

St Mary's News



Monday 19th February 2024

Message from the Headteacher

Welcome back and I hope that you all enjoyed some quality time with your children over half term. This week we shall be focusing on our Lenten journey and how with God's help we can prepare for Easter. Here are some of the ways that we shall prepare for Easter:

- Each class will learn about the importance of Lent as a time of preparation and how we can use this time to help others and prepare ourselves for the celebration of Easter. We encourage children to either give something up or do something extra each day to help others. We will display our large cross in the entrance foyer and children will place a disc in the jars by the cross each day to show if they have done something to help another person. We can then reflect on how well we have done as a school in preparing ourselves for Easter.
- At the foot of the cross we will also collect food for our local food bank throughout the half term and items will be delivered each Friday morning. Please bring in items such as tins or packets of food if you are able.
- We will be taking part in the CAFOD 'Big Lent Walk' this half term to support CAFOD and those who are needy around the world. A separate letter and sponsor form will be coming home this week.
- We will have focused liturgies in school for the children including 'Stations of the Cross', reconciliation and a Lenten Prayer Space in our Chapel during the last week of term.
- Finally, we want to invite you to pray for our school community and each other during Lent.

A BIG thank you from our school council and for parents and pupils for supporting the non-uniform day we had on Friday 9th February. £211.80 worth of funds were raised to improve the environment outside our school, specifically by investing in recycling bins and bird feeders - Thank YOU!

Important Dates

	SPRING TERM 2 nd half	
19th Feb	INSET DAY 4	All Years
20 Feb	Children return to school	All Year Groups
23 rd Feb	Stations of the Cross in school – 9:00	All Year Groups
27 th Feb	Parents Consultations 15:30-18:00	All Year Groups
29 th Feb	Parents Consultations 15:30-18:00	All Year Groups
8 th March (moved from 1 st March)	Year 5 Mass in school 9:00	Parents/Carers of children in Year 5
W/C 4 th March	World Book Week	All Year Groups
7 th March	World Book Day	All Year Groups

6 th March	Parent Teacher Friends Association AGM meeting 15:30	PTFA (new members welcome)
11 th March	Mothers & Mother Figures - Invite to school 14:30	All Year Groups
12 th March	SEND Parent/Carer meetings in school 15:30-18:00	SEND Parents/Carers
21 st March	Spring Concert at Church – 18:30 – 20:00	KS2 and parents/carers
21 st March	World Down Syndrome Day	All
22 nd March	Year 3 Liturgy in School – 9:00	Parents/Carers of children in Year 3
28 th March	Maundy Thursday Mass – 9:00 at Church	Year 1 – 6
28 th March	Break up for Easter holidays 15:15	All Years
1 st April – 12 th April	EASTER BREAK – 15:15 close	

Announcements

Lent Prayers

We will be having a prayer space in school and have invited Decan Declan to lead prayers with any parents who would like to join us. This will be each Tuesday during Lent, 2:45-3:10pm. All are welcome.



PTFA AGM meeting

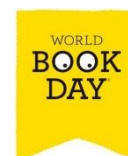


We have a group of very keen parents who are confident that we are now ready to host an AGM and re-establish a PTFA for St Mary's School. Please come along and support this new venture as we vote in our new committee. It is important to stay informed and have your voice so that we can arrange some fun events for our children and raise much needed funds for our school environment fund. AGM Meeting **Wednesday 6th March 3.30pm** in the school hall (children of PTA meeting can stay at school during the meeting).



World Book Day

This year we will not just be having a World Book Day - St Mary's will be hosting a Festival of Reading to begin on 4th March 2024! There will be exciting competitions and activities to enjoy across a fortnight of book based fun. Look out for a letter containing all the details and information you will need.



Reminders

Scopay – School Development Fund

If you are able to donate to our school development fund please click the link on Scopay. All money raised this year is going towards our school environment fund. We hope to improve our outdoor areas for our children, e.g. play equipment, playground markings, EYFS areas and a sensory garden.

Parent Teacher Consultations

Please remember to book your appointment for next week!

Be Safe

There's no legal age that your child can travel home from school alone – this is up to you and our school rules and policies. At St Mary's we allow children in Years 5 and 6 to leave school on their own, all other children must be dismissed to a trusted adult.

You should never leave a child alone who isn't ready or is unable to care for themselves, every child is different. If you and your child do feel they're ready to come home alone, it helps to go over some rules about staying safe. The NSPCC suggests:

- Make sure they know their address and your telephone number by heart, in case they get lost or have to navigate home from somewhere new.
- If they have a mobile phone, remind them to fully charge it before leaving the house, and make sure they have all your contact numbers saved.
- Talk to them about road safety. They should always look both ways before crossing the street, and never be on their phone whilst crossing a road.
- Remind them never to accept a lift from someone they don't know, or let a stranger into the house. They should never give personal information away – in real life or online.
- Remind them that if they feel unsafe or uncomfortable at any time, they can call you or a trusted adult.
- If they ever feel like they're in immediate danger, they should call the police straight away on 999.

Be Here, be Ready

Our aim is to positively promote attendance at school so that each and every child can enjoy the very best education. It is really important that we continue to work together to do all we can to prioritise the children's attendance at school so that they can enjoy their learning and socialising with their peers.

Please be reminded that we are able to administer **prescribed** medicines, in loco parentis, providing you have completed the correct form which is available from the school office. Examples of when this may be appropriate are if your child suffers from stomach migraines and a painkiller has been prescribed on an "as and when" basis, your child is recovering from an infection and you know they are back to normal but have yet to finish a course of antibiotics and they need to be given 4 times per day. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you feel your child could be in school but are not 100% sure.

Spotlight



This week we would like to highlight our wonderful Year 6 Team and look at ways that they will be preparing for Easter this half term:

Miss Lindsay: I will be giving thanks for all that I have and looking for the beauty in the world.

Mrs Wrann: I'm preparing for Easter by making sure I help and support others both in school and at home. I'm donating lots of clothes to charity and also donating to The Parkinson's Charity in memory of my Dad.

Mrs Martin: I will be decorating my house with Easter items and reflect on Christ's sacrifice.



Mission Moments

There were so many 'mission' moments last half term and staff were constantly catching children living out our Mission Values. Well done to Anthony in Year 6 for selflessly clearing up after some Year 1 pupils at lunchtime. Well done also to Rosie and May in Year 5 for looking after a Year R child and playing with him when he was struggling to follow instructions. We are very proud of our Mission Heroes!



#goingoverandabovekindnessand humility



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Clare Tickel

Diocese of Plymouth

