



Whole School Dates for your Diary

	Lent Term – Half Term 2
Monday 19 th February	Lent assembly and reflection afternoon
Tuesday 20 th February	Reception/F2 and Y6 height and weight check
Friday 23 rd February	Deadline – Parents to update Arbor GDPR image consent
Monday 26 th February	Dance performance at the Albert Hall
Tuesday 27 th February	SCHOOL CLOSED
Wednesday 28 th February	Cake sale – run by the school council
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day – children dress up/non-uniform
	10:30am KS2 Lenten reconciliation opportunity with Fr. David
Tuesday 12 th March	Y4 Trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park
Wednesday 20 th March	International Day of Happiness - gratitude and mindfulness focus
Wednesday 27 th March	2pm Y3 & Y4 Easter performance – everyone welcome
Thursday 28 th March	Final day of term
Friday 29 th March	No school - Good Friday
Mon 1 st – Fri 12 th April	Easter school holiday
	Pentecost Term
Mon 15 th April	Return to school

The Season of Lent 2024

Last week, the Catholic Church celebrated Ash Wednesday. It is a day for reflecting on our own lives and saying sorry to God for our sins. During our reflection afternoon in school today, we have considered the choices we make, fasting and thought about what we can do as we await Christ's Resurrection.



2024 is a Year of Prayer. In school we will learn about different forms of prayer to help us to become closer to Jesus.

Cake Sale – Wednesday 28th February

St Mary's School Council will be holding a cake sale on Wednesday 28th February. We are beginning a fund to raise money for a memorial for our lovely Rosa, whose funeral is on 27th February, when school is closed.

Rosa loved baking and creating lovely food for school.

Please bring donations of cakes and biscuits into the school office 8:35 – 8:45am.

Children should bring 50p - £1.

Any cakes left at the end of the day will be sold on the school playground. Happy Baking!



Congratulation Assembly

Below are the dates for our Congratulations assemblies this half term to be held at 9am in the school hall. As usual, parents will receive an email by Monday if your child is to be congratulated.

All parents/carers are welcome to attend any of the assemblies. This is a chance for you to catch up with other parents, before and after. Tea and coffee will be available, where possible.

Children are also welcome to bring achievements, certificates, medals and trophies they have received from out of school clubs and activities. This may include sharing the achievement of a swimming stage, a musical grading and so on. We would love to hear about and celebrate our children's achievements, in and beyond school.

Dates: 22nd February – KS1 Congratulations; 29th February – KS2 Congratulations;

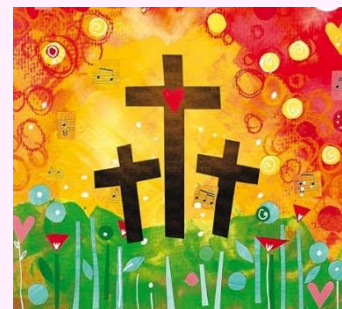
14th March – Whole School Congratulations;

21st March – KS1 Congratulations;

28th March – KS2 Congratulations.

Resurrection Rock – Year 3 and Year 4 Easter Production

Children will be practising for the Easter production 'Resurrection Rock' this half term. The story will be performed in St Mary's Church at **2pm, Wednesday 27th March**. Please can I encourage as many people to attend as possible, all are welcome and I promise it will help you prepare personally for the Easter weekend. The Easter story focuses on the resurrection of Jesus Christ following his betrayal, suffering and crucifixion. Our children will celebrate the joy of the season when we remember Jesus coming back to life on Easter Sunday.



IMPORTANT ACTION Consent for Pictures and Videos of Children (GDPR)

Please can all parents/carers check your Arbor account and the consent you give for photographs and videos to be taken of your child. Thank you to those of you who have managed this already.

It is much easier for school staff to use images appropriately if you **consent to all** or **consent to no situation**. Currently, teachers are reluctant to share pictures on Twitter for fear of using an image without consent. It has been difficult to ensure we have collected the desires of each family. Using Arbor ensures you have access to record your own wishes. You will be asked to review your account each September going forwards.

Help needed: login to your Arbor account. In the **Notices** section (on the left) click on each statement and **Consent** or **Decline**.

Pop to the office if you are unsure but please support each other as parents to complete this task where possible.

Please complete this check **by Friday – this week**.

Our Big Lent Walk

CAFOD and SCIAF are teaming up to bring the Big Lent Walk to Great Britain and St Mary's children are going to take part! The walk will be on Monday 25th March (weather permitting).

Between now and then, children are encouraged to seek

sponsorship from family and friends. If you would like a sponsor form, please pop to the school office. One is attached for you to print for yourself. Children should set a goal for how many laps of the school field they can manage.

While walking, children will be encouraged to read reflections about people in need – people facing the hardships of war; poverty; natural disasters; and other injustice in our world. This should encourage them to walk with passion and strength, knowing the money we raise will help people in need across our world.

As a school team, we recognise that many of our families are struggling financially. Please only give what you can comfortably manage. Even 50p from each family allows the school to send £100 to CAFOD which will be gratefully received.



Money Demands

I feel very aware as I write this newsletter that as a school we are asking for money regularly and I want you to know that we try very hard to strike a balance between offering the children valuable experiences and measuring the cost for parents and the school. Only in this newsletter I have mentioned: World Book Day; a cake sale; our sponsored walk; and Y4 have a trip.

Please, I ask that you only give what is comfortable to our charity causes. Come and speak to a member of staff if trip payments are a challenge. No one will miss out. We have ways we can help. Please just come and chat to the staff member you feel most comfortable talking to.

Kindest regards, Anne-Marie Bell

