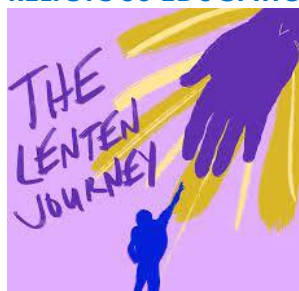




RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



Lent is a truly special journey that helps us walk with and get closer to Jesus. By trying to walk in his footsteps we can understand better about sacrifice and love. This week the children have been thinking about their journey through Lent so far. There have been opportunities during collective worship to 'journey', be that through our BIG Lent Walk on Monday, daily Stations of the Cross led by Year 5, the Sacrament of Reconciliation or reflecting on the Holy Week and Easter story through the Year 3 and Year 4 production. The St Mary's school family have certainly been living out our Lenten promises of

giving, acting and praying and placing **Jesus at the centre** of all of our actions and words. Well done everyone – you are truly amazing!

WEDNESDAY WORD

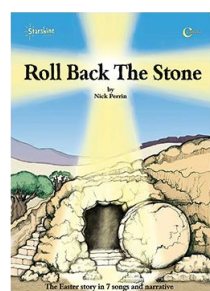
[Here is the link](#) to this week's Wednesday Word.

CAFOD BIG LENT WALK

On Monday afternoon each class completed a beautiful and thoughtful prayer walk around our school and church grounds led by our SANCTA Squad and Faith Friends in order to support CAFOD with their Big Lent Walk; raising vital funds for communities around the world. We are still accepting donations. Cash donations can be sent into the school office after the Easter holidays or you can donate via your ParentPay account. Every £1 we raise will help us be there for people fighting extreme poverty globally. Further details about CAFOD's BIG Lent walk can be found [here](#). Well done also to Year 2; they have completed 200km for CAFOD over Lent as part of their class charity fundraising.



YEAR 3 AND YEAR 4 EASTER PRODUCTION



On Wednesday Years 3 and 4 helped us to prepare for Holy Week and Easter by performing 'Roll Back the Stone'. Each and every one of the children were absolute stars: singing and acting beautifully with clarity and passion. There were so many wonderful comments from the audience, but one gentleman stated that it was 'worthy of the West End!' I don't think we can ask for better feedback than that. Congratulations Years 3 and 4 – you demonstrated your SANCTA values admirably and in a few years we look forward to seeing you on the big screen or treading the boards! Thank you for your generous donations to support paying for the performance licence.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Many thanks to our wonderful Year 5 children who throughout the week have taken us on a prayerful journey of solidarity and reflection as they delivered a very reverent and beautiful Stations of the Cross each morning. Through scripture, story, choral response, tableaux and prayer we were able to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, his sacrifice and his unwavering forgiveness and love for us all. Thank you to all the parents who were able to join us and to the children for their superb behaviour and attitude. This beautiful artwork is by Judy in Y5.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES/MASSES

Holy Week and Easter are the source and summit of our faith and represent the most significant and important moments in the Church's liturgical year. As a school family we have prepared for but the best way to fully prepare is to celebrate the rich liturgies the Church offers over the coming week at your parish. Details of Holy Week and Easter services and Masses can be found on the St Mary's Marple Bridge and Holy Spirit, Marple websites: <https://stmarysmarplebridge.org.uk/> and [Holy Spirit](#).

PTA NEWS



Thank you for supporting the PTA Easter Raffle – the response was exceptional and the hampers were a feast for the eyes and the tummy! There were 35 winning tickets and they have each received a hamper of Easter chocolate delights. Congratulations to all! Over £800 has been raised from this raffle and the funds will go towards play equipment on the school field. As always, thank you to our PTA volunteers who work tirelessly to support our school. The next event is the **Big Family Quiz on Friday 21st April**. Details will be on the PTA website over the Easter holidays. <https://www.stmaryspta.org.uk/>

ATTENDANCE

At St Mary's we feel that, if learners are to get the greatest benefit from their education in school, it is important that they have good attendance and arrive punctually. The attendance over this half term is below. Congratulations to Y4 who have achieved 97.5%. Our school target is 97%. Nationally, attendance for this half term stands at 93.9%, so well done St Mary's for our strong attendance.

Lent 2 Attendance	
Rec	93.5 %
Y1	95.6 %
Y2	96.4 %
Y3	96.3 %
Y4	97.5 %
Y5	95.2 %
Y6	94.4%
Overall	95.5 %

YEAR 1 & 2 DODGEBALL AFTER SCHOOL CLUB



There are still a few places remaining for the KS1 dodgeball club starting after Easter. If your child is in Years 1 or 2 and would like to take part, please [complete this form to register](#). The club will run from 3:15 – 4:15pm each Tuesday from the 18th April 2023 until the 23rd May 2023.

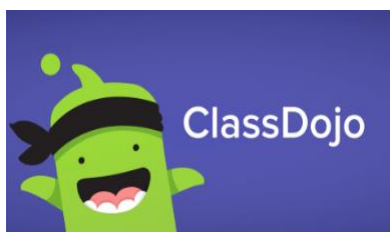
HOUSE POINTS

Below are the house point totals for March. It's been a busy Dojo month!

Green	1,090
Red	1,070
Yellow	1,118
Blue	1,001

This means that the totals for this term are as follows and Yellow house group are the winners. The winning house attend a treat afternoon with an Easter film, biscuits and juice in the hall on Thursday afternoon. This term, over 11,000 Dojos have been awarded! Amazing work everyone!

Green	2,960
Red	2,920
Yellow	3,055
Blue	2,845



TRAVEL TRACKER

Congratulations to the pupils who achieved the March badge for active travel to school at least once per week throughout March. There were a few families where one child achieved a badge and the other child didn't. Please remind your children as they are coming into school what method of travel they have used to ensure the correct pupils are receiving badges. Park and stride is parking at least 10 minutes away from school, preferably in one of the local car parks such as Brabyns, Etherow, the Memorial Park or the Midland.



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

We can *Encounter* God as we **journey** through life's ups and downs.

We can learn what *Discipleship* is by [reading bible stories](#) about the *journeys* the disciples took after Jesus left them.

We might not be able to actually take a *journey* to far away countries, but we can be virtual *Missionary Disciples* by watching videos made by CAFOD or [Christian Aid](#) to learn about how they help those who are unfairly treated.

Heavenly Father, you are the source of love and compassion. We are sorry for the times when our *journey* through life has seemed too hard. Let us turn our sorrow into action and use our prayer life to fill us with your love and compassion. We ask that you open our eyes and hearts so that we can be like you. 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>
31 March	School closes for the Easter break.
2 – 8 April	Holy Week. See above for church times.
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!
30 April	Mellor Walks
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.
19 May	Coffee and Cake with Mrs Bradbury and Mrs Norburn (from 1:30pm in the hall).
22 May	Y4 Collective Worship (2:30pm in the hall). All welcome!
26 May	Celebration Assembly (2:30pm in the hall). All welcome!
26 May	School closes for the half term break.
12 June	School reopens following the half term break.

School reopens on Monday 17th April 2023. Wishing you all a happy Holy Week and Easter Break.
Mr John Nish and Miss Alice Poole.