



Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April

### **Easter 2024 Newsletter**



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Today is the start of our Summer term and I'd like to wish everyone a happy Easter. Prior to breaking up, we enjoyed a wonderful Holy Week together, during which we waved palms, went to Mass, watched our GIFT team tell us the story of Maundy Thursday, experienced a very moving Good Friday assembly and then went around the astroturf to depict Jesus' last journey, placing our pebbles in our forest school area. The week was very edifying and the children really did us proud with impeccable behaviour and showed how wonderful they are.

### **Catholic Social Teaching – What we've been doing!**

During Spring term, we were busy being activists in our school, our local area and raised money for lots of different charities:

- Springhill Hospice (over £2,000) – spearheaded by our Mini Vinnies;
- CAFOD cake sale and book sales – spearheaded by our School Council and GIFT Team;
- St Joseph's Penny boxes were handed out to each child – if you have filled the box with any coins, please bring it in before Friday so we can count up and send off;
- Our Mini Vinnies also went to a local care home to spread cheer and love to the elderly in the community;
- Our Laudato Si team went to the recycling centre and delivered an assembly to KS2;
- Members of Y6 and of the Laudato Si teams have been planting trees in our school grounds;
- Donations have come in for the Lighthouse Project and Foodbanks
- The Big Lent Walk was completed by every member of our school – the target was 200 miles, but one class alone managed this and so we definitely smashed the target!

There's much more we've been busy doing to highlight the need for justice around the world. We call this Catholic Social Teaching and it is something the children are showing a good understanding in – not only looking after themselves and our school, but how scripture teaches us to look after those who are less fortunate than ourselves. We'd like to thank everyone for your very kind donations towards everything we've done so far.

### **World Religions Week Part Three**

In RE this week, the children will be learning about an aspect of Islam to widen and deepen their understanding and tolerance of others' beliefs. This is something we consider to be very important to allow your child to have an understanding and respect towards others and is the third and last faith we will study this year (with the others this year being Sikhism and Judaism). On Friday, we will have a visitor coming to speak to KS2 about what it is like to be a Muslim and throughout the week, each class will find out something new about Islam.

### **Supporting the Catholic Life and Mission of St Mary's**

This term, our GIFT team, School Council and Mini Vinnies will be selling beautiful pieces of jewellery on behalf of Cambodia Crafts, a charity that raises money for communities affected by landmines in Cambodia. We will also hold some awareness days:

22<sup>nd</sup> April – Earth day – children to come in to school wearing green or blue for 50p for Water Aid;

During May – Cambodia Crafts sale

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May – Pentecost Party – we will hold a street party similar to what we did for the jubilee. We'd appreciate any party food coming in for this – a letter will come out nearer the time on Dojo.

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May – Diversity day – children are asked to come in in cultural clothing / non uniform;

Manchester Street Team – during the term, each class will have a box in their classroom for any donations for the homeless of Manchester; again we will send a letter out for what essentials could come in to provide a huge donation to the homeless in our area.

We appreciate that not all of you will be able to donate much, if at all, so please do not worry if this applies to you.

### **RE Parental Feedback**

We are due our Catholic Schools Inspectorate RE inspection this term. In order to help us prepare, I have created a short Google Form questionnaire about RE, RSHE and Catholic Life of school. If you have a couple of minutes, I'd appreciate it if you could fill it out. A QR code will also be visible to this form during your child's parents evening, so whilst you're waiting you could fill it in. It's important that we receive feedback from you about RE and the Catholic Life of the school, so that we can action anything appropriately. The link is here: <https://forms.office.com/e/dSAfkJPOXf> Thank you in advance.

### **Our Mission Statement and Vision Statement**

*As the family of St Mary's, learning and growing in God's love, joyfully we pray, play and respect all, changing our world forever. (Our Mission)*

*Nurturing growth, igniting dreams, guided by God (Our Vision)*

Everything we do at St Mary's, we do through our love of Jesus. The children have been looking at our Mission and Vision Statements each half term and discussing in class how they show that they follow our school mission and how the vision they have for themselves and we have for them is ambitious, challenging and guided through God's love.

Thank you for your continued generosity and for all your support as we continue to educate your children on caring for our Common Home.

Miss Thomas  
RE Lead