



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

### Summer 1 2021 – NEWSLETTER (April-May)

I hope that you have all enjoyed a happy and holy Easter break with your loved ones. It has certainly been a busy start to the year so far but we are very much looking forward to an exciting summer term, which will hopefully bring some easing of restrictions in certain areas. We will continue to follow our risk assessment, in line with government guidance, and communicate any updates as they come to light. The safety of our pupils remains paramount and regulations are closely adhered to, at all times, in school. Please continue to support us by following social distancing guidelines and ensuring that if your child develops any symptoms of Covid-19, they remain at home and/or are given a PCR test where necessary.

We have been delighted with how well the children have settled since returning to school on 8<sup>th</sup> March. Our robust Recovery Curriculum has been updated for the summer term. This reflects the adjustments made following the period of school closure over the spring term, including gaps identified from this point. Further enhancements are in place to complement this, including links with establishments such as Beamish Museum and Segedunum.

#### **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. 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 and exploring our half termly 'Statements to Live By'.

#### **Ethos Statements for April**

- *I understand what trust means.*
- *I try to forgive people when they hurt me.*
- *I try to accept forgiveness from others.*
- *I know how to show I am sorry.*



#### **Ethos Statements for May**

- *I understand the importance of peace.*
- *I know what human dignity means and I show that I respect others.*
- *I stand up for people who are being treated unfairly.*

## School Uniform

As we enter the summer term, children are asked to wear their Summer uniform. This consists of ...

**Boys:** Navy jumper, light blue polo shirt with collar (no tie required), grey trousers or shorts.

**Girls:** Navy jumper / cardigan, light blue polo shirt with collar (no tie required), navy skirt/trousers.

All children should wear black school shoes and not trainers.

Watches are the only items of jewellery that can be worn for school.



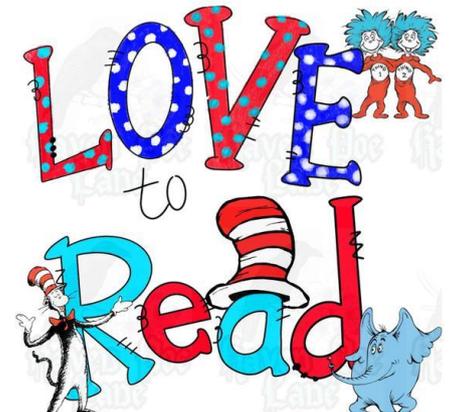
**PE kit:** Children are now asked to come to school wearing their PE kit - light blue t-shirt and navy shorts, with trainers for outdoor PE and plimsolls for indoor sports. On colder days, children can wear jogging bottoms over their shorts and a school jumper/cardigan.

**Hair:** Girls and boys with long hair (shoulder length or longer) should ensure that their hair is tied back using a hair bobble or band. This is to prevent the spread of head lice and for safety reasons.

Please refer to our school website for further details.

## Reading Rocks!

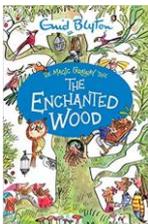
Reading is such an important part of your child's education. There is overwhelming evidence that literacy has a significant correlation to children's life chances. We place great importance on reading skills at St Mary Magdalen's and encourage children to read for pleasure every day in school. It is therefore vitally important that children read as often as possible at home too. Please support your child with this and remember - every five reads at home means your child wins a raffle ticket in school for our half-termly reading raffle.



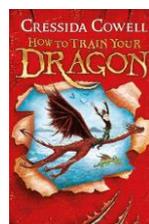
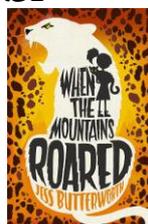
## Class novels

During the summer term, we will be reading a range of novels in school...

KS1



LKS2



UKS2



EYFS will continue to read their story cycle, focusing on the structure and language of stories.



## Important Dates for your diary!!!

### April Dates

**12<sup>th</sup> April** - Return to school after Easter holidays

**19<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> April** - EYFS & KS1 Parents Evenings (appointments will be via a ten-minute telephone call by the class teacher. Parent evening phone calls will take place, week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021).

**26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> April** - KS2 Parents Evenings (appointments will be via a ten-minute telephone call by the class teacher. Parent evening phone calls will take place week commencing 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021).

### **26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> April - Academy conversion to Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust**

Governors have taken the decision to extend the consultation period, relating to academy conversion. This will now run during the summer term 2021. This will give parents sufficient time to voice their thoughts on this matter. A letter will be sent out to all parents outlining this decision and there will be a parent consultation form (both paper copy and online) available via our school website.

During the **week commencing 26<sup>th</sup> April** the headteacher and Chair of Governors will be available to answer any questions or queries relating to the academy conversion process. There will be further opportunities for stakeholders to ask any questions relating to this process **w/c 17<sup>th</sup> May** and **w/c 14<sup>th</sup> June**. If you would like an appointment to discuss this, please ring the school office - 01915813055.

### May Dates

**3<sup>rd</sup> May**- May bank holiday

**Assessments:** Due to the coronavirus pandemic all statutory assessments have been cancelled for 2021. This includes the KS1 and KS2 SAT's. School will use teacher assessment for 2021.

### Golden Ticket Raffle



We will be starting our new 'Golden Ticket' raffle in school during the Summer Term. Children will all have the opportunity to win tickets which will be added to our Golden Ticket jar. We are looking for good manners, excellent behavior and super effort in class. Winners will be drawn at the end of term - Good luck!

### School Kitchen Garden

Toward the end of the spring term, each class has been allocated an area of our school kitchen garden. They are each developing their plots to grow a range of fresh produce that our school cook will use in producing some delicious lunches.

Starfish - Rhubarb  
Seahorse - Beans  
Redacre - Radishes  
Fleetrock - Carrots  
Featherbed - Raspberries  
Byron - Courgettes  
Vane Tempest - Strawberries  
Milbanke - Beetroot  
George Elmy - Peas  
Charles Stewart - Onions  
Elliot Gala - Potatoes



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!



## Y6 Easter Liturgy

A big thank you to our Year 6 pupils, who led a beautiful Easter liturgy in church, before the school holidays. A thoughtful reflection during Holy week reminding us that in dying, Jesus gave new life to us, cleansing us of our sins.

## Lunchtime Supervisor Vacancy

Due to one of our lunchtime supervisors moving on, a vacancy has opened up for 10 hours weekly, supervising classes from 11.30-1.30pm. If you are interested, please contact the school office for further details.

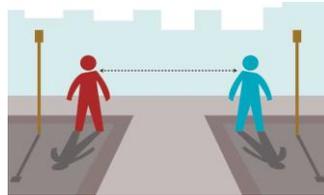
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## Hand washing



We are aware that due to hygiene regulations in the current climate and in line with guidelines on our risk assessment, children are washing their hands many more times each day. As a result of this, some children may have developed some sensitivities with their skin. We will now be using the liquid soap for handwashing, as we have used in school in the past. If your child is having difficulties with the skin on their hands, they are welcome to bring in a small tube of their own moisturiser to ensure their hands are protected at school.

## Social distancing



Please can we reinforce the importance of social distancing measures when entering the school site. We encourage masks to be worn at all times, socially distancing where possible and one parent to drop-off and pick-up. With the risk of transmitting Covid 19 remaining high, it is important we all do what we can to prevent the spread of this disease.



## The Year of St Joseph

In line with our Diocesan 'Year of Focus' this year, we celebrated St Joseph's day on Friday March 19<sup>th</sup>. The children have since completed a challenge to create a model of St Joseph using recycled materials. The standard of entries has been high and we are very impressed with the creativity shown by the children. Each class has also composed a special prayer which is shared on their focal point and read during class prayer time.

# Σ EMPATHY W WEEK

## Empathy Week

Our KS2 children have taken part in 'Empathy Week 2021' from 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> February. We looked at the theme of 'Resilience and Diversity' and had a series of lessons around this. The children engaged very well and it provoked some very thoughtful discussion.

### Projects...

Children have since planned a project based around a theme of their choice and incorporating all of the learning they have covered this term. We have some fantastic initiatives, which the Well-being Ambassadors will judge in the Summer Term. Our winning project will then be put forward and rolled out across school. We are very much looking forward to finding out what the judges will choose and how the project will impact in action.