

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 25th February 2022

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



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HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Our whole community will be affected by the events in Ukraine which have rocked the world. I would like you all to offer your thoughts and prayers for some of our families who have relatives in Ukraine who are worried about their safety.

This week Pope Francis said, 'I would like to appeal to those with political responsibilities to make a serious examination of conscience before God, who is the God of peace and not of war, the Father of all, not just of some, who wants us to be brothers and not enemies.'

The children in Key Stage Two are exposed to current affairs and news every day in an age appropriate way. When I spoke to them in our assembly today they were very knowledgeable about the situation and asked pertinent questions. If they want to, please encourage them to talk about the crisis and answer questions as best you can – I appreciate that can be difficult at this worrying time.

I hope that you enjoy a restful weekend with family close by.

Kind regards
Mr J Sims
Headteacher

**WEEK BEGINNING 28th
FEBRUARY**

Tuesday 1st March

St David's Day. We wish all our Welsh families a happy St David's Day.

Shrove Tuesday.

Wednesday 2nd March

Ash Wednesday

Thursday 3rd March

World Book Day

**IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR
DIARY**

Tuesday 8th March

Y5 Ancient Greek Day

Friday 11th March

Y6 Kingswood Assembly

**Tuesday 15th/Wednesday 16th
March**

Parent's Evening

Friday 18th March

Y3 visit Eltham Palace
PA Event - St Patrick's Day

Friday 25th March

PA Event – Mother's Day Gift Sale

**Thursday 31st March/Friday 1st
April**

Easter Services at school

Friday 1st April

Last day of the term

LENT

Next Wednesday, 2nd March is Ash Wednesday and it marks the beginning of Lent.

Fr John will be on site to celebrate Mass with the children and staff. All the focal areas in the school will have a purple cloth, the colour of Lent. Children will be encouraged to reflect on their actions, asking themselves how they can become better Christians. It is a day of abstinence, which means that Catholics over the age of 14 should not eat meat on this day.

Children have been given the **Mission Together Lenten Calendar** to follow over the Lenten period. Please work with your child and encourage them to focus on the information that is provided for each day.

LENTEN PRAYER FROM FR JOHN

*Dearest Lord,
I hope to be
more observant of your grace.
May you look upon my soul
and may my sins erase.*

*May I know of sacrifice
and cherish all you bless
and act with courage to assist
others who have less.*

*Prepare my soul for joy to come,
and cleanse me of all sin.
I'll wear my faith and do my best
to nurture it within.*

*With a humble heart,
I hope to be
your faithful servant
for all to see.*

Y6 KINGSWOOD ASSEMBLY

Y6 parents are invited to attend an assembly on Friday 11th March at 2.30pm to hear about their adventures on their residential trip to Kingswood.

Please come along to hear all about it!

LEAVING MESSAGES

Please ensure you ring the main office to speak to one of the office staff, send an email or leave a message to inform us if your child is going to be absent from school.

Mrs Jeffrey has to ring parents on a regular basis to find out the reason for your child's absence.

We understand that parents are very busy but this is important and the office staff should not have to chase.

HAIR STYLES

It has been noticed that girls and boys are coming to school with their hair down. Please ensure that all hair is tied up and not flowing around their face. Many children cannot see properly with hair blocking their eyes.

Children whose hair is left down get distracted by playing with their hair and it also attracts head lice.

PA NEWS

Please look at the online calendar to see the upcoming PA events.
<https://www.stmaryrc.org.uk/Calendar/>

LENTEN WALK

The PA have organised a sponsored walk for Lent. Click on the link below to get information about joining and how to log your daily steps - search **London to Lourdes Lenten walk-St Marys Parents Association**. The walk will begin on Ash Wednesday (2nd March) and finish on Maundy Thursday (14th April).

There is an important religious message about the significance of Lent as well as been a fun activity for families. A donation for Easter flowers for Christchurch will be made from the money collected.

Thank you for your continued support

<https://worldwalking.org/fundraising/btity>

The next event on the PA calendar, **Friday 4th March** at 8pm, is an online Zoom quiz with Mr Sims as the quizmaster. Tickets are £10 per family and can be purchased directly from the PA on stmaryspaeltham@gmail.com.

Another date for the diary....

On **Friday 18th March** the PA are organising an Irish themed evening to celebrate St Patrick's Day. Everyone welcome.

Tickets (adult £5, child £2.50) can be purchased from:

<https://buytickets.at/stmaryspa/652041>

WORLD BOOK DAY-THURSDAY 3rd MARCH

To celebrate World Book Day, every child has received a book token. The voucher is worth £1, to be redeemed against a book of their choice. These tokens are valid for a few weeks so take your child to choose a book from any of the shops named on the token. Although we celebrate book week later in the year, the children will be involved in book related activities in class on Thursday.

Look out for the Masked Reader to be launched on Thursday! Spot who is reading behind the mask!

DINNER MONEY

School dinners for this half term cost £77.70. Please ensure you make payment through Wisepay.