



**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC FEDERATION, CARSHALTON  
NEWSLETTER  
MARCH 2017**

**SUNDAY 2ND APRIL - THE 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT**



*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 school's 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.**

## ***Message from Mrs Hulme***

***Dear Parent & Carers***

*Thank you for joining us for our very prayerful reflections during Lent. This time is perfect to come together as a group and strengthen our shared faith.*

*Thank you also to the staff and children who have worked hard in producing these presentations for us to participate and benefit from and for the many other events that took place during the term.*

*Thank you to the families who have supported the schools in a variety of ways, helping in school, accompanying pupils on activities out of school and of course the many fundraising tasks.*

*This time of the year gives us the opportunity to appreciate new life and the gift of being able to start anew.*

*We as a community are very fortunate to have each other and this needs to be valued and preserved.*

*We say farewell and good luck to Miss Hayman , class teacher in 3 Hawthorn and will be welcoming 3 new dinner supervisors in the new term. You may have seen the recruitment items in the media. The governors continue to be committed to securing high quality staff.*

*Next term will be busy preparing for summer activities and transition. Enjoy the break from routine and the lovely spring sunshine.*

*On behalf of the school governors and staff, we all wish you a most happy and holy Easter.*

## School News

### **Safeguarding**

Although there have been many requests asking adults not to use phones in the school grounds ,we still have parents/carers, child minders and extended family members who continue to compromise our pupils' safety by using their phones. There has been an improvement - thank you to those who have responded positively to the request.

### **Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development**

#### **Nursery & Infant School**

We began our Lenten journey with Father Paul coming in to distribute ashes to children and staff. Well done to all the children for listening so reverently and singing so beautifully. We were also delighted to welcome Anne Towner from CAFOD who led an assembly on how our money is helping people in Zambia. Children from both schools then presented her with cheques totalling just over £1100.00. This money was collected from the Christmas Productions and Carol Concerts. Thank you for your generosity. Collection boxes for the Catholic Children's Society Lenten Appeal were sent home and we would ask that the boxes be returned after the Easter Holiday. Wishing you a happy and peaceful Easter.

This half term Y1 and Reception classes have each had 30 minutes chaplaincy time with Mrs Norbury. These opportunities for prayer and reflection take place in the library and give the children space and time to listen to scripture, to reflect on the wonder of His creation, to pray together and simply rest in His presence. Year 1 sessions focused on the parable of the mustard seed, which tied in well with our gardening activities (see below), whilst Reception thought about the meaning of the Our Father. If you have a child



in these year groups we hope you enjoyed sharing their gifts - Year 1: a seed to plant at home; Reception: an Our Father puzzle.

Lots of gardening has been taking place in the Quiet Garden! Children have been working with Mrs Hegarty and Mrs Norbury to weed and then plant the seeds you have so generously donated. It's still work in progress but it's already looking much better.

In addition, our beautiful statue of Mary, which was previously in the hall, is now in the Quiet Garden. Please do take some time to visit her before or after school.

The children have also enjoyed taking some time during break times to decorate and write prayer cards based on JOY (Jesus Others You). Thankfully they have managed to survive the windy weather! Look out for them around the door from Y2 to the main building or on the arch to the Quiet Garden.

### **Junior School**

As a community we have certainly been blessed with lots of prayer during these weeks of Lent!

On Ash Wednesday pupils attended Mass and received ashes at either Holy Cross or Our Lady of the Rosary in Sutton. You would have been so proud of your children: they were prayerful and responsive. We were delighted to be approached by many parishioners who were delighted to have the children in their parish church, and even received a letter in school praising their behaviour. Thank you, this only happens because of the high expectations at home and in school.

We all pass the Stations of the Cross in the grounds of St Philomena's but this week we have made a journey around them, thinking about the image shown on each and reflecting on what it means for us in our lives. The children were very reflective and sensible: we are sure they have told you about where we walked to find each one. Parishes often offer the opportunity to pray with the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday (some even have a Children's service), perhaps your child would like to go?

We are very grateful to Fr. Luke for coming into school every Monday lunchtime to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Many children took this opportunity to make a fresh start & their thank-you messages to Fr. Luke show just how much they valued this.

Even more children came to pray and reflect in the Lent Tent on Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtimes. Chaplaincy Team members were certainly kept very busy! It was lovely to see so many children, across all the year groups, seeking out this space of reflection and prayer.

Meeting Christ in the Scriptures is very important to strengthen us all in our journey of faith. Lectio Divina took place every Thursday lunchtime in the Chapel. Again, many

children of different ages came to experience the Word of God and share their thoughts. "It's very calm," was a phrase heard over and over again.

Many thanks to all the parents and carers who came to adult prayers' which took place on various days throughout this half term. Your prayers help to strengthen us all.



The psalmist tells us to "Sing a new song to the Lord" (Psalm 98:1) and that is exactly what the Liturgy Group has done.

This half term we are very fortunate to have had Amber and Rebecca, Y10 students from Ursuline High School in Wimbledon, working with Liturgy Group members to write a school hymn. In just two sessions, (a little over 2 hours working together), they wrote the lyrics, composed the music and even put a few actions to it before singing it at a whole school assembly.

A fantastic effort from all and a remarkable outcome. We'll be teaching it to the school next term so listen out for this new hymn (name still to be decided!).



**Table Talk** is our weekly suggested topic of conversation for your family to discuss at a mealtime together. There are two this week as it is the holidays!

**Is there such a thing as an evil person, or is it just the choices they make that are evil? What about a 'good' person'?**

### Health & Safety

Please be reminded that, the roadways within the school grounds are still used by cars and can be a potential risk to your child. Scooters are still being used by children on the roads that pose a potential risk. Please remember that dogs are not permitted in the school grounds at any time.

### Governors

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. This is a reminder to parents who have not yet contributed to the Governors fund, that payment can be made on Parentpay at [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com)

### School Office

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.

### **School Dinners**

Please remember to keep up to date with payments on Parentpay ensuring you pay enough money on to your child's account in advance. If you receive an email reminder from the school please ensure you act promptly should a debt have incurred.

### **Internet Safety**

Please find links to useful websites including

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://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/](http://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](http://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.

## **NURSERY & INFANT SCHOOL**

### **News from Nursery**

This month in Nursery we started our topic on 'Growing'. We started by talking about the seasons and the fact that we are coming in to spring...luckily by today it had begun to look somewhat more spring like outside! The children have all gone for a walk in our garden and had great fun pointing out all the buds, leaves and flowers which are beginning to grow after the winter. Everyone had a chance to plant their own pot of cress and we check the pots every few days to see if there has been any growth...watch this space!

### **Reception**

During our topic 'Did dragons exist?' the children have enjoyed learning about castles, knights, princesses and fairy tales. We held a fairy tale on world book day, the children thoroughly enjoyed dressing up and all looked amazing in their costumes. It made our hearts melt watching them ballroom dance to well know fairy tale songs. As part of our RE topic 'Growing' the children planted and looked after their own cress seeds. We made observations of the changes that happen during spring. Although our planned trips did not all go ahead due to unforeseen circumstances the children all had a fantastic time during the days their trips were booked whether they made it to the palace or not it was a day to remember. Our new topic is called 'Why do spiders eat flies?' where we will be learning about and investigating minibeasts. We hope you all have a restful and enjoyable Easter Break.

### **News from Year 1**

For our topic 'MOON ZOOM' we looked at the stories Beegu, Space Dog and How to Catch a Star. We learnt the stories through role play and looked how characters may be feeling in scenes from text. The children wrote their own questions about space that they then got to ask a real astronaut when he came in for a visit. This was a huge hit with the children. Throughout the topic we looked at designing and making our own rockets and paid particular attention to the first moon landing. In art we focused on Vincent van Gogh's 'Starry Night' and focused on using different sketching styles to recreate a section of the painting. In maths we looked at time in

both analogue and digital form. We also continued to look at money through addition and subtraction and we introduced fractions. Our new topic is called Paws, Claws and Whiskers and we will be starting our topic off by looking at 'The Tiger Who Came To Tea'. Have a wonderful Easter break and we look forward to starting our new topic in the summer term.

### **News from Year 2**

For our topic Street Detectives, we enjoyed learning all about the area we live in, and how people's lives have changed during this time. We went on a trip to the Honeywood Museum where we discovered how children in the past would have spent their school and leisure time. Thank you to all the parents who joined us for the trip. We also joined Year 5 for Mass at Holy Cross; this was our first opportunity to see our buddies for next year.

**Star of the Week** - week ending 24th March - **Elephants** - Mike Borici, **Penguins** - Alice Mukunku, **Bees**- Nathan Rodrigues, **Reindeer** - Ruby Williams, **Giraffes** - Alexis Mahoney, **Cheetahs** - Lily Rainbow, **Meerkats** - Oliver Inzani , **Horses** - Ellie Hall, **Owls** - Jasmine Mahoney

### **Chicks**

We have all thoroughly enjoyed looking after our chicks for the last two weeks. They arrived at school as eggs in an incubator and we were able to watch them all hatch by the end of the first week. All eight chicks grew very quickly and were starting to try to use their wings by the time they left at the end of the second week. All of the children had the chance to watch them feeding and sleeping and also making lots of noise. They will now be given to a free range farm in the local area where they will continue to be looked after and grow into adult hens or cockerels.



## **JUNIOR SCHOOL**

### **News from Year 3**

Year 3 have had a very busy month! We marked the start of Lent by going to Ash Wednesday mass with our Year 6 buddies at the Holy Cross church. It was a lovely opportunity to share our Lenten promises with them and to experience the mass together. Our Penitential Service has also allowed us to reflect on Jesus' love for us during Lent and how we can be more giving. We are very grateful for all of the parents who were able to join us during this service, as well as walking the Stations of the Cross.

This month we took part in lots of exciting Science experiments during Science week. We explored the direction and strength of the wind, the different colours that nature gives us during different seasons and how camouflage can benefit both predators and prey.

World book day was a very exciting day for us! We saw lots of lovely home made costumes and it was clear that the children had put a great deal of effort in to create such wonderful costumes. We especially enjoyed the book marathon that the staff took part in, where we visited each classroom to read them a section of Charlie and the Chocolate factory in a given time, to then run as fast as we could to the next classroom!

This half term we have been sandwich experts! We have looked at what makes a good sandwich including the packaging and the taste. We have made our own sandwiches to put into the packaging we have also made ourselves. We hope you enjoyed tasting them!

As many of you know, Miss Hayman will be leaving us at the end of this term to start a new adventure in her life! She will be thoroughly missed by the staff and the children and we wish her the very best for the future.

#### **News from Year 4**

During Lent year 4 had the opportunity to visit Carshalton Methodist Church for the 'Easter Experience' which allowed the children to reflect on the events of Holy Week being brought to life by actors. Some of our students and teachers were even cast for the roles too! Thank you for our parent helpers who volunteered their time.

There was a definite buzz around the school on World book day, all the children made a great effort in putting together their inventive, imaginative outfits for the day dressed as a character of their choice. The day encouraged speaking and listening opportunities through poetry performances in the hall and year 4 even made their own Iron Man poems using text features written by Ted Hughes.

Children were fortunate to have taster sessions within golf workshops - we learned how to grip and hit a golf club and practised putting, chipping and driving skills. We all had an enjoyable time learning new golfing skills and there are certainly a few future contenders for the Masters!

Science week has also fallen during March and in year 4 we had an afternoon of science investigations: paper airplane competitions, marshmallow and spaghetti towers and fizzy pop explosions! Ask your children about the predictions and conclusions of these investigations! Maybe you could even try one out at home!

We are looking forward to the Summer term and wish you all a happy and holy Easter!

#### **News from Year 5**

We have had an extremely busy time in year 5 this term, looking at different suspense stories and their features. We have created some versions of our own focusing on the

opening that hooks the reader, a detailed build up, dilemma and a resolution. We began this month with a whole school celebration of World Book Day! The whole of Year Five looked fantastic in their costumes of different book characters. In DT we had a successful day which involved researching, designing and creating pop up books using different mechanisms. Our pop up books were themed around the Easter story with links to our Easter Reflection. Thank you to everyone who joined us for our school's Easter Reflection which was held on Thursday 30th March. A special thank you goes out 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. We are looking forward to our Bough Beech trip on Friday 28th April, which links to our Science and Geography knowledge of the water cycle and living things and their habitats.

### **News from Year 6**

Year 6 have been really busy preparing for SATS that will take place at the beginning of May. Don't forget to do your homework, keep revising and preparing over the Easter holiday. It will all be worth it in the end!

Those in both netball and football clubs have enjoyed representing the school in tournaments across the borough. Well done to all those who have participated!

Don't forget there is an Isle of Wight meeting on Thursday 20th April at 7pm. This is an important meeting to go through all the details of what the children need to take with them. This meeting is just for parents and it is really important for at least one parent/ carer to attend.

As you will be aware year 6 will be going to the 4th Dimension as a treat after SATS. This proves to be a really fun, active and all inclusive trip with kayaking, zip wire and climbing activities. These are activities that many children may not have had the chance to experience in the past and we are looking forward to it.

### **Junior Travel Advisors / School Travel plan**



The Junior Travel advisors hope that you have had a chance to take a look at our new scooter park that has been installed at the beginning of this term! We have a school personal target to increase scootering as a method of transport to St Mary's Juniors. WOW data has been collected for the month of March with a range of children receiving badges for walking to school once a week for each week in the month of March.

This term has included preparation for our annual hands up survey on transport methods to school. We also plan to publish graph data of how many children walked to school in this term. The Junior Travel advisors will be using their Computing skills to present this!

Thank you to Parents and Carers for continually sending children to school by scooter or foot.

## **Bikeability training scheme Y5 children**

Lastly there is a Cyclist training scheme taking place in various schools around Sutton for **Y5 children only** . It is a free week-long course that introduces cycling on quiet residential roads. Training includes:

■ Bike checks ■ Control skills ■ On-road cycling ■ Highway Code. Take a look on the Y5 Google classroom pages for detailed information.

## **Sport**

It's been a very busy few weeks for St. Mary's Sports. Clubs have been running and many are having their final few fixtures before the end of the season. Some sports clubs will end at Easter with new clubs taking their place in the summer term, please listen out in assembly or on the newsletter for notice of new clubs to start and their timings.

Y3& Y4 were lucky enough to have a golf workshop with our friendly golf pro from Surrey Downs, Luke Sullivan. Each class had an hour long session and learned correct grip, stance and swing. The teachers were all so impressed with how determined and resilient the children were as they tried hard to improve their swing turn after turn. If this was something your child enjoyed and is looking to carry on with outside of school, please contact Surrey Downs Golf Club <http://www.surreydownsgc.co.uk>

Please ensure that all children have the correct PE kit in their bag, especially as the weather is changing. All children are required to wear socks with their trainers so girls may need to have a spare pair of socks in their bag incase they are wearing tights.

## **PSHE**



UNICEF club has been meeting weekly, taking a closer look at the different articles for the Rights of a Child. The ambassadors have been choosing articles and forming debates around the impact they have on a child and why they are important. They have also been mind mapping a variety of fun, enjoyable fundraising ideas to raise money for UNICEF.

During the summer term we may think about using these ideas for future fundraising.

## **WORLD BOOK DAY**

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March the Junior school celebrated World Book Day with a series of events to mark the occasion. The day began with an assembly where the children participated in a character parade - four children were chosen by a panel of teachers looking for the most inventive and imaginative characters using recycled materials. The four winners selected were: Enosh in year 3, Eden in year 4, Elena Said in year 5 and Reece in year 6. Everybody made such a fantastic effort, a huge thank you to all parents/carers for your support with costumes.

There was an opportunity for the children to perform poetry in the hall during lunch time where they used actions and the tone of their voice to bring the poems to life.

After the successful book marathon last year, we decided to read *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* this year, everyone enjoyed being read to and watching the racing of the teachers from class to class across the school. There was such an exciting buzz about reading around the school and we want this thrill for reading to stay!



## **Awards & Achievements**

### **St Mary's Awards**

**3 Mulberry** - James McGuinness  
**3 Willow** - Anabel Ferreira Rico  
**4 Poplar** - Joseph Dixon  
**5 Birch** - Aoife Connolly  
**6 Chestnut** - Dillon Price

**3 Hawthorn** - Liam Burley  
**4 Ash** - Sean Seresinhe  
**4 Rowan** - Chris Bhunjun  
**5 Elm** - Chloe Baron  
**6 Oak** - Liam Unsworth-Hodges

### **Chess Club**

Congratulations to Thomas Kvam who won the Ramsey Cup tournament, scoring the maximum of 5/5, winning all of his 5 games.