



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



Happy St Patrick's Day! Year 6 led a superb class collective worship this week celebrating St Patrick. Half way through Lent, it's good to have this Feast Day along with the Feast of St Joseph on the 19th March to give us hope and a glimmer of the big celebration of Easter that is to come. During Lent we continue to focus our Lenten promises on **giving, acting and praying** and placing **Jesus at the centre** of all of our actions and words. Year 6 helped us to remember how St Patrick did just that and by using the shamrock

to help us understand the concept of the Trinity. Well done Year 6 for your liturgical dance, beautiful prayers and setting us this week's mission of trying to live like St Patrick in bringing Jesus to others.

A HUGE thank you and congratulations to our Reception children for leading a beautiful Mother's Day assembly this morning. They sang and spoke beautifully; reminding us all of the importance of our mums or people who play the role of mums in our lives. Thank you to all the staff for your hard work and to our wonderful PTA for providing the refreshments.

WEDNESDAY WORD

[Here is the link](#) to this week's Wednesday Word.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Unfortunately, Father Emmanuel couldn't visit school this week to hear Confessions but he and Father Bill will be visiting on the next two weeks to give the children in Years 4, 5 and 6 the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). This of course is optional but we hope as many children as possible will take the opportunity to receive God's love and forgiveness in this beautiful Sacrament and help them to prepare for the great Feast of Easter. During the Sacrament the children are invited to pray an Act of Contrition. It would be helpful if they could rehearse the following prayer at home in preparation (they will have a printed copy available to use during Confession if they need it): *O my God, because you are so good, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you, and by the help of your grace, I will not sin again. Amen.* Here is a [link to a video](#) produced by the Diocese of Nottingham that the children will be watching in class to remind them of how we receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You might want to watch this with your child if they are in Year 4, 5 or 6.

YEAR 3 AND YEAR 4 EASTER PRODUCTION

The children are very much looking forward to sharing with you the events of Holy Week and Easter in their production, 'Roll Back the Stone!' through song and drama on **Wednesday 29th March 2023 at 10.00am and 2.00pm**. There will be a cash donation collection at the end of each performance to cover the cost of the performance licence.

ROAD SAFETY SESSIONS

Today and on Monday, Years 2, 4, 5 and 6 are taking part in age appropriate lessons in road safety.

Year 2 Step Outside - This is a practical pedestrian training session where we take the children out of School to learn how to cross a road safely in a number of different situations. We will use Hogarth Road, St Mary's Drive and Constable Drive. The children will receive a sticker and a booklet. **Year 4**

Headsmart - This is an activity about the importance of wearing a bicycle helmet where the children



work together in groups of 3/4, sharing materials. A short film is shown at the start of the session called Joe's Story. The film is played by young actors and is quite a hard hitting film. You may wish to view this with your children. Joe's Story can be accessed on Youtube - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huPDg_ONFyc. After watching the film we have a discussion about what happens to Joe then the children do the practical activity. At the end of the session there is a discussion about the importance of wearing a helmet when cycling. **Year 5 Crashed Vehicle Project** - The Crashed Vehicle Project is a practical activity where the children will be looking at why road collisions occur and what safety features cars have. In groups the children will be building a car from a template which will be crash tested on a ramp to see how well they have built their car. **Year 6 Child Speed Watch** - As part of the session the children will be taken out of school to record vehicle speeds using a speed gun. The children will be taken on to Lower Fold to complete their recordings.

STOCKPORT TOWN HALL CLIMATE EVENT



On Tuesday, two children from Year 6 were invited to Stockport Town Hall to take part in a debate on climate actions. Five ideas were put forward by schools from across Stockport, the children were then able to debate, ask questions or comment on which climate action idea they wanted. Following the debate, the children then had to vote for which idea they most wanted to be put into action. Our school's idea was to make sustainable forms of travel more accessible to everyone by providing different transport. Prior to going on the trip, the children discussed ideas in class, which included making cheaper more sustainable travel, solar panel charging stations and more bike lanes.

Alyssa and Daniel superbly represented our school on the day and did a fantastic job. They put their ideas forward passionately and confidently. They even got to meet the Deputy Mayor, Linda Holt.

PTA NEWS

We will share photographs of the items purchased from the Sponsored Bounce class wish lists once all of the items have been purchased and delivered to school. Thank you again for all of your support. The next event is the Easter Raffle. Tickets are available from the PTA website and are priced at £2.00. Each entry will get you *one chance* of winning a stunning Chocolate Hamper. The draw will take place at 10:00am on Friday 31st March, and prizes will be sent home with children later that day. The PTA are also planning a Family Quiz that will take place on Friday 21 April from 5 – 7pm. Further details are to follow.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & CLUBS

During the recent parents evening meetings, a few parents have asked for clarification on what clubs are available at St Mary's. We run a variety of clubs and extra-curricular activities, during school time, during lunchtime and after school for children in Reception to Year 6. The clubs we offer can change half-termly and these will be advertised to parents accordingly. We aim to provide a range of provision that will appeal to all children so that every child can find a club that interests them. Please find below some of the clubs/activities for Lent Term. If you are interested in any of the clubs then please enquire at the office to be added to the register or the waiting list. Guitar - Year 3, 4, 5 and 6, Piano/Keyboard - Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, Violin - Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6; Woodwind - Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6; Choir - Year 3, 4, 5 and 6; Multi-Skills - Year 1 and Year 2; Cross Country - Year 3, 4, 5 and 6; Spanish - Year 1 and Year 2; Art – Year 3, 4, 5 and 6; Pottery - Year 4 and Year 3; Wellbeing Workshop - Reception to Year 6; Story Time – Year 1 to Year 6.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH VISIT



On Tuesday, our school kitchen had an unannounced inspection from an Environmental Health Officer as part of the handover process to the new catering provider. I am pleased to announce that we have been awarded a 5 star rating for food hygiene. Many congratulations to our fantastic kitchen staff, Mrs Woodward and Mrs Deane for their hard work and cooking nutritious meals for our children.

WOW – THE WALK TO SCHOOL CHALLENGE

St Mary's has chosen to be part of an exciting behaviour-change initiative to encourage more children and their families to walk to school. **WOW – the walk to school challenge** is delivered by Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking, to help as many children as possible experience the benefits of walking to school.

The pupil-led challenge enables children to self-report how they get to school every day. If they travel actively (walk/wheel, cycle, scoot or Park and Stride) at least once a week for a month, they get rewarded with a badge. It's that simple!



MARATHON SUPPORT



Mrs Groarke-Booth, one of our amazing regular school volunteers is running her first marathon in Manchester next month in support of the Alzheimer's Society. If you would like to make a donation to this worthy charity and to give Mrs Groarke-Booth a morale boost to get her over the finishing line, you can do so by [following this link](#). Thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

A PAUSE FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER



This Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Lent and we celebrate Mother's Day. We hope all of the mums in our school family have a wonderful day! Lord, thank you for all mothers. For the new ones, who endure sleepless nights with babes in arms. For the busy ones, who juggle the pressures of work, home and family life. For the steadfast ones, who nurture and care for our special vulnerable children. For the patient ones, who always seek to forgive and engage. For the persistent ones, who cleverly find new ways to connect. For the mother aunts, who step in and care

for nieces and nephews. For all grandmas, who love and support their precious grandchildren. For the foster mums that are called to gather and cover the fragile ones. For the Sunday mums who care for our children and lead them in faith. For the mums who give far beyond their own resources, who overcome disability to cherish and love. Thank you Lord for all our beautiful mothers. Help us to support them and keep them in our prayers. May you bless them now on their special day. Amen.

THE MONTH AHEAD...KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
	<i>Please note the dates and times detailed below are provisional and may be changed if necessary.</i>
18 March	Cross Country Presentation 10:30am at Woodbank Park.
21-24 March	Y6 residential visit to PGL Boreatton Park, Shropshire.
24 March	Coffee and Cake with Mrs Bradbury and Mrs Norburn. (1:30pm. Please see flyer).
27 March	CAFOD BIG Lent Walk (2pm).
27 -31 March	Stations of the Cross led by Year 5 (9:05am each day in the hall.)
29 March	Y1 and Y2 attend the Lenten parish Mass in church at 10:00am. <i>Please note date change.</i>
29 March	Holy Week & Easter Production (10:00am and 2:00pm). All welcome!
31 March	Celebration Assembly (2:30pm in the hall). All welcome!
31 March	Easter Raffle and School closes for the Easter break.
17 April	School reopens following the Easter break.
21 April	PTA Family Quiz (5:00pm – 7:00pm in the school hall). Tickets will be on sale via the PTA website soon.
24 April	Y3 Collective Worship (2:30pm in the hall). All welcome!
1 May	May Day Bank Holiday – school closed.
5 May	King Charles III school celebrations – details to follow.
8 May	Coronation of King Charles III Bank Holiday – school closed.
9-12 May	Year 6 KS2 SATs week.
16 May	Eurovision Choir Extravaganza – 7:00pm – 8:30pm Stockport Town Hall.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Mr John Nish and Miss Alice Poole.