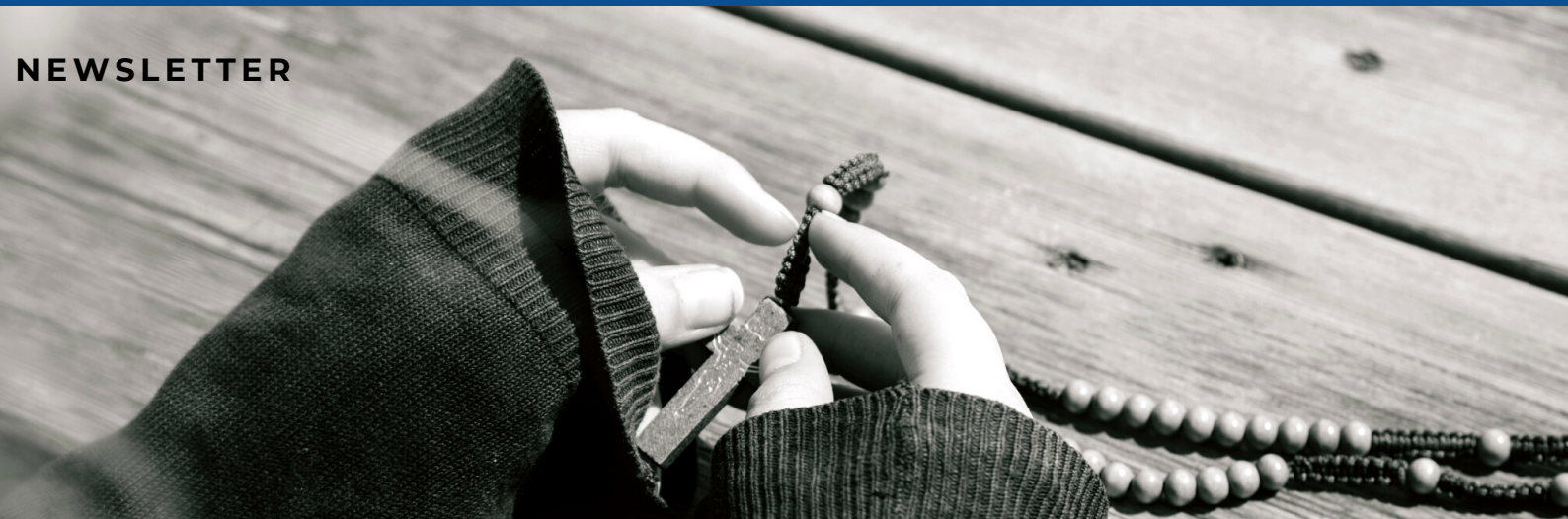


## NEWSLETTER



Dear Families,

I hope everyone is well and feeling that Spring is on its way. As ever, St. Mary's has been really busy. Last week, for the first time in ages, we were able to have Mass in school, with the children, staff and some parishioners. Fr. Jonathan came and Ash Wednesday Mass was celebrated in the school hall. The children were praised by everyone for their outstanding respectful behaviour and their ability to sit and listen for a long period of time. They learnt about Lent and the importance of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. On Monday, the Year Six children lead a fantastic Lent Liturgy to the whole school which explained in more detail about Lent. At one point, the Year Six children lead a quiz with the whole school and it was amazing to see how many of the children had retained lots of information about Lent and what this time of year means within a Catholic school. Well done to Year Six for leading this Liturgy, especially when most of them had been in London on their residential the week before.

I would like to thank all the parents and carers who completed the questionnaire that was sent out to answer questions and voice opinions on St. Mary's school. I was overwhelmed and humbled at the vast majority of positive and wonderful comments that were given. Thank-you to everyone for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. All the information has now been analysed and here is a summary:

"My child feels safe and happy at St. Mary's": **98%** of responses agreed with these statements.

"I have found it easy to contact the school if needed" and "I find the newsletters useful": **96%** of responses agreed with these statements.

"My child makes good progress at St. Mary's" and "My child receives appropriate homework for their age": **93%** of responses agreed with these statements.

However, I would like to show as a school how we are responding to the areas within the questionnaire where concerns were voiced by some parents/carers. With the statement "St Mary's deals effectively with bullying" only **70%** of parents agreed with this statement. Therefore as a school a number of changes have been introduced. These include beginning a whole school positive behaviour/anti-bullying campaign. This will also be linked to British Values and the importance of how we treat each other. Children will be reminded regularly about Bullying being - Several Times On Purpose and You must - Start Telling Other People.

Our Virtue of this half term is Peace...and so we pray...

God of all, grant that my fast may be pleasing to you. Help me to look outwards, to share what I have with others, and to work towards a fairer world for all people.

Amen

I wish you all a safe and peaceful weekend. As ever you all remain in my thoughts and prayers,

Take care,

Mrs R Wheatley

### Calendar Events

Monday 14th March:  
Reception Trip to Great Wood Farm

Wednesday 16th March:  
Wear Yellow/Blue to raise funds for Ukraine

Thursday 24th March:  
KS1 & EYFS Mothers Day afternoon Tea 14:30

Friday 25th March:  
KS2 Mothers Day Afternoon Tea 14:30

Friday 1st April:  
Last Day of Term (New Date)

Wednesday 20th April:  
Pentecost Term Starts

### ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

Reception Class: 94.68%  
Year 1: 97.24%  
Year 2: 92%  
Year 3: 98.1%  
Year 4: 89.33%  
Year 5: 93.57%  
Year 6: 88.67%





## Parent Code of Conduct

Along with this newsletter, you will be receiving the new Parent Code of Conduct Policy, which explains the purpose of the policy and how parents need to conduct themselves when communicating with school.

## Wednesday 16th March

As a school we have decided to raise funds for the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal. Pupils and staff are asked to wear yellow and blue and donate £1 for Ukraine.

## Year 4 Walk Against Hunger

Year 4 have decided to give up a lunch time for Lent in aid of Walk Against Hunger. They will come home with sponsor forms on Monday. Please help support them with this.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION - CHANGE OF DATE OF INSET DAY

**Friday, 1st April, 2022**, will now be an ORDINARY SCHOOL DAY. Instead, **Friday, 20th May 2022** will now be an INSET DAY. This will be the day when the staff will receive the main part of their training on our new phonics/early reading scheme.

## Ash Wednesday - Wednesday 2nd March



Please see the photos above to show how amazing Ash Wednesday Mass was - Fr. Jonathan placing crosses of ash on everyone's foreheads. It was lovely to be able to invite parents back into school.

## Year 6 Lunchtime arrangements

Children in Year 6 will have received their secondary school places recently. To help with the transition of making new friends, we are separating the class at break and lunch times, to encourage children to play with other children in the class. We hope you support this concept and that the children have enjoyed the first few days of this support strategy.



Oliver received a mug and pot of slime this week in the post from the BBC programme called 'Saturday Mash-Up' which is aired on a Saturday morning. He drew a picture for a segment of the programme called 'Downfall' and this was shown on tv last Saturday, 5 March 2022.



## **MOTHER'S DAY AFTERNOON TEA**

Mothers are invited to attend an event in our school hall, where they will be served with a hot drink and cake. They will spend time with their child and enjoy cake together!

For catering purposes Mothers will need to reply to the invitation sent out via parent mail today.

Due to health and safety, the only Mothers allowed to come to these afternoon teas will be the ones that have pre-booked. Please complete the form before 17th March, to give the school time to cater for all in attendance.

Thursday 24th March from 2.30pm for EYFS/Y1/Y2 classes.

Friday 25th March from 2.30 for Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 classes.



### **Lent Appeal**

As a school we will be collecting items throughout Lent for Grantham Passage and the Foodbank. If your child is able to bring any items of food/supplies to the school hall/their class, it would be much appreciated.

The items needed are non Perishable Items, Personal Hygiene Products, Toothbrushes/Toothpaste, Nappies/Wipes, Squash/Coffee/Tea, Breakfast Cereals.

Please check expiry dates before sending them in.

# LONDON TRIP YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL

Monday 28th February - Thursday 3rd March

**Year Six pupils on their residential trip, had a brilliant time and learnt a great deal. Two of the highlights were:**

**Meeting a Yeomen Warder (Beefeater) at The Tower of London, the children were told a number of things including about the raven birds that their presence is traditionally believed to protect The Crown and the Tower; a superstition holds that "if the Tower of London ravens are lost or fly away, the Crown will fall and Britain with it."**



**Going to The Houses of Parliament, everyone stood in the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The children took part in a debating workshop and learnt how laws (Acts of Parliament) are written and passed.**

