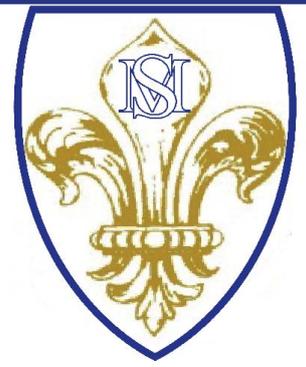


# St Mary's News



31<sup>st</sup> January 2022

As another busy fortnight draws to a close we have discussed this week how we are half way through the academic year! The spring term always seems to whizz by and this seems no different.

However, the snowdrop bulbs are beginning to peep through in the Forest School and the nights are definitely beginning to be a little lighter! Spring is definitely on its way.

## Uniform

This fortnight we've had lots of reminders of the uniform that children should be wearing. Our school uniform is incredibly smart when worn correctly and provides a real sense of pride and belonging.

Please check the email sent from the school office and the uniform page on the school website [here](#) to ensure that your child is wearing the correct uniform. Thank you.

Uniform can be purchased from [Uniformwise](#).



## Bikeability

Over the last couple of weeks Year 6 have not only been working exceptionally hard in class but have been learning to cycle safely whilst out and about on the roads and streets of Tilbury. They have learnt to signal and manoeuvre all whilst handling their bikes with maturity and care.



## CAFOD Workshops

This week we've welcomed Angela and Margaret from CAFOD who shared workshops with Years 1 and 2 and Years 5 and 6 around Catholic Social Teaching. The children learnt about equality and respect, particularly focusing on how we treat our brothers and sisters all over the world. "We have to treat everyone equally no matter what the colour of their skin, the accent they may have or where they live," Demilade explained. Niamh then commented - "I thought it was really interesting to learn about cocoa farmers and how they don't get a fair price for their beans. We learnt how we can buy Fair Trade chocolate so that everyone gets a fair share." Demilade and Niamh are two of our Faith Counsellors and we're really grateful to our CAFOD colleagues for their time and for supporting our education around this vital work.

CAFOD will be our Lenten charity this year – please keep your eyes peeled for messages from the Faith Council as to how we will raise money to support their ongoing endeavours

---

## Pupil Survey

As a school we have carried out a Pupil Survey based on questions that Ofsted ask the children when they visit, I then followed this up to gain even more clarity around some responses.

Our survey showed that a whopping 97% of our children enjoy school the majority of the time and 98% of the children said they enjoy their learning the majority of the time – which is great!

Furthermore 99% of the children said they felt safe in school the majority of the time and that there was an adult they could speak if they were worried. There are always things to the work on and improve and for some children felt we could make our range of after school clubs even better and some children would like work which is even more challenging! Challenge accepted St Mary's!

---

## Chinese New Year

Next Tuesday is Chinese New Year – did you know the New Year celebrations last for 16 days?! We will celebrate on Tuesday with a special Year of the Tiger cake as part of the school meal – thank you to Mrs Puttnam for organising this for us. Then on the 9th February we will be taking part in a special Chinese New Year Dance workshop – keep your eyes peeled for the photographs!

## School Meal Prize Draw

Last Thursday we held a prize draw for those children who chose to have a school dinner that day. Our winners were Marianne, Star, James, Tomiwa, Benson, Ruby and Nicole! Congratulations everyone!

---

## Parking

Being so close to our neighbours, Lansdowne Primary, means that the beginning and the end of the day are always busy – both in terms of traffic and parking. Please may I ask you to park considerately – do not block drives or access roads. Please also do not park on the zig zag lines as this is incredibly dangerous for our children.

---

## First Holy Communion Class

First Holy Communion classes will be taking place for children who are enrolled on Tuesday 1st February at 4.30pm in church. Please keep these children in your prayers as they start this special journey in their faith.

## Respect Ourselves, Respect Others, Respect our School, Love God

We've been discussing our school mission statement over the past few weeks and the children have commented on how they would like to "think big". Their suggestion has been to change "Respect our School" to "Respect our World" highlighting their work on looking after our planet and reflecting Pope Francis' call in Laudato Si reminding us of our "stewardship of the Earth". Please give us your feedback on this as we'd love to hear from you as part of our consultation.

As I finish typing our newsletter I am feeling incredibly proud of our team – children, families and staff. I can smell the waft of biscuits cooking from Y4, Y5 have promised me some amazing writing based on their text, Kensuke's Kingdom, Reception are busting out some moves in the hall with Miss Brooke and a whole host of children have set themselves reading targets to aim for by Easter – we can only achieve all of these things by working together – thank you everyone for your continued support.

Kind regards



Mrs V L McBrown  
Headteacher

We thank you for the gift of today and for all that you have prepared for us.  
Help us to 'Know Ourselves' so that we can truly serve you.  
Let our hands be the hands of Jesus by helping those we meet;  
Let our words be the words of Jesus by speaking with truth and justice;  
Let our hearts be like the heart of Jesus always willing to forgive and find mercy.  
We pray that we can fulfil the potential you give us and we trust that you will walk by our sides as we grow in faith, knowledge and understanding.

Amen

