

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter No 6

February 2023

'Serving with Love; Striving for Excellence'

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are enjoying a positive start to the year and we look forward to the next half of our Spring term!

This week, it was wonderful to celebrate whole school Mass on Ash Wednesday as we reflect and begin the holy season of Lent, through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

We look forward to welcoming Year 2 and Year 6 parents to our KS1 and KS2 SATs meetings this week. From this term, we also 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



Let your Light Shine

Once there was a great biblical scholar who was also noted for his great piety. He spent hours every day secluded in his room studying the Scriptures, praying and meditating. One day a holy man visited the town in which the scholar lived. On hearing about it, the scholar set out to look for him.

He looked first in the Church, but did not find him there. Then he looked in a local shrine, but he wasn't there either. He looked in other likely places but failed to find him. Eventually he found him in the marketplace.

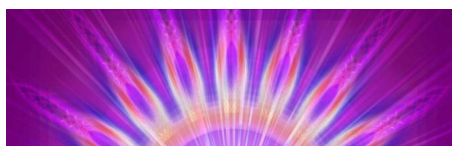
On meeting him, he told him who he was and how he spent hours every day studying the Scriptures and in prayer and meditation. Then he said, 'I have come to seek your advice on how I might grow in the service of God.'

The advice he got was simple and direct. The holy man said, 'It's easy to be a saint in your room. You should go out into the marketplace and try to be a saint there.' We are not told whether or not the scholar had the courage to act on that advice.

It is the kind of advice Jesus gives us in today's Gospel when he says, 'You are the light of the world. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on a lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of people, so that seeing your good works, they may give praise to your Father in Heaven.'

It is easy to let the light shine in the comfort and safety of one's room, but that can be a selfish thing because it means we are keeping the light to ourselves. It is not easy to let the light shine in the rough and tumble of the marketplace, but that is where it is most needed.

***Lord, help us to believe in our own goodness,
And to let our light of goodness shine.***



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 22nd 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

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.



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 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

Monday 6th March: M&M Productions

Tuesday 7th March: Year R Character Dress Up Day

Wednesday 8th March: Book Fair Starts

Thursday 9th March: Character Dress Up Day & 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



Each month I will excite you with a new experiment or investigation to try at home to get you thinking about Science.

Well done to all of you who tried out the bouncing egg experiment. I heard there was lots of mess but, most importantly, plenty of fun! Here is Eseosa from Juniper Class, with her egg, that she brought in to show me. Great work Eseosa!

This month I thought we would visit the 60's with a little lava fun.

MAKE YOUR OWN LAVA LAMP (please make sure this is supervised by an adult)



You will Need:

- Glasses or Jars
- Food Colouring
- Cooking Oil
- Water
- Antacid tablets or powder

What to Do:

- Fill your glass with two thirds oil and one third water.
- Observe what happens to the oil and water in your glass as you add them.
- Add drops of food colouring to your oil and water and watch what happens.
- Place the antacid in the glass and the lava lamp effect will begin!
- Why not shine a torch underneath to get the true colour show?

<https://youtu.be/roXFP-kfe8c> watch how to make the lamp.

How does it work?

The water and oil do not mix because they have different densities. The same is the case for the food colouring. A chemical reaction happens between the water and antacid that causes it to fizz and create carbon dioxide bubbles.

I would love to see your pictures of your lava lamps. Come along to Cedar to show me or send them to the office c/o Mrs Pollard!

Have fun.

Mrs Pollard
Science Lead

WORLD MATHS DAY

On **Wednesday 8th March**, all pupils are invited to compete against students across the globe in a worldwide celebration of mathematics on Mathletics. They simply need to log on to Mathletics and take part in the games. They will earn one point for each correct answer and this will go towards their World Maths Day score. The competition will **open at 7pm on 7th March** and will be open for 48 hours only to allow pupils to compete against pupils in other countries. Excitingly, Mathletics will be giving prizes to the top winners internationally and there will be certificates for those who have taken part. Good luck!



Mrs Dengate, Mathematics Lead

NON-UNIFORM DAY

On **Friday 31st March**, we will have a non-uniform day. We kindly ask for donations of £1 via ParentPay, which will help support school funds, to further enrich our wider curriculum. Thank you.



KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA COMPETITION

On Tuesday 21st February, we welcomed visitors from the Knights of St Columba to our school to announce the winners of their Christmas painting competition. The lucky winners were presented a certificate in assembly and won a prize of £10.

Congratulations to George (Elm Class), Alegria (Beech Class), Seyi (Maple Class) and Valentina (Pine Class).



KS2 MASS IN CHURCH AT 10AM

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

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.



ASTRONOMY ROADSHOW

On Friday 24th February, we were delighted to welcome the Astronomy Roadshow to school and all children from Nursery to Year 6, visited the planetarium for a virtual tour of space. Children in Key Stage 1 and 2 also took part in workshops where the Solar System, Constellations, the Milky Way and Space Stations, were projected.

An amazing experience was had by all!



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/>



FAREWELL

This term we say goodbye to teaching assistants, Mrs Organ and Mrs Oseghale. On behalf of the school community, we thank them for their hard work and contribution to St Mary's and we wish them all the best.

ATTENDANCE

Our whole school attendance for January is **93%**.

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

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 **£757.86**.

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

EASTER BREAK

Just a reminder that **school closes at 2pm on Friday 31st March**.

Easter break is between: **3rd April - 14th April**.

Term 5 begins on **Monday 17th April**.

