

St Mary's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

February 2023



Dear Parents/Carers

I cannot believe we are at the end of another month. I wish to share the wonderful news following our recent inspection that the school remains a 'Good' School. There are so many positives which the inspector alluded to in his report. I select but a few:

'Pupils enjoy coming to school. They know that adults care about them and make sure that they are safe. Pupils are polite to others and move around school calmly. In class, pupils usually behave well. However, when activities do not match pupils' needs appropriately, they can become less focused on their work. Staff and pupils report that there has been a reduction in behaviour incidents in school since the start of the academic year. School records support this view'.

'The newly appointed headteacher, supported by the multi-academy trust, has worked quickly to establish a new senior leadership team. Collectively, the team has redesigned Inspection report: Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy 17 and 18 January 2023 2 the curriculum and many other aspects of the school, such as the way in which the school supports pupils' wider development. Although still at an early stage, the impact of leaders' work is beginning to be seen'.

'Leaders have established a consistent approach to the teaching of mathematics across the school. They have ensured the progression of knowledge and skills over time. The mathematics curriculum has been enhanced with additional resources to ensure that pupils regularly revise and practise arithmetic skills and multiplication facts'.

'Children in the early years enjoy learning in the classroom and outside. Leaders have ensured that the classroom is an attractive space for children to learn'.

'The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Pupils know that they can go to an adult if they feel unsafe. Safeguarding display boards in every classroom provide age-appropriate information to pupils. Pupils refer to this information, such as the minimum age for using different social media apps'.

There is so much to celebrate in the newsletter this month and please take time to read everything. I am so proud of the staff and children here at St Mary's and thank you for entrusting them to our care.

Every good wish,

Joseph O'Connor

Dates for the Diary

31st March - School Closes

Pentecost Term 2023

17th April - Back to school

10th April - Easter Bank Holiday

1st May - May Day Bank Holiday

8th May - Coronation of King Charles III Bank Holiday

26th May - School Closes

29th May - Late May Bank Holiday

5th June - Back to school

20th July - School Closes



We value all in the name of Jesus the Christ



Attendance and Absences

If your child is absent from school, it is your responsibility to contact the school to let us know. This can be done by calling the office on 01472 357982 or emailing the office at office@smp.nelcmail.co.uk or by messaging on the Scholarpack app.

Please do not message on Dojo.

If your child is absent and we do not hear from you by one of the methods above, you will receive a phone call to ask the reason for the absence. If you do not respond to the phone call, then a home visit could be made. If we do not receive an acceptable reason for the absence, then it will be recorded as unauthorised. Unauthorised absences are reported to the Education Welfare officer and could result in a penalty notice.

Pick Up

We ask that parents wait behind the cones which are placed at the bottom of the school playground. Staff will only release their child once they have seen the nominated parent/carer or person whose name appears on the permissions to take home form. Children will come out in their classes and will line up and will be dismissed accordingly. If someone turns up to collect a child who is not on the nominated list, the child will not be released to that person.

This is for all the children's safety.



Attendance

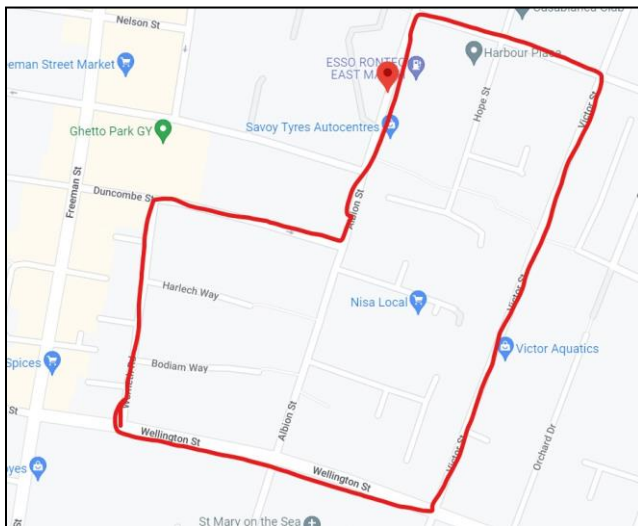
Well done to Year 5 whose attendance is at 95.92% and with the whole school being 94.23% overall.



Please see the following items for your attention.

Lunches - Please remember to order lunches x2 weeks in advance. Please order via <https://nel.mealselector.co.uk/>

There will be a change of menu after the Easter Holiday.



Keep Britain Tidy - Spring Clean which runs from 17th March to 2nd April

The Housing Officer for Lincolnshire Housing Partnership who covers part of the East Marsh area, are arranging a clean-up day for an area on the East Marsh see the attached map on the 29th March 2023 running from around 9am to 4pm. They are planning on having some skips in Elliott House car park, Albion Street, whilst others will be going around the area with litter-pickers, brushes trying to tidy the area. Local Police officers, Councillors, LHP Staff, residents and some other agencies will also be taking part.

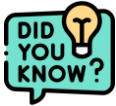


ParentPay - We have a lot of upcoming trips and sport competitions that will be on ParentPay. This is a record set for all parents and carers to fill out consent for their child to attend. Please contact the office if you are having issues. Or please email ParentPay on support@parentpay.com.

Top tips if cannot log in.

1. Delete app and re-download
2. Reset password this should be sent to your email. You need to access this ASAP as it only lasts for 24hrs. Please check junk folder.

Catholic Life



As I'm sure you're aware, 22nd February was the start of Lent. Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter in the Christian calendar. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. Lent is marked by fasting, both from food and festivities. Whereas Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus after his death on the cross, Lent recalls the events leading up to and including Jesus' crucifixion by Rome. This is believed to have taken place in Roman occupied Jerusalem. The Christian churches that observe Lent in the 21st century (and not all do significantly) use it as a time for prayer and penance. Only a small number of people today fast for the whole of Lent, although some maintain the practice on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. It is more common these days for believers to surrender a particular vice such as favourite foods or smoking. Whatever the sacrifice, it is a reflection of Jesus' deprivation in the wilderness and a test of self-discipline.

On the 22nd February Fr Andrew led the service on Ash Wednesday, supported by the Minnie Vinnies.



The Big Lent Walk - during Lent, CAFOD set the challenge of walking 200km to help tackle climate change. As part of this, we are looking to organise an in-school fun run, where each class will be asked to take part in walking a mile, with fancy dress optional (£1 to come in non-uniform). We will let you know the date once we have confirmed it. On Tuesday 14th March, Ann Neale from CAFOD will be in school, to lead a whole school assembly on CAFOD, and then she will spend time in each class leading workshops on Catholic Social teaching.



CAFOD
Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

<https://cafod.org.uk/>

What we have been up to at St Mary's!

Sports Competition



Children from Years 3 and 4 took part in a Develop dodgeball competition against other local primary schools. They represented St Mary's well, winning the Honesty award of the event. Well done to all.



Also, well done to the Year 5 and 6 dodgeball team who competed against other schools in the area and did the school proud. Well done to all that took part.



★★★★★
Excellent!

YEAR 1 - This month, the children of Year 1 got the opportunity to go to Cleethorpes to support their history topic on Victorian Cleethorpes. They enjoyed walking along the seafront and climbing up to the top of Ross Castle, then finished the afternoon sitting on Cleethorpes Pier with some chips from Papas. It was a great afternoon out!

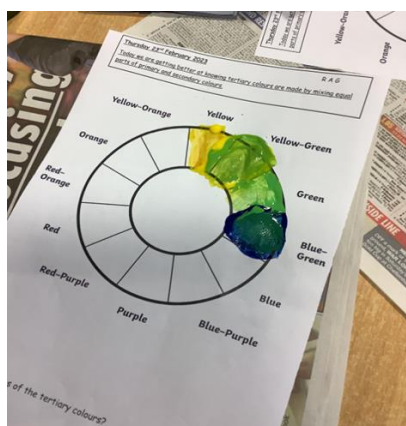


We also dressed up as school children in the Victorian times, and learned about the rules children had to follow, such as standing up when an adult walk into class, only speaking when asked to and boys and girls sitting separately. There was even a dunce's hat!

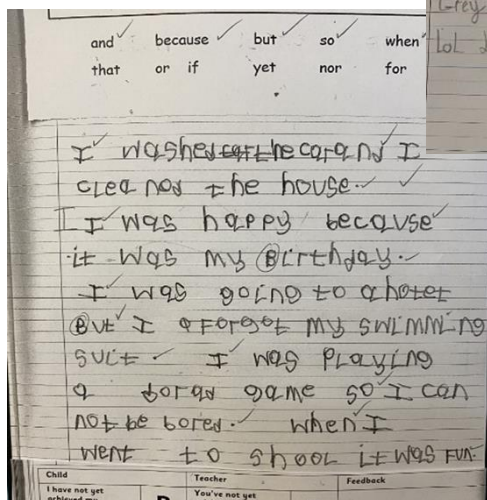
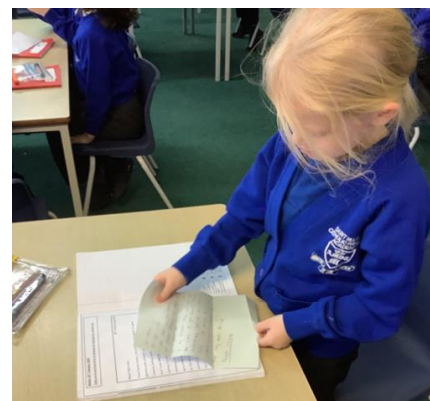
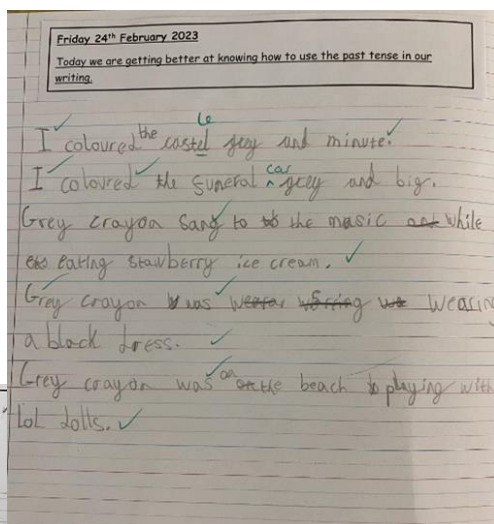




YEAR 2 - In art we have looked at the colour wheel including the tertiary colours. Children were shown how these colours are made by mixing equal amounts of primary and secondary colours and the names given to these colours.



In our English lessons, we have begun our writing unit on Recounts. Children were surprised to find letters in our classroom written by crayons, these were taken from the Oliver Jeffers book, 'The Day the Crayons Quit'. We read the letters out in class and have started learning new grammar skills and new vocabulary to help write our very own letters.

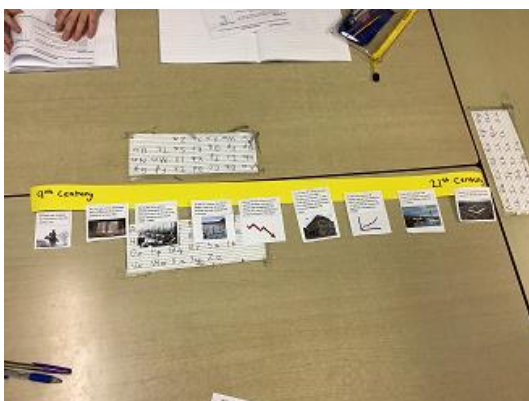




Year 3 - are learning all about forces and magnetics and had the exciting opportunity to visit Magna Science Adventure Centre. Looking from the pictures, I do believe they had a very good time.



Year 3 have also learnt that the population of Grimsby changed over time and made a timeline. Before February half term, Year 3 were discovering fossils and we were very lucky to be able to handle some. We even managed to get one of our own to take home called a "devil's toenail."





Year 4 - This term we are learning about fractions. Children will understand what a mixed number and an improper fraction is and how to convert these.

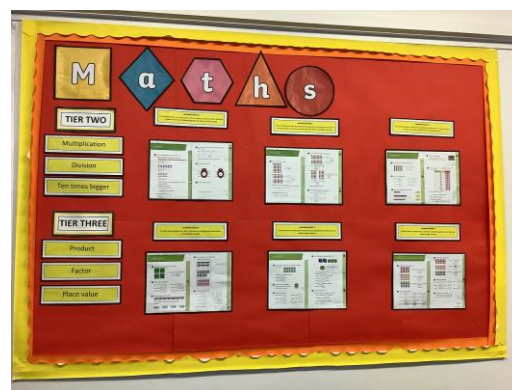
In Literacy- We are learning about how to write an information text.

In Science- We are learning about how to group and classify. Children will learn how to classify different living and non-living things, and learn about different ways we group animals into mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, invertebrates and reptiles.

History- We are learning all about our local history. We are looking at the history of Grimsby, the population of Grimsby and how population boomed in the 19th century. We are looking at local landmarks, like The Dock Tower and how Grimsby used to have a workhouse.

RE- We are learning about giving and receiving in which we look into the Holy Communion and the Communion Rite.

Art-We will be looking at the artist Lee Panizza, who is an artist from Australia. We will be looking at different techniques and how shade and tints are used.



Year 5 took part in a Hamlet workshop led by Jonny Ball from the National Theatre; this was a fun and immersive experience.

They have also been looking at a school log book that is almost 100 years old. It was found in the loft space only a few years ago when the phone systems were put in.

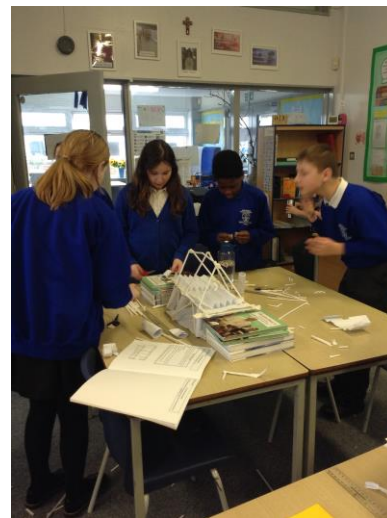
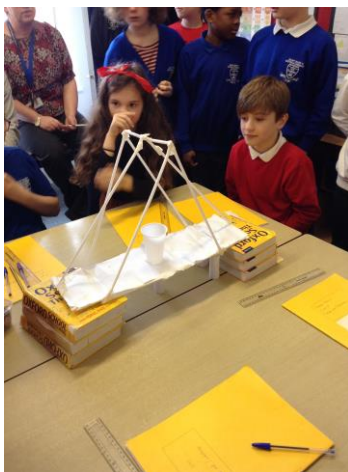
They also had an extra PE lesson with Premier Education as the school won the penalty shootout competition. The children learned the skills needed for Ultimate Frisbee.



Year 6 have been Physicists in Science this month, and have been learning about electrical components and circuits, and learning how to draw the recognised symbols. The class have been making series circuits which included motors, bulbs and buzzers.



In Design and Technology, the class had the challenge to build bridges out of a set amount of paper. The bridges had to hold as many 2p coins as they could. The children learned that triangular shapes are used for strength.



Year 6 also planted a tree in Grant Thorold Park as part of the East Marsh United Tree Planting project.

