



St Mary's R.C. First School Newsletter – Friday 10th March, 2023



We love, we learn, we live.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to everyone who is supporting us as we take part in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk! Every £1 you raise will help us be there for people fighting extreme poverty globally. As a school we are hoping to raise £150 if possible. Please follow the link to our donation page or complete the paper sponsor form your child has brought home, sending in any sponsorship money raised once we have completed 'The Big Lent Walk':

<https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/s-oakes>

We were thrilled to hear we have some eco-poetry award winners! A group of six year 2 pupils have been specially selected by 'The Big Green Poetry Machine' to have their carefully written 'Eco Poems' published in a real book filled with young writer's poems from across the country! Year 2 spent one afternoon writing a poem all about the rainforest, promoting and encouraging people to care for this threatened and beautiful part of our world. The publishers were especially impressed with six writer's poems and would love to publish them later this year! Congratulations to Juliette, Bao , Oliver L, Jax, Ellie and Joe!

As we continue in our Year of Mary and this season of Lent we have discussed putting Christ at the centre in giving, acting and praying. As such, every child in the school has decorated their own Lent cross with their examples of how they will 'give, act and pray' this Lent. These will be displayed on the Advent Tree in our foyer.






Lent is represented by the colour purple which symbolises a time of prayer, penance and preparation for Jesus' death on the cross and Resurrection at Easter. The following link to the Ten:Ten newsletter shares some of the content children will experience in school throughout March and suggests ways for you to engage with them about it: <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Mrs. Oakes

Mission Statement Value Award Winners:

If you would like to celebrate your child's achievements out of school and would like us to give them a mention in Celebration Assembly on a Friday, then simply fill out one of the Mission Statement Value Cards that have been sent home with your child or ask for one at our school office. We love to hear about all the children's wonderful achievements, both in school and out!

Class			
Reception	Frankie H	Olivia C	Phuc
Year 1	Miya	Esmee	Heidi
Year 2	Corey-Jo	Scarlett	Archie
Year 3	Emily	Mason	Spencer
Year 4	Jack	Marshall	Isaac B

Attendance Ladder



Star attenders this week:
Year: Y3

St. Mary's class attendance this week:

<u>Reception</u>	96.2%
<u>Year 1</u>	80.1%
<u>Year 2</u>	91.7%
<u>Year 3</u>	96.8%
<u>Year 4</u>	95.6%

Mini Vinnies

We would like to invite our Mini Vinnie volunteers to attend two meetings this half term from 3:00-4:00pm
We will be focusing on our school 'Year Of Mary' mission and how we can turn our concerns into Action.

We would like to invite our Mini Vinnies to the following sessions:

Monday 20th March 3.00 - 4.00pm

World Down Syndrome Day

On March 1st we took part in the Sunflower Challenge for Down Syndrome UK. As part of a countdown to World Down Syndrome Day on March 21st we planted Sunflower Seeds. For 21 days we will be watching them take root and grow. Each child, just like our Sunflowers, grows and blooms in different ways. Children will then be able to take their Sunflower home to continue to watch it grow. To make a donation to support Down Syndrome UK please scan the QR code on the 'Countdown to World Down Syndrome Day' poster that was sent home last week. Alternatively, we have a poster on the front door of school if you are unable to locate your poster.

Year Four Residential

Thank you to the parents that have paid the deposit for the year 4 residential. As there are a lower number of children interested than we had originally anticipated, we are currently in the process of speaking with Moor House and Tyne Valley coaches to try and secure a smaller coach to ensure costs remain the same. If this is not possible, we will consider alternative trip arrangements for the children and will inform parents of the outcome.

Easter Bonnets and Easter Fair

On Wednesday 29th March, St. Mary's will take part in an Easter bonnet parade. The children will make their Easter bonnets in school during their art lessons. Please could all hats and craft materials be brought into school in a named bag no later than Monday 20th March.

Also, on Wednesday 29th March, St. Mary's along with the PTA are holding an Easter Fair after school, starting at approximately 3.10pm. We will send out more information to follow but all proceeds will go to support the PTA and ultimately the children of St. Mary's. Please can we ask for donations of toys, gift bags, bric-a-brac, teddies, books etc. All donations can be sent in with the children or left at the main school office in a bag labelled Easter Fair. Each year group will be responsible for a stall at the Easter Fair, so individual teachers have made their requests for donations as follows:

Reception - Guess the name of the bunny - Donations of sweeties for the winner will be greatly appreciated!

Year 1 - Pin the tail on the bunny. If children could bring in any prize donations such as an Easter egg, chocolate coins or sweets. These donations will be used to make up 3 different prize bags.

Year 2 - Easter stall will be a chance to win hundreds of delicious Mini Eggs. Donations of Mini Eggs are requested please. All you need to do is guess how many are in the jar and the nearest guess wins the whole lot!

Year 3 - Year 3 will be holding a 'Hook a bag' stall at the Easter Fair. We are looking for donations of teddy bears, stationary, sweets and other small items as well as gift bags.

Year 4 - Decorate your own Easter biscuit. Donations of digestive biscuits, icing sugar sprinkles etc. will be gratefully received!

Fairtrade Fortnight-Regenerators

This week Eco-club held a cake sale as part of Fairtrade fortnight. Thank you to all the children who brought in their fairtrade cakes and treats. Eco club enjoyed selling the cakes and raising money for CAFOD and as part of their live simply award. We managed to raise over £100 for CAFOD from this event!



Tennis Morning

On Monday 6th March the children all took part in tennis taster workshop sessions throughout the school day. The children enjoyed learning new skills and playing tennis with each other.



Dates for Diary:

Mini Vinnies	Monday 20th March 3.00 - 4.00pm
Easter bonnet making materials need to be in school (in a named bag) by this date	Monday 20th March
World Down Syndrome Day - Children take part in related activities in school.	Tuesday 21st March
Easter Bonnet Parade - More details to follow. Parents invited.	Wednesday 29th March 9.15am
Easter Fair - All welcome. Further details to follow.	Wednesday 29th March - 3.10pm

Safeguarding

Our e-safety focus in school this month is 'Managing Online Information'. Throughout this module the children will learn strategies for effective searching, critical evaluation and ethical publishing. Gaining insight on things like having an awareness that not all opinions online are shared or accepted by others, how to use search technologies safely and how to identify, flag and report inappropriate content. For help, advice and resources for parents/carers please take a look at:

<https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/reliability-online/>

Pupil Support & Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs. Oakes

Deputy Safeguarding Lead: Miss. Baird

Assistant safeguarding Lead: Mrs. Stoves

SENDCo/Assistant SENDCo: Mrs Dotchin & Mrs Stoves

Please remember that we are here to support you and your child at any time. You can contact us via the main office (01434 603 791) or by email (admin@hexhamstmarys.uk)