



St Mary's R.C. First School Newsletter

Friday 25th March, 2023



We love, we learn, we live.

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a busy week in school as classes prepare for their Easter Fair stalls and create their bonnets in readiness for the Easter Bonnet Parade next Wednesday. Thank you for the donations we have received to date. Please can you keep sending in your donations as per the information in the 'Easter Fair Donations' section outlined below. Parents attending the Easter Bonnet parade will be welcomed into the hall from 9.10am via the Fire Exit doors. The children will then make their bonnet debut. Just a reminder that all mobile phones should remain out of sight and the taking of photographs at this event is prohibited for safeguarding reasons. Class teachers will take a photograph of each child wearing their bonnet and will send this home with your child later next week.

Tuesday was World Down Syndrome Day. On March 1st we planted Sunflower Seeds. For 21 days we have been watching them take root and grow. Each child, just like our Sunflowers, grows and blooms in different ways. Children then took their Sunflower home on Tuesday to continue to watch it grow and took part in a variety of resources linked to World Down Syndrome Day.



Thank you to everyone who is continuing to support us as we take part in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk! The children have told me that they are collecting lots of sponsors, with one child already raising over £80! Every £1 you raise will help us be there for people fighting extreme poverty globally. On Monday we are walking as a whole school around Sele Park to mark the end of our Lenten challenge. Please can you ensure that your child has a coat with them for this event. Please follow the link to our donation page or complete the paper sponsor form your child has brought home and send in any sponsorship money raised for 'The Big Lent Walk' on Monday 27th March:

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

Finally, we would like our St. Mary's families to keep Nils & Lilly and their families in your prayers. Nils & Lilly have had to spend some time in hospital recently, both children are being very brave and are recovering well. We all wish Nils and Lilly a speedy recovery as we pray:

Dear Lord,

Hold & keep,

Restore & heal,

Comfort & cuddle,

These precious children. Amen.

I would also like us to keep Miss. Stoves in our thoughts & prayers as she had an unexpected operation to remove her appendix on Wednesday night. Miss. Stoves is in good spirits and wants to reassure the children that she is doing well - get well soon Miss. Stoves!

Best wishes,

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	Jacob	Evie	Olivia C
Year 1	Phoebe	Heidi	Ollie
Year 2	Ellie	Oliver	Ella
Year 3	Jack H	Jack B	Jenna
Year 4	James	Darcey	Charlie

Attendance Ladder



Star attenders this week:
Year: Reception

St. Mary's class attendance this week:

Reception	99.0%
Year 1	93.4%
Year 2	94.5%
Year 3	92.8%
Year 4	91.9%

Easter Fair Donations

We will be holding our St. Mary's Easter Fair on Wednesday 29th March, raising funds for our 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!

Easter Fair

On Wednesday 29th March the Easter Fair will commence at 3.10pm once all children have been dismissed and collected from school. Once the children have been dismissed, staff will re-enter school to man the stalls. Visitors to the fair will then be given access to enter the hall via the fire exit doors.

Wait a Minute

Just a reminder that as we continue our Lent journey we have taken part in the 'Wait a Minute' series, a well-appreciated resource from across the diocese where individuals and schools are tuning in to watch, reflect and pray together each day, with a short video reflection. St. Mary's offered to lead a couple of video reflections this year. Well done to Charlie and Ellie from year 2 for their fantastic contributions on the 13th & 28th March. To see them both in action please follow this link:

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL_whhZ8gzYZ2dRYstN34mfbtajOuOdgWL

Big Lent Sponsored Walk - Sele Park

On Monday 27th March, St. Mary's will be visiting the SELE park to walk around the grounds as part of their Big Lent Walk. Our children have been working extremely hard to collect their sponsors for this walk and we are extremely grateful to all those who have donated. Please continue to sponsor us so that we can donate towards the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. Any sponsor money can be brought into school or left at the main office. Please ensure your child has a coat and a water bottle for this event.

Year Four Residential Trip - Moor House Adventure Centre

I am delighted to say that arrangements have been finalised and Y4 will be going on their residential trip to Moor House Adventure centre on Thursday 18th May until Friday 19th May. More information will be sent to parents regarding the timings of coaches and what the children will need to bring with them in due course.

Football Club

Starting after the Easter holidays, year 2 are invited to take part in our football club with Mr Flynn. The club will start on Tuesday 18th April 3-4pm. Please could you ring and let the office know if your child would like to take part. PE / football kit can be brought into school for the children to change into at 3pm.

Dates for Diary:

Please note there will be no extra-curricular clubs running next week.

Big Lent Walk-School event-please make sure your child has a coat and a drink for this event.	Monday 27th March
Easter Bonnet Parade - Parents invited.	Wednesday 29th March 9.15am
Easter Fair - All welcome.	Wednesday 29th March - 3.10pm
School closes for Easter holidays	Friday 24th March-3.00pm
School reopens for the start of the summer term	Monday 17th April

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)