



Recognising and celebrating the presence of Christ in one another.

Newsletter No. 24: Friday 15th March 2024

Weekly News

Dear Parents,

Thank you to everyone in attendance at the Family Mass on Sunday. This was such a lovely Mass with prayers for Mothering Sunday. KS1 readers, singers and helpers - you were fantastic!

We have had another incredibly busy week! Today, the children had a great time at our Spring Fayre! Such a wonderful idea from the Mini Vinnies and it was fantastic to see their plans come to fruition. The children enjoyed the atmosphere and the stalls - sweets, teddies football, guess the name of the bunny, guess how many sweets are in the jar, a treasure hunt and an abundance of delicious cakes!

Thank you for your charity donations on the gateway as part of the spring fayre and also to everyone who donated tins today for the food bank. Our last drive for goods for the food bank takes place next Friday and we kindly are asking for treats - biscuits, chocolate, etc.

Speaking of the Thomas Project Food Bank and Charity, please see the letter attached, thanking all of you for your lovely contributions to the Christmas gift appeal.

We appreciate that it has been a very busy half term, but, as ever, we are overwhelmed with your generosity in giving to those in need - thank you!

Thank you to our PTA and all of our staff helpers for giving up their time to supervise the children at our spring discos this afternoon. The children were so excited! We look forward to letting you know how much money has been raised next week.

We are sure next week will be an equally enriching week. Our children have been busy producing some wonderful art work for this year's art gallery. Parents are welcome to come in and view the art work in our 'gallery' in the school hall on Thursday 21st March from 3:15-4pm. Your child's work will then be sent home for you to enjoy. Please could we ask for £3.50 to be paid via the gateway to go towards the cost of resources for the gallery.

Thank you to everyone who attended our KS1 maths workshop on Wednesday and the Nursery workshop yesterday. Parent partnership is so important to us and we hope that you found them informative. We are collating the feedback and looking at what future workshops parents would find helpful.

Have a wonderful weekend.
Kindest regards,
Mrs Hill

Attendance

You may have seen in the media recently the heavy focus the government are putting on the importance of good school attendance. The expectation is that schools should be tracking and monitoring attendance very regularly, offering support to families when attendance dips and meeting with families to put plans into place to improve attendance. At St Mary's we already do a lot of this and we know the magnitude and value of regular school attendance in terms of children's learning, wellbeing, social and emotional skills and sense of belonging. We want all of our children to be happy, achieve and have a good level of education so that they have more choices and opportunities in adult life.

We already have a clear policy and systems in place and have an action plan to provide even more support for children where necessary.

We will be writing to parents next week if their child's attendance has dipped below 92% to inform them and see what measures we can put in place to improve on this over the next half term.

How it adds up!

Attendance Percentage	Days missed over a school year
100%	0 days
95%	10 days
90%	20 days
85%	30 days
80%	40 days

While 95% might be a good score in a test, 95% attendance is 10 missed school days, which equates to 50 missed lessons!



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Notices

- A huge well done to Y5 who were awarded with a play leader certificate in assembly last week. They have been working so hard undertaking their training: thinking about how playground activities can be organised, how to use the space and equipment available and how to communicate effectively with their participants. This half term, they have had the chance to lead others in games on the playground and they have been doing some wonderful work with Y1 and 2.
- Unfortunately, due to the weather, we have had to rearrange our Y1-6 sport fundraising day with Riley, professional dance teacher. The new date is Friday 12th April. Please keep encouraging your child to get sponsors. We welcome all of your support with this and are looking forward to a brilliant day after Easter.
- If you have any outdoor gardening pots of any size to recycle, please could you consider donating them to school. We will use them to grow plants for the summer.
- Due to the new intake induction, Nursery class will be closed on Wednesday 10th July. Please make alternative childcare arrangements on this date.

Key Dates and Events

Holy Week Assemblies: Different year groups will be leading assemblies to talk us through the events of Holy Week. These will take place on the following dates. Parents are welcome to attend. They all start at 9:10am.

[Palm Sunday Prayer Service led by Y1 and Y2 Monday 18th March](#)

[Last Supper Prayer Service led by Y3 and Y4 Tuesday 19th March](#)

[Agony in the Garden Prayer Service led by Y6 Wednesday 20th March](#)

[Stations of the Cross Prayer Service led by Y5 Thursday 21st March](#)

Friday 22nd March 1:30pm End of term

Monday 8th April Start of term

Friday 12th April - Sponsored dance for Y1-6 (rearranged due to weather)

Reflection and Prayer

This Sunday is the Fifth Sunday in Lent.

After his triumphant ride into Jerusalem and before celebrating the Passover, Jesus spoke to his disciples about his approaching death. Jesus knew what lay ahead of him and must have felt afraid, but he did not try to avoid what was to happen. Instead, he turned to his father and prayed for strength and courage.

Jesus used the image of the grain of wheat to explain that, like a seed's, his death was necessary, if new and everlasting life was to be given to many.

Fifth Sunday of Lent



Yours sincerely,
Mrs N. Hill
Headteacher