

## NEWSLETTER



Dear Families,

I hope during the half term break, with your varied work patterns and commitments, you were able to enjoy some quality family time together. Hopefully everyone enjoyed some fresh air. There are plenty of early signs of Spring in the sights and sounds outdoors and I always feel this is an exciting time of year.

As ever, St. Mary's has been busy ensuring the children are learning and continuing their journey of soaring into their next topics. When considering books and the love of reading, I know the children are really excited about World Book day on 3rd March. It will be wonderful to see every child holding the book which goes with the character they are dressed as. The children will be able to gather together in the hall on that day and share together the joy of reading. Remember "A book can block out the world if you dive deep enough and listen to its thoughts".

Our Virtue for this half term is Peace, and we will be thinking together about if we love one another, peace will be all around us. This virtue is appropriate when we think about what is happening in Ukraine at the moment. Please see the information in this newsletter about a request from the Holy Father Pope Francis.

Next week, our Year 6 pupils will be having an exciting time because they are attending a residential to London for four days. They will be visiting different museums including the Imperial War Museum, attending the Houses of Parliament, going on the London Eye, watching a West End show, going to The Tower of London and much more. I hope everyone has a brilliant time and memories are made that will last a life time.

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 28th February-3rd March:  
Y6 Residential Trip to London

Wednesday 2nd March:  
Ash Wednesday Mass, Parents welcome

Thursday 3rd March:  
World Book Day, Children to dress as their favourite book character.

Thursday 10th March:  
Reception & Y6 Height and Weight measurements with School Nurse

Monday 14th March:  
Reception Trip to Great Wood Farm

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

Friday 25th March:  
KS2 Mothers Day Afternoon Tea

Thursday 31st March:  
Last Day of Term

Wednesday 20th April:  
Pentecost Term Starts

### ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

Reception Class: 91.15%

Year 1: 96.9%

Year 2: 99.3%

Year 3: 99.05%

Year 4: 97%

Year 5: 89.67%

Year 6: 90%



## AN APPEAL FROM THE HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS:

Pope Francis says his heart aches over the situation in Ukraine and announces a “Day of Fasting for Peace” on Wednesday 2nd March which is Ash Wednesday.

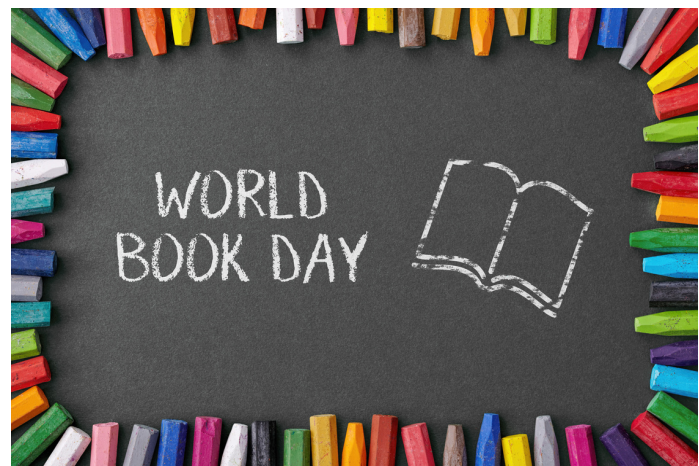
During the General Audience on Wednesday 23rd February, Pope Francis made a heartfelt appeal for peace in Ukraine, saying that the threat of war had caused “great pain in my heart.”

Speaking at the end of the General Audience, Pope Francis invited everyone to make 2nd March, Ash Wednesday, a Day of Fasting for Peace.

“I encourage believers in a special way to dedicate themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war,” he said.

### WORLD BOOK DAY - THURSDAY 3RD MARCH

On Thursday 3rd March, we are asking children to dress up as their favourite book character. We would also like them to bring in their favourite book as there will be times throughout the school day where they will need to read it. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or the school office.



### Ash Wednesday Mass

On Wednesday 2nd March there will be an Ash Wednesday Mass in school at 9:30am. We are inviting parents and parishioners to this event.

### Covid Update

As of Thursday 24th February, if your child tests positive for Covid-19, as long as they are well enough, government guidance says they are allowed to attend school.

### Ordering Hot School Meals

Please make sure you have ordered your child's hot school meal in advance. If you miss the order deadline your child will need to attend school with a packed lunch.