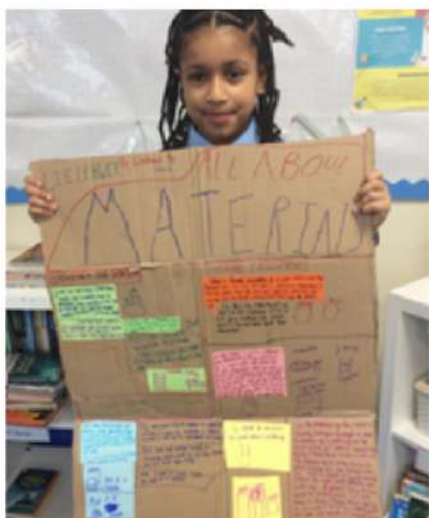


# Spring Term Newsletter



## Science projects

This term, the children were set the task of creating a project based on an area of learning within Science. The children were given the choice of how they would like to present their learning.



## Science Week

This year, British Science week marked its 30th Anniversary. For this milestone, they partnered with the Royal Observatory Greenwich to bring this year's theme to life. The theme was 'time.' The children completed an investigation, with their class, relating to this. They also had a key figure that they had to research about such as Marie Maynard Daly, David Attenborough and Mae Jemison. Within the week, the children also dressed up as scientists!





# All Saints Visits

We are currently working in partnership with All Saints School to improve our curriculum provision. At All Saints, they have a range of resources and facilities that will help with areas of the curriculum such as Design and Technology, Science, Geography and History. With the support of Tim Aykroyd, the Deputy Head, we have organised sessions throughout the year. Classes or groups of children have visited All Saints to participate in workshops relating to an area of learning in the foundation subjects. Through these workshops, we are able to provide children with greater knowledge of their topic, a chance to gain and develop a range of skills and an exciting learning experience.

Selected children from KS2 attended a History workshop. They learnt about the Kingdom of Benin and that it was ruled by a powerful God called the Oba.

Selected KS2 children also attended a Geography workshop. They learnt about tectonic plates and earthquakes. They also created earthquake proof structures using spaghetti and marshmallows. They had to withstand different magnitudes.



The Year 5 children attended a Food Tech workshop. They baked pizzas with lots of healthy toppings and created a delicious fruit smoothie.



Year 4 were invited to do some science based work. On arrival we were taken to the science lab where Mr Williams spoke to the children about living organisms and gave them a task of labelling the parts of a microscope. After this they all took a piece of onion each, some iodine and a microscope to look closer at the cells inside an onion. Some children said the cells were very small and others described them as the size of a football.



# Internet Safety

The children were very lucky to have the wonderful team at OpenView Education come into our school to present assemblies and workshops on internet safety. The presentations were thoroughly engaging and had important messages about how to be safe online.

As a school, we strongly recommend having conversations about how to be safe online and to be sure that children are playing or watching suitable content.



# Mental Health and Well-being workshops

Across this term, the children in Year 6 have been fortunate to have had workshops relating to their mental health and well being delivered by Mind. The

workshops delivered were:

- Mental Health Awareness
- Stress and Building Resilience
- The five ways to wellbeing
  - Coping with Change
  - Mindfulness
  - Digital Wellbeing



# Junior Citizenship

The schools in Hammersmith and Fulham are involved in partnership with the Police in the Junior Citizen project. This is run annually and develops skills for good citizenship. Safety and awareness are the main aspects of the session. The children in Year 6 attended this session at Fulham Football Club Craven Cottage. The Junior Citizen session proved to be a very worthwhile experience and the children learnt many things from the day, which should help them in dealing with various situations.





# World Book Day

## Character Book Parade

The children had a wonderful day on World Book Day! They all dressed up and presented their creative outfits with class parades. They also spent some time during the day immersing themselves with World Book Day activities such as designing book marks.

## Scholastic Book Fair

The children had a fantastic time browsing through the wide range of books we have on offer at our scholastic book fair during book week.



## Beat the Street

Beat the Street is a free, fun, walking, cycling and wheeling game which gets staff, pupils, and their families out having fun and keeping healthy. The children and staff at St Mary's have been participating to earn as many points as possible through walking or cycling to school everyday. It helps to improve physical and mental health.



## Chess club

SPGS Primary Partnerships Chess Club is running an afterschool Chess Club for Primary students in Year 3 – 6. This will begin next term.

Chess' educational benefits are widely known, including but not limited to improving concentration as well as logical and creative thinking. However, most of all, it gives children confidence that is truly priceless.

## St Paul's Primary Hub

The St Paul's Girls' School (SPGS) Primary Hub is an after-school homework and reading support club for primary school students in Key Stage 2. The Primary Hub offers one-to-one reading and homework support which will be delivered by our Year 10 students acting as Peer Mentors. Selected Year 5 and Year 6 have been attending throughout the term.



# Into University

St Mary's have been given a very exciting opportunity to work with Into University.

Into University is a company that offers a programme of immersive educational activities which support students' aspirations and attainment. They help to develop key academic skills and soft skills that promote success at school and beyond.

Year 5 attended a session with Into University at the centre. The children arrived and played some warm up games to break the ice. They then got stuck into learning in groups on a carousel about the various different aspects of University and what it entails from accommodation to courses to cities and societies.



With Into University, the children went on a trip to the National Army Museum. Children in Year 6 completed a poster related to an important figure during WW2. They worked in three teams to plan, research, and present their work. The children also had a workshop with the Royal College of Music and did a music workshop where they sang, wrote their own lyrics and played instruments popular during WW2.

Year 4 had a workshop with Into University and learnt about the different careers they could do when they grow up. The class was split into 3 groups and they completed some workshops on being a museum curator, civil engineer and product designer.





# Early Years Visit

We had Brenda, who is an exceptional Early Years, advisor visit our EYFS setting this Spring term. She was incredibly impressed with our Early Years provision and the developments since September. Some of our great improvements include:

- Pitching the teaching and resources appropriately
- Shaping the curriculum to children's current needs and learning
- Opportunities to use key skills of reading, writing and number across the indoor and outdoor area
- Organising and using the environment to promote children's independence and interest.



# Wagamama Visit

Year 4 were very lucky to be invited to Wagamama in Hammersmith. The children were greeted by the chef and some workers who showed them where they would be working and what they would be doing. The children had the opportunity to choose which types of noodles they would like and which vegetables. Each child weighed out their ingredients and placed them into a bag for the chef to take and cook.

Whilst the children were waiting for their noodles, they tried some tasty juices. After the children had ate their noodles, the chef gathered them together to show them how he makes fire in the kitchen. The children loved this and asked for him to do it one more time.





# A letter from the Governors

Dear Parent,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the St Marys RC School Governing body, to introduce us, and to explain our role.

We are a group of volunteers who work with the senior leadership team, offering strategic advice and guidance. We do not interfere with the operational activity in the school.

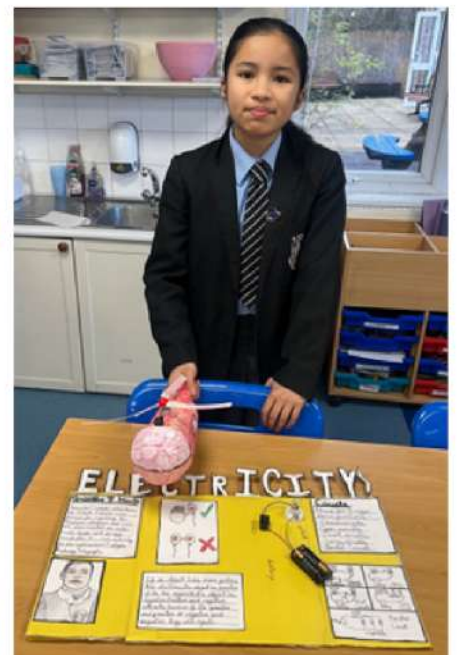
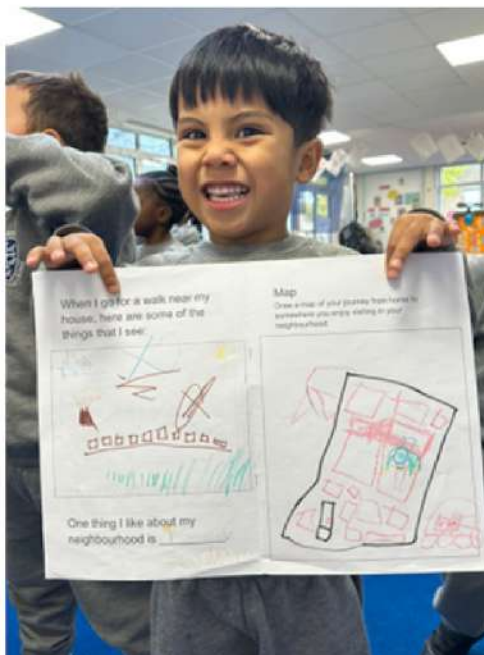
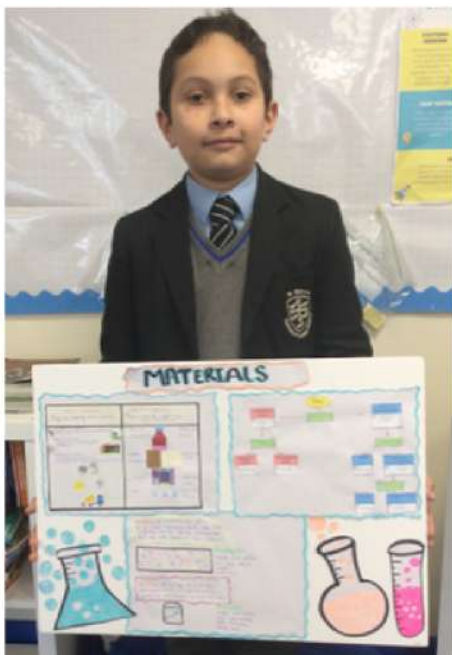
Meeting six times per year, we work to help plan the school's strategic direction, by acting as a critical friend to the school. We oversee the school's financial performance, ensuring that money is well spent. We review performance data and challenge the school leadership if needs be, but we really hope to be a support to the school and help the leadership deliver school improvement and provide an outstanding education for your children in a friendly and safe environment.

Why are we writing to you now?

Well, we know that the school has on quite a journey over the past twelve - 18 Months.

In that time Mrs Imogen Lavelle was appointed and the Interim Executive Head Teacher, supporting Miss Black in her new post as Head of School.

With the teaching and support of all the staff, they have taken the opportunity to conduct a wholesale review of the school and drive changes for the long-term benefit of the staff and pupils alike. There have been interesting changes to the curriculum, which have captured the interest and imagination of all the children.





The inspiration to change this into a library was only matched by the talent of the artist who created a bright, beautiful, and beguiling space that we hope will capture the imagination of our learners for years to come.

Our musical talent will be further enhanced by the stage and music area in the Early Years playground.



The Governing Body have had the opportunity to engage with the senior leadership of the school, and I was fortunate enough to meet some of you parents at the Open Afternoon last Monday, and what a treat that was. There was a gentle buzz around the school as the children worked in their classrooms, while you were able to gain an understanding of their progress in the school hall. Your feedback is invaluable for the future development of the school, and we hope to continue to develop the home / school relationship over the coming weeks months and years.

In the Summer Term we will conduct Parent and Staff Surveys to establish your thoughts and feelings on the school, but for now, please do, log onto the school website to see the exciting updates from around the school.

For now, though, on behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to thank all the pupils, parents, and staff we wish you a happy and joyful & restful Easter.

