



Growing in faith: loving and learning together with Jesus

Headteacher: Mrs L Waldram, BSc (Hons) PGCE

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School

Monday 27th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I will start by apologising for the absence of newsletters so far this term. However, from next term we hope to be able to produce one every 2-3 weeks in order to keep you informed about all of the great things happening across both schools.

Parent consultations – Monday 27th & Tuesday 28th March

I hope you have all managed to sign up for appointments for meetings with your children's class teachers this week. It is an important opportunity to find out about the progress they are making in school, and about how you can help with this. Appointments are tightly scheduled every 10 minutes, so please arrive on time and be prepared to finish on time. The slightest delay can affect the rest of the evening's appointments.

Bikeability

It was great to see the St Mary's children from Years 5 & 6 gaining confidence with their cycling last week – first on the playground and then out on the local roads. It's the turn of St Vincent's children this week, so I hope you have just as much fun, and are just as careful. Riding a bike is such a useful skill, and will be so important in the future as we try to cut down on the use of cars.

Assemblies

It has been lovely to watch so many class assemblies this term, and to see them so well-attended by parents and carers. The children practise hard for these and enjoy showing the rest of the community what they have been learning about. Parents and carers are also very welcome at the sharing assemblies on Fridays. If your child has achieved something special out of school, please do let us know so that we can celebrate it together. Recent examples include medals or trophies for swimming, football, Irish dancing, motocross, ... What talented children we have!

Extra-curricular activities

When Ofsted visited both schools last year, we were challenged to improve our offer with regard to after school activities, and areas of responsibility for the children. You will be aware of the wide range of clubs now available after school and at lunchtimes, and we thank you for encouraging your children to participate in these. The clubs are very popular, so please only apply for a place in them if you know your child can commit to attending every week. Well done to our faith ambassadors and team captains too for supporting or even running lunchtime clubs.

Several sporting fixtures were also organised this term, although some of them had to be cancelled or postponed because of poor weather. For the ones that did go ahead, well done to all children who took part. You represented our schools very well and we are proud of you! It was also great that St Mary's and St Vincent's children had the opportunity to spend some time together at these events.



The Glory of God is a Human Being Fully Alive!



Attendance and Punctuality

Good attendance at school is so important! New learning takes place every day and is carefully sequenced to build on prior learning. Frequent or prolonged absences quickly lead to gaps in learning which become harder and harder to fill. Teachers work hard to identify and fill these gaps, but it is the responsibility of parents to ensure that the child attends school during term time. It is also important for children to arrive punctually, as a great deal of extra support and practice takes place in the first 15 minutes of the day. School doors open at 8.45am and lessons start promptly at 9.00am.

Although we are keen for children to arrive on time, they should not be arriving too early for school and hanging around. This particularly applies to Year 5 and 6 children who walk to school themselves. Please don't set off so early that you are waiting outside for too long! For children in younger year groups, they should never be left unattended on the school site. Please ensure you wait with them until their classroom door has opened and they have gone inside.

Please also collect children promptly at the end of the school day. Teachers often need to attend meetings straight after school, or even to go from one school to the other. Staff running clubs should also expect to be able to go home on time, so please be aware of the finishing times.

School dinners

Please remember that school dinners should be paid for in advance and not go into debt. Dinners are £2.46 per day or £12.30 for the week. If you think you are entitled to free school meals, please speak to the school office and we will help you with that information.

Cost of living crisis

During these times of high living costs, please visit the [Childcare Choices](#) website to check what government financial support you could be entitled to. If you are struggling to pay for school events or trips, do contact the office to discuss what support we can offer.

Wishing you a happy and holy Easter!

At 1:15 pm this Friday, the year 6 children will be leading the school in a reflection on the final journey of Jesus, His death on the cross and His resurrection. Each class from Year 1-6 will contribute to the service, and the children would love you to join them for this.

*Come see His hands and His feet, the scars that speak of sacrifice,
Hands that flung stars into space, to cruel nails surrendered.*

*This is our God, the Servant King. He calls us now to follow Him,
To bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to The Servant King.*

The Servant King ~ Graham Kendrick



The schools will close for the Easter Break at 2.00pm – please collect the children promptly. St Mary's Pre-school will close at the normal time of 3:30 pm.



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Next term

We look forward to seeing all the children again on Monday 17th April 2023. Please note that, unusually, the staff training day is a week later, on Monday 24th April, so the children will not attend school that day.

God bless,

Mrs Waldram

Important dates to note:

Date	Event	Further information
Monday 27 th & Tuesday 28 th March	Parent Consultations	By appointment
Wednesday 29 th March (pm)	Y3 & Y4 girls' tag rugby competition	
Thursday 30 th March	St Vincent's Easter Fair	3:30 pm
Friday 31 st March	Easter reflection & Stations of the Cross	1:15 pm
Friday 31 st March	End of term	2:00 pm
Monday 17 th April	First day of Pentecost term	All children need to be back in school.
Wednesday 19 th April	CAFOD donations	This is the last day to make your Lent donation to CAFOD on ParentMail.
Monday 24 th April	Staff training day	No children in school
Monday 1 st May	Bank Holiday	No children in school
Monday 8 th May	Coronation Bank Holiday	No children in school
Tuesday 9 th – Friday 12 th May	Year 6 SATS week	
Friday 26 th May	End of Pentecost (1) half-term	



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