



St. Mary Magdalen's R.C.V.A Primary School

Spring.2 2021 – NEWSLETTER (Feb - April)

I hope that you have all enjoyed a restful and enjoyable half-term holiday and managed to spend some important time together with your families. The arrival of the lighter nights, longer days and hopefully some warmer weather, should help to brighten things up a little as we head into the second half of our spring term. Following several weeks of remote learning, with many of our children working from home, may I take this opportunity to thank you all for the support, patience and kindness during what has been a very difficult period. We acknowledge the pressures some families have faced, but by working together as a school family, I feel we have supported our children in the best way we can.

We hope to have the children back in school as soon as it is safe to do so and in line with government guidance. We have some wonderful opportunities planned including building in well-being time, celebration days as well as moving forward with the curriculum. During this term, we will also celebrate Holy Week with some special prayers, acts of worship and time to reflect.

Christ at the Centre - 'Statements to Live By'

As a Catholic school we are centred on Christ and Catholic beliefs and principles. Here at St. Mary Magdalen's we love and support each other, we show kindness to those around us and are respectful and tolerant, celebrating our many unique gifts. We recognise that Jesus is with us in all that we do, both in celebrating our successes and supporting us during our challenges.

This half term, we will be focusing on the Sunday Gospel readings, preparing for Lent and exploring our half termly 'Statements to Live By' - Ethos Statements.

Ethos Statements for February

- *I try to keep going when things are difficult and not give up hope.*

Ethos Statements for March

- *I know what humility means.*
- *I know when to ask for help and who to ask for help from.*
- *I can recognise comfortable and uncomfortable feelings.*
- *I know how to help others when they are in trouble.*
- *I understand what trust means.*



Easter Celebrations during Lent

As we enter the season of Lent, a time of reflection, penance and preparation before the celebrations of Easter, as Christians, we try to replicate the sacrifices that Jesus made. We will celebrate in school during Holy Week this year with daily liturgies, acts of worship and time for prayer, focused around the Easter Story. As yet, we are unsure whether we will be able to celebrate in church, but we hope to make some links with Father Marc, restrictions allowing. We aim to share as much as we can through our school website and Twitter.



"Lent is a good time for sacrificing. Let us deny ourselves something every day to help others."

Pope Francis



Ash Wednesday will take place on Wednesday 17th February, during the half-term holidays, marking the beginning of Lent. Please see the school website for further resources to support this.

Paste Egg Competition

Our annual paste egg competition will commence the week beginning 22nd March 2021. Details on how to submit entries will be sent out in due course, with entries being judged on Wednesday 31st March. Prizes will be given for the best entries in each year group or parents are welcome to enter the Parents category too. The competition was fiercely contested last year with some egg-cellent, egg-sperimental designs. We are looking forward to seeing your entries!



DT Week Spring 2021



Our theme this term is 'Textiles' and children will be mastering a range of skills linked to attaching materials. All year groups will be working on some Easter themed creations that they have designed, made and evaluated themselves. Watch this space!

UPDATE...

Year 3/4 Swimming

We are awaiting further guidance around swimming lessons resuming from Durham County Council. We realise that this is an important skill for all children, but due to current restrictions, we have been unable to go ahead with our planned sessions. We will update you as we find out new information.





Important Dates for your diary!!!

February Dates

- 12th - Safer Internet Day
- 17th - Ash Wednesday
- 22nd-26th - Empathy Week (KS2)

March Dates

- 5th - World Book Day
- 14th - Mother's Day
- 15th -19th - Assessment Week (provisional)
- 19th - St Joseph's Day (Year of St Joseph)
- 22nd -26th - DT Week (Textiles)
- 22nd - Paste Egg competition begins
- 29th - Holy Week begins

April Dates

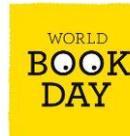
- 1st - School closes for Easter holidays
- 12th - Return to school after Easter holidays
- 19th -23rd - Parents Evenings (details to follow)

Parents Evenings Spring 2021

Given the amount of time children have engaged with remote learning throughout the spring term, we feel it is best to delay the spring Parents evenings until early in the summer term. This gives the children chance to settle back into familiar routines and also gives the staff a chance to assess and plan accordingly for all children. We await further government guidance on whether face to face consultations will be possible or we will use another system to share information with you as parents. Appointments and further information to follow.

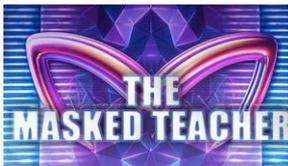
SEND Reviews

Our school SEND reviews will take place with parents this half term. Pupil support plans and targets for the spring term will be finalised and reviewed with parents in March 2021. Reviews will take place virtually where needed and further information regarding these appointments will be sent to parents in due course.



World Book Day 2021
Friday 5th March

World Book Day



This year, we will be celebrating World Book day on Friday 5th March. We have adapted our plans to incorporate remote learning and are pleased to announce we have some fantastic events and activities taking place including...

The Masked Teacher, potato storybook characters, 'Draw with Rob' bookmarks and most importantly, lots of time planned to enjoying reading and listening to stories. We can't wait!

St Joseph's Day

In line with 'The Year of St Joseph', as chosen by Pope Francis and the Vatican, we will be celebrating St Joseph's feast day this year, on Friday 19th March. The month of March is dedicated to St Joseph and he is regarded as the patron saint of workers. The children will be learning about the life of St Joseph, as Mary's husband and the guardian of the son of God. More information to follow.



If any further dates or changes to planned arrangements arise, depending on how local and national restrictions adjust, we will keep you informed via the school app. You can also keep up to date with events on our school website - check out the school calendar or Twitter page!

School News!



School Lunches

We have a new cook in school with our school meals provider, Taylor Shaw. She has worked hard to develop tasty, new menus and recipes that the children will enjoy. Menus will be shared with all children once we have a full return to school. If you would like your child to try school lunches, please contact the school office.

Free School Meals

During the pandemic, your circumstances may have changed and this means you could be entitled to free school meals. If you are in receipt of Universal Credit, Income Support or some other named benefits, you may be eligible. If this is the case, please contact the school office to request a form to be emailed over. Registering your child for free school meals could raise extra funding for school to support additional activities.



Safer Internet Day

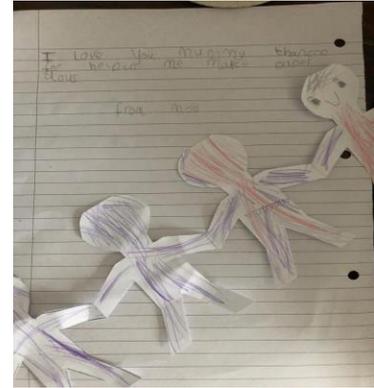
On the 12th February we celebrated Safer Internet day. Learning was dedicated to educating children on the dangers they can face online and how to keep themselves safe. In our current climate, where working online has been so prominent, this was particularly important and the children responded positively to discussions around this. Further activities and information around this can be found at www.saferinternet.org.uk



Parking:

Please could we give a reminder to parents not to park on the road markings or pavements directly outside of school in order to maintain safe places to cross for our families and ensure children are able to see oncoming traffic. This will also help to limit congestion at the school gates. Thank you for your co-operation.

Random Acts of Kindness



A big thank you to Mrs Sharp for organising our Random Acts of Kindness initiative in school. It's been wonderful to hear of the many ways our school family show their kindness in creative ways, enabling us to focus on positive thinking during these difficult times.



Remote Learning - Parent Survey

Firstly, may I reiterate the thanks for the unwavering support from you as parents, during what has been a very challenging half-term, in ways we have never experienced before. May I extend those thanks to those of you who took the time to complete the survey around remote learning provision. This identified many strengths in our remote learning provision and also some ways we can further develop. We are currently reviewing elements of practice to make suitable changes. Your suggestions and support were warmly received.

Further information regarding our remote learning survey will be displayed on our school website soon.