



MARTYRS NEWS

THROUGH CHRIST WE BELIEVE, INSPIRE, ACHIEVE.

NEWSLETTER OF ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2023 | NEWSLETTER 7



Year 1 children gave a magnificent performance in their Nativity this week, reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas.

BY MR DINSDALE



It's been a very festive week all round! We've held all of our Christmas assemblies, worn our Christmas jumpers, had a visit from Father Christmas and held our Christmas discos for Y3/4 and Y5/6! So much of what we have done is thanks to the hard work and dedication of our fabulous PTA - we are so blessed to have families who give their time to help raise much needed additional funds for our children.

We are also grateful to you all for supporting the work of Lynne Higgins at Seaforth Community Pantry - she has had more requests for help than ever this year from families in need in our community. If you are struggling, please come in and speak to a member of staff and we can look at ways we can help or support you or advise you of places of further support.

Finally, I wish you all a peaceful and relaxing Christmas with your families and friends.

L. Dinsdale
Headteacher



Be safe, be happy, have fun!

Attendance Matters

This week our **Fab Friday Five** winners are **Class 6A**. They will receive 5 mins extra playtime. Well Done! Next week, those children who have managed to have 98%+ attendance will be awarded a Star Attendance certificate for this term.



Absences:

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.

December Events:

Date:	Event:
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
Sun 24th Dec	Christmas Eve Mass 10.30am & 6.00pm
Mon 25th Dec	Christmas Day Mass 10.30am
Thur 4th Jan	RETURN TO SCHOOL





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Christmas Assemblies

It has been wonderful welcoming so many family members to join our children in sharing the Christmas message this week through their Christmas Assemblies! some of the highlights below!



We are so proud of all the children and how well they joined in with the songs and actions. They reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas brilliantly. Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

A very special thanks to:

We were blessed to have a special visit from Father Christmas this week, taking time out of his busy schedule to meet the children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 & Year 2. Special thanks to his Elf helpers from the PTA, for making it run as smoothly as Santa's workshop!



A massive thank-you to Val and the kitchen staff for making our Christmas dinner day a very special one too!



MARTYRS NEWS

Year 1

BY MRS SOTHERN & MRS BLACKLEDGE

As part of their Maths work on shape Year One had lots of fun making repeating patterns. They used pegs and boards, beads and strings as well as a variety of 2D and 3D shapes. Daisy said "I used cubes and spheres to make my bead string."



Year 2 Song Club

BY MRS MCINTYRE

The children in Year 2 song club enjoyed sharing some of the Christmas songs we have been learning with our parents at the end of our our final song club. Thank you children for your fabulous singing. Watch out Mr Dinsdale and Mr Kiggins, we have some fantastic singers who are almost ready for KS2 choir!



Year 5

BY MISS GRAY & MR BUCKTON

Last week, Year Five spent time enjoying an 'afternoon tea' and reading their favourite books. The children also spent time talking to each other about their book choice and their favourite authors. Keep reading and enjoying books, Year Five!



Yoga Sessions

BY MRS NAISBETT

Over the last half term, the children in years 3, 4 and 5 have been exploring the power of language and the importance of noticing how we talk to ourselves. The children have been discussing how our inner voice can sometimes be unhelpful or even mean, particularly when we make mistakes or find something difficult. We have been learning how we can cultivate a kinder, more supportive voice which can be like having our own inner cheerleader or coach. Grace in year 4 said, "Doing finger tapping and saying to myself may I feel loved is my favourite practice because it makes me feel calm and happy." The children have been creating positive affirmations in sequences and made decorations with their favourite affirmations on. Mia in year 5 said, "The sequences with the positive affirmations have been my favourite because I am telling myself I am strong and I am loved and it makes my heart happier. I do them at home now and I have shown my family how to do them." The children made an emotions chatterbox to play with their friends with mindfulness practices they have found supportive to help them deal with different emotions. Joanne in year 4 said, "I liked making the chatterboxes and I use it every night before I go to bed. It's been helping me feel focused and calm." The children have also been learning about different parts of the brain and how it can affect how we behave and feel. Paige in year 5 said, "Learning about how my brain works has helped me to deal with friendships and feelings better." Callum in year 4 said, "Learning about my guard dog brain has helped me when I feel angry."





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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 9th February - Year 6

3 Word Book Review

BY MIA-ROSE YR 5

Title: Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets.

Author: JK Rowling

**"MYSTERIOUS,
MYTHICAL,
INTRIGUING"**



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.

Gardening Club

BY MISS TIERNEY



Thank you gardening club for all your effort this half term. You have planted so many spring bulbs and made some beautiful creations.

Gardening club will be opened up to Year 4 next half term.

Children's University Winter Challenge

BY MISS DRINKALL



As always students can choose to do one or more of the challenges and they send us an email with the evidence stating their name and school and we will add the credits our end.

We have also designed some certificates for students who has participated in the holiday challenges which we will send after Christmas with the list of students who have taken part.

Keeping Safe at School

MRS MCGLYNN

A note to ALL parents. Please do NOT use the side gate leading to the staff car park unless you have an arrangement with Mr Dinsdale.

It is NOT safe for your children to play or climb on the English Martyrs stone set into the grass - it is extremely slippery when damp and can cause an injury, thanks.



Gifts that make a difference



MARTYRS NEWS

Good News from Home!

BY MRS MCGLYNN



Issabelle in Y4 was inspired to write a poem about peace not war and has been successful in getting it published! Well done for your brilliant writing and poetry!



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

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/hope?pid=MTA101634&v=113.2>

Blessings and best wishes,
The Wednesday Word Trust
www.wednesdayword.org



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 8TH DEC

Nursery All Day	Lucas
Nursery AM	Darcey
RA	Jack
RB	Leo
1A	Jude
1B	Daisy
2A	Mila
2B	Scarlett
3A	Erysse
3B	Frieda
4A	Freddie
4B	Anaya
5A	Finn
5B	Sonny
6A	Karter
6B	Rhys

Star of the Week
FRIDAY 15TH DEC



Nursery All Day	Rosie
Nursery AM	Benjamin
RA	Annabelle
RB	Penny
1A	Nevaeh
1B	Daisy
2A	Kelise
2B	Ethan
3A	Jack
3B	Arlo
4A	Olivia
4B	Alise
5A	Sonny
5B	Jack
6A	Kael
6B	Leila

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.