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Newsletter - Friday 21st March 2025

Message to parents from the Executive Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to Issue 24 of our Newsletter.



Not only has the sun decided to reappear, but it is also beginning to really feel like Spring has arrived as the blossoms dance on trees and the daffodils finally open up and show off their vibrant yellow colour.

Over the past two weeks, I have been fortunate to attend excellent assemblies in both schools where special people in History have been celebrated and famous Saints honoured. During the month of March, we remember some of the most well-known saints:

St David – 1st March Patron Saint of Wales

St Patrick – 17th March Patron Saint of Ireland

St Joseph – 19th March Patron Saint of the Universal Church

It is important that we remember their stories and acknowledge their tremendous contributions to spreading God's words and developing our Faith.

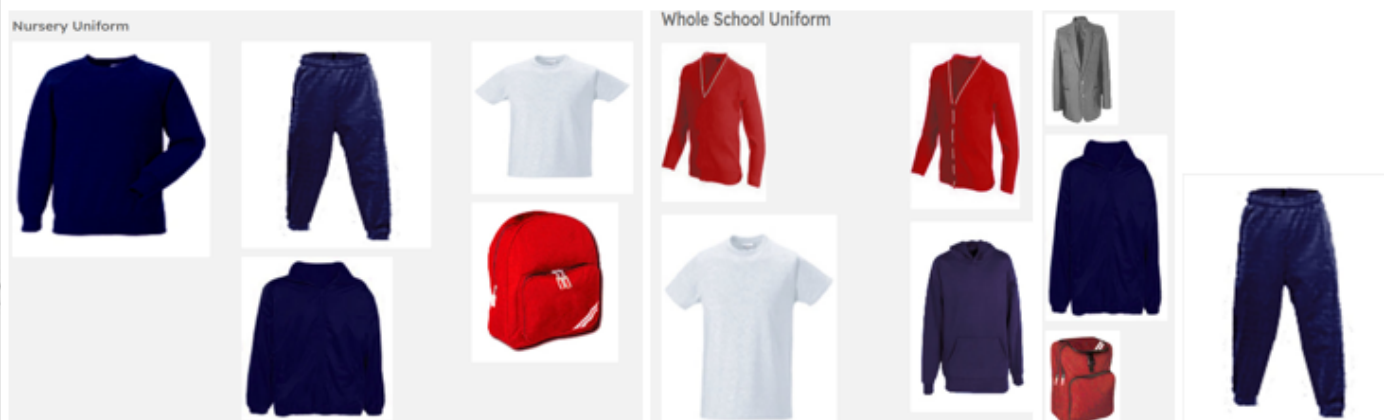
As we continue to focus on service to others, fast and abstinence during this Lenten Season, let us not forget the joy that this time of year brings and to be thankful for all that we have.

Wishing you a lovely weekend,

Best Wishes,

Geraldine Hampton
Executive Headteacher

Whole School Uniform



Nursery

Sweatshirt – Crew neck	Embroidered – With School Badge	Cotton/Polyester
Sweatshirt – Crew neck	Embroidered – With School Badge	Cotton/Polyester
T-Shirt	Embroidered – With School Badge	100% Cotton
Infant Backpack	Embroidered – With School Badge	Polyester

Whole School

Knitted Jumper	Embroidered – With School Badge	V-neck.
Knitted Cardigan	Embroidered – With School Badge	Colour matched
Blazer	Embroidered – With School Badge	Phone and internal zipped pockets. Teflon coated Polyester buttons. Courtelle
Hooded Sweatshirt	Embroidered – With School Badge	Cotton/Polyester
Jogpants	Plain	2 pockets. Elasticated waistband. Cotton/Polyester
T-Shirt	Embroidered – With School Badge	100% Cotton
Reversible Jacket	Embroidered – With School Badge	Concealed hood. Reflective tape. Polyester
Infant Backpack - Reception to Year 2	Embroidered – With School Badge	Polyester
Junior Backpack - Year 3 - 6 Only	Embroidered – With School Badge	Polyester
Gym Bag - Reception - Year 6	Embroidered – With School Badge	Rucksack style. Zipped pocket. Name display pocket. Polyester
Tie	Plain	Broad Stripe design. Polyester Clip on also available

School Tie (compulsory)

A gentle reminder that all children in Reception to Year 6 are all expected to wear their school ties.

The St Mary's school tie gives the school its unique identity and this is something we want to preserve and promote throughout the local area.



New elasticated ties -

in response to parent and pupil feed back, we have decided to phase out clip on ties and replace them with elasticated ties. These are now available.

Staff will be checking to ensure that all school uniform criteria is followed. Thank you for your support.

Catholic Life and Mission of the school

The Gospel reading by St John 4:5-15

In the third week of Lent, we look at the Gospel reading by **St John 4:5-15** about Jesus encountering the women at the well.

So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"



The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

This Jubilee year's theme is: Pilgrims of Hope

Within the **Catholic Social Teaching**, we are looking in depth and learning about the principle of **Option for the Poor**.

This is in conjunction with looking more in depth at the School Value of **Kindness** this half term.



As we journey through the Jubilee Year 2025 as Pilgrims of Hope, we are asked to make little journeys as schools.


St Mary's Faith Ambassadors have been working with St Charles Chaplains on organising a joint mini pilgrimage to the place of worship in the local area. The pilgrimage is symbolic and will give us all the opportunity to think of our lives journeys.



We plan to have a walk around the local area, including Hornimans Park, and finish the mini pilgrimage in our parish church, Our Lady of the Holy Souls and participate in the Holy Mass. St Charles school will join us for this event. More details soon.



ST MARY'S EASTER RAFFLE



**RAISING FUNDS
ON BEHALF OF
OUR PTA**

**GET READY FOR AN EGG-STREMELY
EGGCITING TIME!**

**BE IN WITH THE CHANCE OF WINNING
AN EASTER EGG OR THE TOP PRIZE –
AN EASTER BASKET**

**THE WINNERS WILL BE DRAWN
DURING ASSEMBLY ON THE LAST DAY
OF TERM.**

**RAFFLE TICKETS – ONLY £1.00 PER STRIP!
◆ PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS AT THE SCHOOL GATE
AFTER SCHOOL!**

**GOOD LUCK TO ALL- LET'S MAKE THIS EASTER
EGG-CELLENT!**



After School Clubs!



Afterschool Clubs - commencing Monday 27th January 25

MONDAY – (NO CLUBS)

TUESDAY -Football - (Y3, Y4, Y5 &Y6)-3.45pm-4.45-pm|

WEDNESDAY -Football - (Rec, Y1 &Y2)-3.30pm – 4.30pm

WEDNESDAY-Gymnastics/Dance-(Rec, Y1, Y2) -3.30pm – 4.30pm

THURSDAY -Fitness - (Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6) -3.30pm – 4.30pm

THURSDAY -Art - (Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6) -3.30pm – 4.30pm

THURSDAY - Choir - (Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6) -3.45pm-4.45-pm

FRIDAY-Multisport - (Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6) -3.30pm – 4.30pm

FRIDAY - Gymnastics/Dance - (Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6) -3.45pm-4.45-pm



Diary Dates

March 2025	
Monday 24 th March to Friday 28 th March	Shakespeare Week
Tuesday 25 th March	PTA Meeting
Thursday 27 th March	Y3 Class Assembly
Friday 28 th March	MUFTY Day with donations for CAFOD
Thursday 3 rd April	Whole School Lenten Mass
Friday 4 th April	Star of the Term Assembly
Friday 4 th April	Last day of term, school closes at 1.30pm

New diary dates will continue to be included weekly



Shakespeare Week

Monday 24th March 2025

PTA Meeting

We would like to invite all parents to attend the upcoming PTA meeting on **Tuesday, 25th March**, at **2:30 PM**. This is a great opportunity to get involved in school events and fundraising efforts. Your participation and support make a big difference!

We encourage all parents to join us and share ideas for making our school community even better.



MUFTY Day for CAFOD

Next Friday, 28th March will be a MUFTY Day for CAFOD. Children can wear their own clothes and are asked to donate £1 (or any other amount available). All money raised will be passed on to CAFOD to support their Lenten Appeal work around the world.



Catholic Children's Society Lenten boxes

We have sent **Catholic Children's Society Lenten boxes** to our families. If you have any change that you could spare, please collect it in the boxes up until Easter.



The boxes will be collected after the Easter holidays and passed on to the CCS for their wonderful charitable work for children in the UK.

Many Thanks in advance for your generosity.

Lenten Mass

Whole school Mass will be held on **Thursday 3rd April 2025.**



Important Parents' Information

Home time

A gentle reminder about home time arrangements.

The works to improve and transform our playgrounds resumed after Christmas break. For the next two weeks a large part of the EYFS playground will be fenced off whilst the work is going on there. This means that both Nursery and Reception children will be learning in the EYFS classrooms in the main building as access to the Nursery building is restricted.

Therefore, we ask that you **drop off** your children in the mornings at the **KS1 gate**. You will be able to pick them up at home time at the **brown door next to KS1 gate**. To avoid congestion with Y1, we ask that you pick up **Nursery and Reception children at 3.10pm**.

We are looking forward to our children enjoying the new exciting equipment and activities once the playground project is complete.

Expectation of children being collected at the end of each day

We expect all parents/carers to collect their children on time. Once the gates have closed, the children who have not been collected are brought into the office. If there are exceptional circumstance which are causing a delay, please contact the office immediately.

We do not have capacity to look after any children who are not picked up after that time.

As you are aware, the office gets very busy and the children cannot be left unsupervised in the reception area as it might pose the safety risk.

Please, ensure that you have arrangements in place to pick up your children on time.

Aktiva, the company running Wrap-Around Care in the RBKC North Hub in Ark Brunel, does take one-off bookings, so please feel free to use their services in emergencies.

Please, also ensure that we have up to date written permissions for any person you might ask to pick your children up from school as we will not be able to release children into the care of anyone we do not have the permission for.

Uniform

Thank you to the vast majority of our pupils who wear their full school uniform. We have noticed that quite a few children do not have their ties whilst at school. Please, note that the school tie is part of our school uniform. Could you, please ensure that your child wears the tie to school every day,

Pupils should be wearing **school shoes** when they are not wearing trainers as part of their PE uniform. Quite a few pupils are wearing colourful trainers, which are **not** part of the uniform, and we ask that you kindly check with your child and make sure they wear full school uniform, which includes black shoes.

Please note that if for any reason your child is not in full school uniform or full PE kit, we expect a note from parents to explain why this is the case.

Jewellery and Expensive items

As part of our school uniform, the children are allowed to wear small studs. Any long, dangling earrings might be the cause of accidents and therefore are not allowed.

If children wear necklaces with any religious symbols, please, make sure that your child is aware that these need to be tucked under the clothing for health and safety reasons.

As you are aware, we advise that children do not bring any expensive items to school, as we **cannot take responsibility for loss or damage**. Only children in Y5 and Y6, who have permission to walk to and from school on their own, can bring phones to school. However, they have to hand them in at the gate and pick them up from their teachers at the end of the day. During school hours the phones are stored in the safe.

Pandora bracelets as well as other bracelets and necklaces or "smart" watches are **not allowed** as they can create a health and safety hazard. In addition, they are often expensive or hold sentimental value.

Additionally, as "smart" watches are connected to other devices via the Internet, they are therefore **not allowed at school for safeguarding reasons**. This is in line with government and local authority guidelines and we ask parents to help us ensure that these guidelines are followed.

If you have any questions about any of the information above, please contact the office to make an appointment with a member of Senior Leadership Team.

Thank you for your support with these important issues.

Attendance

Congratulations to all the pupils who achieved 100% attendance this week!

Our overall attendance is the same as last week **is 94.2%**. This is extremely low and as a school community, we need to do much better. Our school target is **96.00%**.

If required we will arrange to meet with parents, to draw their attention to their children's absence. There is a strong correlation between school attendance and pupil outcomes. Please ensure your child is at school unless they are ill.

Holiday during term time

The government policy is that holidays during term times are not permitted, therefore the school **cannot authorise** any absence due to holidays during term times. If you take your child/ren out of school for a holiday during term time, they will be referred to the Local Authority if necessary. Please note this for any plans you are making for the new academic year 2024-25. The Department for Education expects parents/carers to organise holidays outside of the school term dates. Your child/ren's learning will suffer by taking them out of school and it may result in disruptions to the learning of others. We have already referred some families to the local authority who will issue a penalty notice.

Contacts

It is a requirement that the school has a minimum of **2 emergency telephone contact numbers** for your child. We need to be able to contact you at all times. Our admin team, endeavour to update our data systems with your details termly. This is essential for the wellbeing of your children and we need your help to ensure that you are contactable at all times. If there are any changes for 2024-25, please ensure you contact the school office at the beginning of the new academic year.

Look what we have been doing - Early Years and Key Stage 1

This past fortnight Early Years have been looking at the topic 'growing'.

EARLY YEARS

Nursery are following the class text 'Jaspers Beanstalk' and Receptions is 'Jack and the Beanstalk'.

Both classes have planted their very own magic beans. All children have been so excited watching the beans grow and imagining what is at the top of their beanstalk.



Year 1 went on a Spring walk this week as part of their Science learning.

Year 1

The children will focus on seasonal changes throughout the year and discuss their findings



During our English lesson World Book Day, we held the trial of the Wolf. We have been reading

"The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs" and today we were deciding whether Al Wolf was telling the truth!

Year 2

The children were lawyers - defending and prosecuting the Wolf - or giving evidence to support or challenge the Wolf's story.



School



Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club runs from 8am and will cost **£4** per child, per day for children from Reception to Y6. Before your child/ren attends Breakfast Club, please ensure you book the sessions and make the required payments first.!

This provision is only available to children from Reception to Year 6.

www.schoolgateway.com

Akvita Wraparound Care

Aktiva Camps After School Club hosted at the Ark Brunel Hub!
Aktiva has created a safe, fun, and friendly environment for our children.



Club Information: Aktiva After School Club will run from the end of the school day until 6:00 PM. The children will be collected from their classes at the end of the school day and brought over to the Ark Brunel hub by walking bus by 3.40pm where they will be registered into our after-school club. There are 2 sessions available to book - Early session 3.30pm-4.30pm and a full session 3.30pm-6pm

Contact Information: Aktiva's Ark Brunel contact number: 07776657491 - only available during service (3.30pm - 6pm). For all queries regarding bookings please email bookings@aktivacamps.com or call our parent enquiry number on **0203 551 8909**.

Booking Aktiva Services:

Single Sessions: Book until 1 PM on the same day for After School Club. This flexibility allows parents to use our services as needed. Places are subject to availability and strict cutoffs.

Booking and Pricing: Please visit www.aktivacamps.com to register yourself and your child/children and select the required service.



Star of the Term

Congratulations to all the pupils who have received **Star of the Week Certificate - Friday 21st March 2025**

Star of the Term:

Reception - Myla

Y1 - Ethan

Y2 - Whole Class

Y3 - Asia-Rae

Y4 - Kian and Olivia.A

Y5 - Kessiah

Y6 - Jaida

Star Readers

Y1 - Ineesha

Y2 - Fraser

Y3 - Guttenberg

Y4 - Nathaniel

Y5 - Zyann

Y6 - N/A

Congratulations to all the Stars of the Week and Star Readers!

We will also be adding new dates and will share them with you soon, so please keep checking the Newsletter and the Parents' Information Board on the front gate.

PE Days: Please remember that children can come to school in their PE kits on PE days. Please refer to our guidance on school uniform and ensure your child has the correct PE kit. If for any reason they are not able to come in the correct kit, we require an email or phone call from home to explain the circumstances.

We now only have PE sessions on Wednesdays and Fridays:

Wednesdays - **Nursery and Reception; Years 1, 2 and 6**

Fridays - **Years 3 and 4; Years 2 and 5**

Thank you for your patience and support.

Term Dates 2024-2025

Term Dates 2024 – 2025

Spring Term - 2025

Second Half Term

First Day of School – Monday 24th February

Last Day of School – Friday 4th April - **1.30pm - School Closed**

Easter Holiday – Monday 7th April – Monday 21st April

Summer Term – 2025

First Half Term

Staff Training – Tuesday 22nd April – **School Closed**

First Day of School – Wednesday 23rd April

Bank Holiday – Monday 5th May

Last Day of School – Friday 23rd May

Half Term – Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May

Second Half Term

First Day of School – Monday 2nd June

Staff Training – Monday 30th June – **School Closed**

Last Day of School – Tuesday 22nd July - **1.30pm - School Closed**

FACEBOOK

INSTAGRAM

TWITTER



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Charles Mary

Charles is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters



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