



# MARTYRS NEWS

THROUGH CHRIST WE BELIEVE, INSPIRE, ACHIEVE.

NEWSLETTER OF ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

FRIDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2023 | NEWSLETTER 3



BY MR DINSDALE

It has been a fantastic half term and all the children have settled into their new classes. Our Year 3 children have made a seamless transition in Key Stage 2 and therefore I would like to ask parents to no longer wait on the Key Stage 2 playground first thing in the morning. Staff are on hand to supervise and ensure the safety of children. If you need to pass a message onto your child's class teacher then please do so via the office.

Parents evening appointments will take place this week for Year 1 to Year 6. The Arbor app will remain open for bookings until **3pm on Tuesday 17th October**. If you need to make an appointment after this time you should to contact the school office.

I would like to remind everyone of our school uniform, in particular our winter P.E kit. As you will be aware children can attend school in their P.E kit on days when they have P.E. As the weather is getting colder children are welcome to replace the P.E shorts with black jogging pants. They are also welcome to wear their grey jumper/cardigan or the green round neck sweatshirt. Hoodies are not part of our school uniform. Names should be on inside labels only.

Our Key Stage 2 **Harvest Festival** will take place on **Thursday 19th October at 2pm** in church. In preparation for this we are asking for donations for the Seaforth Community Pantry. See page 2 for further details.

## Attendance:

It is important that all children attend school regularly so that they can get achieve their very best. We are continuing to monitor attendance this academic year and will celebrate positive attendance in our Star of the Week assemblies.



Well done to **class RA** with their fantastic level of attendance during September **99.9%**.

In the same respect we will monitor poor attendance and parents will be contacted in cases where their child's attendance is of concern.

If your child is going to be absent during term time then you must complete an 'Exceptional Circumstances' form 10 days prior and submit to school. You will receive official communication from school confirming the outcome of your request. An automatic request for a fixed penalty notice will be submitted to the Local Authority in cases were no 'Exceptional Circumstances' form has been received by school.

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

### KEY EVENTS THIS TERM:

**OCT 17**

**Y6 HFH**  
to watch Matilda

**OCT 18**

**Parents Evening**  
Years 1 to 6

**OCT 19**

**Parents Evening**  
Years 1 to 6

**OCT 19**

**KS2 Harvest Festival**  
Years 3 to 6 in church - parents welcome

# MARTYRS NEWS

## Nursery

BY MRS HALSALL AND MRS GARVEY

In Nursery this week the children have been learning about Space and looking at the different planets on our space table. In Maths we have been using our Autumn Treasures to create faces talking about position and shapes. We have also been looking at different pumpkins and creating our own designs on the art and craft table.



## Reception

BY MRS MORRIS & MRS DOOLEY

This week we said Goodbye to a valued member of Reception Mrs Houghton. Mrs Houghton has worked with us for over 10 year and will be missed. We wish her well with her new adventures.



## Year 1

BY MRS BLACKLEDGE & MRS SOTHERN

This week in Science Year One have been investigating their sense of touch. They found the hardest, softest, roughest, smoothest, warmest and coldest objects. Lillie said "the stone was hard, smooth and cold."



## Harvest Festival

BY MRS MCINTYRE

Next Thursday is our Harvest Festival. Early Years and Key Stage 1 will be having their own harvest assemblies in school for pupils and staff only. Years 3-6 will be holding a Harvest Service in church at **2pm on Thursday**, families are welcome to attend. Each year we support Seaforth Community Pantry with our donations of food. This year we are asking for donations to be brought into school from Monday next week. Items that they are particularly in need of are:  
**Tins of meat, dried skimmed milk, custard powder, hotdogs, tea, coffee, jam, family sized packet of soup and re-usable bags.**

## Yoga

BY MRS NAISBETT

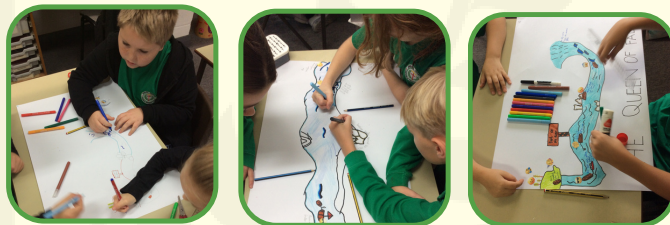
In our yoga and mindfulness sessions this half term, the children in year 3, 4 and 5 have been learning about the ACC (Anterior cingulate cortex) which is the part of the brain that helps us to focus and control our attention. The children have been playing lots of games to help them practice their focusing skills. They have also been learning different breathing practices to help them self-regulate and relax.

Some of their favourite practices have been feather breathing and making their own breathing wands.

## Year 5

BY MISS GRAY & MR BUCKTON

In our class text 'Queen of the Falls', we have been looking at Annie's journey along the river before her descent down Niagara Falls. We worked in small groups to plot her journey and used six word summaries to show what was happening. We also selected emojis to represent how Annie would have felt at different times. The children enjoyed working in groups and adding detail to their maps.



## Bible Exhibition.

BY MRS JASPER & MRS MCINTYRE

Last Friday our Collective Worship Ambassadors visited a Handcrafted Bible Exhibition at the Irenaeus Project in Waterloo. We were given a guided tour of the special hand knitted exhibition which represented key stories from the old and new testament. The children enjoyed taking part in some craft and game activities before listening to a parable told in a special way called 'Godly Play'.





# MARTYRS NEWS

## READING FOR ALL

### Come and read

BY MISS GRAY

We all know that there are few things more powerful than regularly reading with a child, and reading for pleasure with your child can make a big difference to their educational performance. Therefore, we are excited to invite parents and guardians (who have children in Year 1 - Year 4) back into school on the dates below to read with their children:

**Friday 3rd November - Year 1**

**Friday 10th November - Year 2**

**Friday 17th November - Year 3**

**Friday 24th November - Year 4**

**Friday 12th January - Year 1**

**Friday 19th January - Year 2**

**Friday 26th January - Year 3**

**Friday 2nd February - Year 4**

Reading times are 2:30pm-2:50pm in your child's classroom.

Year 5 and 6 children are invited to bring in a favourite book and read whilst enjoying a drink of hot chocolate. We just need the children to bring in a mug on the day as we'll supply the hot chocolate.

**Friday 1st December - Year 6**

**Friday 8th December - Year 5**

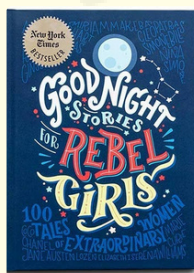
**Friday 9th February - Year /6**

### 3 Word Book Review

SEREN YEAR 5

Goodnight Stories For Rebel Girls  
By Elena Favilli and Francesca Cavallo

**“Inspiring,  
Engrossing,  
Fascinating”**



### Blue Peter Book Club

BY MISS GRAY



Blue Peter has recently unveiled a new Book badge, designed by one of the UK's best-known illustrators, Sir Quentin Blake. The Blue Peter Book Club is all about sharing the joy of reading! Each month they will talk about a different book from the list and find out your thoughts on it too! They'll also have lots of fun activities, quizzes and cool challenges to try.

The Blue Peter Book badge will be awarded to children aged 5-15 who send in their thoughts on a book, draw a character or scene and share which other books and writers they love. For more information about how to join and the books in the book club, check out:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/blue-peter-book-club>

### Reading Champions

BY MISS GRAY

**Say hello to this year's reading champions!**

In this photo, we are holding our 'Reading Champion' badges and our 'Ask me what I'm reading badges'. Our aim for the year is to spread the joy of reading throughout our school and our homes. We have already started on some exciting new initiatives. Look out for our regular three word reading recommendations in the newsletter.



# MARTYRS NEWS

## 500 Word Challenge

MISS GRAY

Write a story that you would love to read...

500 Words, the UK's most successful children's writing competition has now opened for submissions and will run till Friday 10 November. Since the competition was first launched in 2011 by Chris Evans on the Radio 2 Breakfast Show, it has received over one million stories from children throughout the UK. This year, the two age categories will be 5-7 year-olds and 8-11 year-olds. Children of all abilities are encouraged to use their creativity and imagination to write a story they would love to read. 500 Word judges include the award-winning and best-selling authors Frank Cottrell-Boyce, Francesca Simon, Charlie Higson, and former children's laureate, Malorie Blackman. The winners will be featured in a special 500 Word programme with The One Show, on World Book Day on 7 March 2024. To find out more information and to submit your writing, check out:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>

## How to become a Brownie

MRS SMITH

9th Bootle and Litherland, English Martyrs Brownies currently have space for any girls aged between 7 and 10 years of age who wish to join. They meet on a **Thursday** evening in the **Parish Hall 6.15pm to 7.45pm**. If you wish for your daughter to join, please register their name on the following website:

[www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/)

If you have any queries or questions please email:

[engmartbrownies@outlook.com](mailto:engmartbrownies@outlook.com)

## You are not alone.

MRS BOWDEN

A support group open to all parents/carers who have a child who has ever attended Fresh CAMHS (Liverpool) or Sefton CAMHS or is on the waiting list.

October Support Groups – Dates & Venues:

Tues 3rd October – 12 to 1.30 pm – on zoom

Thurs 12th October – 6 to 8 pm – Institute in the Park, Alder Hey (opposite entrance to A&E)

Thurs 19th October – 11.30 am to 1 pm – Southport Centre for Health & Wellbeing, PR9 0PQ.

Mon 23rd October – 7 to 8.30 pm – on zoom

For more information please contact us at:

[freshplusgroup@alderhey.nhs.uk](mailto:freshplusgroup@alderhey.nhs.uk)

or

<https://www.facebook.com/FreshPlusGroup>

## Money owed

BY MRS DELANEY

Please can you ensure that you make regular payments via the Arbor app for dinners, breakfast club and nursery fees. We have an increasing amount of parents who are failing to keep their children's accounts up to date. Please be respectful if staff contact you regarding your child's account.

## Holidays in Term time.

BY MRS DELANEY

Please be aware when deciding to take a family holiday in term time. You must complete an Exceptional Circumstances form and hand into to the office 10 days before the holiday is taken. Alternatively, forms can be sent to the dedicated email address:

[attendance@englishmartyrs.co.uk](mailto:attendance@englishmartyrs.co.uk)

Please do not send forms to the general admin or individual staff email. Thank you

## Parking

BY MRS DELANEY

Unfortunately, we have had more complaints from local residents about parking in the area. Some of the complaints received refer to damage to residents vehicles also. I must stress again to parents to please ensure you are parking legally, safely and respectfully at the start and end of the school day. Local residents are advised to contact the community police if they experience abusive or threatening language or behaviour.

# EM STARS

## Superstars!

Anaya recently entered a local art competition whereby you received a 'lucky dip' art pack containing a famous painting to reproduce. Anaya won the children's category with her take on the Keith Haring artwork in her pack.



Last weekend some of our girls took part in a tournament at Helens playing for Maghull Green. Playing against some very very good teams they managed to come away as tournament winners..an absolutely unbelievable achievement given the opposition they faced. Jessica (5a) scoring a free kick in both semi final and final Daisy scoring directly from a corner in the final. They are an absolute credit to the school.



If your child has any good news that they would like to share with school please get in touch. Pictures and a little bit of text can be sent to our dedicated newsletter email address.

**Any news, let us know:**  
[news@englishmartyrs.co.uk](mailto:news@englishmartyrs.co.uk)



## Star of the Week

**FRIDAY 6TH OCT**

Nursery All Day	Jack
Nursery AM	Elena
RA	Elsie
RB	Bobbi Ann
1A	Oscar
1B	Ethan
2A	Oliver
2B	Ellie
3A	Michael
3B	Kemi
4A	Lily
4B	Bobby
5A	Harry
5B	Alex
6A	Harry
6B	Olivia

## Star of the Week

**FRIDAY 13TH OCT**



Nursery All Day	Eliza
Nursery AM	Sophie
RA	Sophia
RB	Bobby
1A	Albie
1B	Fearne
2A	Sienna
2B	Maia
3A	Heidi
3B	Nathan
4A	Mason
4B	Joseph
5A	Alexis
5B	Halle
6A	Lacey Mae
6B	Scarlett



# Well done everyone!



# YEAR DATES 2023/24

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ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## AUTUMN TERM 2023

Mon 4th Sept	INSET (School closed for staff training)	
Tues 5th Sept	Term Begins	
Mon 23rd Oct	} Half Term	
Fri 27th Oct		
Mon 30th Oct	Term begins	Pupil Days - 72
Wed 20th Dec	Term ends - 2pm	Staff Days - 73

## SPRING TERM 2024

Thurs 4th Jan	Term begins	
Mon 12th Feb	} Half Term	
Fri 16th Feb		
Mon 19th Feb	Term begins	Pupil Days - 56
Thurs 28th Mar	Term ends - 2pm	Staff Days - 56

## SUMMER TERM 2024

Mon 15th April	Term begins	
Mon 6th May	Bank Holiday	
Mon 27th May	} Half term	
Fri 31st May		
Mon 3rd June	INSET (School closed for staff training)	
Tues 4th June	Term begins	
Thurs 18th July	Term ends - 2pm	
Fri 19th July	INSET (school closed for staff training)	
Mon 22nd July	INSET (school closed for staff training)	Pupil Days - 62
Tues 23rd July	INSET (school closed for staff training)	Staff Days - 66

*Total Pupil Days - 190*

*Total Staff Days - 195*

# USEFUL INFO

## **Sefton Women's & Childrens Aid**

**Contact number: 0151 922 8606**

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: 01722 580180**

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.