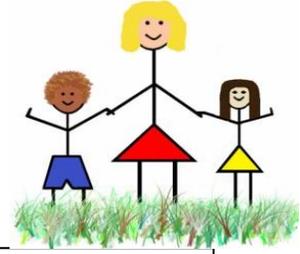




**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC NURSERY, INFANT &
JUNIOR SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2016**



Sunday 27th March - Easter Sunday



This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Designated safeguarding officer in the Nursery & Infants' School is Mrs M Quinn and in the Junior School is Mrs. G Owens, Deputy Safeguarding Officer for both schools is Mrs Hulme and the Governor Safeguarding Officer is Mr. A. Scully. The schools have safeguarding & protection policies which can be viewed at the school office.

Although the sharing of photographs with family and friends is a great thing to do, please be reminded of the schools safeguarding procedures and refrain from taking pictures at school events. Thank you for your support regarding this as we all need to work together to look after our pupils.

Dear Parents/ Carers

As the term comes to a close we have been fortunate to have been able to prepare for Easter together in Holy Week. Each school has done this with great respect and reverence in their services, some attended by our families. This reflective time is so important in our busy world. This term has been short but still packed with the same expectations. Staff and children have worked very hard and are now ready to celebrate Easter with Our Lord.

We look towards the summer term with huge anticipation of having good weather with long sunny days. Each year group is planning for new activities and trips.

Each school continues to build on shared vision and this manifests itself in the eagerness for learning by our children, this willingness is fostered by our supportive families- thank you.

We hope to see many of you at the governors meetings for parents when you can ask questions about the possible future of becoming a hard federation.

Safeguarding Further to our requests prior to Christmas we remind all parents and carers that taking photographs in school is not permitted without prior permission. To ensure this is being observed and to avoid any misunderstanding we ask that **smart phones and other devices should not be used within the school grounds**. For data protection reasons we also request that lists of children's names from school must not be held on any personal devices. If you do have any such list we ask you to delete these with immediate effect. Thank you for your understanding.

Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development

Holy Year of Mercy

We want to live in the light of the word of the Lord: "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful"

(Luke 6:36)

Pope Francis

This week marks the beginning of Holy Week and the children at the Nursery & Infants' school have been learning about the last few days in the life of Jesus. Throughout the week in lessons and liturgy we have taken part in the Easter story. We heard about how Jesus rode into Jerusalem in triumph with the people waving palms. The story of The Last Supper when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and told them that he would be leaving them. Good Friday the day we commemorate his Passion and Death, and Easter Sunday, the Resurrection of the Lord.

At the Junior School we have welcomed Father Paul for the sacrament of Reconciliation. Lectio Divina has been running every Thursday lunchtime throughout Lent and each class, along with parents have walked the Stations of the Cross in the grounds of St Philomomena's.

Uniform

Please be reminded that all school wear needs to conform to school uniform colours and this includes coats, hats, scarves and gloves. Boots are not classed as appropriate school footwear. However boots and wellingtons can be worn for the journey and then changed on arrival in school. We will shortly be sending a reminder of the correct uniform to be worn at both schools following the Easter break, hopefully this will help you in good time for your shopping spree. Thank you to those families who always comply with school colours as requested.

Stitch Design will be increasing prices slightly from April for the school uniform items. If you would like to purchase any new items, it may be advisable to do so before April!

Health & Safety

We appreciate how difficult it is sometimes to park close to the school but you really must not park in the carparks for the local public houses or across resident's drives please. I have ongoing complaints from neighbours with registration plates identified and if people don't respect this plea then we may have no alternative other than to publish car details.

Thank you for your continued support in this matter. Please be reminded that, the roadways within the school grounds are still used by cars and can be a potential risk to your child.

Please remember that dogs are not permitted in the school grounds at any time.

Governors

The next full Governing body meeting is on Wednesday 8th June at the Nursery & Infants' School.

Thank you to all parents who have returned the gift aid forms. This makes a big difference as we are able to claim £7.05 for every £25 donated. Please remember to send these in if you have not done so. All payments for Governors fund can be made on Parentpay at www.parentpay.com

School Office

Please be reminded that only prescribed medicines can be given in school by school staff (if prescribed four times a day). All other medicine will need to be administered by a parent or nominated person. For those with asthma, we have been advised that all children should have a small spacer in school and your child should know how to use the inhaler and spacer. This should be in a sealed clear plastic bag with your child's name on and you are responsible for taking this home half termly to clean.

The junior school website is currently under development. Please be aware that not all items will be up to date and we will let you know when it is. Thank you.

Please remember that any absence from school must be reported to the school office on the morning by telephone (**not by email**) followed up in writing. Also, please advise the school office if someone other than your normal contacts is going to collect your child by phoning before 2pm. If later than this we can not guarantee getting the message to your child when calling late in the school day.

Active Kids Vouchers

Please remember to send in your Active Kids Vouchers from Sainsbury's as these are used to purchase equipment in each school.

School Dinners

Following concerns from parents last term regarding school dinners, we have worked closely with the caterers addressing issues such as portion sizes, the quality of some menu choices and food running out before the end of service. Please find attached the new Summer Term menu which offers an excellent variety of healthy options. The daily option of a jacket potato has been removed as too often children were choosing this over the main/vegetarian options to the extent that some children were opting for a jacket potato most days.

Following Government requirements, Caterlink provide a menu which offers variety for children to make good, healthy choices resulting in a balanced diet every day.

There will be a 'jacket potato day' during each cycle and we hope to introduce some 'themed' lunch days in the summer term. Details will be circulated in due course and we would encourage pupils who normally have a packed lunch, to try a dinner on those days. We will also be hosting 'taster sessions' for parents providing the opportunity to sample the dinners-details will follow'.

Internet Safety

Please find information as suggested by the Parent Forum at the recent meeting Useful websites include -

www.thinkuknow.co.uk - The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre has set up its own website which has been designed and written specifically for children, young people, teachers, parents and carers.

www.kidsmart.org.uk/ - Kidsmart is an award winning internet safety website for parents and those working with children. It has been developed by the children's internet charity Childnet International and has excellent information on many of the technologies used by children, with guidance on how to 'stay safe' online.

www.saferinternet.org.uk - Here you will find e-safety tips, advice and resources to help children and young people stay safe on the internet.

Achievement

This term has focused on RE teaching for monitoring. The RE subject leaders have observed lessons in both schools. The outcomes were really pleasing, children are able to learn in a creative environment where there are able to talk about their achievements with confidence. Lesson observations next term will focus on maths.

NURSERY & INFANTS' SCHOOL

News from Nursery

NURSERY: To celebrate world book day we have been reading the story of the *Gingerbread Man* and learning about different types of books. We visited our school library to look at the different types of Fiction and Non-fiction books. We made a list of things we needed to make a library role play area in the Nursery. The children have practised reciting the *Gingerbread Man* story and the repetitive refrains e.g Run, run as fast as you can you can't catch me I'm the *Gingerbread man*. The children designed their own gingerbread men in the writing area and they also made gingerbread men out of ginger play dough in the tactile area. On Tuesday Miss Penston, Miss Brookman and Mrs Conway dressed up as the characters from the *Gingerbread man* story and we all helped to tell the story together with actions. We wore our pyjamas and brought in our favourite bedtime stories to share with each other on World Book Day.



Reception

The children have spent the last half term enjoying their topic 'Did dragons exist?'. We started our topic with an exciting fairy-tale ball where the children had a chance to dance with one another and even ask Queen Ashdown questions. We enjoyed writing our own Fairy Godmother wishes as well as creating many dragon, knight and Princess themed art projects. The children are very excited about the trip to Buckingham Palace in the first two weeks back after Easter.

English

We had an amazing World Book Day with super costumes and activities! Great fun had by all!

News from Year 1

The children have spent the last half term learning about "Moon Zoom". We started our topic with a visit from a very special guest, Mr Jack Lousma who is an astronaut who was part of the Apollo 13 space landing. The children wrote questions they wanted to ask Mr Lousma and in a special press conference, they were able to interview Mr Lousma on his adventures in space. The children then wrote a report on the astronauts visit.

News from Year 2

The children have spent the last half term being "Street Detectives". We started the topic with a school trip to the Honeywood Museum in Carshalton to learn about life in the past. We heard about how children spent their school days and looked at similarities and differences between their lives and ours. We also looked at how houses have changed over the years as well.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

News from Year 3

This has been a short but very busy half term for year 3! The weeks have been leading up to our sandwich making, which is taking place in the final week of term. We have been exploring different packaging as well as designing our own, as well as tasting different sandwiches to see what filling we would like to put in our own party sandwiches. There have been some very interesting combinations so far! We look forward to seeing all of the party sandwiches on the day.

Year 3 have been putting their performance skills to the test in English, whilst studying performance poetry. The children wrote and performed their own versions of the Allan Ahlberg poem, 'Please Mrs Butler'. There are certainly some poets in the making in year 3!

We were very lucky to have a special guest this half term, Miss Fernee, who came to talk to us about what it is like to be an archeologist. She showed us some interesting pictures of different artefacts, and we all had lots of questions to ask her after her presentation.

We have also been preparing ourselves for Easter by studying the Stations of the Cross in school as well as preparing for our Penitential Service. We look forward to returning to school in April and going on our trip to Butser Ancient Farm.

News from Year 4

Year 4 have had a reflective month during the Lenten period, we were fortunate enough to be invited to the Easter Experience, which was organised and performed by *Sutton Schoolwork*. This was a special experience where the children and staff were reminded of the events of Holy Week leading up to the celebration of Easter Sunday with a powerful and interactive performance.



News from Year 4 continued

Continuing with our reflection and spiritual growth during Lent, we participated with the Stations of the Cross in the grounds of St. Philomena's.

We made 3D models of a river; this was a practical experience which enabled the children to apply their geographical knowledge of physical features of the River Usk. Thank you so much for helping with newspapers and boxes - this support was much appreciated.

We hope you are enjoying the creative and unique light up picture frames that the children brought home to share. The children enjoyed designing and making their frames, they used cutting and joining skills (some sawing for the first time!) to make their aesthetic frame design and their structural wooden frame. Finally, they assembled these elements together to form their final frames. Thank you for the ongoing support of parents who came to help on the day.

News from Year 5

We have been very busy in Year 5, looking at persuasive writing in English!. We began this month with a celebration of World Book Day!. The whole of Year Five looked fantastic in their costumes of different book characters. Thank you to everyone who joined us for our school's Easter Reflection which was held on Wednesday 23rd March. A special thank you goes to all Year 5 children who were incredibly reflective and reverent through the whole journey leading up to and taking part in this Easter Reflection. In addition, thank you to the children for their efforts with this term's Learning Journal and for any adult support at home.

We are looking forward to our Bough Beech trip on Monday 18th April, which links to our Science and Geography knowledge of the water cycle and living things and their habitats.

News from Year 6

March has been a short yet intense month for Year 6 as we start getting ourselves prepared for SATS. The students have been working tirelessly through what seems like endless practice papers and revision books and have been pushing themselves to catch up on complicated grammar terms and complex calculations.

But it hasn't been all work, with the sun (finally) coming out we have been taking our PE lessons outdoors learning the skills of hockey and cricket which will continue next term.

In Religion we have been studying the importance of the Lenten period and the representation of Death and New Life. After taking part in a very reflective and reverent Stations of the Cross, the students have entered Holy Week ready for the changes that come with Easter. We wish all the students a safe and happy Easter break and look forward to seeing you all back ready to smash out the last bit of revision before SATS. We're almost there!!

Music

Well done to Christin Connolly for being voted the Orchestra player of the term and Troy Sebastian for being the Conductor's choice for the term.

Pupil Achievement

The St Mary's Awards for the last half term go to

3 Hawthorn - Warren D'Costa

3 Willow - Owen Kelly

4 Poplar - Jenson Burley

5 Elm - Olivia Hall

6 Oak - Archie Cannell

3 Mulberry - Jacob Kinnear

4 Ash - Beatrice Giuliano

5 Birch - Jasmine Guest

6 Chestnut - Amberley Jacobs



unicef

We have been reflecting on how to live in God's way during Lent and looking towards almsgiving to support children in other parts of the world. Thank you for all of your support at home with the Lent collection boxes.



Travel Plan

Junior Travel Advisers (JTAs) are very excited to announce that their travelling family questionnaire is in every pupil's Google Mail. Please work together (as a family) to complete the questionnaire so that we can make improvements to cycle and scooter provision. Their next project is a car free day campaign which the group are hoping to launch on Friday 20th May. Watch this space for further information.

Friends of St Mary's

The sponsored bounce raised in excess of £2700. This was a huge achievement. Well done to all those who took part and raised so much money. The disco was again a huge success raising £506.59. Thank you to all those volunteers who make these events possible.

Thank you also, to all those who supported the Easter Raffle which was draw at the end of term assembly.

The 50/50 for March was won by Elizabeth Ketcher (Sam Ketcher 3 Mulberry)