



St Mary's Catholic Academy



Newsletter No.6 – Monday 20th February 2023

Dates for your diary

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|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Tues 21 st Feb – 1pm | Family SEAL – Session 1 |
| Wed 22 nd Feb - 10am | Ash Wednesday Mass - Church |
| Wed 1 st March | Possible Teacher Strike day |
| Thurs 2 nd March | F2/Y6 Height & weight check |
| | World Book Day |
| Fri 24 th March | Y4 Trip – Yorkshire Wildlife Park |
| Wed 29 th March 5:30pm | Easter Fun – SAVE THE DATE |
| Fri 31 st March – 9:30am | Easter Liturgy – St Mary's Church |
| | School closes for Easter break |
| Mon 17 th April | School re-opens |
| Fri 5 th May | Coronation Celebration |
| Mon 8 th May | Bank Holiday – School closed |

Dear Parents and Carers,

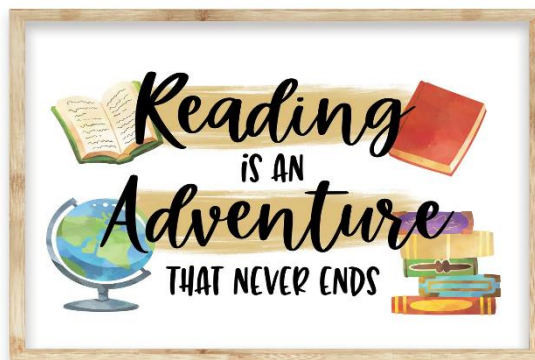
I hope you have had a lovely half term break. Thank you for meeting your child's teacher before the holiday. I hope you found these meetings helpful in finding ways to support your child at home with their learning.

We've reached the mid-way point in the academic year – how fast time flies! Let's pray for a successful and positive half term. Please get in touch via the school office if you need any support.

World Book Day

Thursday 2nd March 2023

We encourage a joy and pleasure for reading each and every day at school, however World Book Day is an opportunity for us to go the extra mile and have fun to celebrate the rich world of books we have a passion for.



On World Book Day, children are invited to come to school dressed up as their favourite book character or dressed in their warm, cosy pyjamas – ready for story time. There will be special activities and experiences both on the day and throughout the week.

How can you help? Calling all Parents and Grandparents, would you be happy to come and read to your child's class or a small group of children? For those of you who speak a different language, have you a picture book you could share with a class, reading in your own language? Please speak to your child's class teacher and they will arrange a time and day to suit you.

Attendance

Thank you to all families who ensure your children attend school regularly. 43 children in classes F2 through to Year 6 have 100% attendance. This is such a great accomplishment. Many more children have a good attendance above 97%. I truly appreciate all who value positive attendance.

| 100% attendance F2 – Y6 | Attendance Concerns F2 – Y6 | Of those with concerning attendance, from December 2022 to Feb 2023... | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | | Attendance improved | No change in attendance behaviour and remain a concern | Attendance declined further – increasing concern |
| 21% | 32% | 34% - thank you | 20% | 46% |

Families will be contacted individually, where attendance remains a concern, especially where a child's attendance has reduced even further since December. In some cases, attendance for sickness will only be authorised where there is medical evidence provided.

Lateness appeal



Arriving late to school is not a good feeling for a child. It creates uncertainty and unease, at the start of their day. There are a regular number of parents/children running in to the playground after the bell has gone. At this point, your child is late as they are not on school grounds for 8:50am. Leaving home 5–10 minutes earlier will prevent this lateness, in many cases. Please adjust your morning routine to allow plenty of time so your child is punctual - on the playground with their peers **before** the school bell.

Nursery – late entry

If you are bringing your child late to Nursery, parents/carers must come to **the main school office** to sign in. After signing in, you will be directed to take your child around to Nursery and wait to be let in. Nursery staff are regularly being distracted from teaching as they are welcoming late comers. This is causing a disruption to the Nursery setting. Please can I ask that parents/carers do their very best to be punctual. This is an important life skill and positive habit for you and your child to live by from this school early age.

Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent

Cake Sale – Tuesday 21st February

On Tuesday, before Lent begins, we will have a cake sale to raise money for the DEC appeal – helping people in Turkey and Syria who have lost their homes and family. If you can, please bring between 20p - £1 to support this cause. Any cake donations will be gratefully received – see leaflet coming home with your child tonight.



Ash Wednesday

Children will be attending St Mary's church at 10am for the Ash Wednesday Service. You are welcome to join us. After the service, children will make Lenten promises and think about how they can be missionaries of Jesus as we remember the sacrifice He made for our sins. Each class will try to reach out to different members of our community. Chat at home about what you can do as a family this Lent as a friend of Jesus.

Calling Volunteers

Before COVID, volunteers were welcome into school to listen to young readers. We'd love this tradition to start up again.

If you or a member of your family are interested in such a role, please come to the school office for a chat. You don't need to commit a lot of time, every little helps and I am sure you will enjoy the experience.



Kind regards,
Anne-Marie Bell