



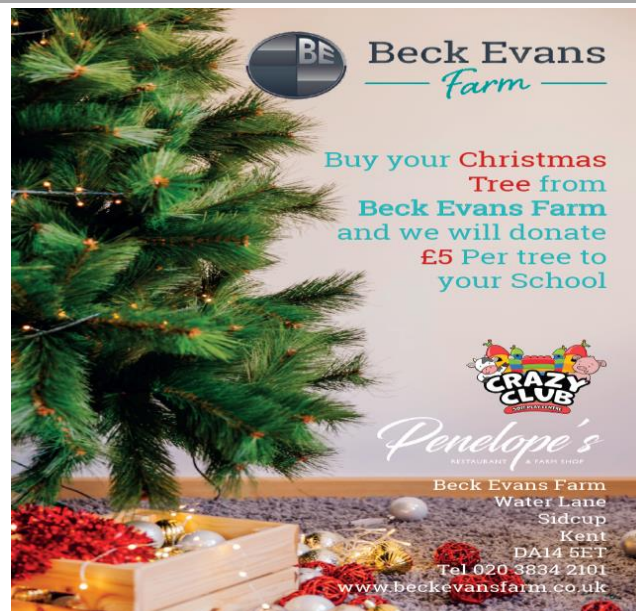
St Mary Cray Primary Academy

Autumn Term 2

19th December 2023

Dates for Your Diaries - 2024

20 th December – 3rd January- Christmas Break		
January		
Thu	4	Spring Term 1 Begins
Tue	9	Open Morning for Reception Sept 2024 @ 10am
Thu	25	NCMP Screening for Reception and Year 6
February		
Fri	2	PTA Presents BONGO BINGO Further Details TBC
March		
Wed	20	Parent Consultations Will be bookable via Arbor – more details to follow
Tue	26	Easter Fun Further Details TBC



Safeguarding at SMCPA

Here at St Mary Cray Primary Academy we are committed to the safety and wellbeing of our children and staff. If you have any concerns, please contact the designated people with responsibility for safeguarding and child protection in this school: **Mr Jamieson**

(Headteacher); **Mr Frost** (Deputy Headteacher); **Mrs Mears** (SENCO) and **Miss Walker** (Pupil Support Lead)



Excellence Awards – Autumn Term 2

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





St Mary Cray Primary Academy

Autumn Term 2

19th December 2023



Message from the Headteacher

On behalf of all of the staff at St Mary Cray Primary we wish all of our families a safe and peaceful Christmas break. I hope that everyone has the opportunity to have fun as a family and look forward to welcoming in 2024 on the **4th January**.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to all of our families for supporting the PTA-run events over the last year and providing funds that have been used to allow all year groups to book trips, and also to fund the amazing new school library. Additional thanks go to those PTA members that gave their time during the October half term to put in many hours of work to complete the decorating work.

In no particular order I would like to recognise the effort of the following people in completing the library project:

Brian Rance our Premises Manager for supporting the whole team and organising access amongst the other works at the school, Terri Ferrett, Natasha, Tony and Lou Gilhooly, Ellie and Lisa Edwards, Jay Ambrose and Charlie Webb, Mr Jamieson and his son Finlay, and Jo Heinrich. Thanks also to April Lloyd for helping with fundraising, putting together the design for the room and for bringing family in to help; her husband Duncan, Steve, Keith, Dad Dave, Mr Frost for the verbal encouragement during half term! Mrs Reynolds for planning author involvement and new book stocking; Oscar and his parents Martin Cotterrell and Michelle

Stevens, who put their lives on hold for two weeks to organise, oversee and complete much of the physical works. The time and effort put in by the team exceeded any normal expectation of volunteering and the school was like a scene from DIY SOS many days with different volunteers arriving.

There will be other opportunities to support future projects that parents can be involved with. In these difficult times of the cost of living crisis and conflict around the globe it is heart-warming to see our families living the values of **collaboration** and **ambition** in working to improve the school for the children who pass through our doors every day.

On behalf of the children I would like to say a huge thank you for all of your hard work, effort and attention to detail. Amongst the many positive comments I would like to leave you with Uthman in Year 6's observation that it looks so good, "Can I live in here?" Now that's a library to be proud of!

Photos of the new library can be found within this term's newsletter.

Wishing you all a wonderful break and well wishes for the Season,

Mr Jamieson

Headteacher





JTA Speedgun Survey

Last week you may have seen a group of children with speed guns and clipboards at pick up and drop off at school. Our Junior Travel Ambassadors (JTA's) and their friends were doing an important job for **Brakes**, a charity that monitors road safety across the country. Brakes are constantly trying to make

our roads safer because road danger in Britain not only kills and injures over 16,000 kids every year, but the associated air pollution poisons millions more. The children were monitoring any potential dangers outside of our school and here are the findings:

Investigation	5/12/23 Tue - am	6/12/23 Wed -pm	7/12/23 Thu - am	8/12/23 Fri - pm
Number of cars driving above 20mph	3	11	56	38
Number of cars stopping on lines.	5	0	1	5
Number of cars dropping children off with the engine running	7	2	3	0
Number of children walking on Park road	30	90	2	0
No seatbelt	12	0	4	23
Using mobile phone	11	0	3	4
Other risks/concerns to child safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1 car running late and using the front staff car park. ➤ 3 children in the front of a van, 2 with no seatbelt. 			





St Mary Cray Primary Academy

Autumn Term 2

19th December 2023

Sports Round up for Autumn Term 2

On **Thursday 9th November**, six of our Year 2 pupils took part in a **Multi Skills Session** at Leeson's Primary Academy.

We arrived at Leeson's right on time. There were two other schools from the trust, Hayes and Leeson's already there. We started by introducing ourselves to the children and Mrs Swift from Hayes started to explain what we were going to do for the morning. The children started by doing a warm up with Mr Gwilliam from Hayes. Once all warmed up we sat down in lines: girl, boy, girl boy. We were shown how to do the first activity which was a jumping activity and SMCP did the most jumps! The children were excellent at this! Next we threw a rocket and the room had cones and a measuring tape to show how far the children had thrown their rockets - Ronnie threw it so far that it hit the back wall! Following this we had a quick drink as the adults set up for the next activity. We did a standing jump using mats that had measurements already on them. Simona and Armani jumped further than anyone - including children from the other schools! This was followed by two relay type races - one a balancing activity and one a dribbling activity. The children cheered each other on brilliantly and worked well as a team. At the end the children were awarded a badge for their efforts and by this time we were a little hungry and thankfully when we returned to school it was lunchtime!

Well done **Armani, Simona, Robyn, Eliena, Ronnie and Charles** for your excellent behaviour and skills!

Thank you to Mrs Wright and Mrs Nicholson for leading the trip.

On **Tuesday November 14th** our children attended the small schools **Swimming Gala**.

The competition was fierce, with other schools providing club swimmers and exclusively Year 6; but our Year 4, 5 and 6 students did us proud!

An early start had us meeting at 7:30am at Orpington station to ensure we arrived in Beckenham for 8:30 with the event starting at 9am.

Aswin and Emily got us off and 'running' in the freestyle followed by Heyls and Joelliane in the breaststroke and then Callum and Ellie in the backstroke.

The team events followed with Bryn, Dorian, Cassius and Oscar representing us in the freestyle relay and Star, Katie, Ivy and Grace doing the same for the girls. There was no let-up however, as the boys alternate relay was on straight after with Heyls, Bryn, William and Uthman performing admirably. As the competition was heating up, the girls were up next with Unnati and Jenell on freestyle from one end of the pool and Joelliane and Emily backstroke from the other.

We weren't finished just yet though! The medley relay was up next (back, breast, freestyle and freestyle), with Callum, Aswin, Dorian, Cassius in the boys and Star, Ellie, Ivy and Katie for the girls competing to rapturous applause. Then there were two left: The mixed squadron had some tired arms and legs - but Bryn, Aswin, William, Heyls, Grace, Emily, Joelliane and Star battled through to finish their swimming for the day.

Did we have enough left in the lungs? Of course we did! Our final relay race involved 8 people per lane! Kesienna, Jennifer, Jacob, Muhammed and the team performed heroically when faced with the minefield of swimmers and noodles to finish off our morning with a bang!

We are so proud of our children taking part in a difficult event and remarkably thankful for the parental support on the day.

Well done to all the children who represented our school so well, and thank you to Mrs Paris, Mrs Peel and Mrs Sutherland (our swimming coach) for leading the trip.

On **Saturday 18th November** pupils from Years 5 and 6 attended the annual **Cross Country Event at Crystal Palace**. In typical November and Cross Country style, the weather was wet and windy with the course itself extremely muddy!



St Mary Cray Primary Academy

Autumn Term 2

19th December 2023



We were so proud of how the children performed; and we were equally as proud of the below email from a parent on the day:

I had to drop you an email to say a massive thank you to two of your girl runners from year 6 who helped my daughter when she became unwell at the Crystal Palace Cross Country Competition today.

They both stopped running to help my little one as she was going to faint and felt very sick. It really warmed my heart to learn how selfless and kind the 2 pupils from your school were and I wanted to extend a massive thank you from us.

I am sure the girls will know who they are.

Congratulations on having a cohort of such wonderful children at St Mary Cray school.

It was more appreciated than you know.

Many thanks to Mr Jamieson and Mr Coy for leading the trip and many thanks as always to our parents for the long drive and cold morning!

Year 5 boys: Jesaiah, Adrian and Marvin.

Year 5 girls: Joelliane, Kesienna, Ivy and Ellie

Year 6 boys: Leo, Eddie and Aswin

Year 6 girls: Amelia and Melodi

Congratulations to our Year 5&6 children who travelled the length of Bromley to take part in the Borough **Sportshall Athletics** at Langley Boys School On **Tuesday 5th December**. We were amongst 17 schools that competed in a range of sprinting relays, jumps for height and distance, throws and speed bounces. Although we did not win an event, all of our children gave their all and enthusiastically supported and collaborated with their team mates. Thank you to the parents (and big brother!) that accompanied us and made the trip possible, and well done to Annie, Melodi, Amelia, Jenell, Alexis, Ellie, Kesiena, Joelliane, Ivy, Aswin, Leo, Simon, William, Alfie, Ronnie, Remy, Jesaiah and Adrian.

Data Collection Update



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 Website here: <https://www.st-marycray.bromley.sch.uk/page/?title=Arbor+Parent+App&pid=568>



St Mary Cray Primary Academy

Autumn Term 2

19th December 2023

Science Fair 2023

On December 18th we held our second annual Science Fair. Our children were tasked with designing/building an experiment at home, and we were amazed at some of the incredible work produced!

Ms Paris led an experiment for the whole school, whereby she attempted to have us all hold hands to see if we could light an energy stick using only the electrical current flowing through us! Our head boy and girl could manage it, Reception and Years 1 and 2 together also could, but unfortunately we couldn't with the whole school!

Next our children showed their experiments to their peers: Powerpoints, electricals, fire, filtration, sweets and more made for an amazing spectacle in the classrooms. Each class voted for a winning entry, all of which were brought to the hall ready for assembly.

We still had a little time for a virtual visit from Scientist and Author, Dr Alex Sinclair, as well as performing our own experiments determining how we could affect the speed of paper as it falls through the air. Finally, the winners from each class demonstrated their experiment in assembly. We were so impressed with the standard, that it was only right that prizes and certificates were handed out to all those who took part!



Well done to all involved, but especially to:

Arianna for her skittles art.

Teddy for his apple powered clock.

Sophie for her non-newtonian fluid.

Patrick for his presentation about birds.

Chelsea for her circuit she had built.

Jacob for his water filter.

Adrian for his robotic hand prototype

Emily for her work on wavelengths.

Thank you so much for all the parental support, and many thanks to Ms Paris for organising such an exciting day!





SMCPA Panto!



The children were treated to a surprise staff pantomime of Cinderella on Wednesday 13th December. It was a roaring success, and everyone had a whale of a time (ooohhh yes they did!!) and we hope this will become an annual SMCPA tradition in years to come. Well done to Mrs Duckering for writing the hilarious script, and for all the cast for being such good sports!

Pudsey Bearpees Week

In November our pupils completed a sponsored 'Pudsey Bearpees' Week to raise money for BBC Children in Need. We are happy to report that thanks to our children and their families, a total of £691.56 was donated to this wonderful cause. Well done all!





Attendance

Attendance this Term:

1 st Place	YR3 Onyx	96.6 %
2 nd	YR0 Ruby	96.4%
3 rd	YR5 Diamond	96.3%
4 th	YR6 Emerald	96.1%
5 th	YR4 Pearl	95.0%
6 th	YR2 Topaz	95.0%
7 th	YR4 Opal	94.5%
8 th	YR1 Sapphire	93.8%

Well done to **Onyx** class for achieving the best attendance this term! A reminder to parents that our school target is 96%, we are currently on a whole school attendance mark of **95.2%** so not there yet. Every day lost is more than a number, it is learning lost and often makes it harder for children to keep up when they miss out on essential stepping stones of understanding.

Absence Reporting – Reminder

If your child is off school due to illness or any other reason, you must report this either by phone or by email by 09:00am, and provide medical evidence. You may also use Class Dojo, however **please only message the School Office, and not Class Teachers/SLT.**

It is important that you keep in touch with school by telephoning the School Office **every day of your child's absence.**

If the school does not receive daily communication and we are unable to make contact with you, then a home visit or call to social services may be required.

Please note - The school must always be notified if your child contracts an infectious disease, regardless of whether they are absent with the illness.

School Communications

We want to ensure that we communicate as effectively with families as possible, sometimes we may not get this right so please let us know of any issues.

The school regularly communicates with parents via Dojo and email/Arbor, Teachers are expected to check their Dojo messages daily. If you do not get a reply to a message please try again, if you do not receive a reply then please contact Mr Jamieson or

Mr Frost. Class Teachers are extremely busy and as I am sure you appreciate have at least 30 distractions each day!

We appreciate your support in making sure that we can ensure a smooth flow of information between home and school.

Mr Jamieson



St Mary Cray Primary Academy

Autumn Term 2

19th December 2023



PTA News



Our wonderful PTA and helpers have had a busy and successful term this Autumn; not only were we pleased to announce the grand opening of our new, PTA funded (and decorated) library, but we also had one of our best fundraising periods for a long time!

This term the PTA held a Family Friendly Quiz night which was great fun for all! Congrats to our winners and a wooden spoon to our gracious losing team!

Thank you to all who purchased gifts via Xmas 4 Schools this year – your orders have raised an extra **£50** For the school.

We also had a Bake Sale in November in aid of Children in Need, with the proceeds being split between Children in Need and the PTA. We managed to raise a very respectable **£120!**

At the very beginning of December we held the annual Christmas Fair – we had a record turnout AND a record profit of a whopping **£1,656.50p!** Thank you to all of our wonderful helpers and to those who came and supported the fair.





St Mary Cray Primary Academy

Autumn Term 2

19th December 2023

Library Grand Opening



On Tuesday 28th November we had a Grand Opening celebration for our new library! Author and poet Joshua Seigal joined us for two fantastic assemblies. We also had some special visitors including one of our CEOs, our Chair of Trustees, the Chair of our Local Advisory Council and Jenny Hawke, the children's librarian from Orpington Library. We had the opportunity to thank the PTA and parent volunteers who worked so hard to set up the library over the October half term. Every class has had the opportunity to visit the library, and we look forward to using it for many years to come!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the PTA and all of our parent helpers once again for their fundraising efforts and for all of their time, dedication and hard work. Thank you!



A Message from Buckingham Palace



Back in May this year, the children wrote messages of congratulations to HRH King Charles following his Coronation. We received this card from Buckingham Palace as thanks.

We were deeply touched by your most kind and thoughtful message following our Coronation. We are enormously grateful to everyone who took part in the celebrations, and particularly appreciate that you so generously took the time to write to us on this very special occasion.



St Mary Cray Primary Academy

Autumn Term 2

19th December 2023

Snack Wars Kids with LADbible

Social Media company LADbible have been in touch with the school casting for children aged 4-7 years old to take part in their original series, **Snack Wars**. In this concept, kids would react to a range of different snacks from Jaffa Cakes to Twinkies, Cadbury's Chocolate to Hershey's.

If your child would like to take part, you will need to send an audition tape:

Audition Tape Instructions

Please upload your details and audition tape here :
(<https://form.jotform.com/233342112692348>)

What to include in your audition tape:

Introduction: We would love the parent(s)/guardian(s) to introduce themselves at the start of the video and then introduce your child. We would then love a short introduction from your child, stating their name, age, and favourite snack.

What we are looking for:

- **Passion for Snacks:** Ask the child to express their love for snacks. What do they enjoy most about trying different snacks?
- **Favourite Snacks:** Have them mention their favourite snacks and why they love them.
- **Least Favourite Food:** Have they tried any food that they hate?

Duration and Format:

- **Length:** Keep the video concise, preferably within 1-2 minutes.
- **Format:** We don't mind if the video is filmed vertically or horizontally, our focus is seeing how your child is in front of the camera and ensuring they are comfortable with expressing their opinions!

Additional Filming Tips:

- Ensure good lighting and clear audio for better video quality.
- Please try to film in natural lighting if possible or under a bright light at home.

Please note - LADbible will be posting this video across their social media platforms, YouTube, TikTok, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.





St Mary Cray Primary Academy

Autumn Term 2

19th December 2023



Bromley
Brighter
Beginnings

Christmas in a Bag 2023



Helping Local Families through the Power of Community

Bromley Brighter Beginnings is a volunteer-led charity that harnesses the power of community to provide essential baby and child-related items to families living in financial hardship across the London Borough of Bromley.



Around **20%** of children in this area are **living in poverty**; over **16,000** children. For many of those children Christmas can be a time of sadness, disappointment and exclusion in place of excitement and happiness.

BBB supports families by providing 'Christmas in a Bag' - filled with books, toys, gifts, games, Christmas treats, toiletries, cosy nightwear, and food vouchers.

We are looking for support from you, our generous community, to help these children feel the magic, believe that Father Christmas always delivers and be delighted by surprises on Christmas morning.

How you can bring the magic this Christmas:

Buy gifts from
our wishlist



amazon
wishlist



Donate 'pre-loved'
Christmas Jumpers



Unwanted / duplicate
gifts (MUST BE NEW)



Visit our website link
below for donation drop-
off volunteers in your area

Get your school, group
or business involved!



Schools & groups:

helen@bromleybrighterbeginnings.org.uk

Businesses:

jen@bromleybrighterbeginnings.org.uk

Donate via
JustGiving

[https://www.justgiving.com/
campaign/bbbchristmasinab
ag2023](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/bbbchristmasinabag2023)



Fundraise for us



Visit our website for ideas

[https://www.bromleybrighterbeginnings.
org.uk/index.php/fundraising-pack/a-z-
of-fundraising-ideas/](https://www.bromleybrighterbeginnings.org.uk/index.php/fundraising-pack/a-z-of-fundraising-ideas/)

Visit our website to find out more

[https://www.bromleybrighterbeginnings.org.uk/index.php/
campaigns/christmas-in-a-bag/](https://www.bromleybrighterbeginnings.org.uk/index.php/campaigns/christmas-in-a-bag/)



Registered charity in England and Wales no. 1162113
<https://www.bromleybrighterbeginnings.org.uk/>
<https://linktr.ee/BromleyBrighterBeginnings>





St Mary Cray Primary Academy

Autumn Term 2

19th December 2023



Winter Holiday Fun

Bromley's Holiday Activities and Food programme

Bromley is running a holiday club programme for eligible children and young people.

www.Bromley.gov.uk/HolidayActivitiesandFoodProgramme



Holiday Activities and Food Programme Kent

Helping families to flourish

www.theeducationpeople.org/kenthaf



Monday 18th to Thursday 21st December
10am to 3pm

Swanley Youth Hub
St Mary's Road
Swanley
Kent
BR8 7BU

SPORTS, ARTS & CRAFTS and a NUTRITIOUS MEAL every day!

Ages 5 (Year 1) to 16

Contact: 07389 877 211 or haf.teachsport@gmail.com

Free places at our holiday camps for young people who access free school meals.



Company Offsted reg no: EY2546337



In partnership with **THE EDUCATION PEOPLE**



The Annual Cadet Competition

What is the Volunteer Police Cadets?

We are a Volunteer Uniform Youth group that is supported and run by the Metropolitan Police. We aim to have 160 Volunteer Police Cadets in Bromley by 2021.

Junior Police Cadets

Junior Police Cadets are from School Years 6-8.

It was developed after recognising a vulnerability gap between primary and secondary school. It aims to teach young people life skills and social responsibility in a fun and engaging environment. These units are led by Senior Cadets supported by VPC staff, allowing them to be positive role models to their younger peers.

Senior Police Cadets

The Cadets meet once a week and often perform duties in support of local policing. They also take part in large public events like Trooping the Colour, Remembrance Day Parades, London Marathon and Notting Hill Carnival. There are also various cadet competitions held throughout the year where units compete against each other. All of these activities can be used to complete the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Bromley Borough Weekly Meetings

At weekly meetings Cadets have a variety of inputs on aspects of policing and citizenship. They also take part in sporting activities and are taught Drill and Marching.

★ Subs (Seniors Cadets only)

£30 per term. 3 cadet terms a year.

★ Uniform:

Free, after a 10 Week Probation period. Senior Cadets (Yr9 and above) will need black boots.

★ Opportunity

Meet new people from your borough. Camps and trips away. Learn new skills.

Trips and Camps

During School holidays many of our Cadets go on camps and trips. Some of these are day events like trips to visit the crime museum or take part in white water rafting, some are week long camps, taking part in many different outdoor activities like Mountain biking, Ghyll Scrambling, Climbing and caving. We also offer leadership training days.



Cadets take part in competitions including First Aid

Volunteering

Cadets are expected to volunteer some of their time to help out in their local community giving Crime prevention advice, stewarding local events and test purchasing of Alcohol, fireworks and knives. They will also get the opportunity to join officers and help with the policing of big events such as London Marathon, Ride London, Trooping the Colour and the Notting Hill Carnival.

Competitions

There are a number competitions across the Year where cadet units compete against each other

★ The Annual Cadet Competition:

Concentrating on police style scenarios

★ Iron Team:

A bit like I'm a celebrity get me out of here

★ Paintball:

Staff and Cadets against other boroughs

★ Avon Tyrell:

Problem Solving, Team work and Physical Challenge

Contact Us

Name: **PC Coleman Sullivan**

Telephone: **020 8284 8787**

Email:

SNMailbox.VPCBromley@met.police.uk