

# Newsletter

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022



St. Mary's Catholic  
Primary School

Dear Parents and Friends

## Lenten journey...

With the easing of Covid restrictions, the whole school was able to gather together in the school hall for the blessing and distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday. It was wonderful to all be together in prayer as we began our Lenten observance.

We reflected on the meaning of the ashes, that wearing them shows that we want to turn away from anything which keeps us from God, and to have a change of heart so that we can live in right relationship with God and each other.

Father Francis talked about the meaning of Lent; that it's a time to get ourselves ready to meet Jesus Risen from the dead at Easter. He then blessed the ashes and asked one of the children to put some on his head before doing the same for all the children and the staff. The children then prayed for those who haven't enough to live on, for their teachers and friends, for people who are sick, for those who are lonely and for people who have died. We ended with a special prayer for all involved in the sad things which are happening in Ukraine.



## Ukraine

For Lent this year, the GIFT team have decided to raise money for the people in Ukraine who have recently been made refugees. Every school day since Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March, every child in the school has been walking a mile around the track. On our Day of Faith, Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April, they children will all have the opportunity to take part in a whole school event where they take turns

walking on the track so that someone is walking on the track for the whole day. We will be donating the money we collect to the CAFOD Ukraine humanitarian appeal. If you would like to donate please see this next link:

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



In addition to this, we will be joining St Mary's in Bodmin with their virtual vigil on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022 to show support for the people of Ukraine. This will be a special moment to come together as a community, united in our prayers for all in Ukraine.



## World Book Day

We had the most fabulous World Book Day! It started with an inspirational assembly with local author Olivia Tuffin. **Thank you to the PTFA who paid for this visit.** The children thoroughly enjoyed their author led workshops. Lots of time was spent enjoying and sharing books; not to mention the spectacular costumes!



## COVID-19 update

As you have been informed this week, there has been several cases of COVID -19 across the school and I have been in close contact with Public Health Dorset. 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:

### Stay at home if you have COVID-19

Although the legal requirement to self-isolate has ended, people who test positive for COVID-19 or have symptoms of the virus should continue to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

Children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their education setting while they are infectious. **They should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started** (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these tests results are negative, they should return to their educational setting if they normally attend one, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature. They should follow the guidance for their educational setting.

[Read further guidance for people with COVID-19.](#)

### Close contacts

Close contacts of confirmed cases are no longer advised to take daily lateral flow tests, but they should take steps to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. [Read more about what to do if you are a close contact.](#)

### Testing

The Government no longer recommends twice-weekly asymptomatic testing in mainstream education and childcare settings.

At present, anyone with symptoms should continue to get a free PCR test and lateral flow tests can still be used for asymptomatic testing.

## PTFA

The PTFA met last week to discuss upcoming opportunities for fundraising events. It was agreed that there would be a school event on the last day of term, before we break up for the Easter holidays. Nothing has been finalised as yet, but some of the ideas included: Easter egg raffle, Easter egg hunt, bake sale and uniform sale (for summer uniform). There will be another meeting on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm. If you have any good condition school uniform that your children have grown out of, please bring it to school for our uniform sale.



### Red Nose Day – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March

We're very conscious of the fact that we have been asking you to donate to CAFOD in support of those in need due to the war in Ukraine; however, we will be joining with the national Red Nose Day event on Friday. We are asking for a donation of £1 and the children can come to school in non-uniform, with

comedy hair or dressed as a superhero. One suggestion was to pay 20p to tell me a joke to see if they can make me laugh? I look forward to seeing the children's efforts.

### After school clubs

It was great to see the children enjoying the different clubs on offer this week. Thank you to the teachers who are giving up their time to run these. Apologies for the initial confusion around booking children on – hopefully it's been sorted now. Please remember to both give consent AND book children on.



### After School Club

If you have one child at a club, you could book your other child or children into our After School Club.

3:15 - 4:15pm - £3.50

Please use school Money to book your child in for any sessions.



**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 18<sup>th</sup> March – Red Nose Day
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April – Lent Day of Faith
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> of April – PTFA Easter Bonanza
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April – last day of Spring term

God Bless

Sharon Betts  
Headteacher

