



# *St Mary's Catholic Primary School*

*Executive Head: Mrs Clare Tickel*

*Head of School: Mr Simon Thomas*

*Diocese of Plymouth*

March 2023

## **St Mary's School News**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your partnership again this term. We are especially grateful to those parents and careers who have taken the time to complete our parent online survey. I expect many of you are looking forward to meeting up with friends or families over the break and hopefully enjoying some good weather.

This month we have enjoyed so many happy moments in school, welcoming visitors, making trips, sports fixtures, Book Week and recently our Spring Concert.

### **Staffing News**

We say a fond farewell to Caroline Maidment this Easter. Caroline has worked at St Mary's as a teaching assistant for more than five years. She will be greatly missed.

### **Assessment Information**

Next half term Year 6 pupils will be taking their end of Key Stage 2 statutory assessments, week beginning Tuesday 9th May – Friday 12th May, in English and Maths. Their writing and Science assessments will carry on until the end of June.

Assessments are also scheduled next term for pupils in Year 2 for their end of Key Stage 1 statutory assessments, Year 1 phonics assessment, Year 4 Times Table assessment and the Foundation Stage profile. Teachers have already shared information with parents regarding these assessments and any further information will be communicated after the break. It is imperative that we maximise learning time for all of our pupils after Easter so please avoid absences unless a child is unwell.

### **Online Safety**

Please can we remind all parents that should they wish to enter the school building to talk with a member of staff after 3.15pm, they must still report to the school office so that we maintain a central record of all adults within the building.

**Smartwatches / Fitness trackers:** Smartwatches / fitness trackers are not allowed at St Mary's school. If your child has one to wear at home then check what the smartwatch allows your child to do and, if available, set appropriate restrictions. Talk to your child about the different settings and if you have, why you have set up the restrictions. What are the risks?

- Some smartwatches allow you to take photos. It is important to talk to your child about appropriate behaviour when taking and sharing photos. Once a photo is shared, they lose control of it.
- Some smartwatches have internet access with the ability to download apps. You need to be aware of the potential of in app purchases and viewing upsetting content.

Depending on the brand of smartwatch, you may be able to set up parental controls, for example to restrict content and prevent purchases.

More information about Apple Watch parental controls can be found here:

<https://support.apple.com/en-gb/guide/watch/apd54d0a51fb/watchos>

As always, ensure your child knows to talk to you or another trusted adult should they see anything inappropriate or that worries them whilst using their device. Many schools discourage or do not allow the use of smartwatches – check your child's school Acceptable Use Policy as this will tell you if they are allowed in school.

Further information at:

- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/digital-family-basics-smart-watches-fitness-trackers>
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/tech-guide/smart-toys-and-wearable-gadgets/#smart>

### **Diary Dates**

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May - Year 4 Mass to parents in school  
 Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May - Year 2 Liturgy to parents in school  
 Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June - Inset day No. 5  
 Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June am - Sports Day for KS1  
 Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June pm - Sports Day for KS2  
 Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June - Year 5 Mass to parents in school  
 Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June - Foundation Stage Liturgy to parents in school  
 Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July - Year 3 Mass to parents in school  
 Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July - Year 6 Leavers' Mass to parents in Church  
 Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July - Whole School End of Year Mass in Church  
 Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July – Last day of Summer Term

### **Inset days for 2023-2024**

1. Friday 1st September 2023
2. Friday 20th October 2023
3. Tuesday 2nd January 2024
4. Monday 19th February 2024
5. Monday 3rd June 2024

### **School Book Fair**

Thank you for supporting our scholastic book fair which was held this month. It was lovely to see the children's excitement when choosing new books! We sold £1039 of books which means that we are able to spend a fantastic £623 on new books for our school library.

### **Spring Music Concert**

The Spring Concert was a musical delight again this year and we are very grateful for the hard work that Mrs Wilson put into the event to make it such a success. The children were wonderful! Please see attached write up and pictures.

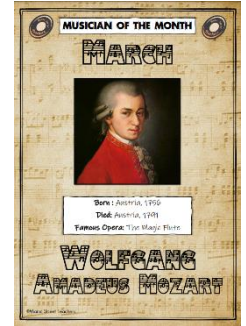
## Y1 News

Year 1 visited Upton Country park this half term as part of their geography topic. They were led by the education officer from the Urban Heath Partnership who helped us to understand more about our local urban, rural and coastal areas. We all really enjoyed it!



## Music

In March, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart has been our Musician of the Month. Mozart produced 626 works in many different forms in his lifetime. These forms included opera, symphonies, chamber music and solo concertos. Mozart was a child prodigy and was performing in front of royalty at the age of 6!



## Sports News

In PE this half term we have had lots of time spent playing in fixtures against other schools. We've had an abundance of different sports such as; 6 football fixtures, 2 netball tournaments, a cross country event and 2 multi skills festivals. It's been great watching the children participate in these and show off all their hard work from their Physical Education. As the weather hopefully warms up, we anticipate a really exciting summer term. Our sailing club recommences for those taking on their RYA stage 1 & 2. Lots of after school sport club offerings during the week for all year groups. This has already been sent out to sign up for so be quick as places will fill up fast.

We also have a brand new dance festival to look forward to in June which will accompany our dance club on Tuesdays. Lastly, we have lots of dates to look forward to when we return with summer sports taking a lot of the focus. Golf, tennis and athletics just to name a few.

Thanks for all your energy and commitment this term. Have a great break.

Mr Vince

## Easter Raffle

Thank you to all who contributed and bought tickets for the Easter Raffle, the £412 raised is outstanding and will be carefully used for school ventures that will benefit the children.



## Summer Uniform

Please check our uniform guidelines before children return to school after the Easter break on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Hair accessories should be in school colours (navy) and only small ribbons, bows etc used. Long hair should always be tied back for both boys and girls and the minimum shaved cut is a number 2 grade please. For the summer term only, children may wear blue checked dresses and tailored dark grey shorts.

## Our Curriculum of Hope



Please look out for our **Curriculum of Hope** tree as you enter our school. This image uses the analogy of a tree to explain how the values and virtue fit into our curriculum. Our virtues: faith, hope and love nourish us and nurture us – these are the roots. The values are the behaviours and habits that we should see each person in our community living by each day – the trunk. The knowledge and skills are depicted by the branches – as children's knowledge and skills grow and develop, we see them make connections with their learning and blossom as young people.

## Governance Update

We say farewell to Mrs Culkin, who has given five years of service to our governing body, more recently as Chair of Governors. Mrs Culkin has helped to support and challenge the school and guide us through a period of change in leadership. We are most grateful to Mrs Culkin and know that she will continue to support our school in many other ways.

### **Feast Days this term**

April 2<sup>nd</sup>- Palm Sunday

April 6<sup>th</sup>- Maundy Thursday

April 7<sup>th</sup> -Holy Friday

April 8<sup>th</sup> -Holy Saturday

April 9<sup>th</sup> -Easter Sunday

April 10<sup>th</sup> -Easter Monday

### **Catholic Life**

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023. The day is called both “Palm Sunday” and “Passion Sunday.” The first name comes from the fact that it commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, when the crowd had palm branches (John 12:13). The second name comes from the fact that the narrative of the Passion is read on this Sunday (it otherwise wouldn't be read on a Sunday, since the next Sunday is about the Resurrection).

Palm Sunday is the final Sunday of Lent, the beginning of Holy Week, and commemorates the triumphant arrival of Christ in Jerusalem, days before he was crucified. Palm Sunday is known as such because the faithful will often receive palm fronds which they use to participate in the re-enactment of Christ's arrival in Jerusalem. In the Gospels, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a young donkey, and to the lavish praise of the townspeople who threw clothes, or possibly palms or small branches, in front of him as a sign of homage. This was a customary practice for people of great respect. Palm branches are widely recognized symbol of peace and victory, hence their preferred use on Palm Sunday. The use of a donkey instead of a horse is highly symbolic, it represents the humble arrival of someone in peace, as opposed to arriving on a steed in war.

A week later, Christ would rise from the dead on the first Easter. During Palm Sunday Mass, palms are distributed to parishioners who carry them in a ritual procession into church. The palms are blessed and many people will fashion them into small crosses or other items of personal devotion. These may be returned to the church or kept for the year.



### **Let Us Pray**

#### **We give thanks:**

- For all the new learning this term.
- For those within our community whose small acts of kindness often go un-noticed.
- For the promise of warmer weather and the opportunities to learn outdoors.
- Our teaching staff who consistently go above and beyond to care for our children.
- Our governors, especially Mrs Culkin who is leaving us this Easter.
- Our risen Lord Jesus.

#### **We pray for:**

- The on-going health and protection of our community.
- A safe and happy Easter break for all in our community.
- Families mourning the loss of a loved one or feeling the pain of separation.
- Those who are unwell, especially a parent, a pupil and one of our governors.
- Those who have recently died, may their souls rest in peace.
- Fr John and all of our priests and local clergy.
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**And finally**, we wish all of our families a very happy and restful Easter break.

Kind regards,

Clare Tickel  
Executive Headteacher

faith  
hope  
love

Mr Thomas  
Head of School

