



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Head teacher:- Mrs Louise O'Mahony

*At St. Mary's we live and learn,
sharing God's love*

13th March 2020



Covid 19 (Coronavirus)

We have taken several telephone calls, this week, asking what we are doing about Coronavirus. We absolutely understand the concern that is being felt about the virus and the impact it is having. So, I would just like to reassure you that we are continuing to follow the advice being given by Public Health England, which is updated daily. We are encouraging good hand hygiene and have put up posters around school, to remind the children and adults of the importance of this. As you will more than likely have heard, the Government are **not** closing schools at the moment. This may happen in the future, but it is not part of the current action plan.

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 and should you have any concerns, you can contact this helpline as follows:

phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday) For the latest information regarding COVID-19 please access <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Parent Consultations

We are holding the Spring term consultations on Monday 30th March from 1pm until 6pm. Appointment letters are being sent out today.

SATs meetings for parents

We would like to invite parents of children in year 2 and year 6 to an information meeting regarding the upcoming SATs assessments that the children will be taking. We will be explaining what the children will be expected to do and how you, as parents, can best help your child to be prepared for the tests.

For parents of children in year 6, the meeting will take place on Tuesday 24th March at 3:15pm in Mrs Pinson's classroom.

For parents of children in year 2, the meeting will take place on Thursday 26th March at 3:15pm in Mrs Adlington's classroom.

Please wait outside the external door of the classroom to be let in by the teacher. Thank you.

Easter production

The lower junior department (years 3 and 4) would like to invite you to watch their Easter play, called 'Resurrection Rock'. They are putting on two performances, both on the 2nd April, one at 9:30am and again at 6pm. I do hope you are able to come along and enjoy the play, which will serve as a reminder to us all of the true meaning of Easter.

Lenten activities

Thank you so much to all of you who have participated in our Lenten activities over the last three Fridays. I was sorry to hear that there may have been a little confusion between some parents as to what the money is being collected for. The children are aware that the Marys' Missionaries group and the Faith in Action group chose the two charities that we would support this year – they are CAFOD, who support people in need throughout the world, and St. Catherine's Hospice, which, of course supports people who are terminally ill and their families.

I am sure you will agree they are both very worthy causes and an excellent choice for the monies collected to be donated to.

The remaining activities are :

Friday 20th – decorate an egg competition

Friday 27th – Easter bonnet

Friday 3rd April – Easter egg raffle – tickets 50p

World Book Day...

...was, as always, fantastic! Thank you so much for the effort put into the costumes! The children looked amazing and a great day was had by all.

Rock and River

A further installment is now due – please send £25 in to the office next week to ensure your payments are up to date. Thank you.

Punctuality

We have recently noticed an increase in the number of children who are arriving late for school and, also, parents who are late collecting children from school at the end of the day. May I politely remind you that the school day officially starts at **8:50am** and ends at **3:10pm**. I would appreciate it if these times are respected and children are dropped off and picked up on time.

Attendance

Anything less than 100% attendance means that your child is missing out on their education.

- **Ten whole days of school has been missed if your child has 95% attendance.**
- **Twenty whole days of school has been missed if a pupil's attendance is 90%.**
- **By the time a pupil is persistently absent (85% attendance) they have missed 6 weeks or half a term of schooling**

Research shows that pupils who attend school regularly are more likely to do well in the future. Regular attendance helps children to develop their confidence and to make and keep lasting friendships. Please try and ensure that your child is in school all day every day as this is the best way to ensure that they reach their full potential.

Car park

Over the last few weeks, I have, yet again, seen people driving onto and off the staff car park at high speed. I am very concerned that there is going to be an accident as the car park often has adults and children walking across it. Please remember that between the hours of **8am and 5pm**, this car park is for **staff use only**.

Reading at home

Please remember to continue reading with your child/ren. It is amazing how much regularly reading at home can impact on a child's fluency, confidence and ability in reading.

Clubs this term

Choir – every Monday after school

Zumba – every Thursday after school

Netball for KS2 lead by South Ribble sports coaches – starting Tuesday 25th Feb

Lost Property

We are overrun with lost property. If you or your child has misplaced anything, please see Mrs Kay in the office.

We also have a huge collection of preloved school jumpers which have been donated to school. If your child needs a jumper, please consider this option and, again, see Mrs Kay.

Sacramental Programme

The children on the Sacramental Programme are invited to join the congregation at the 10am Mass this Sunday.

The next meeting for the children is on Monday 16th at 6:30pm. There are only a few sessions left now for us to prepare for the big day on 7th June, so please do try and attend all of the remaining meetings.

Easter holidays

As things stand, school will close for Easter on Friday 3rd April at 3:10pm. If the situation changes, due to Government advice, I will give you as much notice as possible.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs O'Mahony