



NEWSLETTER

April 2019

SUNDAY 7th APRIL- 7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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. G Owens and **Nursery & Infant School:** Mrs. M Quinn.

Safeguarding Deputy: Mrs. S Hulme **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.

Wishing you all a very happy and holy Easter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we head towards the brighter months, once again the British weather has graced us with a great mixture of brilliant sunshine with lovely warmth in the air, followed by wind, rain, hail, snow and frost – all in the same week!

However, we still continue to offer a range of activities inside and outdoors.

Year 2 have all visited Honeywood Museum in Carshalton, all classes have joined in prayers following the outdoor stations of the cross including the wonderful presentation of the Easter reflection by year 5. These experiences are important to help us in our sincere reflections over the Easter period. We bear witness as a community and remember the joy of eternal life that Christ gave us when he rose from the dead. Our children are true ambassadors in living his teaching.

Thank you to both SMIF and FSMs committees for their continuous hard work in providing our schools with extra resources enabling us to provide an enriched curriculum due to their fundraising. We hope to see many of you at our AGM meeting early next term- you may also be able to enjoy a celebration drink.

Huge thanks must go to our wonderful staff who all go over and above their designated duties in the interest of our children. We welcome Mrs Pye and Mrs Birch back from maternity leave and say good luck to Mrs Bacso who will be starting her journey into motherhood from Easter and wish her much joy in the coming months.

Parents wishing to book appointments in school

Please be reminded that the first point of call should always be with your child's class teacher. This is for all queries including those referring to behaviour and progress. Should a further meeting be needed with a phase lead or member of Senior Leadership Team then this will be escalated via the class teacher as appropriate.

We always endeavor to resolve queries satisfactorily for each party; please note that appointments need to be made in advance enabling time to investigate any incidents. Thank you for your continuous cooperation in this matter, we are fortunate that our parent/teacher relationships are very positive and we wish for this to continue.

Spiritual

Infants

We began our Lenten journey with Father Paul coming in to distribute ashes to children and staff, well done to all the children for listening so reverently during the service. Children have worked hard on their Lent promises and tried to carry out different acts of daily kindness. We have also taken part in Stations of the Cross around the school grounds and listened to the Easter Story in class. Collection boxes for the Catholic Children's Society Lenten Appeal were sent home and we would ask that the boxes be returned after the Easter Holiday. Wishing you a happy and peaceful Easter Holiday

Juniors

Lenten lunch-breaks at the Junior School are traditionally prayerful and reflective times, and this year has been no different. Many pupils have taken the opportunity to visit the Lent Tent, others have shared in Lectio Divina with Mrs. Norbury, and the reflective sessions in the Chapel have been especially popular with Year 3 pupils. It has been lovely to see members of the Y6 Chaplaincy Team and the pupils in the Faith in Action group taking a leading role in many of these sessions.

We are also grateful to Fr. Luke who came into school on two Mondays for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The Faith in Action group have now completed their third reflective session and have also been active raising money for both St. Raphael's Hospice and Mary's Meals.

Y3,4 and 6 have prayed the Stations of the Cross in our local school grounds while Y5 have prepared and shared a wonderful Easter Reflection outside. Some of your children may be asking to go to the Children's Stations of the Cross in your parishes on Good Friday, as they have enjoyed the shared prayers and reflection time.



Every class has also shared a "Godly Play" session this half term, where a story has been told using natural materials. The children have been very thoughtful during these lessons, and, in the 'I wonder' part of the session, some major theological and philosophical questions have been raised!

We welcomed the Diocesan Inspection team early in the half term, and await their written report.

NURSERY & INFANT SCHOOL

News from Nursery

This term we had a visit from Living Eggs who brought along eggs, which hatched. The children were all very excited to watch the chicks hatch and begin to grow. They were all very keen and brave to hold and stroke the chicks.

In our R.E topic of 'Growing' we talked about how we could show our love for others to try and be more like Jesus. We also worked together to plant our own seeds which we can't wait to see grow outside.

Our topic for the new half term will be 'Superheroes'. We will talk about fiction superheroes, designing our own superhero and looking at real life superheroes.

The Nursery staff wish you and your family a Happy Easter! May Jesus bless you immensely on this auspicious occasion.

News from Reception

This term has been a very exciting one in Reception. We began with our new topic 'Fairy Tales'; reading three traditional tales; Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk and The Gingerbread Man. The children enjoyed joining in with the stories and acting them out! We had a fairytale ball on World Book Day where we were able to dress up in our favourite fairy tale costumes and enjoyed a feast and dancing in the hall. As part of our RE topic 'Growing' we have planted some beans (thank you to parents for your contributions!) 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 nature 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. We also took part in our first Liturgy assemblies - all three classes did really well and were so proud of themselves - and so they should be, they did so well! Well done Reception! Finally, we ended our term with a fantastic Easter themed creativity day. We enjoyed making salt dough crosses, decorating polystyrene eggs and an Easter egg hanging decoration. Thank you parents for your contributions this term - we wish you a peaceful and happy Easter.

News from Year 1

We began our topic "Rio de Vida" with a carnival; children and staff dressed in colourful clothes and headdresses and had a parade listening to the music of Brazil. We also celebrated World Book Day by coming in dressed as our favourite book character and listened to lots of our favourite stories. The chicks were born during our topic and we were very lucky to have them join in our lessons, we were very sad to see them leave. During our RE topic on "Special Meals" we had our own special meal, children enjoyed learning about the Mass and then celebrated afterwards with cakes! Thank you to all the parents who came into class to read stories in their own language, the children enjoyed listening to many tales in different languages.



News from Year 2

We began our topic "Street Detectives" with a fantastic clue hunt around the school and made our own hideouts by mixing paint and combining materials. This term we have enjoyed the story "The Jolly Postman" where the children had the opportunity to write their own informal letter and change the story, linking in other fairy tales. In Math's we have been looking at shapes, symmetry, fractions and tally charts with lots of outdoor and practical learning. Thank you for all your contributions for creativity day. The children showed their artistic and creative side by making stained glass windows, sock bunnies and Easter cards. We hope you have a restful half term and we look forward to our next topic "Scented Garden".

Congratulations to these pupils:

Star of the week - week ending 5th April - Bee Class - Emily M, Elephant Class - Evan T, Penguin Class - Hope K, Reindeer Class - Harrison W, Giraffe Class - Francis S, Cheetah Class - Aleksander M, Meerkat Class - Trevin M, Horse Class - Jia N, Owl Class - Sophie M. Well done!

JUNIOR SCHOOL

News from Year 3

Can you eat it? Yes we can! Year three have had an in depth look at foods; healthy, unhealthy and everything in between. We have looked at our own food habits and looked at the nutritional value of the food we eat. We have taken our knowledge and used it in our design and make of a healthy sandwich - some of us have remembered that it's important to have a balanced diet and included some less healthy foods alongside the healthy ones!

We have also written instructions for our sandwiches and are putting together our own encyclopedia pages for our growing scientific knowledge. We are getting increasingly good at using bar charts to display and compare our findings too. This past week we have begun logging into times tables rock stars and the year 3 team would encourage you to play as often as possible... we're ready for a rockslam!!!

News from Year 4

A mysterious, metal hand appeared from nowhere in the school grounds and Year 4 gathered all the facts from this event in a news report - it was the talk of the school!

Then, all was revealed... the Iron Man had arrived and was to be around us to inspire us for quite a while. Not only did we explore characters' reactions to the Iron Man, we also imagined resolutions to the problems he created in each chapter and even wrote 'the missing chapter' to the Ted Hughes' classic tale.

Meanwhile, math's investigations took our multiplication and division learning into very practical area problems (how many post-it notes were required to cover the classroom windows?) - Then, onto fraction finding.

Science gained a theme in tune with Easter when we investigated the melting point of chocolate - an experiment the children enjoyed thoroughly.

Our geography topic on the Brecon Beacons has not only enabled us to shine as geographers but also as poets, statisticians and artists - creating wonderful poems, graphs and collages to reflect our learning about this area of Wales. Well done Year 4!

We must not forget our reflective trip to The Easter Experience at the start of this half-term, where we were given the chance to be a part of a dramatisation of the Easter story, alongside Jesus and the disciples. Reenacting Our Lord's final moments before crucifixion really made us think about the self-discipline we should have during Lent.

Year 4 staff wish you all a happy and fulfilling family time over the Easter period.

News from Year 5

The half term has zoomed by and it's hard to believe that we are already approaching Easter. In just six weeks, the year group have achieved so much and have risen to the challenges with great aplomb. As teachers, we are very proud of the effort shown by the students and their work has been amazing.

The main focus in English this half term has been poetry and the year group enjoyed a workshop in the hall where they were able to explore different styles of poets, perform and review many poems. Coinciding with national poetry day, the children were happy and keen to perform to others. Could it be that they will be poets of the future?

Year 5 chose to prepare an end of topic service during the S48 Denominational Inspection and the children were fantastic at organising the different parts of the service with respect and reverence. Showing great teamwork and co-operation; they were able to play and choose the music, write bidding prayers and prepare a reflection after the Gospel.

We look forward to our Easter Reflection on Thursday; the children have worked incredibly hard to learn songs, lines and actions. We are sure that it will be a wonderful occasion to remind us of Jesus' sacrifice.

On display are many of the brilliant science projects, which linked with our topic this term. In addition to learning about "Living things and their habitats" (in science), the children have been able to recognise and describe animals in French. Their enthusiasm for French is wonderful to see. Perhaps you could ask them to name and describe an animal? Linked to science topic, in art we have focused on the artist Georgia O'Keefe. Using watercolour, the children have painted some beautiful artwork.

Finally, last but not least, in math's the main focus has been fractions and the children have grown in confidence in using the bar model to visually represent and answer questions.

The year 5 team wish you all a lovely Easter. We hope you have the opportunity to rest and relax with your families.



News from Year 6

In our English lessons this half term, we have continued reading our driver text, 'Clockwork', by Philip Pullman, which has kept the classes engaged as we delved into the unique storytelling style he has. The children have used this text to write a formal discursive text where they used points and evidence to argue from two perspectives. It also gave the children a great chance to develop their debating and arguing skills. We then started to explore 'Walter Tull's Scrapbook', which celebrates and commemorates the life of Walter Tull: an inspiration hero; footballer and soldier. We have started exploring his incredible life and will continue to learn more about his achievements and the obstacles he faced throughout his life.

Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed World Book Day and dressed imaginatively in their costumes. It was also a great opportunity for Year 6 to spend some time with their year 3 buddies and share their books. The school joined together for a World Book Day assembly where we celebrated costumes, in addition, we held book marathons where teachers read an extract of the much loved book, 'Gangsta Granny' by David Walliams in each class. This is a firm favourite of year 6 on World Book Day!

In science, the children have been looking at some of the changes living things go through to adapt to their own environment for survival. A very popular exercise was when the children were given an environment and had to invent their own living organism with features to help it survive - the children created some very interesting animals and plants.

In DT, the children have been focusing on improving their sewing skills to test out techniques and designing ideas to create a group collaborative design linking to their journey throughout their time at St Mary's, which we will take with us to the Isle of Wight on school journey.

This half term ended with mock SATS - the children have all worked incredibly hard over the last 6 weeks. We wish all children and parents a holy, happy Easter period.

Music -

Choir -

The children have been working hard on their songs for the Summer Fair on Saturday 6th July, learning songs from 'The Greatest Showman'.

We hope to see you there.

Have a lovely Easter,

Mrs. N. Roberts

Awards & Achievements

St Mary's Awards - Spring 2

3 Mulberry - Tadhg O 3 Willow - Isabelle P 3 Hawthorn - Cyia
4 Ash - Gloria P 4 Poplar - Benjamin P 4 Rowan - Dylan K
5 Birch - Rehema T 5 Elm - Finley S 5 Sycamore - Finley T
6 Chestnut - Tamara A 6 Copper Beech - Faizah A 6 Oak - Owen K
Congratulations and well done to all!



Netball Results

After a really successful second half of the netball season we heard this week that St Mary's A team have successfully progressed to the League Semi-finals, congratulations to Isabella, Ella, Harriet, Faizah, Molly, Josie, Cara, Tegan and Orla. We will play Cheam Common after the Easter holidays. Thank you to all our loyal supporters from the A and B teams, we could not have been successful without your encouragement and lifts to the venues.

Mrs Gerry Owens

Executive Deputy Head

The Catering Menu's for the Summer term will be going home with students this afternoon, please be aware we at St. Mary's participate in Fish Friday.

Top of the Form

St. Mary's Year 6 'Top of the Form' quiz team were a credit to our school! Congratulations to Orla, Gabriel, Tom, George and Harriet for a tough final quiz against Nonsuch Primary School on Wednesday 3rd April. The final quiz in this competition was equally matched but Nonsuch just had the edge on St. Mary's going into the final few rounds of the quiz. The final score was 48 points to St. Mary's and 59 points to Nonsuch. We congratulate Nonsuch on their win.

We are tremendously proud of the achievements of our team - they really have been incredible role models of St. Mary's. They have each been awarded a certificate and hopefully they'll now continue to quiz throughout their lives. This team have been so determined to challenge themselves and enhance their own general knowledge further with regular practising during lunch times. We congratulate them for seizing this opportunity and having the resilience to do their best in every round. A special thank you for the parents and grandparents who have been the loyal supporters throughout the quiz competition and have helped to encourage the contestants every step of the way. Thank you also to the Carshalton Park Rotary Club for organising this annual quiz competition - it truly gives the contestants a unique and thrilling experience. Well done Top of the Form team 2018/2019!



SMIF Sponsored Book Read

To raise money for much needed books at our school, we are encouraging you and your little ones to take part in the SMIF Sponsored Book Read over the Easter Holidays (8th - 23rd April).

Whether you are reading to them, they are reading to you or you are listening to an audio book - they all count, including story time with friends or family.

Simply fill out the sponsorship form and reading list, which was sent home and get reading. Whatever their ability, age or level, some extra time spent reading together opens up their imaginations

This term in PSHE there have been a number of international events that we have celebrated in school this term including: International Mother Language Day, St Patrick's Day and the Holi festival which is celebrated by our Hindu brothers and sisters. On our PSHE focus board we have thought about the British values of Democracy and how we are able to take part in events as a community including having an active school council, creating a school motto and being able to make suggestions for new ideas in school. Next term in PSHE the topic of lessons will be Living in the Wider World whereby we will look at the benefits of living in a community and what being part of a community means.



School Travel Plan

There has been immense task of analysing the Junior Travel Ambassador applications this term. Thank you to all the children who applied for the role of Junior Travel Ambassadors. Many applications were detailed and included reasons such as: the children want to make people aware when crossing roads, promote scooters and public transport and they want to do something to reduce the amount of cars on the local roads. The children who have been selected have been notified and meetings will start on a fortnightly programme every Thursday lunchtime (12.30 - 1:00pm) with Miss Mayanja.

WOW Walk on Wednesday

In each class in the school, the children have been tracking the different methods of travelling to school throughout the month of March. The most popular methods still remains as walking, scootering and park and stride. If you have not received a badge for walking a minimum of 3 times a week, please see Miss Mayanja next term.

Thank you to Parents and Carers for continuously choosing active methods of transport to travel to school.