

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter No 7

March 2021

'Serving with Love; Striving for Excellence'

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a wonderful full reopening of our school and it is so lovely to have the children back!

Again I would like to say a huge thank you to our wonderful children, staff and parents for your resilience, hard work and teamwork during these challenging times. I am extremely proud of the collective efforts of our school community!

We know how challenging life is at the moment and as always, please let us know if there is any way we can offer further support.

I wish you and your families a lovely Easter.

Mrs MJ Grabski
Headteacher



The Seed Must Die

I'm about as small as you can get. I'm only a grain of wheat but I have a story to tell ...

All during the dark cold winter I lay in a barn, where I was warm, dry and safe. Yet I felt unfulfilled. I felt I wasn't really living but merely existing. I felt I was born for some great purpose but I had no idea what that could be.

Then one bright spring day, the farmer took me and a sackful of others out of the barn and scattered us on the soil, which had been freshly ploughed, and harrowed us into the ground. Suddenly I found myself buried in the cold, damp soil.

Days passed and still there wasn't the slightest sign of growth. Instead, to my horror, I saw that I was beginning to decay. Miraculously, I was still alive. A tiny pulse continued to beat deep inside me.

Meanwhile, unknown to me, things were happening in the great work above. Nature was about to come to my rescue. The earth was beginning to thaw and things began to change. My once tough husk, now ravaged by decay, first began to soften, then to swell. Suddenly, it burst open and out came a tiny shoot.

I cried out with happiness as I realised I was going to be reborn. I shot up; a sturdy shoot that soon turned into a tall stalk. The sun shone warmly on me. The wind caressed me. Soft rain fell on me like a blessing and all the time I was growing and ripening.

Then one day I discovered that I was no longer a single grain, but a whole host of them, all clinging to the top of a tall stalk. Suddenly the great purpose for which I was born became clear to me. I was born to quench hunger and to give life.

'Sometimes when you're in a dark place you may think you've been buried, but actually you've been planted.'

***May you be strong in faith, serene in hope and joyful in love.
May your lives bear an abundant harvest of good works.***

FAREWELL TO SR KAY

At the end of this term, we say a very sad but fond farewell to Sr Kay as she now begins her retirement. During her 30 years at our school, Sr Kay has made an amazing and valuable contribution to the life of St Mary's and indeed, the lives of many generations of children and families across our school community and we will truly miss her.

On behalf of the whole school community, we thank her for her unwavering dedication and vocational commitment to our school, children, staff and families, and we wish her a well-deserved rest and a happy retirement.

May
God Bless You
ON YOUR JOURNEY

PARENTS' CONSULTATIONS

There will be an opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress with their teacher and to see how they have settled into their new class.

This will be scheduled for the week beginning

26th April, as a telephone appointment.

Further details regarding booking appointments will be sent after half-term.



SCHOOL PACKED LUNCH

Chartwells now offer a school packed lunch alongside their hot meal option. If your child would prefer a school packed lunch, then this option must be

ordered a week in advance to allow time for the right amount of food to be purchased.

You have been sent an electronic copy of the order form via ParentMail. Please print, complete and send in the order form with your child.

If you do not have printing facilities, then we can accept your order written on a piece of paper.

The cost of the school packed lunch is **£2.05**.

If your child is in YR, 1 or 2 then it will be free.

CHARTWELLS EASTER THEMED MENU

Chartwells will be serving a special Easter themed menu on Thursday 1st April. A menu will be sent out via ParentMail. This time, you **do not** need to let us know if your child would like the meal, instead just pay for the meal as normal via your Parent Pay account.

MEDWAY FOODBANK

We are registered to refer families for a Medway Foodbank voucher so please do get in touch if this is something you need.



MEDWAY LIBRARIES' UPDATE:

Online Book Clubs

Medway Libraries run secure online book clubs for the ages below, on Microsoft Teams. All

the books are available for free, along with thousands of others, through our [eLibrary](#). To sign up for a free library card, please click [here](#).

8 to 12 year olds: Book Chat

- Tuesday 23rd March 2021, 4pm to 4.30pm
- A relaxed, fun 30-minute book club about all things reading.

Please email emily.maycock@medway.gov.uk to book.

No matter if you're a fan of novels, non-fiction, graphic novels and comics, poetry, ebooks and audiobooks, all are welcome. We talk about what we're reading, our favourite books and authors, recommendations, and interesting book news.

8 to 12 Year Olds: Letters from the Lighthouse by Emma Carroll

- Thursday 22nd April, 4-5pm

Please email emily.maycock@medway.gov.uk to book.

You can read the book for free [here](#).

Links to all the services and resources above can also be found on the Medway Libraries website (<https://www.medway.gov.uk/libraries>).

They can be accessed on a computer, smartphone, tablet and many eReaders.



YOUNGMINDS

YoungMinds offer information, support and advice for children and young people on mental health, wellbeing and self-harm. They provide help for parents over the phone.

Visit the YoungMinds website at youngminds.org.uk or call the parent helpline on: **0808 8025544**.

YOUNG CARERS

Carers First are commissioned by Medway Council to support young carers in our area. A young carer is someone under 18 who helps look after, or is affected by, someone in their family, or a friend, who is ill, disabled, has a mental health condition or misuses drugs or alcohol.

We would like to help identify pupils who are young carers and offer them support through Carers First.

If this is something that affects your family, please get in touch with our Home School Support Worker, Sophie Dumbrell, who can make a referral on your behalf to the service.

Alternatively, you can self-refer to Carers First via the website, CarersFirst.org.uk or email them:

Youngcarers@carersfirst.org.uk.

You can call them on: **0300 303 15555**

BEREAVEMENT

Holding On Letting Go is a Kent based charity which helps children cope with the death of someone close to them. Visit: <https://holdingonlettinggo.org.uk/> for information about their bereavement weekends and parent support groups.

If you would like some support, there is an online referral form which you can complete for your family. Email: info@holg.org.uk with your questions if you would like to know more.

FAMILY LIVES

Visit: <https://www.familylives.org.uk/> for a wealth of information and advice around all aspects of parenting and the family. Whether it's advice on wellbeing, sleep, eating or how to cope with loss or trauma you can find lots of support on this website as well as links to other organisations which could help.

Call the helpline on: **0800 8002222**

DIARY DATES

SCHOOL CLOSURE 2PM THURSDAY 1ST APRIL

FINISH		
	Main Gate	Top Gate
2:00	Reception Pupils	Year 6 Pupils
2:10	Year 1 Pupils	Year 2 Pupils
2:20	Year 3 Pupils	Year 4 Pupils
2:30	Nursery Pupils	Year 5 Pupils

Siblings are to leave together at the time of latest allocated sibling time via their designated gate.

EASTER BREAK

Tuesday 6th April - Friday 16th April



On behalf of all at St Mary's we wish you all a very Happy Easter!

School reopens for children on Monday 19th April.

TERM 5

Monday 19th April - Friday 28th May

MAY HALF TERM

Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

Monday 7th June (***School Closed***)

TERM 6

Tuesday 8th June - Thursday 22nd July

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

Friday 25th June (***School Closed***)

 **Collect FREE funds for us** any time you shop with  **Sign up now**

COLLECT FREE DONATIONS FOR OUR SCHOOL WITH ALL YOUR ONLINE SHOPPING!

A BIG THANK YOU to our School supporters and our new supporters, who have helped to raise school funds through www.easyfundraising.org.uk and I am pleased to inform you that so far we have raised **£646.92**.

Please spread the word so that we can continue to raise much needed funds, to support our curriculum and events for the children, throughout the year.

All you need to do is register with www.easyfundraising.org.uk and then visit any of the 3,000 retailers to start shopping. After you have made your purchase, the retailer will make a donation to our school at no extra cost to you.

Thank you!

Join, shop and raise here:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmaryscatholicprimaryschool1/>

Fortis Trust Outreach (FOS)
Parent/Carer Support Forum



Virtual coffee morning



Fortis Trust Outreach Service (FOS) support SEND & SEMH pupils and staff within mainstream settings, from Nursery through to Secondary. The Team have a wide range of both professional and personal experience supporting children with a wide range of SEND, learning needs and associated behaviours.

We will be holding a Virtual Coffee Morning for parents/carers of children with either a diagnosis of Autism or those in the process of working towards getting a diagnosis. This is an opportunity for a discussion around the challenges and successes, how to support, for example managing intense interests, supporting communication and how to lessen anxiety. We will also be able to offer advice and share personal experiences of being parents of children with Autism.



Thursday 1st April 10-12pm



Virtual Coffee morning for Parents/Carers of children with Autism.

If are interested in attending this session then please contact Lorraine Lewin at

Outreach@fortistrust.co.uk by Friday 26th March.

Term 1	INSET	Wednesday 2nd September 2020
	Start	Thursday 3 rd September 2020
	Finish	Friday 23 rd October 2020
Autumn Break		Monday 26 th October to Friday 30 th October 2020
Term 2	Start	Monday 2 nd November 2020
	Finish	Friday 18 th December 2020
Christmas Break		Monday 21 st December 2020 to Tuesday 5 th January 2021
Term 3	INSET	Monday 4th January 2021
	INSET	Tuesday 5th January 2021
	Start	Wednesday 6 th January 2021
	Finish	Friday 12 th February 2021
February Break		Monday 15 th February to Friday 19 th February 2021
Term 4	Start	Monday 22 nd February 2021
	Finish	Thursday 1 st April 2021
Good Friday		Friday 2 nd April 2021
Easter Monday		Monday 5 th April 2021
Spring Break		Tuesday 6 th April to Friday 16 th April 2021
Term 5	Start	Monday 19 th April 2021
May Bank Holiday		Monday 3rd May 2021
	Finish	Friday 28 th May 2021
May Bank Holiday		Monday 31st May 2021
May Break		Tuesday 1 st June to Friday 4 th June 2021
Term 6	INSET	Monday 7th June 2021
	Start	Tuesday 8 th June 2021
	INSET	Friday 25th June 2021
	Finish	Thursday 22 nd July 2021
Term 1	INSET	Wednesday 1st September 2021
	Start	Thursday 2nd September 2021