this up:

View all items

Add Parent Account credit

Manage alerts

Lunchtime meal activity

*After logging in to your ParentPay account, please select 'Manage Alerts' button on the Home Screen (you may need to scroll down a little)*

Message alerts

School	Text
St Mary Cray Primary Academy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Save

[Reset changes](#)

*You will find yourself on a page headed 'Alert Settings', scroll down until you reach 'Message Alerts'. From here, click the box under 'text' and save changes.*





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## Community Notice Board and Events

**FREE EVENTS**

**Sat 15 October 2022 12-5pm**  
**Calverley Grounds and Royal Victoria Place**

**WORLD-CLASS ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY TO ENJOY**  
**[twpuppetryfestival.org](http://twpuppetryfestival.org)**

ROYAL VICTORIA PLACE TUNBRIDGE WELLS

**FOAL FARM HALLOWEEN FUN**

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October**  
**1:30pm - 4:30pm**

**60 minute tour to meet the animals**  
Kids' Games   Spooky Story Time   Fancy Dress  
Kids' Goody Bag   Cake and Drink Included

£12 per person  
To book, call 01959 572386 option 5

**TICKETS MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE**

**www.foalfarm.org.uk**  
Foal Farm Animal Rescue, Jail Lane, Biggin Hill, TN16 3AX  
Registered Charity Number 201654

## Mindful Mums Befriending

**Make a Difference to Pregnant Women and New Mothers?**

**Develop your skills and use your experience of pregnancy and motherhood to support other local women.**

Become a Mindful Mums Volunteer Befriender and support pregnant women and new mums living in Bromley borough, through a challenging period of their lives.

Our volunteer befrienders help women positively deal with the stresses and other changes that pregnancy and motherhood can bring. Befriending support is provided on a one-to-one basis, in the home and local community.

Training and ongoing support are provided and expenses covered.

### Contact:

Fiona Newman Tel: 07885 975129  
[fiona.newman@blmind.org.uk](mailto:fiona.newman@blmind.org.uk)  
<https://bit.ly/2VRrlv6>

Visit the short link above or scan the QR code on the right with your smartphone (QR app needed) to find out more.



**vote now!**

**For St Barnabas Bike Project**

Please vote in these Tesco stores:

- Sidcup superstore
- Longlands Exp
- Erith Exp
- Welling Superstore + Exp
- Bexley Blackfen Exp
- Northumberland Exp

**Thank you!**



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#HELLOYELLOW



## World



# Mental Health Day

10th October 2022

Hello Yellow - Young Minds

St Mary Cray Primary School took part in the **#HelloYellow** campaign to raise money for Young Minds. The students made an amazing effort and the bright yellow colours definitely brought out the sunshine! We raised £76 for the charity. Thank you to all who donated and took part.



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