



March 2023 Newsletter

"Love one another as Jesus loved us" (John 13 v 34-35)

Jesus said, Love one another as I have loved you.

Through God's love and our Christian Values, we encourage each individual to love, respect and value themselves and others.

We encourage and nurture the growth of every individual and their uniqueness so that all flourish and become all that they can be and all that God made them to be

Dear Parents, Children & Friends,

EASTER SERVICE:



Year 4 will lead the School Easter Service on **Friday 31st March at the slightly later time of 9:45am**. This is to allow time for our friends from Broadfield to arrive and join us in our Easter celebrations.

All parents, grandparents and Governors are invited to join us for our service. Church will be open for parents from 9:00am and a small selection of refreshments will be available.

CURRICULUM UPDATE:

Here are just some of the highlights from our learning this term:

Reception



Reception pupils have been finding out how to look after plants. They have planted sunflower seeds and they are already growing fast! We cannot wait to find out who manages to grow the tallest sunflower - good luck!

Exciting learning about the Easter story has also taken place. Pupils have re-enacted Palm Sunday, had their very own last supper and made Easter gardens. Incredible work Reception!





Stay and Play in Reception-



A huge thank you to all the parents and grandparents who have joined us on a Friday morning for Stay and Play. These sessions take place on a Friday morning, once a month and help adults to become more actively involved in their child's learning. It also is an opportunity to see what and how pupils learn in Early Years and talk to the staff. The next sessions will take place on 28th April, 19th May, 16th June, and 7th July at 8:50am - 9:30am.

Year 1 have been finding out about life in the Victorian times. This was brought to life in their recent visit to Salford Museum.



Year 2

Pupils have been finding out more about the lifecycle of a chick. They had fun opening an egg each day for 21 days to see the development! They have also visited St Mary's church to learn about why the church is a special place for Christians.





Year 3

Year 3 have been historians this term. They have travelled back in time and become archaeologists like Howard Carter, re-enacting the discovery of Tutankhamun's Tomb. They continued their learning and discovery about the Egyptians at Bolton Museum.



Year 4

Year 4 have enjoyed their tag rugby sessions with Mr DeAndrade this half term. They have learnt the skills of backwards passing and scoring tries and used these new skills in short games.





Year 5

Year 5 have been deepening their knowledge and understanding of the solar system and took part in a live lesson about the earth and moon.



Year 6



Year 6 have been using their IT skills in their science lessons to research Thomas Edison.

KING'S CORONATION:

We will be celebrating the King's Coronation as a significant historical event on the 5th May 2023.

Mrs Thomas, our History Lead is co-ordinating the event. Each class will explore and find out the significance and history of some of the key symbols/ objects/ proceedings which will be seen on this day.

These include:

- the anointing
- the spurs and sword
- the chair
- the royal robe and orb
- the ring and scepters
- the crown
- the oath



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Pupils are also invited to come to school dressed as kings, queens, princes or princesses to join in the celebrations. Alternatively, they can wear red, white or blue - but please no football shirts. There will also be a themed lunch on that day and all pupils will receive a small complimentary souvenir.

We will conclude the day with a presentation by some pupils from each class. They will share what they have discovered. Parents are warmly welcomed to join us for this part of the day. The Celebration worship will **start at the slightly earlier time of 2:40pm.**

EXTERNAL ASSESSMENTS:

External assessments include: Phonics in Yr1, Phonics resits in Yr2, Times Table Check in Yr4, SATs in Yr2 and SATs in Yr6. Please be assured that all of the above assessments are carried out in a safe and supportive environment. In order to reduce unnecessary pressure on our children, the assessments are presented as activities and 'special work'. Children, in all relevant classes, are already familiar with these types of activities and questions from work completed in class.

Year Six SATS are a more formal series of test papers, however school staff are able to make reasonable adjustments in line with the guidance, where appropriate. This year's Y6 SATs will take place from Tuesday 9th May - Friday 12th May 2023. Please make every effort to avoid booking any holidays or appointments during this period. Full attendance is essential. Year 6 will be invited into school early on these days for toast and juice, allowing them time to socialise and settle. We will send more details closer to the time. We will also be arranging an end of the week afternoon treat in recognition of all their hard work - details to follow.

LIVING OUT OUR CHRISTIAN VISION:

Pupils have amazed us this term with their actions and the choices they have made, in living out our Christian vision: 'love one another as Jesus loved us'. There have been so many amazing examples of this vision in action - from raising money for charities such as the homeless, cancer research and Papyrus to visiting and bringing joy to other residents in a nursing home and giving flowers to a neighbour when it was Mother's Day. These actions and ideas have frequently come from the children and have all been carried out without the expectation of reward but instead with joy and compassion for others.



Throughout the term, with the support of the clergy, we have explored the Christian value of Faith as one of the values which help us live out our core value: Love God.

Mother Katy, Mother Bec and Father Paul have continued to lead Circle time where pupils have had time to reflect on love and what is in their heart.

Next half term, our Christian Value and focus for Worship is Perseverance. We will also think about spirituality and what we mean by this. We hope over the next term pupils will be able to explore and share with you the 'Ow', 'Wow' and 'Now' moments that occur daily in our lives.



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The Citizenship Challenges:

Thank you to all pupils who continue to embrace the monthly citizenship challenges. We really enjoy hearing about what children have done and the difference they have made. School Council will send the next challenge this week ready for Easter.

CITIZENSHIP

A reminder those pupils completing 8 of the challenges (there are a possible 10) will receive a prestigious Citizenship Award Badge at the end of the academic year. Thank you for supporting St Mary's in making a small difference to our world.

ATTENDANCE:

Good attendance is of great importance for all our pupils and something we celebrate at the end of each term with badges presented to individual pupils.

Each month on the school newsletters we will also celebrate great attendance by class.

The class with the highest attendance this month is **Year 4** with 96.8% attendance!

Well done Year 4, keep up this magnificent achievement !



CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS:

Class photographs will take place on the morning of **Tuesday 16th May**. Please can all pupils wear full school uniform (no summer dresses). The photographs look very smart if **all** pupils are wearing their blue shirts and school ties.

In addition, the **Year 6** pupils will also have a very different but special type of photograph taken, as a memento of their last year at St. Mary's. **This photograph will also be taken on Tuesday 16th May.**

THEMED LUNCH DAYS:

This term pupils have enjoyed a Mexican themed lunch day chosen by the School Council. The next themed lunch will be on Friday 5th May, to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles. Please look for further communication as we return after the Easter holiday.

ST MARYS' CHURCH AND SCHOOL CIRCUS SUMMER FAIR:

This event is now well under way in its preparations and it promises to be an exciting event. Tickets, and details of how to purchase these, will be available after the Easter holiday. In the mean time **please save the date: Saturday 1st July** and be ready to purchase your tickets to see a live, professional circus. If you are able to help in any way with the organisation of this event or help on the day, please let the school office know or a member of the clergy. We hope this will be an exciting event for the whole family to enjoy.



ST. MARY'S SUPPORT GROUP NEWS:

The next meeting for the Parent Support Group is on Tuesday 18th April at 6:30pm in St Mary's School. **Please come along all new ideas and new members are warmly welcome.**

The next events for the Support Group are

- **Musical Evening - Friday 21st April** 7:00pm in St Mary's church. All school musical groups and the school choir will perform including a joint performance with Oldham Community Wind Band. There



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will also be an opportunity to listen to the Oldham acoustic guitarists. [Tickets are available via ParentPay or you can pay on the door, £5.00 per adult & £3.00 per child](#)

- **Ladies night** - Friday 28th April

Winning numbers at the last 150 club draw: 48, 89, 112, 80, 144, 150. Congratulations to all the winners. The next draw will be on Friday 31st March and will include the bonus draw of £500. **We still have vacant numbers if you wish to purchase a number please enquire at the school office.**

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT HALF TERM:

Tuesday:	Infant Fun Club	12:00 - 12:30pm
	Junior Fun Club	12:30 - 1:00pm Yr3 - 4
	Football	3:30 - 4:30pm Yr 4,5,6
Wednesday:	Choir	3:30 - 4:30 Y3 - Y6
Thursday:	School Band	8:30 - 9:00
	Anna's Dance	3:30 - 4:15 Y1, Y2 Y3
Friday:	Gymnastics	3:30 - 5:00

FORTHCOMING DATES:

Tues 18 th April:	Y5 visit to Castleshaw with Broadfield
Tues 18 th April:	PSG meeting in school 6:30pm
Fri 21 st April:	School Musical Evening at St Mary's Church 7:00pm start. Performers arrive 6:45pm
Fri 28 th April:	Reception Stay and Play 8:50 - 9:30am
Fri 28 th April:	PSG Ladies Night
Fri 5 th May:	School celebration of King Charles Coronation (Non uniform and themed lunch) 2:40pm Celebration Worship - parents welcome
Tues 9 th May-12 th May:	Y6 SATs week
Tues 16 th May:	Class Photographs
Wed 17 th May:	New Reception Welcome Evening
Thurs 18 th May:	Y6 Evolution Workshop Y4 Visit to Hindu Mandir
Fri 19 th May:	Reception Stay and Play 8:50 - 9:30am
Wed 24 th May:	Robinwood Information Evening

Easter Holiday Activities and Food programme

Families on benefits-related free school meals can now book their children onto the Oldham borough's new and exciting Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Easter programme. The latest set of activities take place between 2 and 16 April with free places primarily available for children aged 5-16, who are in receipt of benefits-related free school meals.

Please go to www.oldham.gov.uk/HAF for more information and see the attached leaflets.

A busy time for all ! May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very restful Easter.

Kind regards,

P.A Hartley

Headteacher