



St Mary's News 2021 February Issue 1

"Recognising and celebrating the presence of Christ in one another"

Dear Parents,

Covid -Numbers in school are again lower than last week. It is great to see some happy smiling faces returning- we have missed them! Our best wishes to all those who are unwell, currently.

Emotional responses to Covid associated language- One small observation to share is that children are still very vulnerable around the language associated with Co Vid. As adults, we have taken some words into our vocabulary and have regulated our emotions and adjusted our mind-set, to not feel overwhelmed by *"testing positive"* or *"daily lateral flow tests"*. It is relevant to mention that this is not the case for younger children- and often the most intelligent of our children, who appear to be coping and managing these changes, but deep down are struggling or worrying. Please just share with us if that is the case, and we can do some pastoral work around what is safe, what is normal and what to do if we are worried. We have **Children's Mental Health Week** coming up and will share some ideas with you, around our discussions with children, next week.

Birthday treats – we respectfully remind you that we are not accepting sweets, cakes, or party bags, to be distributed to other children, during this pandemic. When we are able to lift this restriction, we will let you know.

School Fund-Wow- this continues to grow. Many thanks. It will always be used effectively, to support the children's learning in interesting ways.

Toys in school- Parents of children In Y1, particularly, some of your children are bringing toys into school. These are causing arguments and distractions. Please check your children's coats and bags for attachments and toys- they are just not needed in school. Many thanks in anticipation. We will be in touch where the problem persists.

After School Club- I had the privilege and pleasure of supporting in the After School Club, last night, to facilitate some training for some of the usual staff. Parents, your children are happy, well catered for, supportive of each other, tolerant and trust their adults implicitly. Honestly, it was probably the nicest 1.5 hrs of my week. The family feel and the care and affection evident was something to celebrate. My grateful thanks and appreciation to our great wraparound team (and Rachel our fabulous volunteer).

Upcoming events:

Friday 11/2/22 Children can wear an item of their choice in a colour of their choice, as part of Positive Mental Health Week.

Look out on Class pages for more details. (Thank you Mrs Hayes- in anticipation)

Sunday 13/2/22- 6pm and 9.30am Y3 Mass of Commitment for those receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion in the summer term.

Thursday 17/2/22 - School finishes for half term for all children on this day.

Friday 18/2/22 INSET Day for all staff.

Thursday 3/3/22- Confirmation for Y6 at 7pm in St Mary of the Angels Church- A Zoom Meeting for all parents of Y6 Confirmation candidates will take place on **Thursday 17th February at 6.30pm**. We look forward to a good turnout.

Tuesday 15/3/22- Y3 Parents Meeting to prepare for Reconciliation at 6pm (virtual, currently but subject to change).

Friday 1/4/22- Y3 Sacrament of Reconciliation – 1.30 Venue TBC

Friday 8/4/22- School closes for the Easter break- all children need to be collected from school at 1.30pm on this day.

Wednesday 27/4/22 and Thursday 28/4/22 Parents Consultations in school between 4pm and 7pm each evening

We need your views- says Pope

Francis -Please look out for the google forms questionnaire , tomorrow, that the Archdiocese are asking you to access. Your opinion is being called for. That does not happen very often- please offer it willingly and openly.

And Finally...

As we move into February, we look forward to half term and Valentine's Day.



Our school cooks will be sending out a lovely Valentine's Day menu for Monday 14th February.

Please encourage as many children as possible to join in. That raises funds and gives children something to look forward to at dinner time, too.