



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter – Friday 24th March 2023

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*Happy are those who hear the word of God
and keep it' Luke 11:28*

Dear Parent/Carer,

We end the week in some spring sunshine which feels lovely as we approach Easter. I thank families for your ongoing support, I fully appreciate the additional challenges the road diversions pose to all of us but as you will appreciate these matters are out of our hands.

I am delighted to share that Sister Litty has had some positive results and she wishes for me to pass on her thanks to all in her St. Mary's family. As a school we have prayed regularly and will continue to do so. She is very grateful for the love and care our pupils have shown.

Please see below a summary of the Lenten activities, Our Lenten planner has been issued and can be found on our website, in the notice board and in the school entrance.

This week we had....	
Thursday 23.3.23	Friday 24.3.23
Lenten Mass at St. Mary's followed by Lenten Breakfast in the school hall	BIG LENT WALK All of us have completed daily laps to raise a fantastic amount for CAFOD
Next week we have	
Thursday 30.3.23	Friday 31.3.23
Lenten Mass 8.15 at St. Mary's followed by Lenten Breakfast in the school hall	Design an Easter Cross £1.00 per entry All monies to Saint Vincent De Paul Charity

Attendance

We are working hard to monitor Attendance and Punctuality in school. Our school day starts at 08.55 am prompt with pupils registering and immediately going into focused learning time.

As a school we want to continue to support pupils to arrive punctually ready for learning and to sustain regular attendance.

As a school we have a high expectation and a target of 95%.

The Department for Education and the Attendance team deem any pupils with attendance **90% or lower as a Persistent Absentee** and this impacts significantly on their achievement and progress.

We fully recognise pupils will be poorly and not always able to attend school. We wish to support families where appropriate and over the next few weeks we will share attendance percentages and reach out to families.

Prior to Easter ALL families will receive a letter detailing their child's attendance and punctuality.

We ask for your continued support.

There are many figures published by the DfE (Department for Education) relating to attendance figures. Here are some of them:

- Arriving late by just 5 minutes late each day totals 3 days per year!! 15 minutes late every day is the equivalent of missing 2 weeks!!!
- If a school can improve their attendance by 1%, they will see a 5-6% improvement in attainment.
- You may think that managing 90% attendance is a good thing!! However, if your child does only attend school 90% of the time, he/she will be classed as Persistently Absent - and 90% attendance actually means missing one half of a school day every week!! ...Or all of February in one school year!!
- If you take 10 days out of school for a family holiday - this automatically lowers your child's attendance to 94.7% for the year.
- If, for whatever reason, your child missed an average of only one day a week for their whole time in school...this would actually add up to missing the equivalent of two years' schooling. That would be like not starting school until you were 7 or leaving school at 14!!

Extra Curricular Clubs – After Easter – Forms issued next week

A letter will be issued next week which will detail the Extra Curricular clubs on offer after Easter as we enter the summer term.

As Football has just been established this will run as it stands at present. We are excited that some new sports will be offered and Mrs. Ellis continues to work hard to ensure ALL pupils get a range of sporting opportunities within school too!

Football Tournament Class 3 – 21.3.23

On Tuesday a group of Class 3 pupils braved the rainy weather and set off to represent us in a Football Tournament held at Whitechapel School. Mrs. Royles and Mr. O'Donnell are very proud of the team and their effort in these matches.



"I think we all enjoyed the matches, there are definitely some things we can work on like listening to each other and passing. We tried our best!" Tommy Holland- Bass

"I would say we all tried our best and worked hard. We all talked about our ideas. The second to last game was our best. I think we did great!" Nicholas Bielas- Barnes

Easter Praise!!

Next Tuesday Class 3 will re-tell the Easter Story through their wonderful production - Easter Praise!! Showings are at 10.00 am and 4.00 pm and EVERYONE is welcome. To buy a ticket please contact the school office. Class 3 have had the opportunity to book tickets first so now we welcome any other parents to do so too!

Data Collections forms – Updates

Please return these forms if you have not done so already. Thank you for your support.

Uniform - Change to Summer

As we approach the Easter break may I remind all families that ALL pupils must move to their summer uniform as we return on 17.4.23. Full details can be found on our school website and for your convenience are detailed below. Please do read below to ensure pupils continue to wear the correct items.

Summer (Worn upon return from Easter until July)

Short sleeved shirt with tie. Jumper or cardigan with school logo. Tailored grey shorts. Grey ankle socks. Black school shoes

Or -

Light blue checked dress ***. Cardigan or jumper with school logo White ankle socks. Black school shoes.

*****Only summer dresses are permitted and not checked shorts or skorts. Summer dresses should be fully checked and not contain white collars/ inserts. Thank you!**



Hair accessories must be in school colours only. Trainers are not permitted. Jewellery must not be worn and stud earrings must be removed for PE.

Could you help the Rotary Club?

Mr. Taylor has shared this initiative that you may be able to help with:-

Could you knit a hat for a new-born baby in Ukraine?



Please knit your hat (or hats) return them to school, there will be a box in the entrance to school and Mr Taylor will deliver these for St. Mary's. The Rotary Club of Preston Guild will ensure they get to Ukraine via Rotary Health team volunteers working out there.

For further information/contact, please visit their Facebook page



Rotary Club of Preston Guild

Thank You

Please tell your friends and get them knitting!

FOSM

Easter EGG-Stravaganza - 3.4.23 - Can you hunt and solve the clues to win an Easter Egg.

Your child will have brought home a letter for the Easter Egg-stravaganza - Non uniform and Easter Egg hunt - solve the clues and win a prize!!

Return you slip to the office as soon as you are able to secure a place!

Dates for your Diary

- 28.3.23 - Easter Praise Production at 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.
- 29.3.23 - Key Stage 1 (Classes 1 and 2) Farm Trip
- 31.3.23 - Design a Easter Cross competition entries £1.00
- 3.4.23 - Holy Week Assembly for pupils
p.m- Easter EGG- Stravaganza and Non Uniform Day - Please complete FOSM forms to take part!
- 4.4.23 - Bikeability - Class 3

- 5.4.23 - After School Club- Easter Bouncing Bingo (Booking forms issued separately)
- 6.4.23 - Easter Lunch in school. School closes for Easter at 3.15 pm
- 17.4.23 - School Re opens - Summer Uniform

Celebrations Awards

	Achievement Award Winner	'EAT' Award Winner Explore, Active, Think creatively	Welfare Award Winner
Class 1	Ella-Grace McLaughlin	Amelia Patel	Ivy Robinson
Class 2	Chloe Brogden	Isabella Bolton-Rigby	Freddie Reid
Class 3	Cody Smith	Thomas Yates	Jessica Simpson
Class 4	Oliver Hooper	Rowan Hawkins	James Picking

At St. Mary's School we

"Live our lives as Jesus taught us,
 Work hard together to achieve our best,
 Respect each other and the world around us,
 Have fun and enjoy learning!"

