



# MARTYRS NEWS

Through Christ we believe, inspire, achieve.

Newsletter of English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

Friday 7th February 2025 - Newsletter 10



Nursery boys on the buddy bench



By Mr Dinsdale

We are rapidly approaching the end of the first half Spring term!

Next week, we have **Safer Internet Day** on **Tuesday 11th February** led by our **Digital Leaders** and Mr Roach. It is also our Open Evenings for all parents - please make sure you take the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher.

Friday is a special day as it is a mufti day with the addition of **Break the Rules** as set out by the PTA. Further details to follow.

KS2 classes will also be having a Quidditch Event Day on **Friday 14th February** too, so lots going on!

Finally, over half-term the PTA are launching the **2025 Challenge** - see page 4 for more information.

## School Absences due to Illness:

If your child is absent due to ill health. **Please leave a message or call the school office by 9.00am each day of your child's absence.** We also ask that you give a clear reason for their absence i.e vomiting or tummy pains etc. Please do not report them as 'unwell'.



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

## Attendance Matters!

Our whole school attendance stands at **94.9%** and our target this year is **95%+**. **Let's keep this going!**

## Attendance Rewards

*Every minute that your child is in school counts.*

This term we will be continuing to track children who have achieved 98%+ attendance. Children will receive a silver certificate and a prize at the end of Spring term!

★ ★ ★ ★	<b>January Class Attendance Winners!</b>	<b>3A &amp; 6B</b> <b>95.3%</b>	★ ★ ★ ★
------------------	--	------------------------------------	------------------

## Fabulous FRIDAY FIVE

### Week 16:

1st - 3A - 98.0%

2nd - 4A - 97.3%

3rd - 1A - 96.7%

### Week 17:

1st - 3A - 97.3%

2nd - 5A & 4A - 95.7%

3rd - 2A - 95.3%

## Events:

Date:	Time:	Event:
Tue 11th Feb	9.00am	Nur/Rec End of Topic Rec parents invited
Wed 12th Feb	9.00am	Yr1/2 End of Topic Yr 1 parents invited
Wed 12th Feb	6&6.45pm	Y4 Holy Communion Mtgs
Wed 12th Feb	Early	Parent Open Evening
Thu 13th Feb	9.00am	Y3/4 End of Topic Yr 3 parents invited.
Thu 13th Feb	Late	Parent Open Evening
Fri 14th Feb		Make the Rules Day - Own clothes
Fri 14th Feb	3.15pm	School Finishes at 3.15PM!

**Half term Mon 17th - Fri 21st Feb**

# MARTYRS NEWS

## Nursery

By Mrs McIntyre & Mrs Garvey

The children in nursery are learning about our five senses and how we use these to explore the world around us. We talked about how we used our different senses to make delicious banana muffins. We also made bird feeds for our outdoor area and have been using our sense of sight and hearing to watch and listen out for the birds.



## Reception

by Mrs Morris & Mrs McMeakin

As part of our maths work this week, the children have been finding and making pairs! The children have been recognising that a pair is two.



Our dream cave has turned into a friendship card making station! The children are creating their own friendship cards to give to their friends, it is a great way to show our care and love for one another. The children are using name cards to support their writing of their friend's names.

## Year 1

by Mrs Halsall & Mrs Blackledge

We listened to the story about Jesus blessing the little children. We talked about why we are special to our families, friends and community.



## Year 2

by Mrs Sothern & Miss Drinkall

The children in Lego and K'nex club are becoming more creative each week. We've had so many different designs and the children have been working brilliantly together. Today some of the children chose to make marble runs using the Lego baseboards.



# MARTYRS NEWS

## Year 3

by Mrs Dooley & Mr Roach

This week we worked on our vaulting. It was so much fun.



## Year 4

by Miss Tierney & Miss May

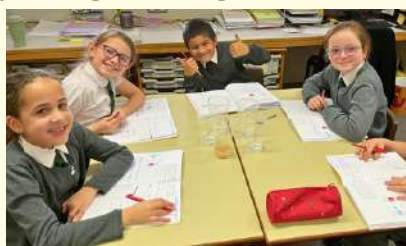
This week Year 4 have been putting the final touches to their count down calendar as part of their Design Technology unit on mechanisms.



## Year 5

by Mr Buckton & Miss Gray

Last week explored 'The Hand Jive', a popular dance in the rock 'n' roll genre. We broke the dance down into its different moves before putting it all together as a class.



We also investigated soluble and insoluble materials. We worked in small groups and observed what happened when the material was added to the water. We then discussed ways that we could speed up the process.



## Year 6

by Mr Lacey-Kiggins & Mrs Goulbourne

Well done to our Year 6 children who took part in the South Sefton Sporthall Athletics today. They all gave 100% effort in the different track and field events, showing positive attitudes and encouraging one another.



## Be a writer competition

We will be accepting entries into our 'Be a Writer' competition from **Monday 10th February until Monday 10th March**. The theme is 'Spring' and can be interpreted as a verb or noun! Please give any paper entries to Miss Tierney. Good luck everyone!

## Class Blogs

Have a look at what we have been doing in class. Don't forget to check out our class blogs on the school website.

[www.englishmartyrs.co.uk](http://www.englishmartyrs.co.uk)



# MARTYRS NEWS

## Ultimate Kids - Half Term Clubs.

Ultimate Kids are running various half term clubs. Please visit their website for further details.

<https://ultimatekidsltd.co.uk/camps/>



## Holiday Requests

by Mrs McGlynn

As previously communicated we are unable to authorise any holidays during term time. We encourage parents to take holidays when school is closed. However, if you are intending taking your child out of school for this reason then we ask that you complete the relevant form at **least 10 days prior** to the holiday. Forms are available on the school website or from the school office. Please remember that children are very honest in school about their absences and we may contact you if we believe you have been on holiday.

## Girls Football Team.

by Mr Roach

The girls played in the Premier League finals at LFC Academy this week. They were amazing ambassadors for our school. There were some incredible goals and outstanding teamwork. Although beaten 1-0 in the final we will be attending another final in March with a chance to progress to the National finals at a premiership ground. Well done girls. We are all very proud of you. The new kit looks great.



## Wednesdays Word.

by Mrs McIntyre

Please see the link for this week's Wednesday Word below.

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/wednesday-word/good-news?pid=MTA101634&v=163.4>



## Challenge 2025

The PTA are running the Challenge sponsored event again this year. This fundraising event is challenging children to raise **£20.25** by taking part in an event of their choice, this could be baking, reading, dancing, football etc. **All children have taken home sponsor forms earlier this week.** It would be great if all children could join in and raise as much as they can, even if they do not reach the **£20.25** target.

## Join the PTA

We are always looking for new members. No matter how big or small your commitment could be, please think about joining us for another exciting year starting in September.

**Thank You! Contact Information: Email: [pta@englishmartyrs.co.uk](mailto:pta@englishmartyrs.co.uk) for further information.**



# MARTYRS NEWS

## Mental Health Week

by Mrs Bowden



“Know Yourself, Grow Yourself” is this year’s focus and is all about how we can build and grow our resilience by understanding ourselves and recognising our emotions. By understanding who we are, we can find out what makes us feel happy, or sad, or anxious, or scared - or maybe all of them at once!

As a school we are committed to supporting the emotional health and wellbeing of all pupils. We work closely with Sefton’s Mental Health Support Team and encourage our pupils to talk freely about their emotions. This week all year groups have been exploring the theme “Know Yourself, Grow Yourself” as part of our ongoing commitment to helping children develop their understanding of themselves.

Encouraging and guiding a child to think about their own mental health and wellbeing are vital skills you can teach them from a young age. Talking to your child about how they’re feeling can be tough, especially if you’re concerned that they’re having a hard time. You might not know what to say, or feel worried about how your child will react.

It doesn’t matter what topic the conversation starts with – it’s about the opportunity it gives you to talk about feelings and provide comfort. Whilst the activity is underway, what’s the best way to encourage your child to open up?

Please have a look at the attached flyer from Young Minds that provides some conversation starters.

### Conversation Starters

## How we celebrate Mental Health Week



In reception we do a lot of mindful breathing and mindful looking. The children practice several times a day, usually at transition times to settle themselves and get ready for learning. We are also doing Yoga/mindful movement once a week with Active Sefton.



For mental health week Y2 completed the I can and I would like to learn activity. They wrote their strengths and what they would like to be better at and hung them on our tree.



This week Year 4 have added more movement breaks into our day to improve our mental health and reduce the impact of sedentary lifestyle. We are also giving the children the responsibility of taking care of their own table plant.



# MARTYRS NEWS

## Sustrans Competition

by Miss Tierney

As part of our work with Sustrans, we are launching a new poster competition where you could win the chance to have your poster enlarged onto canvas by Sefton Council to help slow down drivers around our school. **Are you great at art?** Can you persuade drivers to slow down for the safety of us all? Send your completed designs to Miss Tierney by the **5th March** to enter. We have included some inspiring examples .



## Big Walk and Wheel to School

We have some exciting news for you! We are taking part in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel, the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting challenge. The challenge runs from **24 March- 4 April 2025**. It's free to take part and we would love everyone to be involved.

### What do you need to do?

Encourage your child(ren) to walk, use a wheelchair, scoot or cycle to school on as many days as possible during the event.

### Including everyone

We want to make sure that everyone can get involved in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel. We know it may be more difficult for some pupils to take part than others. If you want to discuss more about your child(ren)'s specific needs, please contact [insert name] and we will make sure to look into how your child(ren) can take part.

### Why we are taking part

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is a great way to build physical activity in children's daily routine which is important for their physical health and mental wellbeing.

Active school runs also help to reduce congestion and air pollution outside the school gate. [A 2021 YouGov study](#) showed nearly half of UK children worry about air pollution near their school. And that children thought active travel was the best way to bring down these pollution levels. Plus, there are some great prizes to be won every day if we get enough children taking part!

For more information about the event go to [www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk](http://www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk) . Enjoy the challenge!



# MARTYRS NEWS

## EM Stars

Well done to all the children who visited Mr Dinsdale with amazing work and good news.



Good NEWS!

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

# MARTYRS NEWS

## Stars of the Week!

### Friday 31st Jan 2025

Nursery All Day	Mavie
Nursery AM	Joseph
RA	Frankie
RB	Lucas
1A	Bobby
1B	Shay
2A	Brodie
2B	Caleb
3A	Tallulah
3B	Elizabeth
4A	Jax
4B	George
5A	Nancy
5B	Jacob
6A	Paige
6B	Jude

### Friday 7th Feb 2025

Nursery All Day	Teodor
Nursery AM	Theo
RA	Isabelle
RB	Rosie
1A	Tommy
1B	Nancy
2A	Lewis
2B	Lavanah
3A	Logan
3B	Adam
4A	Elsie
4B	Arlo
5A	Mason
5B	Harriet
6A	Luna
6B	Bruno





# Year Dates 2024/25

*Through Christ we believe, inspire, achieve.*

English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

## Autumn Term 2024

Mon 2nd Sept	INSET (School closed for staff training)	
Tue 3rd Sept	INSET (School closed for staff training)	
Wed 4th Sept	Term Begins	
Mon 28th Oct	} Half Term	Pupil Days - 73
Fri 1st Nov		
Mon 4th Nov	Term begins	Staff Days - 75
Fri 20th Dec	Term ends - 2pm	

## Spring Term 2025

Mon 6th Jan	Term begins	
Mon 17th Feb	} Half Term	Pupil Days - 60
Fri 21st Feb		
Mon 24th Feb	Term begins	Staff Days - 60
Fri 4th Apr	Term ends - 2pm	

## Summer Term 2025

Tue 22nd April	Term begins	
Mon 5th May	Bank Holiday	
Mon 26th May	} Half term	Pupil Days - 57
Fri 30th May		
Mon 2nd June	INSET (School closed for staff training)	Staff Days - 60
Tues 3rd June	Term begins	
Fri 18th July	Term ends - 2pm	
Mon 21st July	INSET (school closed for staff training)	
Tue 22nd July	INSET (school closed for staff training)	

**Total Pupil Days - 190**

**Total Staff Days - 195**

# 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](mailto:fun4kidzclubs@hotmail.com)

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



## LYCC - After School Club:

**Contact number: 0151 286 5331**

LYCC operates off site and offers a complete collection and drop-off service via walking bus from **3.15pm to 5.45pm** daily Monday to Friday.

LYCC works with our older pupils from Year 3 to Year 6 due to the nature of their setting and staffing.

Fee payments for sessions and payment plans will be arranged on an individual basis with Parents / Guardians. However, session costs are non-refundable if the child doesn't attend.

Children can be collected from any time before **5.45pm**.

Email: [office.lycc@yahoo.com](mailto:office.lycc@yahoo.com)

**Litherland Youth & Community Centre, 41 Sefton Road, Litherland, L219HD.**

## 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>



# 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.