



# The Federation of St Mary's Catholic Schools

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"*

*Philippians 4:13*

Respect

Compassion

Resilience

## The Feast of the Epiphany

A very warm welcome back to all our children and families. On behalf of the staff and governors, I would like to wish you all a happy new year and hope that you managed to have a great Christmas with your family and friends.

The past few days have been a great start to this spring term. Children's attendance is high, attitudes good and work ethic fabulous. The curriculum for the spring term is already underway and being taught, daily routines are being put back in place, behaviour is great and the children have settled in really well to this new term so far. Some after school clubs will be up and running from next week and in the spring term we begin to do some additional 'booster' sessions for the children to try and ensure they stay 'on-track' to achieve the best they can.

Prior to the Christmas break we unfortunately had to make a decision to close the school at relatively short notice. I would just like to say a huge thank you to all our parents and carers who understood our decision and had to, in some cases, rearrange their schedules in order to accommodate the school closure. All staff and governors very much appreciated your overwhelmingly positive response to this situation. Thank you.

### Epiphany Mass

Today we celebrated Mass to mark the Feast of the Epiphany. All the children from Year 2 to Year 6 filled the Church and, together with the parents/carers and parishioners, sang their hearts out, read and behaved well. Well done to all our readers and to staff who organised the music and to the parents who supported the children in getting to and from Church. A lovely community effort to begin this new year, 2023.

### Key Priorities for 2023

As we begin our new year it is well worth reminding ourselves about our priorities. As always, safeguarding is of paramount importance and keeping children safe, children feeling safe and happy are the highest of priorities. In addition to keeping children safe, we need to sharpen our focus on making the curriculum inspiring and accessible for all, making the quality of teaching and learning experiences memorable, moving our behaviour policy and practice towards a relational and restorative approach, raising standards in everything we do and giving all the children opportunities to deepen and develop their hobbies, interests and passions. As always, with parents being the most influential people in the children's lives, working together in partnership, we can make The Federation of St Mary's Catholic Schools successful, equipping the children with the knowledge and skills they need to prepare them for the next stage of their educational journey and ensuring a legacy of excellence in all that we do. Have a great weekend and God Bless.

**Dates for your diary – Spring 1 – St Mary's Catholic Junior School**

<b>Wed 11<sup>th</sup> January</b>	5.30: Y3 Gulliver's residential meeting in Junior School hall.
<b>Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Y4 Forest Schools – dress appropriately.
<b>Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Y5R Swimming
<b>Tues 17<sup>th</sup> January</b>	5.30: Y5 London residential meeting in Junior School hall
<b>Wed 18<sup>th</sup> January</b>	5.30: RE parent workshop in Junior School hall
<b>Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Y4 Forest Schools – dress appropriately.
<b>Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Y5R Swimming
<b>Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	9.15: 5HQ Prayer and liturgy in hall. Families welcome to attend.
<b>Tues 24<sup>th</sup> January</b>	3.30 – 4.30: 4M With You Always session in school
<b>Wed 25<sup>th</sup> January</b>	3.30 – 4.30: 4W With You Always session in school
<b>Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Y5HQ Swimming
<b>Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	Y5HQ Swimming
<b>Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	NSPCC Number Day – wear something with a number on or a badge or sticker. *Information to follow
<b>WB Mon 6<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Children's Mental Health Week
<b>Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Swimming for some Y5 – separate letter to follow.
<b>Fri 10<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Finish for half term. Return to school on Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February.

## Dates for your diary – Spring Term – St Mary's Catholic Infant School

<b>6.1.23</b>	Curriculum overviews sent home and posted on Seesaw  Afterschool Club letter sent home to parents
<b>13.1.23</b>	Knowledge organisers sent home and posted on Seesaw
<b>Wb 16.1.23</b>	After school clubs begin
<b>27.1.23</b>	Y10 Collective Worship at 9.10am- Families welcome to attend
<b>31.1.23</b>	Year 2 SATs meeting for parents at 5.15pm
<b>3.2.23</b>	NSPCC Number day  Children to wear school uniform but replace or add an item with a number on it eg birthday badge, football top etc
<b>Wb 6.2.23</b>	Children's Mental Health Week
<b>7.2.23</b>	Safer Internet Day  Year 2 dance performance at 2.45pm in the school hall. Families welcome to attend.
<b>9.2.23</b>	Reception dance performance at 2.45pm in the school hall. Families welcome to attend.
<b>10.2.23</b>	Art Exhibition-all children's art work will be displayed in the school hall. All families are invited to attend from 8.40am-9.15am.  EYFS-Superhero Day. All children are invited to wear a superhero costume.  School closes at 3.15pm for half term

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## SPRING TERM 2023

### COME AND SEE AT HOME

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

This term we will be studying the three themes of Local Church (Community), Eucharist (Relating) and Lent/Easter (Giving). Each class will approach the themes through different topics.

#### LOCAL CHURCH - COMMUNITY (4<sup>th</sup> January – 28<sup>th</sup> January)

Early Years	CELEBRATING - People celebrate in Church
Year 1	SPECIAL PEOPLE - People in the parish family
Year 2	BOOKS - The books used in Church
Year 3	JOURNEYS - Christian family's journey with Christ
Year 4	COMMUNITY - Life in the local Christian community and ministries in the parish
Year 5	MISSION - Continuing Jesus' mission in diocese (ecumenism)
Year 6	SOURCES - The Bible, the special book for the Church

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Explore the Diocesan website, looking at the number of churches, and finding out about our bishop.  
Read Bible stories together or encourage older children to read a child's Bible.

#### EUCHARIST - RELATING (30<sup>th</sup> January – 3<sup>rd</sup> March)

Early Years	GATHERING - Parish family gathers to celebrate Eucharist
Year 1	MEALS - Mass, Jesus' special meal
Year 2	THANKSGIVING - Mass, a special time to thank God
Year 3	LISTENING & SHARING - Jesus gives himself to us
Year 4	GIVING & RECEIVING - Living in communion
Year 5	MEMORIAL SACRIFICE - Eucharist as the living memorial of Christ's sacrifice
Year 6	UNITY - Eucharist enabling people to live in communion

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Look through the family photograph album to help the children remember important events and special people in their lives.  
Discuss how we come together for special celebrations.

#### LENT/EASTER - GIVING (6<sup>th</sup> March – 31<sup>st</sup> March)

Early Year	GROWING - Looking forward to Easter
Year 1	CHANGE - Lent: a time for change
Year 2	OPPORTUNITIES - Lent: an opportunity to start anew
Year 3	GIVING ALL - Lent: remembering Jesus' total giving
Year 4	SELF DISCIPLINE - Celebrating growth to new life
Year 5	SACRIFICE - Lent: a time of aligning with the sacrifice made by Jesus
Year 6	DEATH & NEW LIFE - Celebrating Jesus' death and resurrection

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

As a family talk about how you are going to practice self-control and self-giving for the rest of the season of Lent. You may decide to give up biscuits or cakes and donate the money to a charity. If you have an older child provide him/her with an opportunity to take part in The Stations of the Cross. Ask your child/ren how the school is focusing on Lent and self-giving.

## **IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM**

**MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

1 January

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

6 January

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

8 January

**THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**

2 February

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

22 February

**ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

20 March

**THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**

25 March

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

2 April

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

6 April

**GOOD FRIDAY**

7 April

**EASTER SUNDAY**

9 April





**NEW  
YEAR  
NEW  
YOU**

*Make 2023 your year to shine!*

- Learn that new skill • Improve your wellbeing
- Become digital • Change your career • Volunteer

Take your step into 2023 with ACL. **FREE** courses include:  
Wellbeing | Mental Health Awareness | Volunteer Training  
iPads & Tablets | Caring for Children | English and Maths

Join us at one of our coffee afternoons for an informal chat

**Tuesday 10th January**

**1.00pm - 3.00pm**

United Reformed Church,  
King St, St Helens WA10 2JZ

**Wednesday 11th January**

**1.00pm - 3.00pm**

Park Road Centre, Park Rd,  
St Helens WA9 1HE

Tel: 01744 676671, 01744 677328

Visit: [www.sthelens.gov.uk/adultlearning](http://www.sthelens.gov.uk/adultlearning)

Email: [adultlearning@sthelens.gov.uk](mailto:adultlearning@sthelens.gov.uk)



**LIVERPOOL  
CITY REGION**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY





# STAY SAFE ON NEW DEVICES

Whether you're an internet newbie or a pro at surfing the web, it's always important to keep online safety in mind. We've pulled together a list of top tips to make it easier for you to protect yourself and your devices in the digital world - helping you steer clear of hazards like misleading information and vicious viruses. There's never a bad time to refresh your internet safety knowledge, but it's an especially smart thing to do before you start using any shiny new devices!

