

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter No 7

March 2023

'Serving with Love; Striving for Excellence'

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a wonderful and enriching Spring term! I am extremely proud of how hard the children continue to work. It was lovely to see so many parents and families at our Year 3 and 4 Passion Play, we are extremely proud of how well our children performed and thank them for sharing their wonderful talents.



You can continue to keep up to date with key messages/events throughout the term, by following our school official Twitter account [@stmarysrcp_1894](https://twitter.com/stmarysrcp_1894) and our school website:

www.stmarysrcp.medway.sch.uk for upcoming events, where additional information can also be found.

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you and your families a very happy and blessed Easter.

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

COFFEE MORNING

We are pleased to invite you to our next coffee morning on Friday 28th April at 9am. This time the focus will be on Special Educational Needs and we will have a guest speaker from Bradfields Academy who will be talking about the Specialist Provision and will be available to answer questions and discuss issues regarding children's complex needs with parents.



<https://www.bradfieldsacademy.co.uk/about/>

FAMILY ACTION MEDWAY - SENDIAS SERVICE

The SENDIAS service helps to empower parents/carers, children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities by providing free impartial information, advice and support.

Contact them by phone on 01634 566303 or email medwaysendias@family-action.org.uk



MEDWAY'S LOCAL OFFER

The Local Offer is an online hub that let's young people and their parents know what services are out there and how they can be accessed. Please follow the link below to access these services.

<https://www.medway.gov.uk/localoffer>

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

ATTENDANCE

Whole school attendance is currently 93.60%.

Please be reminded that absence from school for a family holiday will not be authorised and if you decide to take your child out of school for an unauthorised holiday then this will be referred to the Medway Attendance Service and you may receive a penalty notice. Children with attendance under 90% will be put on Medical evidence. This means you will have to provide medical evidence every time your child is absent from school.

LATE

We expect all children to be in school by 8.50. Gates are open 8.40-8.50 after this your child will be signed in to the late book. We advise that all children should be in class with their peers to register as learning starts promptly every school morning.



LUNCH BUNCH

Our lunch bunch group have had a lot of fun over the term with different activities: board games, mask making, card making, mindful

colouring and painting. The children particularly love Tuesday when we are in the ICT suite for computer games.

Lunch bunch offers a safe place for the children to socialise or a calm place to simply be. It is also a trusted place to speak to an adult if needed.

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 Mrs Bucklee and Ms Asif. 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.

EASTER BREAK

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

School reopens for children on Monday 17th April.

