



## St Mary and St Andrew's Newsletter - February 2026

*Guide us O God to be the best we can be: in every thought, in every word and every deed.*

### **Catholic Life:**

Jays celebrated their class mass with Canon Towers at the beginning of the month.

As we are now in the holy Christian season of Lent, we wanted to make you aware of what we are doing in school. Lent began on Ash Wednesday, which this year occurred during half term. It is a period of self-reflection, of drawing closer to God as we pray, serve others and fast. Putting the needs of others before ourselves, as Jesus did, is key to Lenten practice.

With this in mind, the children will be involved in the following initiatives;

- Collections for our local food banks; donations of boxes of cereal, bags of rice and pasta, biscuits, nappies etc. These will help the poorest families in our community. Even one item would be greatly received.
- Cake sales to raise money for the charity 'Mary's Meals', a registered charity serving a nutritious daily meal to some of the world's poorest children to attract them into the classroom where they can gain an education and a brighter future. Each Friday during Lent, we will hold a cake sale in school as part of their 'Raise some Dough' fundraising initiative. Children are asked for a minimum donation of 50p for a cake and classes will take it in turns to host the cake sale. We start with Wrens and Robins on Friday 6th March; Then Y3 & 4 on Friday 13th and Y5 & 6 on Friday 20th. We ask for your support in sending in cakes for the children to sell when it is their turn.
- SVP Lent campaign 'Heart to Heart' to combat loneliness; This campaign invites a simple but meaningful response: reach out and have a conversation. We will be doing this in school via our 'good to chat' bench in the playground and by inviting older members of our parish to join us for a Spring Concert and by sending cards to the housebound. Perhaps you could reach out to those near you who are in need of company and conversation?

### **Attendance:**

Thank you all for keeping our school attendance high. Please report an absence on ARBOR on the day (before 8:50am) or please contact the school office on 01772 862335 before 8:30am. Planned absences, i.e. dentist or doctors appointments, can be reported earlier using the online Pupil Absence Form.

**97%**

### **Parent's Evening**

Robins' is on the 18th and the other classes are on the 25th March. If you have not done so already, please book your appointment using Arbor.

## Sport:

This month has been another great one for sport here at SMSA. Our mini skills team from Year 2 had a great morning at Whitechapel Primary. Years 5 and 6 continued their curling lessons at the Flower Bowl with a team representing the school in a final tournament (with chip butties and an ice cream from Mr Scanlon...thanks).

Our tag-rugby team had a great first few matches with a double win. The Y3/4 football team had 3 wins and 3 draws in their tournament and gained second place! Well done everyone involved!



## Maths Challenge:

On 5th February, a group of our Year 5/6 children attended a maths competition at Our Lady's Catholic High School. After a gruelling day of questions, they managed to come out on top as this year's winners! Well done team!



## Join the PTFA – Get Involved!

The PTFA warmly invites parents and carers to join our friendly group. We meet a few times a year to plan and organise fundraising events that support our school community. We're always looking for extra help, so if you're interested, please speak to the school office for more information. Our next meeting is Friday 6th March at 2pm in school. All parents and friends are welcome.

## Internet Safety Day:

EYFS talked about how we must always 'Tell A Grown up' if we see something online that makes us feel sad, scared or worried. They watched the videos from internet safety hub CEOP <https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/> about how Jessie and her friends keep safe online.

Year 1 and year 2 gathered together to watch a workshop with "tech we can" that explored how to be safe online including online games and using the search button. All children were shocked at the age limits of a lot of games that they play.

Owls explored the world of AI during an interactive session with the BBC whilst thinking about the impact this has on our daily lives.

Jays watched the BBC live lesson on ai and created their own ai 'vulture' interactively - they discussed the pros and cons of ai and its use and being aware that it is not always an accurate tool and when to spot the dangers

In Eagles they joined in with the online Internet Safety lesson by Tech She Can. In the afternoon they looked at how AI works and used their setting descriptions from English lessons to ask AI to generate an image to see if it matched what the pupils had in mind when writing their descriptions.



## St Mary and St Andrew's Spring Dates

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- 4/3: Eagles' Mass in Church 1:30pm (families welcome)
- 5/3 World Book Day (dress as your favourite book character)
- 11/3: Wrens and Robins Liturgy in Church 1:30pm (families welcome)
- 12/3: **Wrens and Robins Visit to Blackpool Zoo (payment on Arbor)**
- 17/3: St Patrick's (Green House) can wear green to school
- 18/3: Robins' Parent's Evening 1:30-6:00
- 19/3: Let's Go Sing Concert at Blackburn Ice Arena
- 23/3: Rock Steady Concert
- 25/3: Wrens', Owls', Jays' and Eagles' Parent's Evening 1:30-6:00
- 25/3: Owls' Liturgy in Church 1:30pm (families welcome)
- 26/3: Bunny Hop Day (all children come to school in PE kits)
- 30/3: Robin Wood Year 5 and Year 6 Three Day Residential
- 30/3: Wrens & Robins Psalm Sunday Assembly 9am (families welcome)
- 31/3: Owls Maundy Thursday Assembly 9am (families welcome)
- 1/4: Year 4 Good Friday Assembly 9am (families welcome)



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