



Recognising and celebrating the presence of Christ in one another.

Newsletter No. 24: Friday 12th April 2024

Weekly News

Dear Parents,

We welcomed the children back on Monday thinking about the famous quotation from St Pope John Paul II - "We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song!" We talked about the Gospel message for this week and Jesus' words to his disciples: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Thank you to everyone who attended the parent / teacher meetings this week. We are sure you found them informative in identifying your child's strengths and achievements and thinking about their targets for progress during the summer term. Thank you for your support with this.

Nursery had a very exciting and successful first school trip experience yesterday. We went to Wonderland for the day and followed the Mad Hatter around the houses of some of our favourite fairy tales: Red Riding Hood, The Gingerbread Man, Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Even more amazingly, after what feels like months of rain, we saw some sunshine and were able to listen to some of the stories outside. The children behaved beautifully and used up so much energy that some of them enjoyed a little snooze on the way home.

A well done, also, to the children involved in the Y3/4 tennis tournament yesterday. All of the children involved performed brilliantly and one of our groups made the Black Country finals! Thank you to Mr Reynolds for enabling this event to take place and supporting the children. Please also see a letter from Wendy Morton congratulating our children who took part in the girls' football event before Easter.

Never ones for a dull or quiet first week back, we hit the ground running with our sponsored dance day today! Huge thanks to Mrs Smith and our dance teacher, Riley, for planning such a brilliant day for us. Ask your child to show you their moves! We look forward to sharing the work with you on the class pages soon. Please continue to encourage sponsorship money to be collected for this event and to be sent into us. Thank you for your support with this.

Have a wonderful weekend.
Kindest regards, Mrs Hill

Virtues

This half term, our focus virtues are eloquent and truthful.

We are encouraging our pupils to develop an eloquent language, which they can use to understand and articulate their emotions, beliefs and questions. They are encouraged by the example of adults to be truthful in the way they represent themselves and speak about the world.

'Come Holy Spirit' and 'My Hands are Yours' are lovely pieces of music to listen to when thinking about these virtues and how we can demonstrate them.



Easter Donations

We received a lovely email from The Thomas Project Charity manager, thanking us for all of the donations you most kindly and generously made during Lent. To see the difference that we can make to others in a need as a school family is just wonderful.

We are sending a BIG thank you to you and all the children and staff who donated Easter eggs and food and toiletries to us over the Easter period. You provided children with lovely chocolate treats as well as good food and made their Easter a little brighter. The eggs weighed in at just under 11kg! and the food was 45kg which provided approximately 90 meals. Well done to you all for doing something really significant for those who are in need. May God bless you all.

Every blessing,

Liz McMeekin
Charity Manager
The Thomas Project



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Notices

- There are a number of important letters that we are sending out this week. Please see the letter from Mrs Hayes about vocations. We would love to widen the children's knowledge of vocations and would really appreciate your help in coming in to talk to the children about your particular vocation. Please complete the return slip if you are able to take part. This will be an enriching week for the children.
- Along with this newsletter, we are also sending a letter explaining that from next week, we will be becoming even more efficient and effective in recording and notifying you of accidents and first aid via an app called Medical Tracker. This has been tried and tested by other schools with excellent feedback in improving recording and communication and we are sure it will work very well here at St Mary's.
- The children have been enjoying induction activities this week and have been introduced to a new motto that we are using to remind children about the expectation of behaviour in school. This is: 'be safe, be kind, be responsible.' For example, if someone is distracting someone else, this would not be responsible as it would mean the lesson and learning would be disrupted; therefore, the children need to make a sensible choice to concentrate on their learning. More details can be found in our behaviour policy on the website.
- A reminder that your child's art work from the art gallery can still be purchased until 17th April. Please make the payment via the gateway. There is a lovely video of some of the children talking about the skills and techniques they used to put their piece of work together on the class pages.

Events

Monday 15th April - dental surveys for selected children in YR and Y1 who are five years old

Thursday 25th April 6pm Y3
Parent meeting for First Holy Communion

Thursday 2nd May School nurse led fussy eating workshop 2:15pm in school

Friday 3rd May 1:45pm Y3
Reconciliation

Monday 6th May - school closed for bank holiday

Monday 13th May - Y6 SATs week

Reflection and Prayer

This Sunday is the Third Sunday of Easter.

Jesus appeared to the disciples, who felt alone and afraid, and he said, 'Peace be with you.' Jesus wanted them to know that they were not alone and he would always be there to help them. In turn, we can speak to Jesus through prayer when we are feeling alone.

Easter Prayer

The veil of darkness
Transformed to the brightest light.

The most dreadful end
Became the most beautiful beginning

The depths of despair
Fade to reveal hope everlasting.

The curse of death
Defeated by eternal life.

Thank you Lord, for the wonder of Easter.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs N. Hill
Headteacher

