



MARTYRS NEWS

THROUGH CHRIST WE BELIEVE, INSPIRE, ACHIEVE.

NEWSLETTER OF ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2023 | NEWSLETTER 6



Dr Pete Hawkins presents to 14 STRAND Partnership schools at the launch of our School Council Project on "Social Signatures"

BY MR DINSDALE



Welcome to December! The weather has certainly been wintry this week, with temperatures plummeting below freezing most days! Year 5 have had a wonderful residential trip to CHET this week and returned to school safely. In school, we have continued to be very busy too, with plans being for our playground renovations and meetings being held with the School Council this week - see page 2 for more details! Eco-Council have been out and about within the community helping plant bulbs on Church Road too!

We welcomed 14 schools from South Sefton within our STRAND Partnership to attend the launch of the Social Signature challenge, led by Dr Pete Hawkins, founder of Windmills Foundation. He led the children in thinking about how they can think of others, within our community who may need help and company, and how we can use our skills and gifts to make this happen. The children had brilliant ideas and they will be doing lots more work around this project in the future.

In Star of the Week assembly today, I spoke to the children about our culture of behaviour. About how important it is to ensure that they maintain the high standards that they show in school at all times, even online. Mr Roach & the Digital Leaders are planning to share more information later this term around the topic of staying safe online, so please look out for this!

Be safe, be happy, have fun!

Attendance Matters

This week our Fab Friday Five winners are **Class 5A**. They will receive 5 mins extra playtime. Well Done! Our overall attendance winners for November are **Class 4B**



December Events:

Date:	Event:
Mon 4th Dec	Y6 Mass in church - 10am
Thu 7th Dec	Y3 End of Topic - 9am
Mon 11th Dec	Y5 End of Topic - 9am
Mon 11th Dec	Y4 Mass in church - 10am
Tue 12th Dec	Nursery Christmas Assembly - 9.15am
Wed 13th Dec	Christmas Jumper & Christmas Lunch
Wed 13th Dec	Reception Christmas Assembly - 9.30am
Wed 13th Dec	KS1 Santa Visit
Thu 14th Dec	Y1 Christmas Assembly - 9.30am
Thu 14th Dec	Y3/4 PTA Disco - 5pm
Thu 14th Dec	Y5/6 PTA Disco - 6.30pm
Fri 15th Dec	Y2 Christmas Assembly - 9.30am
Mon 18th Dec	Y5 Mass in church - 10am
Tue 19th Dec	KS2 Carol Service in church - 2pm
Wed 20th Dec	Mufti Day - finish at 2pm

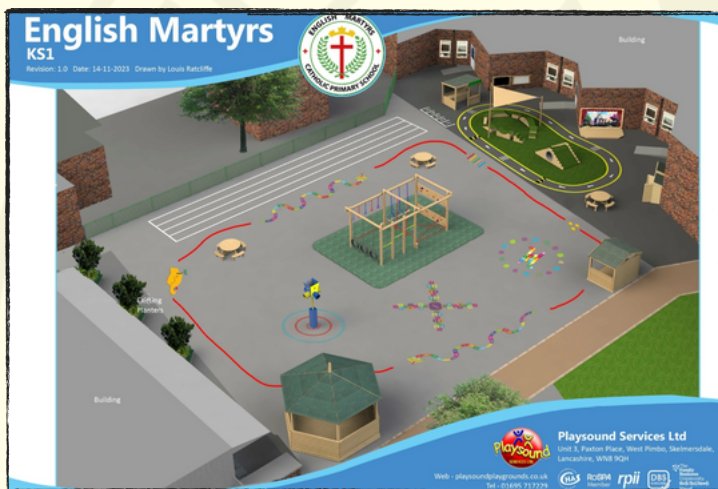




MARTYRS NEWS

Exciting Playground Renovations

We recently received some fantastic news that our school has been awarded £100,000 from the council funds related to the sale of St Wilf's land. The funding is to be used to renovate and develop our outdoor and playground space. We have invited 2 companies to draw up plans and quote for this project and our School Councillors have met with one this week to discuss the suggested plans. This afternoon Mr Dinsdale met with all the School Councillors to vote on the company which has produced the better plans and utilised the funding to its maximum. The children were very excited about the plans submitted by Playsound Services Ltd. The School Councillors will continue to work with the appointed company to finalise the plans based on ideas from all our pupils. It is hoped that the works will take place over the next couple of months and be completed before the end of the summer holidays at the latest.



Woodwork Mastercraft

MRS DINSDALE

One of our talented parents has designed and created a personalised giant planter. The gardening club will take charge in planting lots of flowers in it after Christmas when the weather is warmer. We are also hoping to encourage some wildlife to the area with the attached feeding brackets. Thank you so much Mr Whitehouse-Strudwick!



Eco-School Council

BY MISS TIERNEY

Our School Councillors recently helped plant bulbs in the planters on Church Road with Cllr Paulette Lapin. Look out for the daffodils in the Spring time!





MARTYRS NEWS

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 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 8th December - Year 5

Friday 9th February - Year /6

3 Word Book Review

BY GRACE YR 5

Title The Danger gang

Author: Tom Fletcher

**"PAGE-TURNER,
HILARIOUS,
INTRIGUING"**



Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day

MRS DELANEY

Children in Reception to Year 6 will have the option of enjoying a Christmas Lunch in school on **Wednesday 13th December**. Teachers will ask children during registration on Monday 4th December if they would like to receive the Christmas lunch. Please can you talk to your child about this and ensure they are prepared to reserve their meal with teacher on Monday. Please note that due to the increased number of children due to take a school meal on this day there will be no other meal option available. The cost of the meal is £2.42 and this can be paid via the Arbor app or cash to the main school office.

Children who do not want a Christmas lunch should bring a packed lunch. All children will be invited to dine in the hall and enjoy the Christmas festivities.

All children are welcome to attend school wearing a Christmas Jumper over their uniform.

Absences

MRS MCGLYNN

If your child is going to be off for any reason please ensure that you contact school each day before 9am. You can leave a message on our answer machine or send a message via the Arbor app. Please note the registers close at 9.30am and children arriving late after this time will receive an 'unauthorised' mark.

World Gifts Advent

BY MRS MCINTYRE

During Advent we turn our attention to our neighbours around the world. Each year we support [CAFOD's World Gifts Campaign](#). We are inviting each class in school to fundraise to buy the gift of a goat. Each goat costs £28. So from Monday we are asking children to bring 50pence to contribute to our goat totalisers in class! Why goats? Read more in the case study below!

Case study: Goats bringing hope in Bangladesh

"I believe that one day I will be free from suffering." Rubina, Bangladesh

Rubina is 38 years old and lives with her husband and daughter in Bangladesh. Her husband is disabled and unable to work. Rubina's family rely solely on her income. In the past, they had no land to grow food on and Rubina was forced to beg for money to buy food. Thanks to support from CAFOD, Rubina and her family have received a nanny goat, goat feed, and training on how to care for their goat. With baby goats on the way, Rubina should have plenty of goats to keep or sell as she chooses. In addition, she can sell any excess milk at the local market to help provide a steady income.

Goats are the perfect livestock for many families living in rural areas. They are relatively easy to look after and can provide up to 12 pints of nutritious milk a week. As Rubina has discovered, they also breed quickly. As well as her goats, Rubina is expecting to be granted access to some nearby land to grow vegetables on.





MARTYRS NEWS

Good News from Home!

BY MRS MCGLYNN

Our Reading Champions received 100 golden tickets recently. They had the important task of choosing children throughout the school to receive one of these vouchers which entitled the recipient to choose a free book from a local bookshop. Ellie from Yr2B was absolutely delighted taking her GOLDEN TICKET to Kingsleys book shop. She chose Mermaid School By Lucy Courtenay. We are hoping that Ellie can produce a book review for Miss Gray and the Reading Champions.



Well Done to all the children who visited Mr Dinsdale this week to share their good news.



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

Wednesday Word

BY MRS MCINTYRE

The Wednesday Word is a gift to families because of their connection with a Catholic school.

Wednesday Word Family Time presents an opportunity for even the busiest of parents to enrich relationships with their children through spending a very special 10 minutes together each week.

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/prayer?pid=MTA101634&v=111.2>



Staying Safe Online:

BY MR DINSDALE

Keeping your children safe online is not an easy task and requires effort on your part in order for safety to be maintained. We have gathered a number of brilliant guides below. Please use them to help you navigate the difficult waters of online safety as a parent.

Internet Matters:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/esafety-leaflets-resources/>

It has a lot of good advice on adding parental controls as well as on most aspects of online safety. Parental controls will only help keep children safe. The best safety feature that a child has is their parent or carer. Take the time to talk to your child about the apps and games they are using and don't be afraid to say no sometimes!

NSPCC Online Safety:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

The range of online apps changes on a regular basis and the NSPCC have a site called **Net Aware**. This provides unbiased up-to-date information on current apps and sites along with advice to parents about dealing with issues. The NSPCC have teamed up with O2 to provide advice to parents and have a free helpline on **0808 800 5002**. They will also give support in any O2 shop – you do not have to be an O2 customer.

ThinkUKnow:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/>

ThinkUKnow is the website aimed at children and their parents from the National Crime Agency. It has lots of useful suggestions and advice on how to report issues. It also has lots of games and activities including Jessie and Friends for the younger children and Band Runner for the older ones.

Many children will at times suffer from online bullying. It is really important that they have someone they can talk to and know that it is not acceptable. Most apps and sites will have systems in place that allow bullying to be reported. Please raise a concern within school if this is the case.



EM STARS

★ Star of the Week FRIDAY 24TH NOV

★ Star of the Week FRIDAY 1ST DEC



Nursery All Day
Nursery AM
RA
RB
1A
1B
2A
2B
3A
3B
4A
4B
5A
5B
6A
6B

Jessica
Albie
Ethan
Jacob
Jessica
Sonny
Samuel
Joshua
Aiden
Patrick
Iris
Georgie
Jack
Toby
Amelia
Theo

Nursery All Day
Nursery AM
RA
RB
1A
1B
2A
2B
3A
3B
4A
4B
5A
5B
6A
6B

Poppi
Molly
Mila
james
Albie
george
Darcie
Emily
Joshua
Isabella
Harry
Erin
Franky
Daisy
Cadence
Amelia

Golden Pen Winners

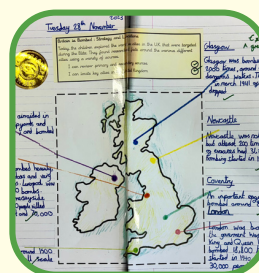
Key Stage 1

BRODIE 1A



Key Stage 2

LEXI 6B



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.