



'We are journeying together through Lent

Dates for diary (Please also see Weduc Calendar and News-feeds)

[School Holidays \(stmarysprimary.durham.sch.uk\)](http://stmarysprimary.durham.sch.uk)



- Wednesday 22nd March- Swifts visit to Brightwood. Wild Escape Project with Bowes Museum/Brightwoods. Children will need wellies, warm coats and gloves etc.
- Thursday 23rd- Dance Festival Multicultural Event- Miss C has sent further info to dancers.
- Tuesday 28th- Spring term Coffee Morning. Drop in- 9am- 11am. All welcome.
- Spring term Parent Evenings- Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th March. Appointments made via the office/Weduc Mrs Sedgewick.
- Thursday 30th—Speak Out Stay Safe—workshops in school for Owls class.
- Friday 31st March- Easter Liturgy 2.30pm Parents Welcome. See further info on newsletter too. Don't forget your Easter raffle tickets!
- Friday 31st March- Break Up for Easter and return to school 17th April 2023.
- Monday 17th April- Return to School
- Tuesday 18th April- Swifts Fun Run. See messages from Miss C for further details. Whole school invited to join in.

Easter Events and Easter Garden Competition

Friday 31st March

On Friday 31st March (last day of term) we will be having an Easter liturgy, led by some children from each class. Parents are very welcome to join us for prayer and reflection, school hall at 2.30pm.

Easter Garden Competition

We would like to invite all children to enter our Easter garden competition this year. The children can make their garden with any materials they would like and there will be an Easter egg prize for each year group. (If you need any materials from school just let us know and we will see what we have!) Father Thomas will judge the entries and hand out prizes after the liturgy on Friday 31st. All entries to be brought to school on Friday 31st March- please do not put your name on your garden design to make it fair... good luck!



Next week's linked Virtues:

Honesty, Self Belief, Confidence

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

No birthday celebrations this week. Today however, we do celebrate the Feast of St Patrick.



Stars of the week—don't forget to look on our school website to see who are our Stars this week and photographs on the Around School Section too.

Thankyou to Father Thomas, for inviting us to Mass on Thursday and also for the Stations of the Cross afterwards. It was wonderful to be joined by some of our parents and grandparents, parishioners and friends of St Mary's. We received a lovely email from one parishioner saying that 'it was a wonderful experience, very moving, and lovely to hear the children's responses.'

Thankyou.



Owls Lenterprise Updates... Bake Breaks!

Next week Mrs Porter's children will be selling cakes each day during breaktimes for children to purchase if they wish. The cakes will be 50p each. Any cakes not sold will be sold on the drive at home time. Each day each class will be invited to come along to the cake stalls outside as part of their break



Next week there is also no local walk with Owls class as part of their Lenterprise. The next, and last one will be **Wednesday 29th March**... I am really hoping to come along to this one too. Mrs Porter has told me to hunt out those walking boots!!



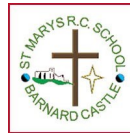
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Our Trust Virtues

(Please see the additional A4 poster I have attached with further information about each Virtue)

Our Trust Virtues are weaved into all areas of our curriculum, and everything we do here at St Mary's. It is important that as we teach the virtues to our children that they have a good understanding of the vocabulary as well as what that looks like in themselves, in others, in our school. Here are the 8 Virtues that we promote and celebrate as a school community:

- ◆ Respect
- ◆ Responsibility
- ◆ Justice
- ◆ Compassion
- ◆ Self Belief
- ◆ Resilience
- ◆ Honesty
- ◆ Confidence



Attendance this week:

Robins: 93.3%

Larks: 100%

Swifts: 96.2%

Owls: 98.2%



Well done Larks class-100%!

Please see our attendance policy on the school website for further information about expectations and parental responsibilities.

Holidays in term time will not be authorised and fines may occur.

Our Lenten Journey Prayer Fasting Almsgiving

Our Lenten Journey continues and it has been another jam packed week of events across school. Each class are doing their own organising of events so make sure to look out for, and read the messages from each class teacher. We are so lucky to have such kind, supportive parents... it really is fantastic what you are all doing and we can not wait to see how many toilets we are able to have built on behalf of our school family. Thankyou!



Further information about toilet twinning can be found here:

<https://www.toilettwinning.org/>



International Woman's Day

HERE'S
TO STRONG WOMEN.
MAY WE KNOW THEM.
MAY WE BE THEM.
MAY WE RAISE THEM.

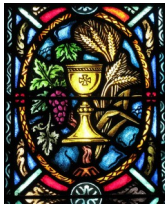
This little lady made my day on Monday! During Candle Time, Charlotte presented me with a beautiful letter, thanking me for 'looking after everyone at St Mary's.' It was part of the homework Miss Callender had set, linking to International Woman's Day. Charlotte, it is little things like this that remind me of why I am so lucky to have the job I have here at St Mary's. Thankyou so much- I even got to wear a gold medal for the day too!





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Our children in Year 4 continue their journey of preparation for their First Holy Communion. Please continue to pray for Amber, Alfie, Robbie, Tomek and Edward, and also for our friends from Ingleton Primary School too.



Easter Coffee Morning

Tuesday 28th March 9am - 11am



Come and join us for coffee and cakes - drop in anytime between 9-11am, in the school hall.

There will be an Easter raffle, Easter treats and Easter crafts.

Spread the word and bring your friends and family - as always everybody welcome.

Don't forget to make your appointment for Parents Evening if you've not already done so. Parents Evenings are Tuesday 28th March and Wednesday 29th March. Appointments can be made via the office or Weduc. Mrs Sedgewick will be happy to help as always.

Spring term progress reports will be sent out via **Weduc on Monday 27th March**.

The children in EYFS have enjoyed sharing the Easter story at home with their families. Here are a few pictures to share with you. They are also available on the website, under the 'Our Faith Journey' section.



Thankyou to everybody who took the time to fill in the staff, pupil and parent surveys. I am looking forward to the analysis of the responses and will keep you informed with regards to any outcomes and actions with regards to school improvement. Thankyou.

Today's calendar...

17th March JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Have a wonderful weekend everybody.
Take Care!

Look around and spot three things you find unusual or pleasant



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS