

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter No 5

January 2023

'Serving with Love; Striving for Excellence'

Dear Parents/Carers,
Happy New Year 2023!

I hope you had a peaceful Christmas break with your families. Thank you so much for your generous gifts and cards; your kind messages have touched us all.

We are enjoying a positive start to the year and I am extremely proud of how hard the children continue to work. Next term, we look forward to building on the success of our Parent Learning Walks and inviting you to attend a lesson in your child's class.

Thank you for your continued commitment and support.

Mrs MJ Grabski
Headteacher



A Great Light has Dawned

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it." John 1:5

Normally light is something we welcome. However, in some circumstances, we might fear it. Why? Because it shows up everything, things we want to see and things we would prefer to keep hidden.

A woman once asked for her house to be blessed and as the priest was escorted around the house, he noticed that not a thing was out of place. Everything was neat and orderly. Not a cobweb or speck of dust was to be seen. The priest sprinkled each room with holy water until they got to the top of the stairs that led down into the basement, at which point the woman said, "Oh, you wouldn't want to go down there." So he left it at that.

Afterwards the priest wondered why she had refused to take him to the basement, the part of the house that most needed a blessing. Was it that she didn't want to embarrass him? Or was it that she didn't want to embarrass herself by letting him see all the junk that was piled up down there?

Typically, the parts of ourselves and of our society that need to be redeemed are the parts we tend to hide. We don't allow the light to shine into the dark areas of our lives and of our society, yet the dark areas are the ones that have most need of the light.

Every person has a 'basement' area; we should open them to the light of Christ. The light of Christ comes as a friend, not to judge, but to save us, to show us how to live, to show us the way to the Father's kingdom.

Once we have been enlightened by Christ, we in our turn can become a source of light to a darkened world. Each one of us is called to that task. But unless our own lamp is lighting, we won't be able to enlighten anyone else. There is great joy in being in the light, but there is even greater joy in being a source of light to others.

Lord Jesus, may your gentle and sure light guide us along the unfolding road,

So that we may walk with confidence towards the light that never fades and the life that never ends.

PASSION PLAY

Year 3 and Year 4 will be performing the Passion of Christ, on the **28th and 29th March at 2pm** in school.

We look forward to welcoming you.



KS1 & KS2 SATS MEETINGS

On **Wednesday 1st March at 4.30pm** we will be inviting Year 2 parents to find out more about the KS1 SATs. Year 6 parents are also invited to find out more about KS2 SATs on **Wednesday 1st March at 5.15pm**.

PARENTS' CONSULTATION EVENING YR-Y6

Our Spring Consultation Evening will be held on **Wednesday 15th March from 4.00 - 8.00pm**

At this session the teachers will have the opportunity to share your child's progress.

This evening is for **parents** only. Please arrange suitable childcare. Further information about appointments will be sent nearer the time.

Thank you for your continued support.

SCHOOL OFFICE QUERIES

Please be aware that the school office is extremely busy, every morning between 8.30 and 9.30am.

We would be grateful if you could help us to relieve this pressure by ensuring that your child attends school on time each morning between **8.40 - 8.50am**. This will ensure that your child is in school ready to begin learning promptly after registration and will mean there are less people queuing at reception to report as late.

If your child is absent, please ring the office and leave a message on the absent line or email, rather than visiting the office.

Unless your query is urgent, please email or call the school office and someone will get back to you as soon as they can. Thank you for your support.

Mrs Laphorn

Home School Support Worker

BOOK WEEK

It's that time of year when we begin to get excited about our plans for Book Week.



M&M Productions will be visiting us again, this time with a spectacular performance of the popular Charles Dicken's tale 'Oliver Twist' along with an interactive, engaging narrator on **Monday 6th of March**. We have had some spectacular shows in the past: Alice In Wonderland, Charlotte's Web and The Secret Garden, and it's a wonderfully professional performance with all the sets and lighting as if we were in the theatre itself. There will be a charge of £3 per child to help towards the cost of this.

As usual, we will be selling books after school during Book Week from Wednesday to the following Tuesday: 3.30pm - 4.00pm, courtesy of Travelling Books.

We appreciate your support with this, as all funds raised go towards new titles for our school library.

DIARY DATES

Tuesday 21st & Wednesday 22nd February: Author Visit & Workshops

Monday 6th March: M&M Productions

Wednesday 8th March: Book Fair Starts

Thursday 9th March: Book Fair

Friday 10th March: The Masked Reader/Book Fair

YOUNG CARERS

Please let us know if your child is a young carer by calling or emailing the school office. Young carers are defined as any young person who cares for **or is affected by** the care of someone close to them.

We currently have a small group of young carers who meet once a term for a fun lunch club, which is supported by the SENCO and/or a support worker from Carers First.

This group provides a relaxed atmosphere where the children can talk to others in the same situation as themselves if they would like to. It also provides an opportunity for Carers First to support young carers outside of school if parents agree to this support.

Mrs S Varnham

SENCO and Inclusions Lead

BAD WEATHER PROCEDURES

Unfortunately a bad winter is predicted. If we have very bad weather during the winter e.g. snow, the school may have to be closed. This happens very rarely, but if we need to close school, this is the procedure:

- Decisions will usually be made on the day of closure;
- Information on the Website/Twitter will be updated;
- The school will also notify parents by ParentMail.



COFFEE MORNING

We are happy to invite all parents to our first coffee morning of 2023 on **February 3rd at 9am.**



Our SENCO, Mrs S Varnham, and our Home School Support Worker, Mrs C Laphorn, will be in attendance and refreshments of tea, coffee and toast will be available. The session will not have a theme this time but it will be an opportunity to liaise with staff members and other parents.

We look forward to seeing you there if you can make it.

KS2 MASS IN CHURCH AT 10AM

KS2 children will be participating and leading parts of the Mass on following dates, in Church at 10am:

8th February: Year 6

1st March: Year 5

8th March: Year 4

15th March: Year 3

22nd March: Year 6



All are welcome to attend and we look forward to seeing you there.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs Reddin-Tasker on the birth of her baby girl! We send our best wishes to Mrs Reddin-Tasker and her family.

E-SAFETY

If you would like to get some practical tips on how to keep your child safe online, here are some recommended websites for more information and support:



<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/>

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/have-a-conversation>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

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 **£753.51.**

Please spread the word so that we can continue to raise much needed funds for our school!



BOUNCING EGGS!

In each newsletter I will excite you with a new experiment or investigation to try at home to get you thinking about Science.

You will Need:

Eggs

Vinegar

A Jar



What to Do:

Place an egg in a jar and pour enough vinegar to submerge the egg. Add some food colouring if you want to be adventurous!

24 hours later, pour the vinegar out of the jar and replace with fresh vinegar.

Now it's time to wait... 7 days! Observe the egg over the course of the week and make notes of what you notice, perhaps bubbles on the eggshell?

After 7 days, remove the egg from the jar and rinse it well.

It's time to explore and experiment with your rubber-like egg. Does it bounce? Can you see through it? Can you squeeze it? Use your senses to explore!

How does it work?

The eggshell gets its hardness from a mineral called calcium carbonate, like our bones. When you place the egg into the vinegar, you will start to observe bubbles. These bubbles are a chemical reaction between the acid in the vinegar and the base in the calcium carbonate of the eggshell. When an acid and a base mix they form a gas called carbon dioxide and the eggshell breaks down.

I would love to see your bouncy eggs at school. Come along to Cedar to show me! Have fun.

Mrs Pollard

Science Lead

ATTENDANCE

Our whole school attendance for January is **92%.**

Thank you to all our parents who continue to encourage their children to have excellent attendance at school.

FEBRUARY HALF TERM

Just a reminder that school closes at normal time on **Friday 10th February.**

Half term break is between 13th—17th February.

Term 4 begins on **Monday 20th February.**