

St Mary's News

Our ethos statements this week and next week:

I try to appreciate the beauty and wonder of the world around me

I know it is ok to make mistakes

Virtue Our Virtue for this half term is **Patience**. Patience is a fruit from the Holy Spirit, to be steadfast and persevering-even when things get difficult. We are looking at when we need to show patience and why God is patient with us. Last week we learnt about St Josephine Bakhita who was renowned for her patience during a difficult life.

Morning Prayer

A big thank you and very well done to class 4 who led Morning Prayer last week. The RE inspection team were in from the Diocese and they commented how beautiful the service was. They were really impressed by the whole service but especially the singing which was just superb.

Friday 8th March Class 5

RE inspection

We had an RE inspection on Thursday and Friday last week. At the moment we have had some feedback but have to wait for the official report before we can share the main findings with you all. I was really pleased with the comments and observations that were made about our children who were, as ever, extremely well behaved, polite and welcoming to the inspectors. A very big thank you to the group of parents who, despite being nervous, did stay and speak to the inspectors after Morning Prayer. The questionnaires that you all completed at Parents evening (99 of them) were also used by the inspectors to gauge your feelings about school too. Lessons as well as Collective Worship were seen, meetings were held with children, staff, parents and Governors so the whole school community were involved at some point. The full report should be available in around a fortnight.

Lent and fundraising

Lent starts this week on Wednesday. We are having a Mass where ashes will be distributed during the afternoon-I will check the time with Fr Eamonn and let you know asap. The Parish Masses are 9.30am and 7pm but as they are likely to be busy school will have their own Mass. Our usual sponsored event will take place before Easter but I will send more details home in the next couple of weeks.

Friday March 15th is Red Nose Day and also CAFOD family fast day. We will have a non-uniform day that day.

Sacramental classes

Just a reminder that the next classes for First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation are this Sunday (10th) at the usual time in school. Please note that there is a parents meeting at 12.15pm for the First Holy Communion children only.

Special acknowledgement

We have to say a special word about Henry in Class 11 (Yr6). He decided he wanted to do something special for charity and has had his head shaved. (During the half term so it has had chance to start to grow back already!!) After gathering in his sponsor money he has raised a staggering £1400 for Martin House Hospice. Henry has truly reflected our virtue of charity and service to others. Well done Henry.

World Book Day

This Thursday is World Book Day and we are all dressing up for the day (no donations needed thank you). All children will receive a World Book Day token. There will be lots of different activities on the day around books.

Behaviour

For the most part our children behave outstandingly, but occasionally a friendship issue can occur. Can I ask parents to inform school (if we don't know already) and let us look into the problem. Most of the time you only get your child's version of events and when we talk to all the children a different viewpoint is often found and resolved really quickly. Problems occur when parents don't know the full facts and decide to try to sort it themselves through phone calls to other parents or via various social media sites. This often escalates the problem rather than solving it. **At no time should any parent approach someone else's child on school premises to discuss an incident especially if that causes a child to be frightened, scared or upset.** Any aggression or confrontation, whether verbal or physical, towards any adult or child is totally unacceptable and against school policy and may lead to a parent/carer being barred from the school premises for a period of time.

Free school meals

It is a time of financial hardship for St Mary's. You could help boost our budget simply by applying for free school meals **EVEN IF** your child already receives a school meal because they are in Reception, Yr 1 and Yr 2. For every successful application school receives an extra £1300-this money makes the difference on the number of classes we have in school, the number of books we can buy, the number of staff we can employ. This funding also helps to pay for the school nurse service and Graham (Catholic Care). Please take a few minutes to see if you would be eligible. If you are on a low income or in receipt of certain benefits then your child may be eligible. Please go to www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolmeals or ring 01484 221928.

Diary Dates

March

Thursday 7 th	World Book Day- dress up day
Friday 8 th	Class 5 Morning Prayer
Friday 15 th	Non uniform day (Red Nose Day and CAFOD family fast day)

April

Friday 12 th	Close for holiday at 3.20pm
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