



JOINT NEWSLETTER

31st March 2021 SUNDAY 6th April - Easter Sunday Vigil Day

Safeguarding Statement: This school takes notice of and adheres to all the national and local policies and guidance in regard to Safeguarding Children and Young People.

Lead Safeguarding Person Junior School: Mrs. S Hulme Nursery & Infant School: Mrs. M Quinn.

Safeguarding Deputies: Mrs. S Hulme, Mrs H Nicholls, Miss F Sullivan & Miss E Bryant Safeguarding Governor: Mr. T Richmond

Although the sharing of photographs with family and friends is a great thing to do, please be reminded of the schools safeguarding procedures and refrain from taking pictures at school events. Thank you for your support regarding this as we all need to work together to look after our pupils.

A message from Mrs Hulme, Executive Headteacher

HAPPY & HOLY EASTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are, finding ourselves at the end of the spring term, two thirds through the year. During the last twelve months, we have all experienced a range of emotions but hopefully these are at the top of the scale as we anticipate the coming of the Easter weekend. One when we truly thank the Lord for his blessings.

It has been a delight to have the children all back in school and being able to share the Easter events virtually in addition to some fun Easter activities in class. Thank you to St Mary's PTA for the gifts of Easter eggs for everyone- a real treat that the children all loved.

Management are exploring the possibility of trying to open up more activities next term but await any further announcements that may come during the holidays. The drop off and collection arrangements will remain the same until May but we will be reviewing this in the first week back, so thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter.

We have certainly enjoyed some beautiful weather this week and hope it continues for you all to make the Easter break really special.

With many good wishes to you and your family.

Spirituality

Infants

The children were welcomed back to school during the Season of Lent learning that this is a time to prepare spiritually to enter this coming week where we think about Jesus' death and resurrection. Through liturgies and lessons in class we journeyed with Jesus through the events that happened to him. We took part in our own Stations of the Cross, made Easter Gardens and wrote Lent prayers and promises.

Juniors

Thank you for your support of our Lenten charity: <https://www.cathchild.org.uk/lent/>

It has been wonderful to be in school during Holy Week: all our learning from this last RE topic has been helping us to explore the events which led to Jesus rising on the first Easter Sunday. Sharing the Stations of the Cross online together was very special and each class has prepared for this special season. Every class has been able to share in Y5's Easter Reflection. This annual Passion Play shared by Y5 was cancelled last year as all our lives changed, and it seems right that this year, although it was online, we could think about the new life given to us by Jesus as we begin to emerge from lockdown.



NURSERY & INFANT SCHOOL

News from Nursery

The children in Froglets AM and PM have been working and playing so wonderfully! This term we have learned all about On the Farm! We have read many funny stories of life on the farm. We read 'What the Ladybird Heard' by Julia Donaldson. We reenacted the story out on the playground. The kids really enjoyed that activity.



Nursery class learned about Monet and how he painted many things in his garden. We painted in the style of Monet and recreated 'The Japanese Bridge'. The children liked learning about a special artist.

The children have loved Book Month here at St Mary's. They love books so much and it was fun to dress up as book characters.

We were lucky to have eggs and chicks in school these past weeks. The nursery classes learned about the hen life cycle and were able to watch a chick go from egg to hatched chicks. It was a great life lesson.

Happy Easter from Froglets AM and PM!



News from Reception

This term has been a very exciting one in Reception. We began with our new topic 'Fairy Tales'; reading many different traditional tales; Jack and the Beanstalk and The Gingerbread Man, Little Red Riding Hood, Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The children enjoyed joining in with the stories and acting them out and were able to dress up in our favourite fairy tale costumes. As part of our RE topic 'Growing' we have planted some beans. The children really found this activity stimulating and have enjoyed talking about and observing their beans grow! As part of this we also went on a spring walk around the school and had a visit from the chicks! The chicks were very "cute" and "fluffy" and the children really found this a great experience. Finally, we ended our term with a fantastic Easter themed creativity day. We enjoyed making salt dough crosses, making Easter cards for our families and making paper plate chicks. Thank you parents and children for all your hard work this term - we wish you a peaceful and happy Easter.



News from Year 1

Our topic this half term has been "Rio de Vida". We have really enjoyed learning about carnival, Brazil and the rainforest. Our book "The Great Kapok Tree" gave us an insight into looking after our planet and the animals who live on it. In RE we learned that Lent was a time when we think about Jesus. Children took part in an outdoor Stations of the Cross and listened to and retold the story of Christ's passion. We also enjoyed lots of activities linked to book week; dressing up as a book character and making a book character from a potato and listening to lots of stories. In art we learned about the artist Pablo Picasso and created our own portraits in his style. The chicks came to visit us and we enjoyed watching them hatching from the egg and growing. We ended the term with an Easter themed creativity day. Wishing you all a happy and holy Easter.



News from Year 2

Our Topic 'Street Detectives' has been well enjoyed by the Year 2 children. We got introduced to the topic by going on a hunt for clues around the school which we then had to solve with the help of our partners. After all that's what detectives do! We thoroughly enjoyed reading 'The Jolly Postman' book as well as exploring a wide range of writing within the book; postcards, formal and informal letters, booklets, invites or posters!

When it came to RE, the children also showed a lot of interest in learning more about the Easter stories and the Stations of the Cross which they have re-enacted in their groups. It was just fascinating to witness the children coming up with deep thoughts following reflections and discussions.

Finally, we finish this term with an incredible day of creativity where we made our Easter card with moving parts and an Easter poem.

Thank you for all your support- Happy Easter!





JUNIOR SCHOOL

News from Year 3

Wow this half term has flown by! It was amazing to welcome back the children who were learning at home and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the parents and carers for supporting their children during the lockdown period. We would also like to thank the children who were learning in school for being superb role models for the children returning to school. This half term Stig of the Dump has thrown year 3 back to the Stone Age and the children have really enjoyed using Barney and Stig's adventures to support their descriptive work in English. In maths we have developed our measuring skills, looking at length and we are now moving onto fractions. Our history learning took us into the Iron Age of British History and we have paid specific attention to the chronological order of key events in Prehistoric Britain. Science has seen us begin to develop our understanding of how our body works looking at the skeleton and muscles as well as looking at what a well-balanced diet consists of. This half term we celebrated World Book Day for a whole month and have had some awesome fun creating clay sculptures and building miniature dens. Have a fantastic Easter Holiday and we look forward to seeing you in the summer term.



News from Year 4

Splish, splash, splosh! Year 4 have been looking at all sorts of liquids and solids, classifying them, identifying them and testing their properties. Our favourite lessons have been these science lessons where we have investigated the melting points of chocolate through a fair test. We will continue to look at states of matter in the summer term through the water cycles which we began to look at in geography this term through our rivers topic. Jo from Bough Beech reservoir dialed in to talk to us about water conservation too.





We linked in our English writing to our history topic and have written some epic Viking tales to add to a collective Viking saga - we tried to learn these by heart first so ask us to see what we can remember!



Marvelous book month also saw us writing weather haikus and cinquains poems, painting chalk art raindrops and Viking goblin book munchers!

Have a restful and happy Easter, from the year 4 Team



News from Year 5

Year 5 have been busy working on producing 'The Easter Reflection' where we have been bringing the events leading up to Jesus' death. The children have learned and sung hymns, added sound effects, readings and characterisation and we have recorded these elements to bring the story to life. This has been challenging as there has been a quick turnaround since we have been back together in person for a few weeks, but nonetheless has been rewarding.

We have linked our science learning of 'Living things and their habitats' where we wrote biographies on naturalists, where we had to research, plan, write and edit our writing. In addition, we took the opportunity to write from an animal's perspective and used characterisation to bring their character to life whilst including facts about them to make our character realistic.

Marvelous book month in March has allowed us to be creative by finding 'lost words' in nature and leaf print into clay. We also created book marks to use when we are reading for pleasure.

We have enjoyed being all back together over the last few weeks. Happy Easter everyone!
The Year 5 team





News from Year 6



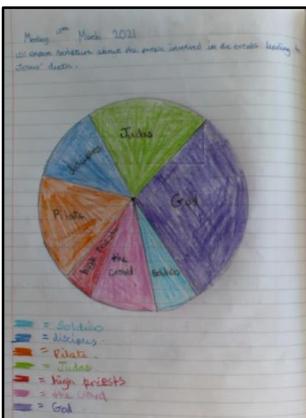
What is evolution? This is a question our Year 6 pupils can now answer, as throughout this half term we have been exploring evolution and inheritance in our Science learning. The

children have found out if they are trait a or b, through a series of small tests, such as can you roll your tongue?

Or what arm is on top when you fold your arms? In addition to discovering how different species adapt to the environment around them (we used tweezers and pretended we were finches!). We even went as far as designing an organism to live in a given environment and identify what adaptations it had developed to live there!



Science isn't the only subject we have dived deeply into. In art we have been learning how to draw figures in motion. We started by observing each other moving, so we could understand the mechanics of drawing in motion, before using ovals to support us to draw all of the limbs. Our final pieces have a link to Philip Pullman's "Clockwork" which was our focus text during the term.



During our RE learning, we have revisited the events of Good Friday and considered who bears the most responsibility for the events that led to Christ's death. It was a lively debate in all 3 classes, which culminated in all the children creating a "pie chart of responsibility". The children all thought carefully about their reasoning and justification making links from the Bible stories we know so well.

Marvellous book month has seen lots of creative and exciting "book" talk. We created bookmarks that were based on "Clockwork", (who knew would make excellent cog shapes!) As a class text we have been reading "The Danger Gang" written by Tom



Fletcher, which we have all found laugh-out-loud funny at times. Based on this we made finger puppets of the different members of "The Danger Gang".

The last 3 weeks have flown by, it has been a real pleasure to have the year group back together again. We look forward to our final term's adventures.

Wishing you a happy Easter

The year 6 team

St. Mary's Award:

3 Hawthorn - Rocco R, **3 Mulberry** - Lorenzo M, **3 Willow** - Keeva E, **4 Ash** - Emily K, **4 Poplar** - Violet K, **4 Rowan** - Michelle B, **5 Birch** - Jayden T, **5 Elm** - Oliver T, **5 Sycamore** - Adam P, **6 Chestnut** - Ellie H, **6 Copper Beech** - Cassandra S **6 Oak** - Christopher N

E-Safety



ParentZone -

Here are some great E-Safety links -

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/>

<http://www.childnet.com/>

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/>



St. Mary's Marvellous Month of Reading

Where has March gone? We have really enjoyed the variety of activities March has provided for us to enjoy and explore reading in different ways. Here are some photos of our favourite parts of the activities we have been doing across St. Mary's Infant and Junior schools.



We have certainly been busy making various creative pieces linking to books and poetry we love across the school. From potato characters in the infants to clay sculptures at the Junior school, whatever the activities in each class, much fun was had!





'The Masked Reader' is a resource put together by the staff across St. Mary's Federation for you to enjoy at home and if you haven't seen it yet, it has been assigned to all Google Classrooms and is there for you to enjoy. The month of reading was all rounded off with our character dress up day, we shared a story in an assembly to start the day and enjoyed the 'drop everything and read' bell (meaning we literally stopped what we were doing and read for 5 minutes - even the staff!) It was fantastic to hear all the amazing characters the children came to school as. A huge thank you to all parents and carers for supporting us to be able to have our St. Mary's character dress up day. There were some amazingly resourceful costumes!

The 'Story in a box' entries were phenomenal! Thank you so much for everyone who entered.



All of these wonderful opportunities were designed to continue to encourage the children at St. Mary's to be eager, life-long readers and to branch out and try reading something a bit different to what they would usually choose themselves.

If you happen to be looking for new reads for independent reading or bedtime stories these book lists are a great place to start:

EYFS and KS1: [Books for EYFS and KS1 children aged 4-7 | School Reading List](#)

KS2: [Books for KS2 children aged 7-11 | School Reading List](#)

50/50 Winners

- Christmas Bonus - T O'Brien - 5 Elm
- January - J Sokolowski - R Hedgehog
- February - M Agnew 3 Willow
- March - The Jenner's 1 Robin



Dates for the Diary – 2020-21

Please check dates for each school for the diary to ensure no events are missed!
 (Dates which are crossed through indicate cancellation due to COVID-19 restrictions, dates with
 TBC next to it means ‘To Be Confirmed’.)

NURSERY & INFANT SCHOOL		JUNIOR SCHOOL
INSET DAY 5	Mon 19th Apr	INSET DAY 5
SCHOOL STARTS	Tues 20th Apr	SCHOOL STARTS
MAYDAY BANK HOLIDAY	Mon 3rd May	MAYDAY BANK HOLIDAY
SCHOOL FINISHES	Fri 28th May	SCHOOL FINISHES
SCHOOL STARTS	Mon 7th June	SCHOOL STARTS
Inclusion Governors Committee Meeting	Weds 9 th June	Inclusion Governors Committee Meeting
INSET DAY 6	Mon 21st June	INSET DAY 6
Standards & Curriculum Governors Committee Meeting	Tues 29 th June	Standards & Curriculum Governors Committee Meeting
Resources Governors Committee Meeting		Resources Governors Committee Meeting
Full Governing Body Committee Meeting	Weds 14 th July	Full Governing Body Committee Meeting
NURSERY FINISHES TODAY	Thurs 22nd Jul	NURSERY FINISHES TODAY
SCHOOL FINISHES 2PM	Fri 23rd July	SCHOOL FINISHES 2PM

**Please note these dates are subject
to change**

