

Newsletter

Friday 8th April 2022



St. Mary's Catholic
Primary School

Dear Parents and Friends

End of Spring Term!

Whilst this has been an extremely challenging term with rising numbers of COVID cases, the staff have worked so hard to try to keep school as 'normal' as possible for the children and I know that the children have continued to be engaged in their learning and enjoyed finding out about new topics.

We ended the Spring Term with our whole school Day of Faith. It was a time for the whole school to stop and reflect on the events of Holy Week, participating in an interactive prayer space. The opportunity to sit quietly with their own thoughts is always valued by the children and as always they engaged well with the prayers. This year there was also an opportunity to pray for peace for those in Ukraine. Although the prayer spaces are primarily an opportunity for personal reflection they also spark thoughtful conversation and support our children's mental health and spiritual development.



As we approach the end of Lent, we are confronted with the reality of Christ's Crucifixion and death and are forced to consider so much that is wrong with the human condition. We live in a world damaged by division, hatred and greed. Yet the complete story, the Easter event, lifts our gaze to the hope that is present in every difficulty. On the horizon, there is light; and at a time when there is so much concern about the mental health of young people, part of our job is to train children to lift up their eyes, and see hope and opportunity ahead.

Ukraine Appeal

The children have continued to work hard raising money for those who are less fortunate than us both near and far. They all walked a mile around the track every day and on our day of Faith, there was someone walking on the track all day! So far, have raised an amazing £700 for the Caritas CAFOD Ukraine

humanitarian appeal! We cannot thank you enough for your generosity. Although the children have finished their daily mile, the appeal will stay open until Easter Sunday, so if you would still like to donate please click on the link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/st-mary-s-primary-school-marnhull1>



PTFA

A huge thank you to the PTFA for organising the Easter Bonanza event at school today. Thank you for supporting them. They look forward to meeting again on Monday 25th April at 2pm, to plan

further activities for the summer term. As I've said before, we are very lucky to have such a dedicated team!

Uniform

When the children return to school after the Easter Holiday, they can wear their summer uniform – let's hope it is warm enough! There will be some pre-loved uniform on sale at the Easter Bonanza!



Celebration Assembly

This half term, we have reinstated celebration Assembly for the children which has been great! We really want to invite parents back in to school, but are conscious that with numbers still high we need to take this gently, and so we will be inviting the parents of one class at a time to attend our Celebration Assembly. Please arrive at 2:40pm so we can start at 2:45pm. Thank you.



Celebration Assembly - 2:40pm	Class
Friday 29 th April	St Anthony's & Explorers
Friday 6 th May	St Francis
Friday 13 th May	St Mark's
Friday 20 th May	St Alban's
Friday 27 th May	St Anthony's & Explorers

COVID-19 update

As you know, we are still hearing of positive cases of COVID -19 in school. Please continue to be vigilant with regards to symptoms and your children feeling unwell. We are continuing to ensure everyone practises good hand and respiratory hygiene; we are ensuring good ventilation of indoor spaces and maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes. Currently the guidance is:

As you will be aware the government have now set out the next steps for living with COVID. The guidelines changed from Friday 1st April and the following are applicable for schools:

- Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend. This will be treated as any other illness and will need to be reported in the normal way by contacting the school office.
- Children and young people aged 18 and under with a positive COVID test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days, which is when they are most infectious. Should a positive test be reported (with day 0 being the day of the positive test) we will ask you for the earliest return date which will be from 3 days and ask that children do not come into school during this period.

Free COVID tests are no longer be available unless you fall into a specific group, therefore we ask that you remain vigilant if your child displays a high temperature and feels unwell, ensuring you follow the guidance above.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms in children (updated 7.4.22)

Children and young people aged 18 and under can get coronavirus (COVID-19), but it's usually a mild illness and most get better in a few days.

Symptoms of COVID-19 can include:

- a high temperature or shivering (chills) – a high temperature means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- shortness of breath
- feeling tired or exhausted
- an aching body
- a headache
- a sore throat
- a blocked or runny nose
- loss of appetite
- diarrhoea
- feeling sick or being sick

The symptoms are very similar to symptoms of other illnesses, such as colds and flu.

What to do if your child has symptoms

Your child should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if they have symptoms of COVID-19 and they either:

- have a high temperature
- do not feel well enough to go to school, college or childcare, or do their normal activities

They can go back to school, college or childcare when they feel better or do not have a high temperature.

If your child has mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat or mild cough, and they feel well enough, they can go to school, college or childcare.

Encourage your child to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when they cough or sneeze, and to wash their hands after using or throwing away tissues.

Most children who are unwell will recover in a few days with rest and plenty of fluids. There is [guidance for people with COVID-19 symptoms and other respiratory infections on GOV.UK](#).

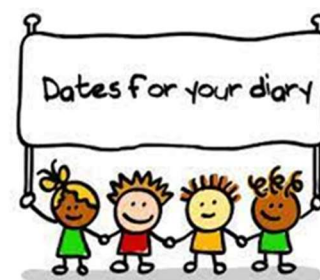
As ever, thank you for your understanding and cooperation. We will provide further information should the guidance change.



Please follow us on Twitter @stmarysmarnhull – it would be great to increase the number of followers we have – we currently have 78 followers.

Dates for your diary:

- Friday 8th of April – PTFA Easter Bonanza after school
- Friday 8th April – last day of Spring term
- Monday 25th April – children return to school for Summer Term
- Monday 25th April – Class Photos
- Monday 2nd May – May Bank Holiday
- Monday 9th – Thursday 12th May – KS2 SATs
- Thursday 19th May – May Procession 11am
- Friday 27th May – break up for Half Term
- Monday 6th June - INSET Day
- Tuesday 7th June – children return to school
- Friday 24th June – Non-uniform Day for Catholic Children's Society (wear yellow, blue and white)
- Wednesday 29th June – Whole School Mass Feast of Saints Peter & Paul
- Wednesday 13th July - End of Year Reports to Parents
- Thursday 21st July – end of term break up for Summer holidays



Term Dates 2022-23		Half Term holidays	Inset Days
Autumn Term 01.09.22 – 16.12.22	<i>Children start school</i> Monday 5th September 2022 <i>Children break up for Christmas holidays on</i> Friday 16th December 2022	Children finish for half term on Friday 21st October 2022 and return to school on Tuesday 1st November 2022	01.09.22 02.09.22 31.10.22
Spring Term 03.01.23 – 31.03.23	<i>Children start back at school</i> Tuesday 3rd January 2023 <i>Children break up for Easter holidays on</i> Friday 31st March 2023	Children finish for half term on Friday 10th February 2023 and return to school on Tuesday 21st February 2023	20.02.23
Summer Term 17.04.23 – 21.07.23	<i>Children start back at school</i> Monday 17th April 2023 <i>Children break up for Summer holidays on</i> Friday 21st July 2023	Children finish for half term on Friday 26th May 2023 and return to school on Tuesday 6th June 2023	05.06.23

May the peace of the Risen Christ be with you and your families this Easter. Thank you for your continued support for all that we endeavour at St Mary's for your children.

God Bless

Sharon Betts
Headteacher