

Newsletter

Friday 17th March 2023



St. Mary's Catholic
Primary School

Dear Parents and Friends

Spring is almost here...

On Monday 20th March, it is officially the season of Spring. At last! We have had some very challenging weather, but hopefully as the days are getting longer we will see more sunshine. As I've said before, I love Spring and witnessing nature waking up after its winter slumber. It also reminds me of all the exciting things we can look forward to in school as the weather gets warmer.



Turkey-Syria Earthquake

Our school family continues to walk for charity in order to raise money for the CAFOD Syria and Turkey Earthquake Appeal. We want to raise awareness of those suffering from the earthquakes and to support those communities who have already been affected by conflict. All classes will walk daily after lunch for ten minutes. We only have two more weeks until the end of term, when we hope to have raised our target £500.

Here is a link to our Just Giving page where you can donate:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/st-mary-s-primary-school-marnhull2023>

This is link to CAFOD to see how they are supporting in Syria:

<https://cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/syria-crisis-appeal>

We would be very grateful for donations and really want to help those in need. When you make a donation you can add words of encouragement for your child or the whole school and we'd love to know who has donated. Thank you

Father Francis

Fr. Francis will sadly be leaving our parish at Easter, as he is returning to Buckfast Abbey. We will be very sad to see him go. Fr. Joseph Nwiboko will take his place as Parish Priest and I'm sure you will join me in welcoming him.

The parish are organising a leaving party for Fr. Francis on Monday 10th April at the school. If you would like to attend, please let the office know how many so that the parishioners organising the event have an idea of numbers to cater for.

Red Nose Day – Friday 17th March



We're very conscious of the fact that we have been asking you to donate to CAFOD in support of those in need due to the earthquake in Syria and Turkey; however, we are joining with the national Red Nose Day event today. We are asking for a donation of £1 and the children can come to school in non-uniform, with comedy hair or dressed as a superhero. Last year,

people paid 20p to tell me a joke to see if they could make me laugh – it was great fun! I look forward to seeing the children's efforts this year!

Parents Evening

It was so lovely to see you at parents evening. If you haven't yet met with your teacher, please arrange another time with them, as it is important that we work together to support your child's progress.



Reading – the gateway to learning!

We had a great day celebrating World Book Day. All the children received a £1 World Book Day book token which you can still exchange your book token for a FREE book until Sunday 26th March 2023.



We are also looking forward to a visit from Pete the Poet on Tuesday 21st March, which coincides with National Poetry day. This visit has been kindly funded by the PTFA. I'm sure the children will tell you all about it after the visit.

Please can I remind you of the importance of **hearing your children read at home** daily – or AT LEAST three times a week, even when they are in Y6! Please record this in your child's reading record and ensure that they bring both their reading book and reading record to school every day. Please also record if they are reading other books from home or the local library! If children can read fluently, they will enjoy their reading more and be able to access their learning more easily.

PE Days

Here is a reminder of when your children are doing PE this half term. It will change again after Easter.



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
St Mark's St Francis'	St Mark's St Anthony's	St Alban's St Francis'	St Anthony's	St Alban's

School Uniform

Please can you ensure your child comes to school with appropriate school uniform – there has been an increase in non-school uniform hoodies, trainers and boots being worn. It has also been noted that whilst the children are wearing uniform, they need to take more care over the neatness, with shirts tucked in etc. Can I also remind you that jewellery and nail varnish are not permitted. There is a pre-loved uniform sale on Friday 24th March after Celebration Assembly.



Safety on the Lanes

Please can I ask you to be patient, respectful and safe in and around the car park and the lanes, especially on busier days when there are no clubs. Thank you again for your cooperation in this matter.



Please remember that we have **Breakfast Club** which starts at 8am every day and costs £2.50 per session.

Busy Bees After School Club has 3 sessions:

3:15 - 4:15pm - £3.50

3:15 – 5:00pm - £7.50

3:15 – 6:00pm - £10.00

Please use School Money to book your child in for any sessions, but note that you can't book through School Money on the day. Children being picked up after 5pm, will be charged until 6pm. Thank you.

After school clubs

Next week is the last week for Teacher Clubs (20th – 24th March) until after Easter.



Day	Clubs
Monday	Art & Craft Club – Miss Smith
Wednesday	Book Club – Mrs Betts
Thursday	Eco Club – Mrs Myatt Football KS2 – Mr Young

Attendance and punctuality

Please remember that the bell rings at 8:45 and that is when the gates will be closed. Anyone arriving after that time will be marked late in the register. Thank you for your understanding in this matter. **Please email or phone the office to alert school for any absence or lateness.** Thank you.

Attendance Matters



Celebration Assembly

Please remember; in response to the parent survey, we have decided to open up Celebration Assembly to **all** parents starting. We look forward to seeing you at the slightly earlier time of 2.45pm, so we can start at 2.50pm. Thank you.



Used batteries collection

We have a box in the front foyer for collecting used batteries. Before placing any batteries in the box, please ensure:

- They are not damaged or leaking, as they are a hazard
- Batteries with trailing wires should have the wires removed or taped down.
- They are placed inside the box
- Lithium batteries have their terminals taped over.



PTFA



We hope everyone who came to our film night enjoyed it. I know we all did and will be looking to planning another one.

We have the Scholastic book fair coming into school next week from Tuesday 21st March. We are going cashless this year, using a QR code, and you can also pay from home if you can't get into the book fair. We have sent an email with more information about this.

Any Easter bonnet or colouring competition entries are due in next Friday 24th March. They will be judged anonymously by the school Governors and winners will be announced on Friday 31st March - good luck to everyone who is entering!

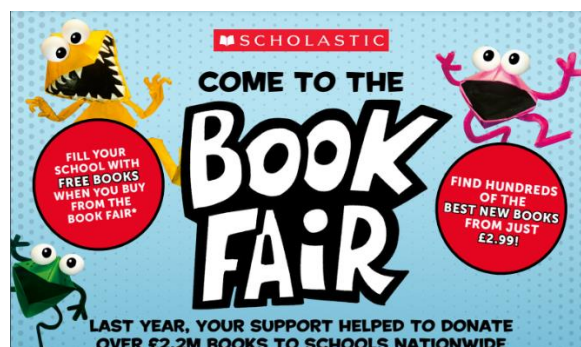
We are running an Easter egg hunt on 31st of March for a little bit of Easter fun before everyone breaks up for the holidays.

Don't forget, we also have our next pre loved uniform sale on Friday 24th March after celebration assembly. We have a huge selection including summer uniform.

We have a date for early next term - Friday 21st April. We will having a non-school uniform day in exchange for contribution towards Rainbow hampers! More details to follow before the holidays.

Scholastic Book Fair

The PTFA have also organised for the Scholastic Book Fair to come to school next week. It will be open in the afternoons for you and your child/ren to browse and buy. It arrives on Tuesday 21st March and will be collected on Tuesday 28th March.



This is a wonderful opportunity to receive free books for the school if we make £300 worth of sales. Obviously, the more we sell, the more free books we receive and it is operated on a % basis. So, it would be lovely to see as many of you as possible at the book fair and please do encourage family members to spend as well using either of the payment methods below.

This year, we are going cashless and there are 2 ways of paying for any books you want to buy.

The first is through a QR code for you to scan using your phone that we will have at the book fair. This will take you through to the secure payment site that is linked to our school.

All you need to do is bring your books to a member of the PTFA team, so that we can record the sale, and then use the QR code.

The second is through a wish list. The children will be given a chance to visit the book fair during the week and may come home with the wish list. You are then able to pay at home using www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay and selecting our school from the drop down menu.

If you choose to pay using this link and the wish list, all you need to do is pay online and then return the wish list to school, to our box in the school foyer, and we will sort your books from the book fair and send them home with your child/ren.

If you have any questions, please do let the PTFA know.

Early Years Speech and Language Therapy Early Advice Drop In Service

Dorset NHS are pleased to share with you details of Ready STEADI Chat, the new easy access Speech and Language Therapy Early Advice Drop Ins for **children aged under 5**. More information about the drop ins including locations and how to reserve your 20 minute slot can be found on our website at

<https://www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/our-services-hospitals/physical-health/paediatric-speech-and-language-therapy/family-access/lets-talk>

Our vision is to be...

**BETTER
EVERY
DAY**

through...



**Dorset HealthCare
University**
NHS Foundation Trust

Ready **STEADI** Chat

The **NEW** easy access pathway to speech and language therapy for children who have not started school, will commence from the 17 April 2023.

You will be able to bring your child along to one of our regular **NHS:**

Speech **T**herapy **E**arly **A**dvice **D**rop **I**n's

The Drop-In session is a pre-bookable session for parents/carers who have concerns about their child's speech, language and/or communication development. You will have the opportunity to discuss your concerns with a Speech and Language Therapist.

If you feel your child may struggle being in a group with other children, or become distressed in new or unfamiliar places then we offer a virtual session instead.

To reserve a time slot to see us, first visit our website

www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk

and choose one of the sessions listed.

Next, call the number below to reserve your slot

01202 443200

Lines are open between 10am & 2pm Monday to Friday

Families will only be seen in an arranged time slot

The adult coming to the session must have parental responsibility and the child must be registered with a Dorset GP

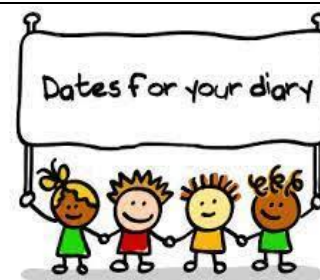


For further information please contact us on

dhc.slt.queries@nhs.net

Dates for your diary:

- **Tuesday 21st - Tuesday 28th March - Scholastic Book Fair**
- **Friday 24th March - Pre loved uniform sale at 3.10pm**
- **31st March - Easter Egg Hunt**
- **Wednesday 29th March – Lent Day of Faith**
- **Friday 31st March – last day of Spring Term**
- **Easter Holidays**
- **Monday 17th April - children return to school**
- **21st April – non-school uniform day for Rainbow Hampers**
- **Monday 1st May – Bank Holiday – school closed**
- **Monday 8th May – Bank Holiday – school closed**
- **Tuesday 9th – Friday 12th May – Y6 SATS**
- **Friday 26th May – break up for Half Term**
- **Monday 5th June – INSET Day**
- **Tuesday 6th June - children return to school**
- **26th June - Bag2School Collection**



God Bless

Sharon Betts
Headteacher