



The Federation of St Mary's Catholic Schools

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

Respect

Compassion

Resilience

A message from Mrs Grange and Mrs Follin,

A warm welcome back from us both after half term. Today across the Federation we have observed the National Moment of Silence for Ukraine to mark one year since the Russian invasion of Ukraine began. All the children showed how compassionate they are by respectfully reflecting the bravery of the people of Ukraine.

Our Lenten journey began on Wednesday, Father Peter visited the Juniors to celebrate Mass and give out ashes. The infants celebrated their Lenten promises at the Infants during whole school collective worship. The children have been talking about how Lent is a time when we pray, do kind things for other people, give up things and give to others, as we prepare to celebrate the great feast of Easter.

We're looking forward to celebrating World Book Day with all the children next week. Please join in with the competitions at both schools if you can; short story competition at the Juniors and design a potato character competition at the Infants. Thank you to parents who have already volunteered to share favourite stories at the Infants in our 'Cosy Corners'. If you can and haven't let us know, please do so ASAP. Many thanks. Enjoy your weekend and see you on Monday.



Stars of the Week Kindness and Bee Awards



	Star of the Week	Kindness Award
Nursery	Hunter	Maya
RM	Charlie	Henry
RB	Sophia	Lea
Y1O	Joe	Matteo
Y1G	Charlie	Tobias
Y2M	Noah	Sam
Y2T	Riley	Jacob

	Star of the Week	Bee Award
3Ri	Sacha	Ceecee
3Ro	Matthew	Ralph
4W	Esmee	Clemency
4M	Ayesha	Madeleine
5R	Marcel	Madeleine
5HQ	Gillian	Gracie-May
6W	Amelie	
6D	Jack	William M

School Values Award

Infants: Cam

Juniors:



New Age Kurling

Some of our Infant children were chosen to attend a New Aged Kurling tournament this week. The children were taught some new skills and showed great sportsmanship, they really enjoyed themselves. They were a credit to their parents and to our school. Well done everyone!



Parents Evening.

It was a fantastic turn out at Parents' Evening on Wednesday. I hope you enjoyed looking at your child/ children's work and seeing the progress they have made. Thank you for leaving a comment celebrating your child's work. The children have LOVED reading them!

We look forward to welcoming those families who have Parents' Evening on Wednesday 1st March.

Phonics meeting

Many thanks for the parents who attended the Year 1 Phonics Screening meeting.

For those who were unable to attend, the information shared will be posted onto Seesaw later today.



Shrove Tuesday in EYFS

On Tuesday we celebrated Shrove Tuesday. We learnt about the history of Shrove Tuesday and talked about how and why we have pancakes. We decorated our pancakes and enjoyed them for our snack. We used lots of healthy fruits including bananas, oranges, lemon and berries. We topped our pancakes with a tasty treat of strawberry or chocolate sauce. They were delicious! Pancake Day in EYFS



Dates for your diary –Spring 2 – St Mary’s Catholic Infant School

Monday 27th February	Book Fair in school hall 2.45pm-3.30pm
Tuesday 28th February	EYFS parents maths workshops in the school hall-9am and 5pm
Wednesday 1st March	Parent’s Evening 3.30pm-6.15pm. Please book though Teachers 2 Parents Friday 24 th
Thursday 2nd March	World Book Day Children to wear either pyjamas or dress up as their favourite character Story corners will be set up in the school for parents/grandparents to come and read a story to a group of children during the afternoon.
Friday 3rd March	Y1G Class Assembly in school hall -9.10am Parents and families invited
Wednesday 8th March	SEND Coffee and Catch up afternoon from 2pm in the Infant Hall
Friday 17th March	EYFS Mother’s Day Stay and Play in the school hall. Mums, Nanas, Grandmas and Aunties welcome Reception at 9.10am Nursery at 2.15pm
Wednesday 22nd March	Paul Delaney (poet) visiting school. KS1 workshops Poetry Buzz
Friday 24th March	PTFA Coffee Afternoon. All families welcome
Wednesday 29th March	KS1 Multi skills competition am
Friday 31st March	Easter Egg hunt and raffle (eggs donated by PTFA) Easter bonnet competition £2 to enter School closes for the Easter holiday School reopens on Monday 17 th April

PE Days

N	Monday
R	Wednesday
Y1	Thursday
Y2	Tuesday

Dates for your diary – Spring 2– St Mary's Catholic Junior School

Tues 21 st February	Return to school
Wed 22 nd February	Ash Wednesday
Friday 24 th February – Wednesday 1 st March	Book Fair 3.30-3.45 in the Junior library
Tues 28 th February	4W With You Always
Wednesday 1 st March	St David's House Celebration Day. Non-uniform 4M With You Always
Thursday 2 nd March	World Book Day
Friday 3 rd March	Y5 fundraising cake sale – London trip
Monday 6 th March	6D Prayer and liturgy
Tuesday 7 th March	Parents' Evening in school
Wednesday 8 th March	SEND coffee afternoon @ Infant School Parents' Evening in school
Friday 10 th March	St John's House Celebration Day. Non-uniform
Tuesday 14 th March	Y6 SATs meeting in school
Friday 17 th March	St Patrick's House Celebration Day. Non-uniform Orienteering day – more information to follow
Wednesday 22 nd March	Lost in Music: Choir event at St Helens Town Hall
Thursday 23 rd March	Y5 Apple of my Eye – DT – more information to follow
Friday 24 th March	St Mary's House Celebration Day. Non-uniform
Wednesday 29 th March	Easter Bingo

PE Days

Y3	Monday
Y4	Thursday
Y5	Wednesday
Y6	Tuesday

The Feast of St David



To celebrate the Feast of St David we are inviting the children in this house to come to school in their own clothes on

Wednesday 1st March.

During the afternoon they will take part in a special choose time together to celebrate the Patron Saint of their house

The Feast of St John



To celebrate one of the many Feast days of St John we are inviting the children in this house to come to school in their own clothes on

Friday 10th March.

During the afternoon they will take part in a special choose time together to celebrate the Patron Saint of their house

House Celebration Days at the Junior School

The Feast of St Patrick



To celebrate the Feast of St Patrick we are inviting the children in this house to come to school in their own clothes on

Friday 17th March.

During the afternoon they will take part in a special choose time together to celebrate the Patron Saint of their house

The Feast of St Mary



To celebrate tomorrow being the Feast day of the Annunciation of St Mary we are inviting the children in this house to come to school in their own clothes on

Friday 24th March.

During the afternoon they will take part in a special choose time together to celebrate the Patron Saint of their house

Together for a better internet



Free course for parents and carers:

This short course provides you with an important insight into how children aged 4 to 7 are typically engaging with the online world. It will highlight the common areas where young children's interest begins to develop and what initial steps parents should consider around screen time, parental controls and age-appropriate apps.

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/courses/online-safety-klass-for-parents-and-carers-ages-4-7>

This short course provides you with an important insight into how children aged 7 to 11 are typically engaging with the online world. It will highlight the common areas where young children's consumption habits start to change as they gain more independence and what steps parents should consider around smartphone usage, family controls and starting to build an open dialogue.

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/courses/online-safety-klass-for-parents-and-carers-ages-7-11>



Save the date!
2 March 2023

With a programme of exciting events, brand new activities for home and school, and our fantastic line-up of £1/£1.50 books - World Book Day 2023 is shaping up to be the best ever

We will be celebrating World Book Day across the Federation on Thursday 2nd March. All children will be invited to wear a book character costume or pyjamas—cosy to curl up and read a good book in.

As part of the celebrations, our Junior librarians are launching a short story competition.



All children are invited to unleash their creativity by writing a story. This might be a story with words or it might be with pictures or it might be with both.

All entries must be received by Monday 27th February to either school office.

The winners will be announced on World Book Day. The prizes will be announced during assembly and the winners' stories will be published on the newsletter.



The Infants are running a 'design a potato character' competition. Please bring your character into school from Monday 27th February to be judged on Thursday 2nd March. There will be one winner from each class.



Book Fair card payment preferred

At the **Infant School** on Friday 24th February and Monday 27th February from 3.15—3.45pm **Collect your child as normal** then enter the hall via **Dylans gate**.

At the **Junior School** from Friday 24th February until Wednesday 1st March from

Infant and Junior Children on dinners

If your child is going to be late for school, where possible, please contact school and ask the staff what is on the menu for lunch that day and inform them of your child's choice. Infant dinners are ordered and cooked at the Junior School, staff need to let the kitchen know of all orders before

Please remember to slice your grapes!



Please do not send Prime drinks in to school, including in packed lunches.



St Helens Local Offer Information Day

For Parent Carers of Children and Young People with SEND (Special Educational Needs or Disability) from birth to age 25

LA Education and School Age services	Play and Support Groups	Early Years Services	Post 16 Services
Social Care Services	Further Education Providers	Health Service Providers	Local Charities

Thursday 9th March 2023

Daytime: 10:30am - 2:00pm

Evening: 5:30pm - 7:30pm

At St Helens Town Hall, Victoria Square,
St Helens, WA10 1HP

No need to book!
Drop in anytime to find out how local services can support you and your family





Kathryn Harrison	Chair
Olivia Lewis	Treasurer
Vicky Gregory	Secretary
Debbie Carroll	Ordinary Committee
Gill Maguire	Members



Next time you're in Tesco Earlestown or Haydock please give us your blue tokens & help us raise money to improve our outside educational areas. Please ask your friends & family to do the same too!



Sharing the Gospel

I witness

In this week's gospel, Matthew 17:1-9, we see Jesus take Peter, James and John up a mountain where they see a vision of Jesus' heavenly glory in the presence of Moses and Elijah, and they hear a voice that confirms Jesus' identity as God's Son.



When everything is going well, and we feel happy
Thank you, God, that we can be close to you.

When we are unsure or unsettled
Thank you, God, that we can be close to you.

When things are difficult, and things seem dark
Thank you, God, that we can be close to you.

Amen.

Song of the week: When I needed a Neighbour

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=grnEc0vhtyo>

BRITISH VALUES

This week's British Value we have been looking at is:



Individual Liberty

There are many factors that may influence how we choose to travel. It is important to consider the consequences of our choices and the impact they may have on ourselves, others and the environment.

The story it links to in the news is:

Long-term bike hire schemes are on the rise. Several companies have launched services, where users can pay a monthly fee to use a high-quality bike or e-bike, with any repairs or upgrades included and if the bike is stolen, a fixed low fee is paid to give the user security. It's not just adults who can join in the long-term bike rental trend. London-based 'Bike Club' is aimed at children aged 4 to 12 and has 55,000 active members across the UK and Germany, where it recently launched.

Should everyone have access to a mode of transport?



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