

Newsletter

Greek School of Ayia
Triada Birmingham
Strive, Learn, Grow in our
Community

May



HELLO MAY

Message from our teachers



Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,
Welcome to our May Newsletter.

Χριστός Ανέστη και χρόνια Πολλά!

I hope you all had a lovely Easter with your loved ones.

Spring has officially arrived and we couldn't be more excited to start off the season with a variety of fun filled events. Our school celebrated the arrival of spring with a trip to the park on a very sunny day!

This month has been a very busy one for both staff and students as our pupils in year 5 onwards participated, once again, in the Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition.

Furthermore, the Ellinomatheia examinations took place and we were beyond happy to see our students putting in a lot of effort towards this.

A trip to London to celebrate Europe Day at Europe House and the annual Education Camp trip to Cyprus are definitely amongst the highlights of our May events.

Last but not least, both teachers and students, have started preparing for a couple of events which will take place in June, in honour of the 50 year memorial of the invasion in Cyprus.

Watching our pupils work hard has made us extremely proud of them and they constantly remind us how lucky we are to be part of this school and this community.

Warm regards,
Evi Platsi



CONTENTS

p2 Poem of the month-Upcoming events

p3 Students of the month

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

p5 Ellinomatheia

p6 Trip to the park

p8-7 Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition

p9-10 Educational Cyprus Camp Trip

p11 Sports Day 2024

OUR SCHOOL LIFE

p13-16 Class photos

p17 Dance Classes

HISTORY & CULTURE

p19 Protomagia

p20 Good Friday

p21 Holy Saturday

p22 Easter

p23 The Pontian Genocide

p24 Sts. Constantine and Helen

p25 GSAT: Rights Respecting School

p26 European Corner

p27 May Day Festival Invitation



ΤΟ ΠΟΙΗΜΑ ΤΟΥ ΜΗΝΑ

Του Μαΐου

Του Μαΐου ροδοφαίνεται η μέρα
που ωραιότερη φύση ζυπνάει
και την κάνουν λαμπρά και γελάει
πρασινάδες, αχτίδες, νερά.

Άνθη κι άνθη βαστούνε στο χέρι
παιδιά κι άντρες, γυναίκες και γέροι
απροεντύματα, χέλια και κρότοι
όλοι οι δρόμοι χιομάτοι χαρά.

Ναι, χαρείτε του χρόνου τη νιότη,
άνδρες, γέροι, γυναίκες, παιδιά.

Διονύσιος Σολωμός

UPCOMING EVENTS

- MAY HALF TERM HOLIDAYS: 27/5 - 1/6 (including)
- MAY DAY FESTIVAL: 9/6
- GCSE EXAMINATIONS: 10/6
Listening & Reading, 17/6
Writing
- PARENTS MEETING: 1st - 7th
July (online)
- END OF YEAR CELEBRATION: 13/7



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

NURS. & REC.

Giannis Tz.
Maria Ch.

YEAR 1

Penelope E.
Theodore N.
Christina D.
Christoforos B.
Ioakim B.

YEAR 1 ADV. & 2

Adrian K.
Michaella I.
Vasilis K.

YEAR 3 & ADV.

Antonis D.
Alex St.
Rafaela S.
Lydia G.
Theo W.
Noemi D.
Theodore G.

YEAR 4/5

Anton M.
Nassiana Z.
Christos K.
Anna-Maria K. ✨

YEAR 6 & GCSE

Eleni K.
Christos S.
Aimilia B.
Aleksandros M.

A LEVELS & ELLINOMATHEIA

Nefeli Arg.
Antria E.
Elisavet M.
Evangelos F.
Nikolas Ts.



great
job





SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



On May 14th to the 16th the Ellinomatheia examinations took place at our school. All our pupils and learners of the Greek language arrived at school feeling well prepared and confident. Mrs Magda Koufomeriti and Mrs Despina Fragkou lead the examinations and were very happy to see the candidates give it all and perform their very best! Congratulations to all of them for their great effort. We are very proud of them!



ΕΛ
ΛΗ
ΝΟ
ΜΑ
ΘΕΙ
Α

Congratulations



Trip to the park

On Saturday, May 11th, after our morning lesson and lunch break, teachers and students went for a walk at Brookvale Park Lake. It was a very sunny and warm day and the children had a fantastic time. They played at the park and the basket ball court in which apart from the children we also saw kuria Stella performing some very well basket ball skills!! To top it up, the children enjoyed a refreshing ice lolly provided by their class teachers. It was a well spent Saturday!



The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition 2024

The Queen's Commonwealth Essay competition is an annual writing contest for young people aged 18 and under from Commonwealth countries. It is the world's oldest international schools' writing competition, established in 1883 by the Royal Commonwealth Society.

Participants are divided into two age categories: Senior Category for ages 14-18 and Junior Category for ages under 14 years old.

The competition aims to promote literacy, self-expression and creativity among youth. Each year, the competition has a theme that participants are encouraged to explore in their essays. Winners and runners-up in each category receive various awards and attendance to a special awards ceremony in Buckingham Palace hosted by Her Majesty the Queen.

The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition 2024 asked entrants to consider how they deal with adversity, and how community and culture can be used to encourage resilience and hope in a world with a growing number of global issues. .



As like every other year, once again this academic year our pupils from Year 5 up to A levels, took part in the Queen's Commonwealth essay competition. Good luck to both our junior and senior participants.



Ετοιμάσαμε βαλίτσες και φύγαμε!

Η έναρξη της κατασκήνωσης των παιδιών στην Κύπρο ήταν ένα γεγονός γεμάτο χαρά και ενθουσιασμό. Τα παιδιά του Σχολείου της Αγίας Τριάδας Μπέρμιγχαμ συγκεντρώθηκαν στο Αεροδρόμιο του Μπέρμιγχαμ, ενώ τα παιδιά του Άγιου Κυπριανού βρέθηκαν στο Αεροδρόμιο του Γκάτγουικ στο Λονδίνο. Ο ενθουσιασμός ήταν διάχυτος, καθώς πολλά από τα παιδιά ταξίδευαν για πρώτη φορά με αεροπλάνο, νιώθοντας ταυτόχρονα χαρούμενα αλλά και αγχωμένα. Η πτήση για την Κύπρο ήταν την Κυριακή 19 Μαΐου και η επιστροφή προγραμματίστηκε για την Παρασκευή 24 Μαΐου από το αεροδρόμιο Πάφου. Η επιστροφή ήταν πραγματικά συγκινητική, καθώς τα παιδιά αποχαιρετούσαν την κατασκήνωση και τους νέους φίλους που είχαν κάνει, γεμάτα αναμνήσεις από μια αξέχαστη εμπειρία.



↑ ✈ Departures



ΣΤΟΝ ΠΡΟΔΡΟΜΟ



Στην κατασκήνωση γνωρίσαμε τον κο Στέλιο Παυλίδη που ήταν ο αρχηγός της κατασκήνωσης και επίσης τον Κύριο Στέλιο τον Υπαρχηγό και την κα Σκευή την επισκέπτρια υγείας,

Στην κατασκήνωση είχαμε και τρεις μαγείρισσες τις δυο κες Ελένες και την κα Θεοπίστη. Και οι τρεις μαγείρευαν υπέροχα φαγητά και γλυκά. Πραγματικά ήταν όλα νόστιμα. Μια από τις βραδιές μίσησαμε σουβλάκια και σεφταλιές και όλη η κατασκήνωση μύριζε από την υπέροχη μυρωδιά του ψησίματος. Κάθε πρωί ξυπνούσαμε όλα τα παιδιά στις 7:30 και μέχρι τις 8 έπρεπε τα παιδιά να ντυθούνε, να φτιάξουν τα κρεβάτια τους και να πάνε στις σημάιες για την έπαρση

Αυτό βέβαια που ενθουσίασε τα παιδιά της Αγίας Τριάδας ήταν η βραδινή περιπέτεια στα βουνά και το φαγητό στο παρατηρητήριο του Προδρόμου.



η Κύπρος μας

Πραγματικά θα θέλαμε σελίδες και σελίδες για να περιγράψουμε όλα αυτά τα όμορφα που είδαν και έμαθαν τα παιδιά μας! Οι ομορφιές της Κύπρου αστείρευτες και ο τόπος μας είναι τόσο γλυκός και όμορφος τον Μάιο που δεν θα θέλαμε το ταξίδι μας να τελειώσει ποτέ. Τι να πρωτοθυμηθούμε από τις μέρες στην κατασκήνωση: τον Καλοπιαναγιάτη, το Μοναστήρι του Κύκκου, το μοναστηράκι της Παναγίας της Τρικουκιάτισσας, το μεσαιωνικό κάστρο της Λεμεσού, το Μουσείο των κουκλίων με την Λήδα και τον Κύκνο, τα ψηφιδωτά, το Γεφύρι του Τζελεφού; Όλα αυτά είναι μόνο μερικά από τα υπέροχα πράγματα που είδαμε και που κάναμε στην όμορφη Κύπρο μας! Α! και να μην ξεχάσουμε το υπέροχο φαγητό και τα μπάνια μας καθώς και τα καταπράσινα βουνά και τους ποταμούς.



SPORTS DAY

may 25th

On Saturday, May 25th, our school planned the annual Sports Day our Year 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 students participated with enthusiasm. The event was a great display of athletic talent, teamwork, and school spirit. From sprints and obstacle courses to fun-filled sack races and more, students showcased their abilities and sportsmanship.

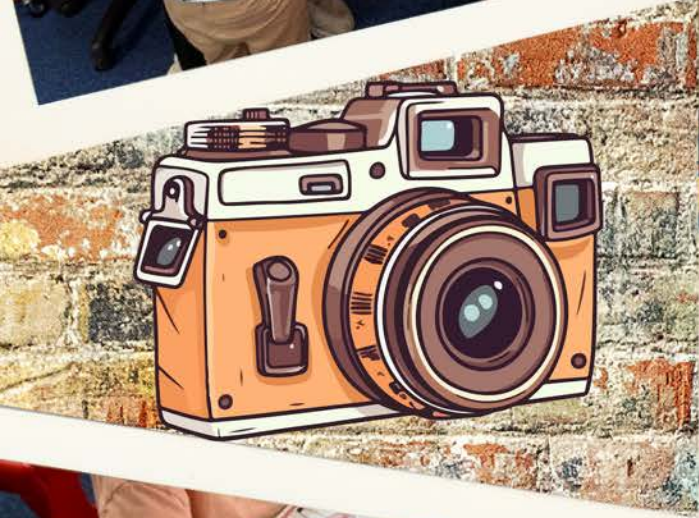


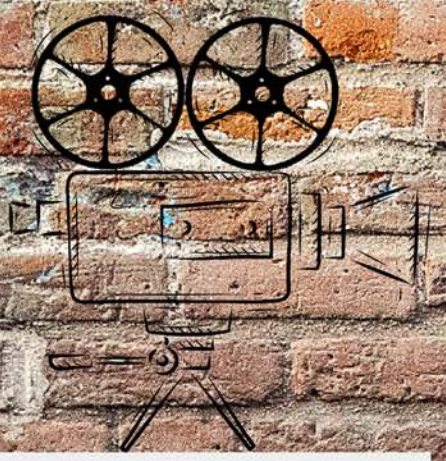
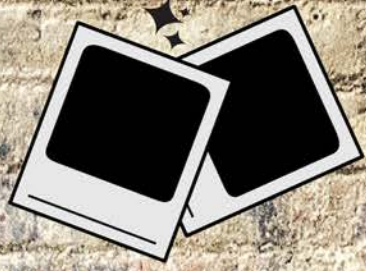
It was a memorable day filled with fun, and proud smiles as many kids received medals for their exceptional performances.

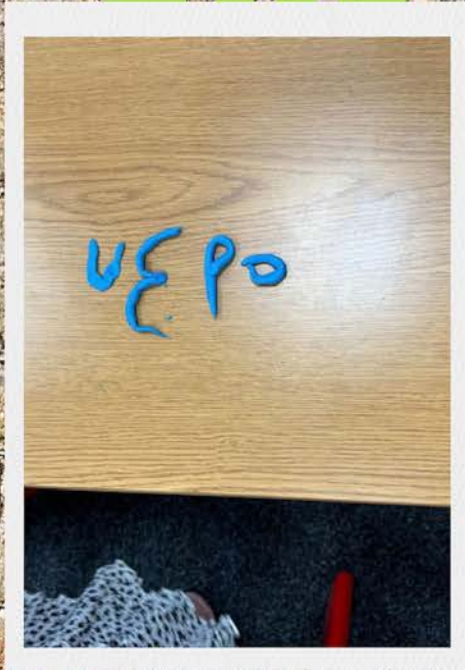


OUR
SCHOOL
LIFE











Dance Groups

This year our school has been running dance classes led by our Dance Teachers Mrs Sotiria Karafillides and Mr Dimitris Themistokleous.

Dance classes are on Monday 19:30-20:30 for our students, Tuesdays from 18:30-19:00 for the children and then 19:00-20:00 for adults, and on Saturday we also run two groups: one for the school children from 14:00-15:00 (which is for two different age groups) and then from 15:00-16:00 for adults dance group.

It's amazing to see that this year our dance classes are flourishing and both children and adults are enjoying them.

Anyone interested in dance classes can contact our school directly or the class teachers. We are always happy to welcome new students





HISTORY & CULTURE



Πρωτομαγιά

MAY

1

May Day is a day to celebrate the arrival of Spring. This day is celebrated throughout the world and it is a major holiday. May Day in Greece is known as Protomagia. It is celebrated on the 1st of May of each year and combines both labour rights observances as it is an international workers' holiday that commemorates the labour movement and the struggle for workers' rights and also traditional celebrations of spring and nature.



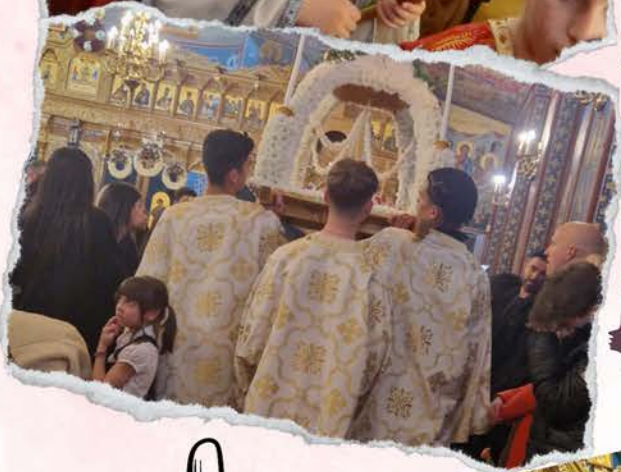
It is a tradition for Greeks to go out into the countryside to enjoy the blooming flowers. It is an opportunity for people to connect with nature and celebrate the beauty of spring. Families and friends gather for picnics and it is a custom to create May wreaths, Magiatika Stefania, made from flowers and greenery collected from the fields. These wreaths are usually hung on doors and balconies as a symbol of good fortune and to welcome the new season and they keep them decorated throughout the whole month of May.

19



Good Friday

Μεγάλη Παρασκευή



Good Friday is an important day in the Greek Orthodox Easter calendar. It commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and is marked with solemn services and rituals. It is a time for reflection and spiritual contemplation for Orthodox Christians.

The commemoration begins on Thursday evening with the Matin and concludes with a Vespers on Friday afternoon that observes the un-nailing of Christ from the Cross and the placement of His body in the epitaph.

At the morning mass, the body of Christ is taken down from the Cross, the priest covers it with a white sheet and places it in the Epitaph. People kneel before the empty Cross and osculate it.

In the evening liturgies are held, followed by the candlelit procession of the epitaph through the streets. A tradition during this service is that observers pass underneath the epitaph.

Good Friday and Saturday have been observed as days of deep sorrow and strict fast. On that day Greeks do not do any chores in order to honour the day of mourning.

On Good Friday, May 3rd, our community and students were all present at church. The girls as Myrrhophores held baskets full of rose petals to throw on the Epitaph and the altar boys, in beautiful liturgical robes, followed the Easter Epitaph.



20



CANYA STORIES ZINE

008

Holy Saturday - The Resurrection

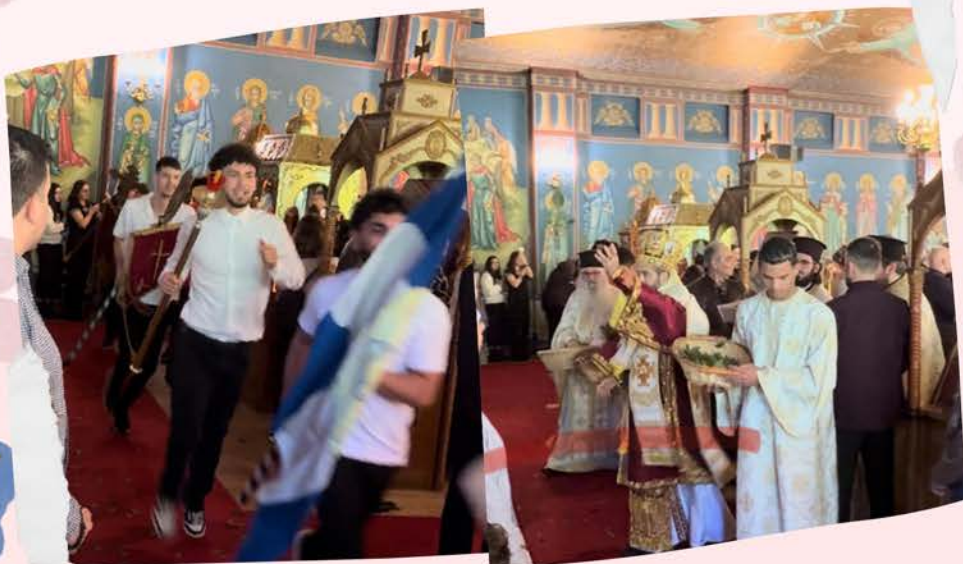
Το Μεγάλο Σάββατο - Η Ανάσταση

Holy Saturday is the day between the Crucifixion of our Lord and His glorious Resurrection which symbolizes the triumph of life over death. This day represents the culmination of Holy week for Orthodox Christians, as the day begins with the first resurrection, Proti Anastasi. During the morning service, the church bells are rung to represent the joy and news and the people bang their seats up and down.

In the evening liturgy, the lights are shut in church and at midnight the priest exists the altar with the holy light of Easter which is shared around the church as everyone holds a candle. The priest chants "Χριστός Ανέστη" (Christ has risen) and the people will respond "Αληθώς Ανέστη" (truly he has risen).

On Saturday, May 3rd, our church was honoured by the presence of His Grace Bishop Maximos of Melitini who accompanied father Christo during the morning liturgy of the Proti Anastasi.

Χριστός Ανέστη εκ νεκρών,
θανάτω θάνατον πατήσας
και τοις εν τοις μνήμασιν,
ζωήν χαρισάμενος.



Easter

Greek Orthodox Easter, also known as Pasha, is the most significant and celebrated religious holiday in the Greek Orthodox Church. It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, marking the end of the Holy Week and the beginning of a new liturgical year.

Preparation for Pasha begins at the start of Great Lent. Orthodox Christians fast and pray for the forty days that lead up to Easter Sunday.

The Holy week, is a time of spiritual preparation, including daily church services and fasting. On Easter Sunday, families break their Lenten fast with a festive meal that usually includes lamb, red-dyed eggs that symbolize the blood of Christ and new life, sweet bread called Tsoureki and Cypriot flaounes.



A week before Easter Sunday, Greek Christians celebrate Palm Sunday, Kyriaki ton Vaion. Palm Sunday is an important holiday as it marks the beginning of Holy Week and commemorates Jesus Christ's entry into Jerusalem. According to the Gospels, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a donkey, and the crowds greeted Him by laying palm branches on the ground. During Palm Sunday services, churches distribute palm branches to the people which are blessed and symbolise the branches laid before Jesus. Palm Sunday is a joyful yet solemn day that prepares Christians for the intense reflection of Holy Week, leading up to the celebration of Pasha.





The Pontian Genocide

May 19th is the day of remembrance of the Pontian Greek Genocide to honour the memory of approximately 353,000 Pontian Greeks exterminated by the New Turks and the Ottoman Empire between 1916 and 1923. On May 19th, Kemal Ataturk landed in Samsun to start the most brutal phase of the Greek Pontian genocide.



Pontian Greeks lived in the Pontus region on the southern coast of the Black Sea. The Turkish authorities forced them to leave their homes and march long distances under brutal conditions. Many died from starvation and diseases. A significant amount of men were conscripted into labour battalions called tagmata ergasias, and were subjected to hard labour under fatal conditions. Greek churches, schools and businesses were destroyed, effectively erasing the cultural and social structures of the Pontian Greek communities.



The Pontian Genocide was a devastating period of targeted violence against the Pontic Greek community. In memory of those who lost their lives, homes, land and got separated from their families, our school held an assembly on May 18th to honour this significant historic moment. The children saw documentaries whilst our teachers spoke to them about this tragic event and shared stories about their family members whom were affected by the genocide. The pupils also had the opportunity to watch the video from our school's entry in last year's competition "Ποντιακός Ελληνισμός Μνήμες και όνειρα, παρελθόν, παρόν και μέλλον" in which we won 2nd place. Our school is participating in this competition once again this year and we wish them the best of luck!



ΑΓ. ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΕΛΕΝΗΣ

STS. CONSTANTINE AND HELEN

ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΟΝ

Τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου τὸν τύπον ἐν οὐρανῷ θεασάμενος, καὶ ὡς ὁ Παῦλος τὴν κλήσιν οὐκ ἐξ ἀνθρώπων δεζάμενος, ὁ ἐν βασιλεῦσιν, Ἀπόστολός σου Κύριε, Βασιλεύουσαν πόλιν τῆ χειρὶ σου παρέθετο· ἦν περίσῳζε διὰ παντὸς ἐν εἰρήνῃ, πρεσβείαις τῆς Θεοτόκου, μόνη Φιλάνθρωπε.

Saints Constantine and Helen are celebrated on May 21st of each year. They are celebrated together because Helen is Constantine's mother. Their lives and contributions are remembered for their pivotal roles in the establishment and spread of Christianity.

St Helen was a wise Empress who loved God with all her heart and together with her son, St Constantine, they allowed Christianity to grow and spread through the Roman Empire after a long time of persecution of Christians. They lived during the 3rd and 4th Century. St Helen is also responsible for the finding of the Holy Cross which Jesus was crucified. She died in 330 AD.



St Constantine, often referred to as Constantine the Great, is a central figure in the history of Christianity and the Roman Empire. He was the emperor of a large part of the Roman Empire and the first Roman emperor to convert to Christianity. Constantine founded the city of Constantinople as the new capital of the Roman Empire which later became the capital city of the Byzantine Empire until 1453 and the major centre of Christianity. Saint Constantine's life and reign marked a turning point in the history of Christianity, forming the religious and political landscape of the Western world for centuries to come. He died in 337 AD.

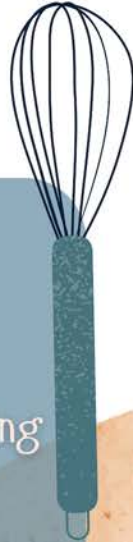




Recipe for Friendship

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup of Kindness
- 1 cup of Empathy
- 1 tablespoon of Listening
- 1 cup of Sharing
- 2 cups of Trust
- 1 cup of Acceptance
- 3 tablespoons of Laughter
- A pinch of Forgiveness
- A handful of Support
- 2 tablespoons of Loyalty



Recipe :

INSTRUCTIONS

Start with 1 cup of kindness. Be nice and caring. Add 1 cup of empathy. Understand and care about your friend's feelings. Stir in 1 tablespoon of listening. Listen carefully to your friend. Mix in 1 cup of sharing. Share your toys, ideas, and time. Add 2 cups of trust. Believe in your friend and keep their secrets. Sprinkle 1 cup of acceptance. Accept your friend as they are. Blend in 3 tablespoons of laughter. Have fun and laugh together. Add a pinch of forgiveness. Forgive mistakes to keep your friendship strong. Mix in a handful of support. Be there for your friend when they need help. Stir in 2 tablespoons of loyalty. Stick by your friend's side.

Best friend

Serve your friendship recipe with a smile every day. Enjoy making and keeping great friends!



Bringing Europe into our school

EUROPE

Day

May 9th

WE LOVE EUROPE

MAY IS FOR EUROPE!!!



Europe Day held on 9 May every year celebrates peace and unity in Europe. The date marks the anniversary of the historic 'Schuman declaration' that set out his idea for a new form of political cooperation in Europe, which would make war between Europe's nations unthinkable. Schuman's proposal is considered to be the beginning of what is now the European Union.

Our school celebrated Europe day on Saturday 11/5 with games for the students and loads of little surprises!!



26



THE MIDLANDS
GREEK & CYPRIOT
ASSOCIATION



MAY DAY *Festival*

9th JUNE 2024
12:00

Sunday, After the Church Service



KIDS RIDES
(1-16 Years)

7 A SIDE FOOTBALL

TRADITIONAL GREEK FOOD

GREEK MUSIC

Magnet Centre, Park Approach, Birmingham, B237SJ