

# St Mary's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter No 7

March 2022

***'Serving with Love; Striving for Excellence'***

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a wonderful and enriching Spring term and so lovely to welcome parents and carers back into school!

Our Year 3 and 4 children were so excited to share their Passion Play with their families this week. They performed so confidently and their singing was beautiful! We were all so moved and extremely proud of all the children.

Please be aware that we still need to be vigilant to symptoms of Covid-19 and to keep children at home if they are positive, as we do for all sicknesses. If cases start to rise we may need to take precautions again, but we really want to avoid this and it is important we all take a shared responsibility to keep our school family safe and healthy.

Continue to check our newsletters and website: [www.stmarysrcp.medway.sch.uk](http://www.stmarysrcp.medway.sch.uk) for upcoming events where additional up to date information can be found. You can follow us on our official school Twitter account

[@stmarysrcp\\_1894](https://twitter.com/stmarysrcp_1894). 

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you and your families a lovely Easter break.

**Mrs MJ Grabski**  
**Headteacher**

## ***Something about a Mountain***

***'I lift up my eyes to the mountains, from where shall come my help?***

***My help shall come from the Lord, who made heaven and earth' (Ps. 121:1)***

Jesus' transfiguration happened on a mountaintop and comes as no surprise. In biblical tradition, a mountain is a place of encounter with God.

There is something about a mountain. A mountain is a place of vision. By confronting us with the immensity of the sky, and the vastness of the horizon, a mountain enlarges our world and puts our troubles into perspective. By giving us an over-all view, a mountain enables us to see the pattern in things. The mountaintop experience restores and renews us.

If we happen to share the mountaintop with others, a great bond springs up between us. On the mountaintop we feel we are all equal and raised up, realising our true greatness and one with God.

Yet nowhere as on a mountaintop do we become so conscious of our own littleness and insignificance in the world. Exalted and humbled at the same time, we feel close to God and we feel we are in the very presence of God.

In the Bible, life is depicted as a journey to the mountain of God, where we hope to dwell with God forever. It gives us a new and wider vision, pushing out our horizons beyond the boundaries of this world, giving an eternal dimension to our lives. Even though we know what we have to do in order to get to the mountain, we need God's help in order to reach it.

***Draw me to your presence O Lord, Amen***



*'The hilltop hour would not be half so wonderful if there were no dark valleys to traverse.'* Helen Keller



## DANGERS IN GREENFIELD ROAD

As you are all aware, the parking around the school, including dropping off or collecting children, continues to be a serious and very dangerous situation, posing significant harm to both children and adults, on a daily basis.

This situation is completely unacceptable and can be totally avoided. However, there are some parents who persistently drive into Greenfield Road, without any care or consideration to the safety of others, driving dangerously, and/or illegally parking, and/or resulting in not just a road traffic offence but a **safeguarding concern** for a child, including their own.

**All parents are requested to NOT DRIVE INTO GREENFIELD ROAD and use the additional parking facilities that have been made available to you, by using the Church or Council car parks.**

There are yellow lines and zig-zag lines in both Greenfield Road and Railway Street, identifying areas where parking is not permitted.



Please be aware that the police and the local authority are able to take action against people not complying with legislation and you do not need to be spoken to at the time of the offence for this to happen.

We take all reported incidents very seriously and you need to be aware that we report these to the police and local authority, as appropriate.

Parents are able to pass details of persistent offenders to the police by phone or email, and/or contact **James Sutton: 01634 331399**, Sustainable Transport Manager | Transport & Parking in Medway Council.

The safety of all remains a priority for us and we will continue to do all we can to keep everyone in our school community safe.

Thank you to you all for your cooperation.

**Mrs MJ Grabski**  
Headteacher





### WORLD MATHS DAY

Well done to all the children who took part in the World Maths Day competition. We had a huge amount of children taking part but a special well done goes to the

children who achieved the highest scores in their year groups:

Chisom in EYFS

Semilewa in Year 1

Tharniga in Year 2

Praise in Year 3

Nathanael in Year 4

Chidubem in Year 5

Tolu in Year 6

The Year 5 Mathletes also took part in a competition with Pine class competing against Birch class. It was very close but Pine class were victorious after three rounds.

Well done to Pine class!

**Miss Staunton, Maths Lead**



### ECO COUNCIL LITTER PICKING

Our Eco councillors from Years 2 - 6 and some extra helpers have been busy helping our school community by doing litter picking at lunch time. They have

really shown me how determined they are to help with this problem. Well done Eco Councillors!

**Mrs Reddin-Tasker, Eco Council Leader**

### ATTENDANCE

Our current whole school attendance is **95.3%**.

Our aim is to reach 96% attendance as a whole school by the end of the year and we are well on our way to achieving this so thank you.

Please be reminded that we cannot authorise family holidays within the school term and if you do decide to take your children out of school for a holiday then you may receive a penalty notice from Medway Council. If you would like to discuss particular circumstances around your child's absences please contact Mrs Sophie Varnham via the school office.

**Mrs S Varnham**

**Home-School Support Worker**

### YOUNG CARERS AWARENESS

Did you know there are over 800,000 Young Carers in the UK?

A young carer is someone between 5-25 who cares for someone, such as a parent or a sibling.

Being a young carer can have a big impact on children as they grow up. It can affect their education, social life, confidence and their own health.

Visit <https://www.carersfirst.org.uk/youngcarerreferral> for more information and to make a referral for your child.

Please speak to Sophie Varnham if you would like to identify your child as a young carer and would like support for them both in and out of school.

### YOGA & MINDFULNESS

This term Nursery and YR have been enjoying their Yoga sessions every Wednesday and in Term 5 it will be the turn of Year 1 and Year 2. The children (and staff) have been really enjoying their sessions and I am sure Year 1 and Year 2 will too. I hope you have enjoyed hearing all about it at home and maybe even joining in with your child after receiving the weekly information sheets.

### SWIMMING

If you're under 16 you can swim for free at Medway Park, Strood Sports Centre, Hoo Sports Centre and The Strand. Please visit [https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200180/sport\\_centres/1190/medway\\_free\\_swimming\\_initiative](https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200180/sport_centres/1190/medway_free_swimming_initiative) for more details.

### CASHLESS & PARENTPAY DEADLINE

Thank you to all the parents that are already using ParentPay for all payment items.

We will no longer be accepting cash or cheques in school after **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022**. All payments must be made through ParentPay.

If you have misplaced your activation letter to create an account, please contact the school office.

Many thanks.

**Mrs Good, Finance Manager**

### EASTER BREAK

We break up for the Easter break on:

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 2.00pm**

School opens for pupils on:

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April**

