



MARTYRS NEWS

Through Christ we believe, inspire, achieve.



The School Council launch our safer parking campaign



Last Friday, the School Council helped me launch our safer parking campaign outside the KS2 entrance on School

Lane. The new signs are another part of our ambition to make entering and leaving school as safe as possible - thank-you for playing your part in this everyone!

Interim School Changes

You may have read the letter sent out on Tuesday afternoon to all families about my secondment to St Mary's in Little Crosby. I will still very much be working here at English Martyrs Monday to Wednesdays and the latter part of the week at St Mary's. It is not permanent and I want to reassure you all that I remain fully committed to English Martyrs!

English Martyrs, Pray for us.

**Be safe, be
happy, have fun!**

Attendance Matters!

We will continue to track the attendance of all children this academic year. Children are encouraged to achieve our school target of **95%+**. We have achieved **95.4%** this year!

Holiday During Term Time

Holiday Request Forms **MUST** be completed in advance of any holiday. We are having increased cases of parents not notifying school when their child is going to be off. This not only causes extra work for school but more importantly raises safeguarding concerns which may be escalated to Sefton Council. You can obtain this form from the school office or on our website: [here](#).

MARTYRS NEWS

Nursery

By Mrs McIntyre & Mrs Garvey

This half term the children are reading 'Peace At Last' by Jill Murphy. This week we focused on Mr Bear and encouraged the children to draw his journey around the house and garden as he tried to find a quiet place to sleep. The children used their mark-making skills to show how much of the story they had remembered.



Reception

By Mrs Morris & Mrs Halsall

We have been enjoying the autumnal sunshine this morning in the garden. The children have loved exploring, we have found lots of lady birds! We had a campfire with cake and songs.



Year 1

By Mrs Morris & Mrs Halsall

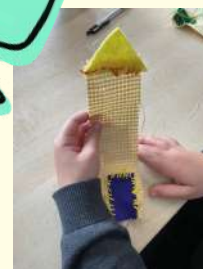
The children have been exploring day and night. We discussed when part of the Earth faces towards the sun it is daytime and when Earth faces away from the sun it is nighttime. We have learnt that Earth rotates and the sun does not move. We used balls and torches to explore how the Earth rotates and day and night occur.



Year 2

By Mrs Sothern & Miss Drinkall

As part of our Design and Technology topic on Textiles, Year Two have been busy sewing. They have learnt how to thread a needle and do a simple over stitch.



"Threading the needle was a bit tricky." ~ Sophie

"It was easier to do the door than the roof." ~ Gracie

Year 3

By Mrs Dooley & Mr Roach

Y3 have had a fantastic time in their computing science lessons using scratch they have created a jumping game.



MARTYRS NEWS

Year 4

By Mrs O'Connell & Mrs Lowe



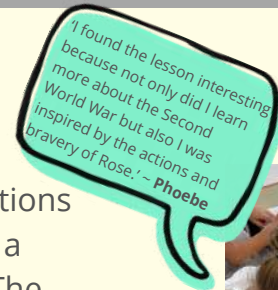
Last Tuesday, Year 4 spent time with Sefton's Walk and Wheel Team whose aim is to encourage safer journeys to school. The children discussed solutions to our traffic problems around school and plotted their daily journeys on a map. They then designed their maps to make their journeys more pleasant including: street art, murals, slow zones, trees and much more. The team will use the children's ideas for future change in our local area.



Year 5

By Mr Buckton & Mr Kiggins

Today we listened to the story, Rose Blanche, and examined the actions of the main character. We imagined what Rose may have wrote to a friend upon her discovery and how she would justify her actions. The children were engaged with the story and moved by the events.



Year 6

By Mrs Goulbourne & Miss Gray



Year 6 enjoyed a fascinating day exploring Liverpool's important role in the Second World War. We visited the Western Approaches Museum, where the children explored the original underground wartime naval headquarters. They discovered how Liverpool played a vital role in the Battle of the Atlantic, with the River Mersey acting as an important gateway for the ships bringing essential supplies across the Atlantic.

We then headed to the Pier Head, where we explored the iconic Three Graces and learnt about their links to Liverpool's maritime and wartime history.

As we walked along the waterfront, we also looked at the various monuments and memorials, learning about the people who served, the merchant seaman who kept vital supplies moving and the devastating impact the war had on Liverpool and its people.

It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to take their learning outside the classroom and see first-hand how our own city played such a significant role in the Second World War.



MARTYRS NEWS

CAFOD Club

By Mrs Sothern

As part of the Key Stage Two CAFOD club children learnt about October being the month of the Rosary. As a group they talked about when we say the rosary, how we say it and who we say it for. The children looked at a selection of rosary beads from all over the world. The children then made their own rosary ring to take home and pray with their families. At CAFOD club we pray for our neighbours near and far.



Mini Vinnies

By Mrs Dooley & Mrs Naisbett

Last Wednesday, our year 6 Mini Vinnie's welcomed parishioners from English Martyrs parish to a very special coffee morning. The children planned the event themselves, baked homemade cakes and were so excited to welcome our guests. Both the children and parishioners thoroughly enjoyed their conversations and of course the cakes! The children loved listening to the stories and experiences of our older members of the community and our guests commented on how polite the children were. One parishioner even shared memories of living through World War 2, which is particularly special as we are currently learning about this in history.

The morning beautifully reflected our Catholic Social Signature work, showing how kindness, connection and giving our time can make a real difference.

By the end, nobody seemed quite ready to leave. There were smiles, laughter, lovely hugs and a real sense that new friendships had been made.



MARTYRS NEWS

Good News



 Any news, let us know:
admin@englishmartyrs.co.uk

NETHERTON LIBRARY

OCTOBER HALF TERM

Craft

Tuesday 27th October
2.30-3.30pm

BOOKING REQUIRED

Rhymetime

Wednesday 28th October
Halloween fancy dress
is encouraged.

DROP IN SESSION

Creative Writing

Thursday 29th October
2.30-3.30pm

We are preparing for this years
'Stories on the Square'
Christmas writing competition.
Come along for some
inspiration.

BOOKING REQUIRED

Boardgames

Monday 26th October
2-4pm
Saturday 31st October
10-12.30pm

DROP IN SESSIONS

Please scan this
QR code to be
taken to our
events calendar
for bookings.



**Throughout:
Halloween Hunt.
Ask at the Library
desk for more
details**

MARTYRS NEWS

STAR OF THE WEEK

Friday 2nd Oct 2026

Nur All Day

Nur AM

RA

RB

1A

1B

2A

2B

3A

3B

4A

4B

5A

5B

6A

6B

Mikey

Lilah

Mason

Frankie

Millie

Cobie

Reuben

Isabella

Tayler

Bennie

Nellie

Isla

Lilly Mai

Darcie

Heidi

Caleb

Golden Pen

KEY STAGE 1

Cece - 1A

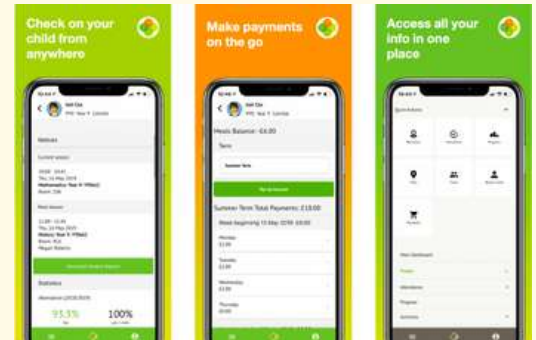
KEY STAGE 2

Bobby - 4A

MARTYRS NEWS

Communication and the Arbor App:

A number of parents are reporting that they have missed important messages from school, even after they have been sent out. Please see the info below to ensure you never miss an important message from school. **Arbor is our MAIN communication tool** and allows us to keep in touch with each other. so it is important that it is working properly for everyone. Any issues, contact the office.



Enabling Notifications in the Arbor App:

Enabling Push Notifications (Step-by-Step)

Initial Setup: When first installing the Arbor App, click "**Allow**" when prompted to receive notifications.

Android Devices: Go to your phone's **Settings > Apps > Arbor > Notifications** and toggle push notifications **ON**.

iOS Devices (iPhone): Go to **Settings > Notifications > Arbor** and ensure "**Allow Notifications**" is **enabled**. It is recommended to set your banner style to "**Permanent**".

Troubleshooting Notifications

If you are not receiving messages:

Check In-App Settings:

Ensure you are checking the messages section within the app, which highlights new, unread messages in bold.

Restart & Reconnect:

Close the app, switch off notifications in your phone settings, restart your phone, and then turn the notifications back on.

Reinstall:

If notifications still do not appear, uninstall and reinstall the app.

Why Notifications Matter in Arbor

Message Alerts:

Enables immediate alerts for in-app messages sent by the school, which are used to reduce reliance on text messages.

Updates:

Alerts you to updates regarding attendance, clubs, trips, parent evenings or information requests.

Primary Guardian Access:

Note that only primary guardians can receive these notifications.

Helping families to understand the changes for term time holidays

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes have come into force for the Penalty Notice Fines issued for unauthorised holidays recorded by schools after 19th August 2024.

WHO MAY BE FINED?

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent from school.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent who allowed the holiday receiving 3 separate fines.

NATIONAL THRESHOLD

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of **10 sessions (5 school days)** of unauthorised absence in a rolling 10 school week period.

These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence, including the **U code** (late after registers).

For example: a 5-day holiday would meet the national threshold. The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

FIRST OFFENCE:

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for an unauthorised term time holiday the fine amount will be:

£80 per parent, per child if paid within **21** days.

£160 if paid between **22-28** days.

SECOND OFFENCE: (Within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for an unauthorised absence amount will be:

£160 per parent (who allowed the holiday) per child, payable within **28** days.

THIRD OFFENCE: (Within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice is not issued. Cases may be presented before a Magistrate's Court. Prosecution may result in a criminal records and fines of up to **£2,500**.

Cases found guilty in Magistrate's Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education.'



Term Dates 2026-27

Autumn Term 2026 - (73 Days)

Term Starts:

Wednesday 2nd September

Half-term Holiday:

Monday 26th Oct - Friday 30th Oct

Term Ends:

Friday 18th December, 2pm.

Spring Term 2027 - (54 Days)

Term Starts:

Monday 4th January

Half-term Holiday

Monday 15th Feb - Friday 19th Feb

Term Ends:

Thursday 25th March, 2pm.

Summer Term 2027 - (63 Days)

Term Starts:

Monday 12th April

Half-term Holiday

Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June

Term Ends:

Friday 16th July, 2pm.

Total Days:

190 Pupildays

195 Teacherdays

Bank Holiday

Monday 3 May 2027

Inset Days:

Autumn 2026:

Tuesday 1st September

Summer 2027:

Monday 7th June

Monday 19th July

Tuesday 20th July

Wednesday 21st July

Wrap Around Care Offer

Breakfast Club:

Contact number: 0151 928 5601

We run Breakfast Club for children aged 3-11 on site by our own staff from **8am-8.45am** daily Monday to Friday.

Our Infant (**Nursery to Y2**) provision is based in the main hall (*enter via the Main School Entrance*).

Our Junior (**Y3 to Y6**) provision is based in the dining hall (*enter via the separate gate on School Lane*).

To check availability and book a place, please use the [Contact Form](#) or call the number above.



Fun4Kidz - After School Club:

Contact number: 0151 932 9218

Fun4Kidz operates on site from **3.15pm to 6.00pm** daily Monday to Friday.

Fun4Kidz works with our youngest pupils from **Nursery to Year 2**.

The sessions are **£11.15** first child (*and £10.15 for siblings*) daily and include snacks (*hot snacks when applicable*).

The sessions must be paid for in advance and are non-refundable if the child doesn't attend.

Children can be collected from any time before **6.00pm**.

Email: fun4kidzclubs@hotmail.com

L30 Community Centre, Stonyfield, Netherton, Merseyside, L30 0QS.

Need to know about funding?

If you want to find out more about what funding is available to you in terms of tax free credits and childcare vouchers, please follow the link at the bottom of the page, which will take you to our Wrap Around Care page on the school website with more information and links to follow.

For the latest info, see the page below:

<https://www.englishmartyrs.co.uk/parents/wrap-around-care>



Introducing Sefton Family Life Toolkit

We are pleased to share information about the Sefton Family Life Toolkit, a free online resource designed to support children, young people and families. The toolkit brings together trusted advice, local services and practical information all in one place. Parents and carers can access support on a wide range of topics including:

- **Parenting and family relationships**
- **Emotional health and wellbeing**
- **SEND information and guidance**
- **Education and school attendance**
- **Health and healthy lifestyles**
- **Activities, events and holiday programmes**
- **Local Family Hubs and community support**

Whether you are looking for advice, activities for your family, or additional support, the Family Life Toolkit provides easy access to information to help families thrive. Please visit the website today for further details: www.seftonfamilylife.com

Useful Info



Sefton Women's & Childrens Aid

Contact number: 0151 394 1400

SWACA provide holistic services to women, young people and children affected by Domestic Abuse offering both effective crisis intervention and early intervention and preventative services.



Venus Centre Charity

Contact number: 0151 474 4744

VENUS provide service to empower, promote and support women, and their children in developing their potential, recognising their choices and achieving their goals and challenging injustice.



The Trussell Trust

Contact number: 0151 933 1300

The trust supports a nationwide network of food banks and together they provide emergency food and support to people locked in poverty, and campaign for change to end the need for food banks in the UK.



In Your Shoes

Contact number: 0151 345 9611

Located at 100 Moss Lane the charity supports our local community.



Litherland Wellbeing Centre

Contact number: 0151 288 6661

Family Well-being Centres provide joined up support for children and young people aged 0-19 years to make family life that little bit easier.



Sefton Council

One Stop Shop: 0345 140 0845

Affordable Warmth Service: 0151 934 2222

Free School Meals: 0151 934 3263

Emergency Limited Assistance: 0151 934 3377

Sefton at Work: 0151 934 2610

For further details visit Sefton Council's website:

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/advice-benefits/cost-of-living/>

If you are struggling and would like support please do not hesitate to contact one of the above or the school office who will assist in any way they can.