



# MARTYRS NEWS

THROUGH CHRIST WE BELIEVE, INSPIRE, ACHIEVE.

NEWSLETTER OF ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

FRIDAY 12TH JANUARY 2024 - NEWSLETTER 8



The first EVER Triple Headteacher Award to Paddy in 3B for AMAZING improvements in Reading!



BY MR DINSDALE

Happy New Year everyone!

The children have settled back into school so well this term and I am very proud of them all. In our assembly today I spoke about how God guides us always - I had brilliant volunteers who let me lead them around the hall with their eyes closed to demonstrate the need for trust and faith in those that are guiding you, just as we do with God.

### Big Projects for 2024:

We have a date for the first phase of the Library works to be completed during the Easter break, which will make the space feel far more like it's own room. Much work to be done this term with the Reading Champions on how we want the space to look and be used in the future!

Playground project is booked in now and I am very excited to see this work being completed during the February half-term and completed the week or so after we return.

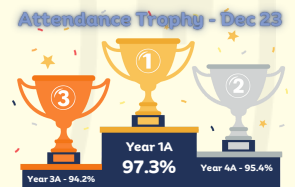
Finally, I told the children in assembly that we are working on only 1 boiler in school now, meaning that we have had to draw up a contingency plan for failure of our last boiler. Thankfully, a temporary solution has been found and is being installed swiftly within the next week.

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

L. Dinsdale  
Headteacher

## Attendance Matters

This week our **Fab Friday Five** winners are **Class 5B & 1B**. They will receive 5 mins extra playtime. Well Done! Next week, those children who have managed to have Our Attendance Stars for this term resets, so it's a fresh chance for the children to get a Star Attender certificate in March!



### 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.

## January Events:

Date:

Event:

22nd January	Yr 6 End of Topic Assembly 9am
24th January	Yr 2 End of Topic Assembly 9am
25th January	Yr 4 End of Topic Assembly 9am
26th January	Yr3 Come & Read 2.30pm
2nd February	Yr4 Come & Read 2.30pm
5-9th February	Open Week (details to follow)
9th February	Mufti day
	Family Bingo
	School finishes at 3.00pm

# MARTYRS NEWS

## Nursery

BY MRS HALSALL & MRS GARVEY

We have had so much fun in Nursery this week with the icy weather. We talked about how to make ice and made our very own ice sculptures. We have been exploring the ice in our water tray and outdoors.



In Nursery we have been reading about the Epiphany and remembering how the Wise Men visited baby Jesus. The children were able to retell the Christmas story using our class nativity including the gifts that the Wise Men gave to Jesus.



## Year 4

BY MRS GOULBOURNE & MRS DOOLEY

In Year Four we started our work on volcanoes by learning about the different layers of the Earth.

To help us understand we made models of the earth using Playdoh. We started with the inner core as a ball and used different colours around this. When our model was complete we used dental floss to slice the earth in half. This is exactly what we would find if we dug through the earth - not playdoh molten and solid rock of course!

'I learnt that the inner core is the hottest part of the Earth.' Grace

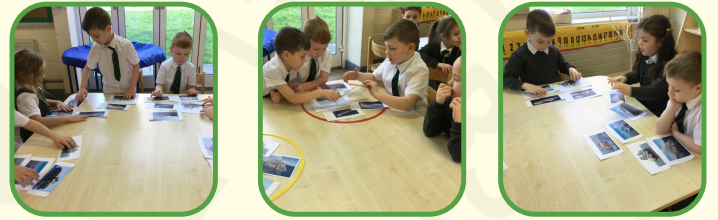
'The crust is the thinnest part of the Earth' Issabelle



## Year 1

BY MRS BLACKLEDGE & MRS SOTHERN

As part of our History topic on Transport Year One began sorting a variety of ships. They sorted them by size, shape, colour and age. Charlotte said "I have put all the old ships together and all the new ships together."



## Reading Champions

BY MISS GRAY

Some of our 'Reading Champions' have been busy sorting books this week. They had great fun deciding which year group to send each book to. We hope 2024 is filled with so much lovely reading both in school at at home. The children said that it is so important to read at home because reading helps you with every subject in school and is a great way to relax after a hard day. Happy reading!



## Netherton Library

BY MRS DELANEY

Please see below for a list of activities taking place at Netherton Library during february half term:

### Family Quiz

Monday 12th February at 2.30pm

### Crafts

Thursday 15th February at 2.30pm

### Boardgames

Friday 16th February 10.00am to 4.00pm

For further details and to see what other activities are available, please visit their website:

<https://atthelibrary.co.uk/locations/netherton-library/>

# 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 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 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**

## The Big Ambition Survey

BY MRS HALSALL

**What should the Government do to make children's lives better?**

Dame Rachel de Souza, Children's Commissioner in England, needs to hear from children (aged 0-18 years) and their parents/carers, so that she can make a difference. Please encourage families to take part in

[The Big Ambition survey](#).

It's very short and easy to complete. As we approach the next General Election, we need to make sure that those in power are putting children's voices and needs at the heart of policy.

Please spread the word to all the families you know and work with. The survey closes in 10 days on Friday 19th January. More responses are especially needed from the parents and carers of children aged 0-5 years.

Thank you for doing your bit to ensure children's voices are heard. Kind regards, Catherine Barker  
Head of Development, Family Hubs Network

## 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.

Also, It is NOT safe for children to play or climb on the English Martyrs stone set into the grass, outside the main office. It is extremely slippery when damp and can cause an injury.

## ADDvanced Solutions

BY MRS WALSH



Please click on the link below to view this half term's newsletter from ADDvanced Solutions outlining webinars and courses on offer to support parents/carers of children with additional needs.

<https://www.advancedsolutions.co.uk/uploads/media/files/newsletters-sefton/SEFTON%20Whats%20On%20Newsletter%20Spring%202024.pdf>

## 3 Word Book Review

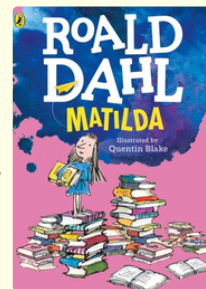
BY HEIDI YR 4

Title: Matilda

Author: Roald Dahl

"INTERESTING, SAD AT THE  
BEGINNING, HAPPY AT THE END"

INTERESTING!  
SAD!  
HAPPY!



## Holiday Requests

MRS MCGLYNN

When taking a holiday during term time please ensure a n Exceptional Circumstances Form is completed at least 10 days before the holiday is taken. The forms can be obtained from the school office or on the school website.

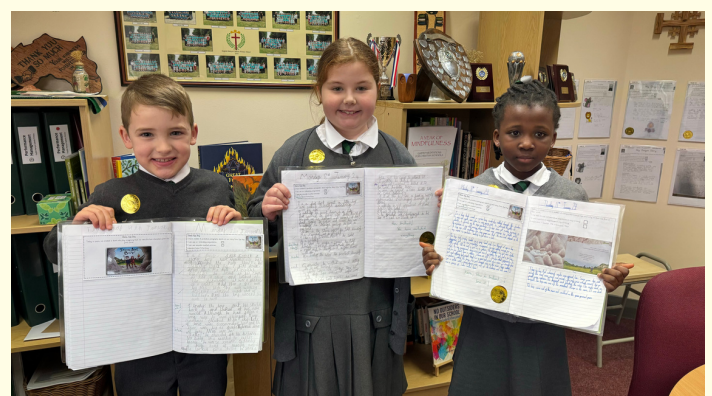
<https://www.englishmartyrs.co.uk/attendance/>



# MARTYRS NEWS

Good News from Home & School!

BY MRS MCGLYNN



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

# MARTYRS NEWS



## Eco Tip

BY MISS TIERNEY

In the cold winter months you may not be out in the garden very much, however, a way you can provide a home for hibernating insects in your garden is to make a log pile. Pile up logs and sticks in a sheltered spot to allow insects to hide there. You will see the benefits of this in the summer as it should increase the number of ladybirds, butterflies and other creatures in your garden.

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## 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 Term**  
FRIDAY 20TH DEC

**Star of the Week** ★  
FRIDAY 12TH JAN

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

Jacob  
Thilksha  
Ethan  
Rocco  
Ayda  
Lillie  
Tallulah  
Adam  
Harrison  
Patrick  
Mason  
Marnie  
Jacob  
Maisie  
Tom  
George

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

Grace  
Gabriel  
Shay  
Teddy  
Frankie  
jacob  
Logan  
Jade  
Daisie  
Oskar  
Lily  
Liam  
Jessica  
Toby  
Oliver  
Scarlett

## Golden Pen Winners

### Key Stage 1

Lola from Y2



### Key Stage 2

Benjamin  
from Y3





# 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.