



# The Federation of St Mary's Catholic Schools

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

*Philippians 4: 13*

Respect

Compassion

Resilience

## **This week at the Junior School:**

### **Parents Evening**

Thank you for your attendance at parents' evening this week. It was wonderful to be able to share all the hard work your children have done so far this year. If you were unable to make an appointment, please contact the office to arrange to see your child's teacher.

### **Birthdays**

After a request from a child in Year 4, children will be able to wear their own clothes on their birthdays so that everyone can wish them 'happy birthday!'

### **New Age Kurling tournament**

We are the champions! Our fantastic NAK team represented school on Wednesday and won the tournament! They will now represent St Helens in the Liverpool City Region finals. Well done Team St Mary's!



### **SEND coffee afternoon**

Thank you to all who attended this event at the Infant school. We will hold the next coffee afternoon at the Junior school in summer term.

### **St John's Celebration**

St John's enjoyed their celebration as a house this afternoon.

### **Toast**

Toast sales today were a great success! Y5 thank everyone who bought a slice. This will continue until at least Easter.

### **Lent Fundraisers**

Our Lent fundraisers will be taking place every break time in the week beginning 20.3.23. These will be organised by our House Captains and will raise money for CAFOD.

### **Boosters and After School Clubs**

All booster lessons and after school clubs will resume next Monday.

### **Lost Property**




We have a lot of lost property in school. For the next 3 Mondays, our lost property will be available for parents and carers to look through from 3.15-3.45 in the Junior hall.

### **Messaging**

If you are having problems with our messaging service (either not receiving messages or receiving multiple messages) please let the office staff know.

# Award Winners

	Star of the Week	Bee Award
3Ri	Rosie	Isla
3Ro	Isaac	Phoebe
4W	Seren	Molly
4M	Lilly-Rose	Amelia S
5R	Niamh	Lucy
5HQ	Ava W	All of 5HQ
6W	Freya	Amelia C
6D	Harriet	Jessica

	<b>School Values Award</b>	Jack M
	<b>Millionaire Reader</b>	No millionaires this week— <i>who will be next?</i>
	<b>Rock Hero</b>	No rock heroes this week— <i>who will be next?</i>

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

<b>Monday 13th March</b>	Lost Property in the Junior hall 3.15-3.45
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Y6 SATs meeting in school
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	St Patrick’s House Celebration Day. Non-uniform.  Toast on sale at break. 20p  Orienteering day – Pupils come into school in their PE/ outdoor kit and bring a change of footwear. Water-proofs essential.
<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	Lost in Music: Choir event at St Helens Town Hall
<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	Y5 Apple of my Eye – DT day.
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March</b>	St Mary’s House Celebration Day. Non-uniform  Toast on sale at break. 20p
<b>Tuesday 28th March</b>	Y5 Stations of the Cross. Y5 Families welcome from 2.15pm.
<b>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Easter Bingo
<b>Friday 31st March</b>	Toast on sale at break. 20p  School closes for Easter at 3.30pm.

PE days	
Y3	Monday
Y4	Thursday
Y5	Wednesday
Y6	Tuesday

# Sharing the Gospel

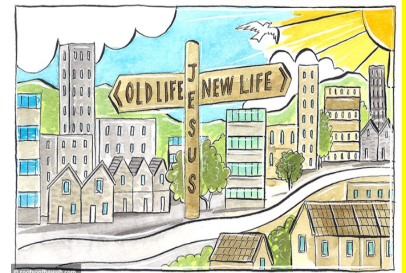
## A step into the unknown

In this week's gospel, John 3:1-17, we hear about how Nicodemus, a Pharisee, goes to see Jesus, acknowledging him as a man of God. Jesus says that to see the kingdom of God you must be 'born from above'. Nicodemus doesn't understand, although Jesus says that, being a teacher, he should. Jesus also says that those who believe in God's only Son will have eternal life.



Lord God,  
our walk with you is not counted in miles,  
but by our faithfulness to you.  
Give us ears to hear you call,  
and feet to follow as you lead us into new things.

Amen.



## Song of the week: Praise Ye The Lord Hallelujah

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WuODF9Kbgw>

## BRITISH VALUES

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



### Democracy

We all have a voice and our opinions should be heard. If we want to help care for and protect natural habitats, we can use our voice and take action.

The story it links to in the news is:

*It has been suggested that the number of hazel dormice in the UK has dropped from around 3.5 million to only 750,000 in almost 30 years. Currently, their conservation status is classed as 'vulnerable', but some researchers say people should be more worried for them. A recent report from the University of Exeter urges for hazel dormice to be reclassified as 'endangered' and calls for more conservation action.*

Could you do more to protect your local area?





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!

**UPDATE: We are winning at the moment—please continue to donate!**

**PTFA meeting at The Pied Bull, Thursday 16th March.**

**All welcome.**



We are holding a coffee meeting on Friday 24th March at 2pm in the Infant hall to raise awareness of the PTFA, who we are, what we do and how you could contribute. All families are welcome to attend.

We do have some First Holy Communion dresses in the Junior School that we would love to go to new homes. Please ask in the office if you would like to try one.

# Attendance Ladder

Equates To:



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# NGL



## 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



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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.



Source: [https://ngl.link/#what-s\\_ngl](https://ngl.link/#what-s_ngl)



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