



The Federation of St Mary's Catholic Schools

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

Philippians 4:13

Respect

Compassion

Resilience

A message from Mrs Grange and Mrs Follin,

We have noticed that some children are wearing nail polish and earrings in school. No jewellery should be worn in school apart from a watch due to health and safety reasons.

On a positive note.....Thank you for your support as always. There was an outstanding response from the parents at the Infants; we had almost 100% attendance at the parent's evenings. A strong home-school partnership supports the children's progress. Staff reported many positive comments, so thank you. Parents' evenings are taking place at the Juniors on Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th March. We look forward to welcoming all our families and sharing the children's wonderful work.

In both schools this week, the book fairs were well attended. The money raised will be used to support reading in the wider curriculum and purchase Sharing Stories that are sent home weekly in the Infants to support reading for pleasure.



Stars of the Week Kindness and Bee Awards



	Star of the Week	Kindness Award
Nursery	Elias	Zachary
RM	Michael	Harper
RB	Marley-Shea	Leighton
Y1O	Neasa	Sophia
Y1G	All of Y1G	Carter
Y2M	Carter	Hailey
Y2T	Hallie	Eliza

	Star of the Week	Bee Award
3Ri	Zac	Saffron
3Ro	Lyra	Safia
4W	Alice	Layla
4M	Rosie	Lillie
5R	Daniel	Harrison
5HQ	Matilda	Jack
6W	Hollie	Ethan
6D	Leighton	Lacey

Infants Riley B
Juniors: Clemency



World Book Day at the Infants

Miss Ormshaw led the World Book Day assembly to start our day. The children paraded around the hall so they could show their costumes to one another and the winners of the Potato Book Character were announced.



Many thanks to all the parents who volunteered to share stories in the classroom's Reading Corners; some could be on CBeebies! Every child listened to a story from any adult to share their enjoyment for stories and poems and for the children to listen to other adults read.



Potato Book Character

Thank you all for taking the time to create such wonderful characters. They ranged from Elmer the Elephant and Supertato to Sleeping Beauty and Wilbur from Charlotte's Web. The PTFA very generously donated a £15 and two £10 National Book Token gift cards.

Mrs Wells our Chair of Governors kindly came in and judged the potatoes. Picking winners was extremely difficult however two children from each class were chosen as finalists and received a certificate and a bag of sweets. Those potatoes then went into a final draw where the first prize and two runners up were announced. A big well done to

all.



Y1G Collective Worship

Thank you to all of the parents/carers for joining us this morning for Y1G's assembly all about 'Special Meals'. The children have enjoyed sharing their learning with you of The Last Supper and have loved celebrating this with their own meal at the end of the worship with their families.



A message from CAFOD Club

Prayer Garden

CAFOD club is preparing to make a prayer garden. Any parents are invited to contribute in any way. Parents could volunteer in creating it, or they could donate a physical item. Maybe you have a garden bench you don't use, spare flower seeds (ideally rich in pollen), stones to decorate the path? If you wish to volunteer, it will involve coming to help after school on a Thursday 3:30 – 4:15. Please could you let Miss McCormack via the school office know if you are willing to volunteer and she will be able to guide you from there. A full list of acceptable donations is as follows:

- Bird bath
- Pebbles
- Wood
- Palates
- Fencing
- Seeds
- Water feature
- Bird feeders
- Outdoor decorations
- Watering cans
- Children's gardening gloves



World Book Day at the Juniors

The day started with a fantastic assembly led by Mrs Whitfield that allowed us all to see each other in our costumes. The children took part in an inter-house book quiz before enjoying a carousel of activities in different classrooms.

Thank you to all who supported the Book Fayre this week and for the support in dressing up today.



Short Story Competition

What wonderfully creative stories we have had for our competition. The stories were judged by our co-head librarians, Harriet and Lydia, along with Mrs Whitfield and Mrs Johnson.

The PTFA very generously donated a £15 and two £10 National Book Token gift cards presented in today's celebration assembly. Thank you to all who entered and to the PTFA for their prizes.

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

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, Nan- as, 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

Monday 6th March	6D Prayer and liturgy—all families welcome
Tuesday 7th March	Parents’ Evening in school
Wednesday 8th March	SEND coffee afternoon @Infant School Parents’ Evening in school
Friday 10th March	St John’s House Celebration Day. Non-uniform Y5 fundraising cake sale – London trip
Tuesday 14th March	Y6 SATs meeting in school
Friday 17th March	St Patrick’s House Celebration Day. Non-uniform Orienteering day – more information to follow
Wednesday 22nd March	Lost in Music: Choir event at St Helens Town Hall
Thursday 23rd March	Y5 Apple of my Eye – DT – more information to follow
Friday 24th March	St Mary’s House Celebration Day. Non-uniform
Tuesday 28th March	Y5 Stations of the Cross—families welcome from 2.15—more information to follow
Wednesday 29th March	Easter Bingo

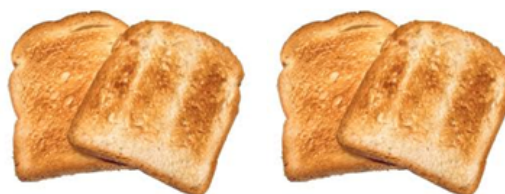
PE Days

Y3	Monday
Y4	Thursday
Y5	Wednesday
Y6	Tuesday

Toast

Toast will be on sale at morning break on Fridays at the Junior school. 20p per slice.

This half term it is raising money for the London trip.



Sharing the Gospel

Take temptation seriously

In this week's gospel, Matthew 4:1-11, we see Jesus as he prepares to begin his ministry, during a time alone in the wilderness, Jesus is tested. Where will he put his faith? What will he trust? Where his deepest loyalties lie?



Dear God, thank you that you are loving and forgiving.

Help us to love people in the same way as you have loved us.

do Help us do generous things for others because we love you.

Amen.

Song of the week: Where you there?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sCGjM9I8FrI>

BRITISH VALUES

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



Individual Liberty

People can choose how they spend their money. There may be benefits and consequences of spending money in each of its forms, which may vary for each individual.

The story it links to in the news is:

A safe, digital pound that can be used in shops or online is likely to be needed for the future, the government has said. The Treasury and the Bank of England will explore the idea. It would be issued by the Bank of England and accessed by people and businesses through 'digital wallets' on smartphones or smartcards. Users would not hold accounts directly at the central bank and could use the currency online and for payments made in shops or restaurants in person.

Will the world become cashless in the future?



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

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

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



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!



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 Ageservices	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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

NGL

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

NGL (which stands for 'Not Gonna Lie') is an app through which users share a link to their Instagram story or Twitter account, inviting their followers to give anonymous feedback. The app includes some prewritten questions (such as 'if you could change anything about me, what would it be?'), plus the option to ask followers to simply 'send me anonymous messages'. All replies go into the user's NGL inbox, with the sender remaining anonymous – although subscribers to the app can receive hints about who each message was from.

ANONYMITY AND OVERSHARING

Anonymous messaging gives rise to the 'online disinhibition effect', which causes users to feel detached from their words and actions in the digital world. This can make young people in particular (as they tend to act more impulsively online) far more likely to disclose personal information on the internet, as well as making ill-advised confessions or revealing their fears and insecurities.

PROTECTION FOR BULLIES

Having their identity hidden makes bullies feel safe from repercussions, so anonymous chat sites are a major avenue for cyberbullying. NGL claims to use AI to filter out insulting terms, but our expert sent a range of such phrases (starting with 'cow' and 'ugly', and becoming progressively more offensive) to a 'dummy' account. All of these trial messages were delivered to the recipient's inbox.

COSTLY SUBSCRIPTIONS

NGL offers a subscription where – for a weekly fee – users can unlock hints about who's been messaging them, including the sender's approximate location and which device they used. Young people will naturally be extremely curious about who sent which message (especially if they have a lot of Instagram or Twitter followers) and may be unable to resist spending money to find out.

INFLATED ENGAGEMENT

1K

In June 2022, NGL had to revise its terms of service: informing users if a message was sent by the app's developers as opposed to genuine followers. It emerged that, previously, NGL's makers had attempted to boost engagement with the app (as well as enticing users to pay for subscriptions) by sending fake anonymous messages from bots. This update was rolled out very quietly by the team.

QUESTIONABLE SUPPORT

NGL does have a 'report this message' button for users to flag upsetting content. After sending a message, however, an automated reply arrives stating "...NGL is 100% anonymous and we have no way of knowing the identity of the user and would not be able to find out, even if we tried." This did not fill our expert with confidence that the app can address bad behaviour adequately.

ACCIDENTALLY GOING VIRAL

The messages on NGL itself are anonymous, but users can share these messages via their Instagram story or Twitter feed – enabling all their followers (or anyone, if their accounts are set to 'public') to see them. If a young person has disclosed something embarrassing or identifiable on NGL without realising, this information has the potential to be re-shared very quickly to a far wider audience.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DEALING WITH NEGATIVITY

Blocking another user on NGL will prevent them sending anonymous messages to your child in the short term – although a determined abuser could get around that obstacle simply by setting up a new Instagram account. If your child continually receives negative messages that upset them, it might be worth encouraging them to consider whether they really need to use the app at all.

EXPLAIN ANONYMOUS APPS

We understand that a conversation with your child about the risks of anonymous messaging may seem difficult to initiate (especially if you aren't that comfortable with using social media yourself). It is vital, however, that young people understand that, for some people, having their identity obscured online can make them feel more powerful and less accountable for their actions.

BLOCK IN-APP PURCHASES

To avoid your child running up an eye-watering bill through an NGL subscription (or indeed any kind of costly in-app purchases), go into the settings on whatever devices they use to go online and either disable the ability to make purchases or protect that function with a password. If those options aren't available, it's prudent to ensure there aren't any payment methods linked to their account.

THINK BEFORE SENDING

Regardless of whether a messaging app is anonymous or not, it's a good idea to regularly talk to your child about how it's wise to think through what they're sharing before they post it. Emphasise that nothing is truly private once it's online. If the post is something your child might hesitate to say to someone face to face, then it's probably not the sort of thing they should be writing online either.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: https://ngl.link/#what-s_ngl

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