



Dear Parents,

First and foremost, thank you to Y1 parents who responded with great respect and a professional approach to the news today, of the positive test in Y1. We await further confirmation via a PCR test. As said before, please do not over relax. Recognise that the virus is still very much at large; maintain good social distance and avoid putting yourself in an awkward position, for the Easter break. Please find a summary of this week's headlines below:

- **Confirmation Congratulations**- We were immensely proud of our Y6 children, last Thursday evening. Fr Craig and Bishop Stephen were also impressed with their reverence and their maturity. It was, as one parent said to me, a very "moving" moment for all. I just need to say **thank you, as always, to our fabulous PTA** who "put the icing on the cake" so to speak, by providing the most delicious party box for all children- beautifully presented and beautifully wrapped. The children had a lovely party on Friday with a Confirmation cake, also. They will be blogging their thoughts via the parish newsletter, soon.
- **Behaviour and courtesy** – This is gradually improving, but please be very clear about your expectations, parents. In approximately 85% of cases, your children's behaviour is exemplary. The other 15%, however, are impacting on others- that is where we need to act quickly. Please share the Behaviour Policy, available on the website, and the Home School Agreement, (attached), with your child. Refusals to co-operate, back chatting or disrespect to adults is non-negotiable here at St Mary's.
- **PTA News**- our March 50/50 winners are as follows:

J Exton	S Mountford
R Melvin	S Mallaband
- Congratulations to them all; cheques will follow soon. Many thanks, also to the PTA who just keep going, regardless of whatever life brings. We are lucky to have them.
- **End of term**- **School closes for the Easter break on Thursday 1st April and re opens on Monday 19th April. There is no after school club on this last day of term.**
- **Online safety update**- Mr Sutton has added some online "quizzes" to each class page. Please encourage your children to take part, before next Thursday. There are prizes available for winners. Podcasts/video casts have been restarted for our online safety representatives in Y3,4 and 5, by Mr Marsh. These are on class pages and will be shared after the Congratulations Assembly, tomorrow morning. These are worth chatting to your children about, parents, also.
- **Stations of the Cross will take place on Thursday 1/4/21 in the morning**, with the Journey of the Cross being re-enacted by a simple cross, escorted from class to class in procession, with incense and candles to recognise the solemnity of the occasion. There will be photographs made available on Twitter and on the website before Easter, also. Class Easter Egg raffles and Bingo will be celebrated afterwards. Our thanks to Morrison's for their contribution of prizes.

March updates and reminders -

Our **Walking for Water Lenten charity incentive** is now at £325 - a staggering contribution, so far. Thank you, on behalf of Fr Hudson's Homes and of CAFOD - overseas needs.

Pupil Voice- Mini Vinnies, you will be very pleased to know that your letter has raised awareness, encouraged people to want to donate and already has raised £96! Well done to you all - This will be added to the Lenten fundraising. I think we might reach £500 by Easter; do you agree?

School Fund – Since September we have raised almost £1,000. That is phenomenal. Mr Leek has ordered some beautiful new additions to the wellbeing garden and Mrs Smith will be liaising with the School Council to think of a plant based project for the Summer term. Children in each year group are collecting their Behaviour awarded money (£5 for two classes, each week). I know there are plans in place to spend this across Easter, also.

Homework Club is a welcome addition to our after school activities. Parents and children, please remember, homework is not a choice, it is a requirement. Well done to all who are doing well at home or at school.

And Finally ...



Please keep our Y3 children in your prayers.

Those who are receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation tomorrow, and those who are not. We are proud of their sincerity.

"Recognising and celebrating the presence of Christ in one another"