



St Mary's Catholic Primary

Newsletter – April 2025

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Dear Parents/Carers,

St Mary's is an Outstanding School for Catholic Life and Mission. This is, without doubt, the proudest moment in my thirty years of teaching and leadership and I pay a sincere thanks to all the children, parents and especially the staff who are quite remarkable and provide a pastoral care which, in the words of the report, is 'exemplary'. This season is the Holy season of Eastertide, when we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord. This is a special time for the us all as we seek to celebrate the victory of Christ's resurrection over death and that we are born to eternal life. At this time, we remember our late beloved Holy Father, Pope Francis, whose ministry was dedicated to a life of service and humility, especially to the poor and marginalised. This is the very heart of the Gospel's message that we come as a Church to serve and not to be served.

There is much to celebrate in the newsletter so can I please ask that you read it carefully, especially the run up to SATs.

We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song

Kind regards

Safeguarding at St Mary's

If you have any concerns regarding safeguarding, please contact our designated safeguarding Team. At St Mary's our safeguarding lead is Mr. J O'Connor, safeguarding officer is Miss C Queen and deputy-safeguarding officer Mrs. M Steeper.

Level 3 safeguarding trained are Mrs R Walton, Miss J Briscoe and Miss B Cullum. Mrs K Tuff is our well-being, personal development and RE lead.

Attendance

Thank you once again for making our school attendance above the national average.

We still have a few children who arrive late at school on many occasions so please try and have your child at school before 8:55am when the gates close.

Congratulations to year 2 who had the best class attendance for the Lent term with an amazing 98.02%.

Just a reminder about term time holidays, if you take your child out of school for a holiday then the fine issued now by the local authority is £80 per child/per parent.

Dates for the Diary



1 May – Y5 Focus day at the IntroUniversity Centre

7-8 May – Reception class Balance Bikes

12-15 May – SATS week for Y6

10 June – Class photos





Thank you to Chris Price, (father of Bobby and Ivah) and owner of GWPS Grimsby, who has kindly sponsored a new football kit for the school. The children are absolutely thrilled and look forward to wearing this kit with pride at our competitions. Thank you, Chris, from all of us here at St Marys.

Catholic Life and Mission

CSI Inspection

As the Headteacher, I am absolutely thrilled and so proud of the children, parents and staff that the school was awarded Outstanding in Catholic Life and Mission and Good in Collective Worship and Religious Education. Please read the report which was sent to all parents before Easter.

As we ended the Lent term here at St Mary's, Key stage Two helped us to reflect on the story of the Passion of Jesus Christ, celebrating Resurrection Rock. They all read and sang beautifully and gave us a thought-provoking afternoon, preparing us for the season of Easter. Well done Key stage two.

If you missed it or couldn't make it to the performance, there will be a further performance of Resurrection Rock on the last Friday of this half term. We will keep you all posted.



On Easter Monday, the day before our return to school, we learnt and were saddened to hear of the death of the Holy Father, Pope Francis.



The Pope has left an ineffaceable mark on the Church and the world, as a man of great warmth and humility who highlighted and listened to the concerns of the poorest and most marginalised people across the world. The loss of the Holy Father was deeply felt in our school as it was in all of our diocesan communities and well beyond. However, his legacy will live on.

May the Crucified and Risen Lord reward him for his noble labours. He named this year, a Jubilee Year of Hope. As a school we will continue to journey as Pilgrims of Hope and will be undertaking activities linked to this throughout the year.

In the entrance to the school, you will see that we have set up a prayer table which includes a book of remembrance. You are most welcome to come in to school and sign the book if you would like to. Each class has been invited to do the same.

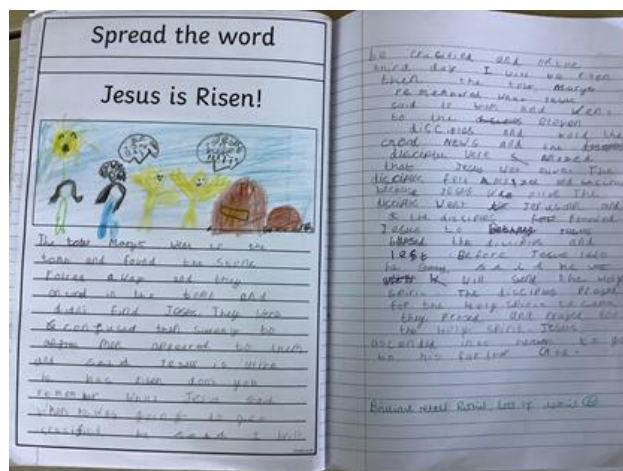
This last week the children have joined with our trust to celebrate in a liturgical prayer for Pope Francis and have shared their thoughts about him.

Next week, during our RE lessons the children will be learning all about how a new Pope is elected what a conclave is, where it is held and also opportunities to reflect on the Life of Pope





In our RE lessons this term all year groups have been learning about the story of the Resurrection and Ascension day and as we move forward we will be celebrating the feast of Pentecost.



Reception Class have started their balance bike sessions. We have enjoyed learning to go slow and fast on the bikes and also play games to develop our coordination and balance.









Year 1

This term began full of excitement as we headed off on our trip to The Deep in Hull. This visit was linked to our learning in Geography in which we are learning about the Arctic and Antarctica (Polar Regions) where children will conduct a comparative study between Grimsby and these polar regions.



We had a great day, the children were a credit to our school. We enjoyed a tour of the deep, watching the penguins and seeing lots of underwater creatures.

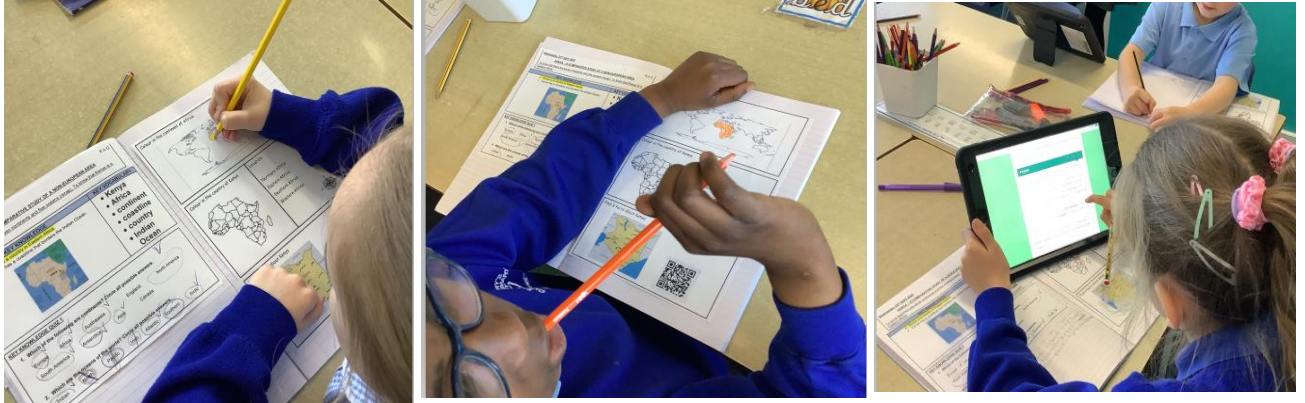
Our workshop focussed on the polar regions in which we undertook lots of practical activities and listened to a presentation.



On the 29th April, we enjoyed a virtual visit from author Eileen Browne, who wrote Handa's surprise and Handa's hen along with numerous other stories.

Learning in Year 2

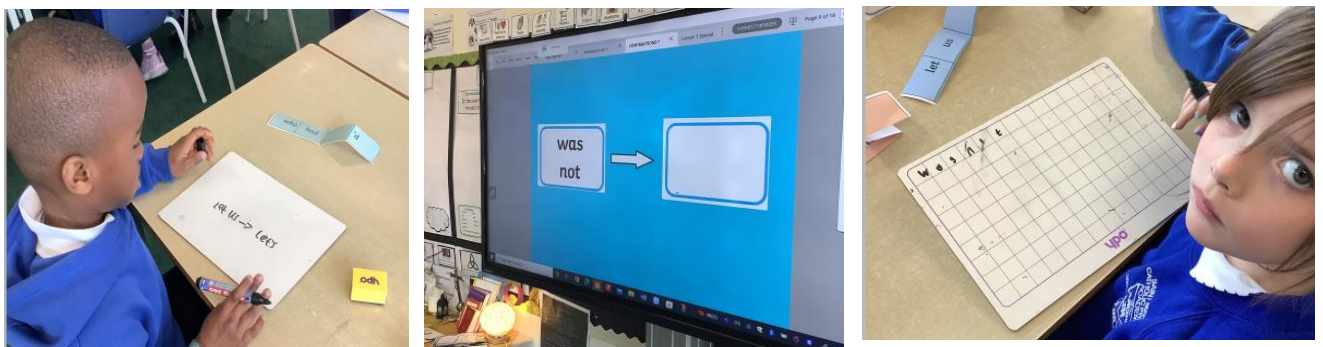
In our first geography lesson for our new topic 'Kenya', children have learnt some key geographical facts about the country. They located which continent it is found and the location within that continent. They also used iPads to research more facts about the African country.

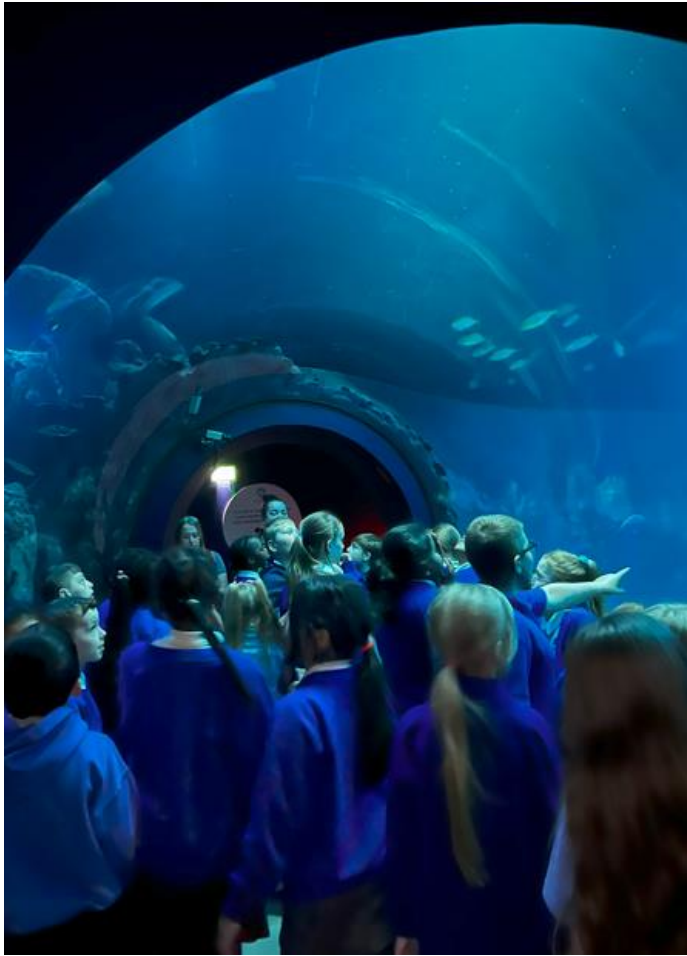


In our RE Explore lesson for our new topic 'Spread the Word', children learnt the importance and responsibility of passing on messages. To understand this we played a game of Chinese whispers to show how important clear communication is but also good listening so messages are relayed perfectly. This led us to listen to the scripture of when the two Mary's heard the Good News from the angels about Jesus had risen. They then had the responsibility to spread the word of God.



In our writing lessons children have been learning contractions which is a word that is formed by joining two words together. An apostrophe is used to replace the letters removed.





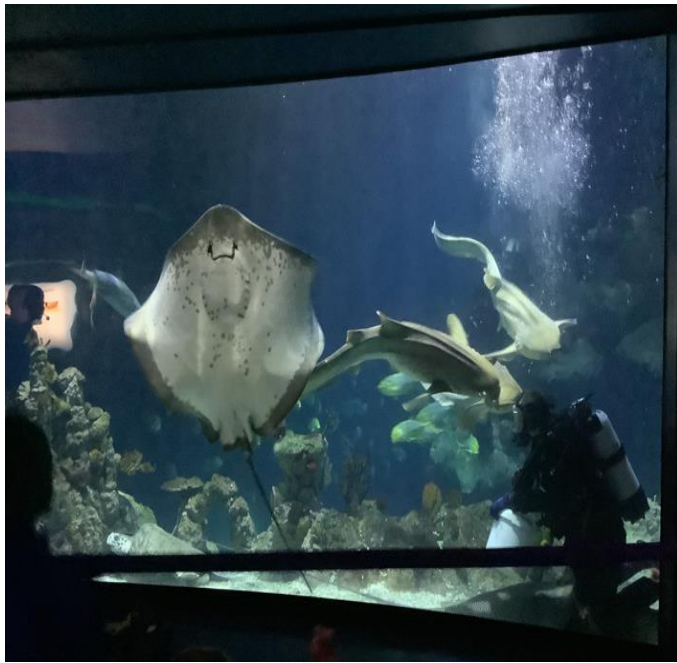


Year 4 visited The Deep in Hull as part of our new Geography topic , ‘Australia – The Great Barrier Reef. We came to look at the different kinds of wildlife that live in a coral habitat and the elements that help them survive and thrive.





We were even lucky enough to see the sharks being fed by some very brave divers and look at their special suits.



We learnt about the dangers and threats to coral and how we can be proactive and help to care for the Reef in a special workshop called 'Life on the Reef'. This will help the children greatly with their learning throughout this topic.





Last term Y3 went on an enriching trip to Grimsby Town Hall, offering the opportunity to delve into the Town's History. We explored Grimsby's 'Time Trap Museum' filled with old objects and pictures of important people from Grimsby's past. A guide showed us around and explained the history of the Town Hall, what happens here and found out how decisions are made for the town. The children thoroughly enjoyed visiting the council chamber where the town leaders meet to talk about important things related to the town. We asked the Mayor lots of questions about his work such as; how he helps the people of Grimsby, what he does for them and if his work ever takes him to interesting countries. We had a very fun and interesting day, which helped us understand more about our town and made us feel proud to live here.

Important Information for Year 6 SATs

The Year 6 children are working incredibly hard in preparation for their **Standard Assessment Tests (SATs)**, which are an essential milestone in a child's educational journey. These exams, administered in primary schools, play a key role in assessing the progress of students in core subjects, Reading, English and Mathematics. SATs help both teachers and parents gauge a child's academic development and readiness for the next stage of their education in secondary school.

Week commencing Monday 12th May, the children will be invited in for breakfast at 8am each morning (supplied by the school) so that they can talk through any worries or concerns before the test papers are administered.

The tests are delivered each day in this order:

Monday 9:15am Spelling, punctuation and grammar

Tuesday 9:15am Reading

Wednesday 9:15am Maths Paper 1 Arithmetic followed by Paper 2 Reasoning

Thursday 9:15am Maths Paper 3 Reasoning

It is compulsory that all children are in on all of these days, as it is a legal requirement. Any problems will need to be consulted with Mr O'Connor, as alternative arrangements would need to be made.

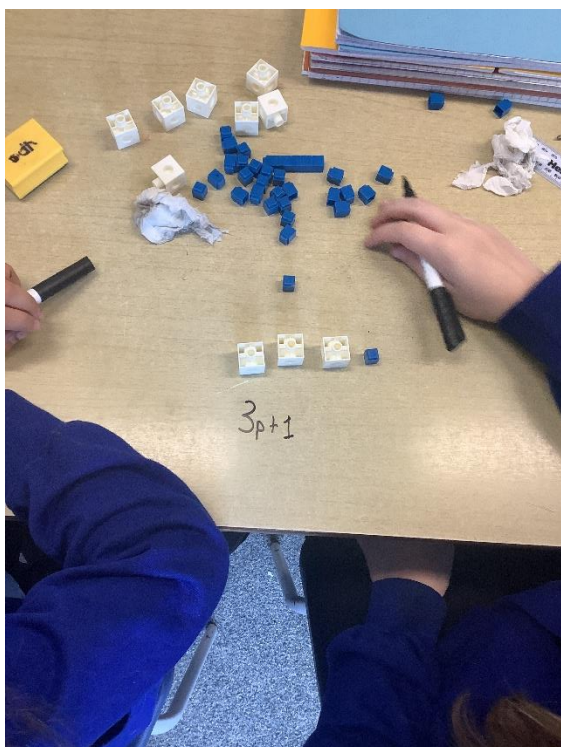
We wish all the children in Year 6, the very best of luck!

In Year 6, we have been learning about WW2 and WW1 and the effect this had on Grimsby and Cleethorpes at that time. We looked mainly at how this affected the East Marsh of Grimsby and the attacks using anti-personal devices such as Butterfly Bombs.

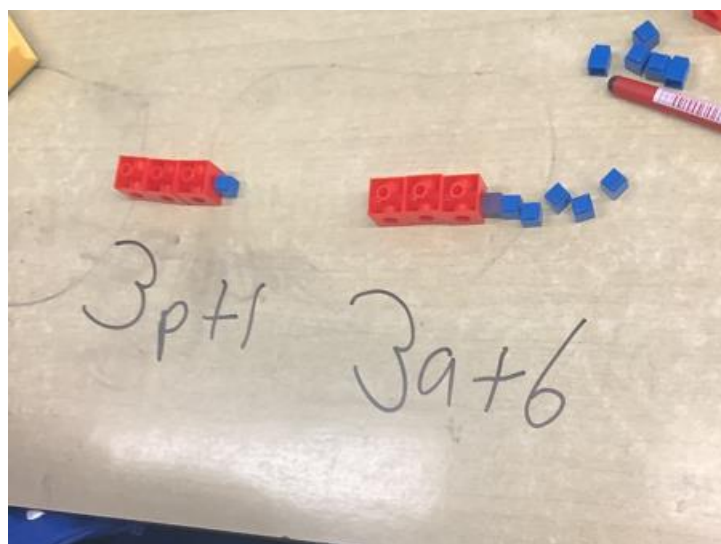
In science, we have continued our research on the heart and how to keep our bodies healthy.

During our P.E sessions, we have been practising our gymnastic moves- working together in groups to create our moves. On Friday, we are fortunate to be part of the glo festival, in recognition of being awarded the most active class.

As part of our music lessons, we brought in our homemade musical instruments and completed a sequence of rhythm.

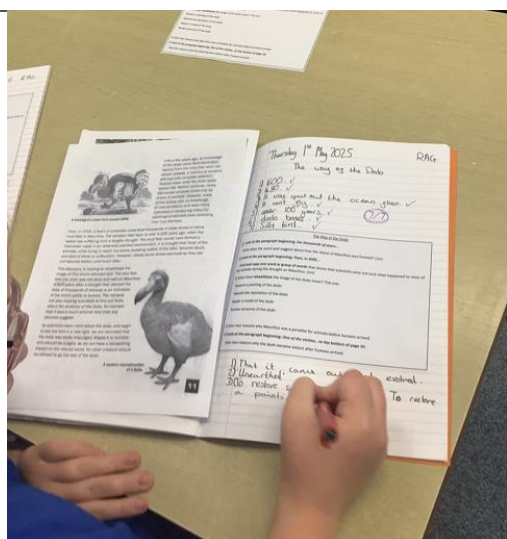


In Year 6, we have been working together on algebra. After we had formed expressions and equations, we were then able to solve the equations.



In reading we have been practising all of our skills in preparation for SATs' week.

We were looking at a text about the Dodo, to extend our vocabulary. We are very good at working with our learning partners and discussing the answers.



In R.E, we have been looking at our topic on 'Witnesses' which entailed us taking part in a debate to conclude about Connor's story.

We worked well to listen to each other and respect their decisions.

