



St Mary's Catholic Primary Academy

April - Newsletter

Email: office@smp.nelcmail.co.uk and Telephone: 01472 357982
School Website: <https://www.saintmarysprimarygrimsby.co.uk/>

Dear parents, carers, and school community,

This is Holy Week, a time to remember what the Church calls the Easter Tridium- the three days in which we commemorate Holy Thursday, Good Friday and The Easter Vigil celebrated on Holy Saturday night and followed by mass on Easter Sunday. This is the greatest feast in the year of the Church where we are reminded of Christ's victory of life over death.

According to the New Testament accounts, Easter Sunday began with the dawn of a new day, following the sorrowful crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday. As the sun rose, the women who had followed Jesus, including Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, made their way to the tomb where Jesus had been laid. Upon arrival, they discovered the stone rolled away from the entrance and the tomb empty.

The children celebrated their own Passion Narrative in the Church during mass yesterday and Year 1 also have put on a play on the celebrations surrounding Palm Sunday. It really is a time to remember to joyous victory of Christ in our lives and hearts. I am also reminded of the wonderful celebration of Resurrection Rock. I wish you all a peaceful and happy Easter and may the Risen Christ bring peace to your homes and families throughout the remainder of this year.

Every good wish

Joseph O'Connor

STAFF CAR PARK

It has been noticed that some parents are using the staff car park when picking up and collecting. This is a reminder that the staff car park is for staff and deliveries only. Please do not park or walk through the car park at any time. We request this to make sure you and your children remain safe at the start and end of the day.





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DATES FOR THE DIARY

(More important dates/times to be added please keep checking Class Dojo)

*Some sport competitions are for selected children only and you will be notified on dojo via Mrs Solomou if your child is selected.

Friday 3rd April / School Closed as Bank Holiday



Monday 6th April – Friday 17th April / School Closed – Easter Holiday

Monday 20th April / Teachers Training

Tuesday 21st April / Children back to school

Wednesday 22nd April / Earth Day - all classes litter picking

Friday 24th April / Guest visiting Year 5 and talk about Jewish Traditions

Tuesday 28th April / Debate Mate Competition at Grimsby Town Football Club

Wednesday 29th April / Parent and Carer workshop about 'Body Image' in school at 9am

Thursday 30th March / IntoUniversity working with Year 5

Friday 1st May / Year 5 and 6 Golfing Competition at Tollbar

Monday 5th May / School Closed as Bank Holiday

Thursday 7th May / Year 3 and Year 4 Quad Athletics at King George Stadium

Monday 11th May / Year 6 SATS week

Monday 25th May / School Closed as Bank Holiday

Tuesday 26th May – Friday 29th May / Closed for Half Term

Thursday 4th June /KS2 Cricket





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INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW



BREAKFAST CLUB AND SCHOOL LUNCHES

Please book breakfast club via Arbor App. This runs from 7.45am and children have breakfast and join in on some fun activities with their friends. Lunches must also be booked on Arbor 2 weeks in advance. Please make sure your account is topped up every month.

AFTERSCHOOL CLUB

Please book afterschool clubs via Arbor App. These run from 3.30pm-4.30pm and collection from hall door. Parents must advise the office staff if any of their children in Year 5 or Year 6 are walking home. Reminder Dance is now on a Thursday.

PERMISSIONS TO TAKE HOME AND MEDICAL FORMS

Please can all information be kept updated. It is parents/carer responsibility to keep all information updated for your child/children, especially any new medical information. This can be seen on the Arbor App and you can request changes and updates on there.

FORMS

Please can parents/carers fill and update the Pupil Consent Form. If you haven't received a copy, please ask the office.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

<https://www.saintmarysprimarygrimsby.co.uk/> please visit the school website for all updated information on the school.

SAFEGUARDING TEAM AT ST MARYS

Mr J O'Connor - Safeguarding Lead

Ms C Queen - Safeguarding Officer

Mrs S Barnsley - Safeguarding Lead

Mrs L Ballard - Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Mrs D Williamson - Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Mrs R Walton - Level 3

Miss J Briscoe - Level 3

Miss B Cullum - Level 3

Mrs K Tuff - Well-being, personal development and RE Lead





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LUNCH VIA ARBOR

Please order meals via Arbor by Sunday 5th April for meals Tuesday 21st April onwards. Children will be on 'Back to school menu' For Tuesday 21st please see below

If you have ordered below main or vegetarian

- Beef Burger with Crispy Cube Potatoes (main)
- Veggie Burger with Crispy Cube Potatoes (vegetarian)
- Dessert – Strawberry Jelly

It will be below

- Roast Chicken & Mashed Potato (main)
- Cheese & Onion Pasty & Mashed Potato (vegetarian)
- Jacket Potato with Cheese (same)
- Ham Sandwich (same)
- Cheese Sandwich (same)
- Dessert – Chocolate Cookie

For the rest of the week, it will be Week 2.



AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS

All clubs will start the first week we are back, but Choir Club will start the following Monday.

Monday - Y3 to Y6 - Choir

Tuesday - Y1 to Y3 - Football

Tuesday - Let's Go Grimsby

Wednesday - Y4 to Y6 - Football

Thursday - Y1 to Y6 - Dance





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UNIFORM

A simple uniform is helpful in establishing good standards of appearance in school and by wearing it children quickly feel a pride in being part of the school community. We ask that all clothing (including PE kit) has your child's name written clearly on it. This is to ensure that any mislaid items can be returned. We ask that parents support us in ensuring children wear the correct school uniform. We have recently notice bright coloured t-shirts or leggings for PE this is not correct uniform.

School uniform details:

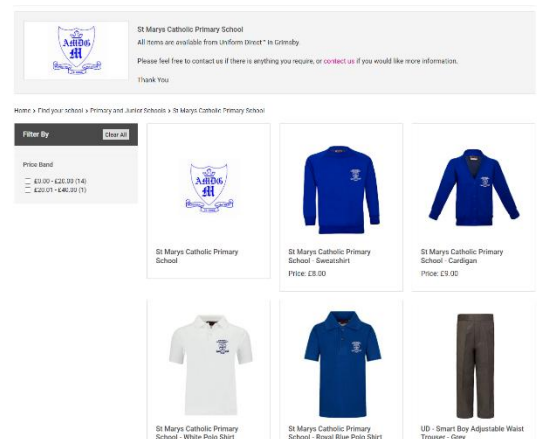
- Royal blue school sweatshirt/cardigan
- Grey skirt/pinafore/Black/Grey trousers
- Blue/White summer dress
- White/royal blue polo shirt with school logo/white blouse/shirt
- White/grey/black socks
- Black sensible shoes



P.E.

- White/royal blue T-shirt
- Black shorts
- Black jogging bottoms
- Blue sweatshirt
- Plain Black plimsolls or trainers

Please visit Uniform Direct for new uniform.





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CATHOLIC LIFE HERE AT ST MARY'S

Thank you to all our St Mary's parents and carers for all your kind and generous food donations this will go and support families within our local community. The chosen charity we selected for the food donations is called - We Are One 'Striving to end food poverty in Grimsby and surrounding areas'

THANK YOU





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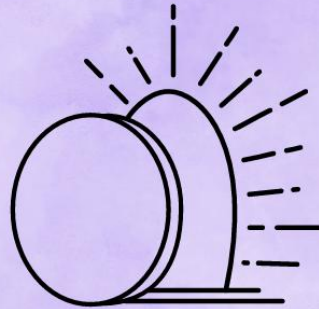
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The Easter Triduum 2026

This year, we break up from school on Holy Thursday. This day begins what is called the Easter Triduum, which is Latin for 'three days'. The Easter Triduum is at the heart of the Church's liturgical year. Throughout these three days, we remember the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus.

Within this pack, you will find scripture, music and activity suggestions to help you reflect during this very special time for us as a Catholic community.

With best wishes for a happy and holy Easter,
From Mr Wright
Lay Chaplain





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Holy Thursday

Gather:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Holy Thursday is a very special day because we remember the very first Eucharist. During his Last Supper, Jesus took bread and wine, blessed them, and said, "This is my body... this is my blood." When he did this, he was giving us the Mass. He told his friends to keep doing this to remember him. Every time we go to church, we are joining in that same meal. Before they ate, Jesus did something that must have seemed quite odd... he knelt down and washed his disciples' feet. By doing this, he showed us that to be great in God's kingdom, we have to be servant leaders by helping each other and looking out for those most in need. He taught us that no one is too important to be kind and serve others. After eating, Jesus went to a garden to pray. It was called the Garden of Gethsemane. He was feeling scared so he asked his friends to stay awake with him, but they kept falling asleep. Whilst in the garden, Jesus prayed to God, his father in heaven. We remember that Jesus knows what it feels like to be lonely or afraid, and he asks us to stay awake with him through our prayers.

Word:

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (13: 1-15). / R: *Glory to you O Lord.* +

It was now the day before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. He had always loved those in the world who were his own, and he loved them to the very end. Jesus and his disciples were at supper. The Devil had already put into the heart of Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, the thought of betraying Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had given him complete power; he knew that he had come from God and was going to God. So he rose from the table, took off his outer garment, and tied a towel around his waist. Then he poured some water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Are you going to wash my feet, Lord?"

Jesus answered him, "You do not understand now what I am doing, but you will understand later."

Peter declared, "Never at any time will you wash my feet!"

"If I do not wash your feet," Jesus answered, "you will no longer be my disciple."

Simon Peter answered, "Lord, do not wash only my feet, then! Wash my hands and head, too!"

Jesus said, "Those who have taken a bath are completely clean and do not have to wash themselves, except for their feet. All of you are clean—all except one." (Jesus already knew who was going to betray him; that is why he said, "All of you, except one, are clean.")

After Jesus had washed their feet, he put his outer garment back on and returned to his place at the table. "Do you understand what I have just done to you?" he asked. "You call me Teacher and Lord, and it is right that you do so, because that is what I am. I, your Lord and Teacher, have just washed your feet. You, then, should wash one another's feet. I have set an example for you, so that you will do just what I have done for you."

The Gospel of the Lord. / R: *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.*

Response:

This scripture links well to our current bishop's theme of Missionary Discipleship. Spend some time reflecting on how you can help and serve the people around you. How can you spread kindness through your words and actions?


Mission:

When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane, he asked his disciples to stay with him and pray with him. After the Mass of the Lord's Supper in churches all over the world tonight, there will be time for prayer and adoration. At home today, your mission is to dedicate some time to prayer either on your own or with your family. Remember, you can talk to God about anything in prayer.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Liturgical colour:

Gold or white 

Music Suggestions:

(Ask an adult to help you skip any adverts)

This Is My Body, Broken For You

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HHI5laKrSIU>

A New Commandment

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YayhCDMcVOs>

A prayer:

Dear God,
Help us to always follow Jesus' example and please give us the strength to do your will, even when it seems difficult. Help us to remember that you are always with us, especially in our times of need. We are thankful for your blessings every day.
Amen.



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Good Friday

Gather:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Today is Good Friday, the day on which we remember the death of Jesus. At 3pm, Christians all over the world will gather for services to commemorate the passion and death of Jesus.

Word: (Taken from the First Reading of Good Friday)
A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (53: 10-12).

The Lord says,

"It was my will that he should suffer; his death was a sacrifice to bring forgiveness. And so he will see his descendants; he will live a long life, and through him my purpose will succeed. After a life of suffering, he will again have joy; he will know that he did not suffer in vain. My devoted servant, with whom I am pleased, will bear the punishment of many and for his sake I will forgive them. And so I will give him a place of honour, a place among the great and powerful. He willingly gave his life and shared the fate of evil men. He took the place of many sinners and prayed that they might be forgiven."

The Word of the Lord. / R: Thanks be to God.

Response:

It seems strange to call a day 'good' when something so sad happened. We call it 'Good' because Jesus saved us: By dying on the Cross, Jesus opened the way to Heaven for everyone. He gave us the ultimate gift. Good Friday marks the day when God showed us that His love is stronger than anything, even death.

Mission:

Today, we stay quiet and say thank you in our hearts.

You could also watch and join in with this video of the Stations of the Cross made by The Mark 10 Mission:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ordNyzDRXYA>

If possible, you could spend some time outside and make a cross out of pebbles or sticks.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Liturgical colour:

Red

Music Suggestions:

(Click on what to help you display content)

This is Amazing Grace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vclihxOSc>

Jesus Remember Me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rGtVReXsioM>

A prayer:

O My God,
I thank you for loving me.
I am sorry for all my sins.
For not loving others and for not loving you.
Help me to live more like Jesus and not sin again.
Amen.





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Easter

Gather:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

On Saturday evening, the great celebration in honour of the resurrection of Jesus began with something called The Easter Vigil. This special Mass always begins outside of the church in darkness. Outside, a fire is lit and the priest lights a giant candle called the Paschal Candle from that fire. Everyone gets a small candle and they each light their candles from the big one until the whole church is glowing! This shows that Jesus is the Light of the World who chases away the darkness of sadness and death. Because it's a special night, the people gathered listen to more scripture stories than usual. They will have heard about how God created the world, how He saved His people from the sea, and finally, the story of Jesus rising from the tomb. It's like looking through a giant family scrapbook of everything God has done for us. This is also the night many people choose to join the Church family. Adults get baptised with holy water. Water is also sprinkled on everyone in the church to remind them of their own Baptism. It's a celebration of new life! At the Vigil, bells are rung loudly, music fills the church, and we shout "Alleluia!" for the first time in weeks. "Alleluia" means "Praise God!" We are cheering because Jesus won!

Word:

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (28: 1-10). / R: *Glory to you O Lord.* +

After the Sabbath, as Sunday morning was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. Suddenly there was a violent earthquake; an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled the stone away, and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid that they trembled and became like dead men.

The angel spoke to the women. "You must not be afraid," he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has been raised, just as he said. Come here and see the place where he was lying. Go quickly now, and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from death, and now he is going to Galilee ahead of you; there you will see him!' Remember what I have told you."

So they left the tomb in a hurry, afraid and yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Peace be with you." They came up to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. "Do not be afraid," Jesus said to them. "Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

The Gospel of the Lord. / R: *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.*

Response:

Ask an adult at home if they have a candle that you could light together. Watch the light flicker and say, 'Jesus is the light of the world'. Easter is such an important day for us in the liturgical calendar. It is when we celebrate our belief that Jesus came back from the dead and defeated death and sin. Jesus gives us hope in a new life with God. His death and resurrection reminds us how much we are loved by God.

Mission:

Often, chocolate eggs are given as gifts on Easter Sunday. If you are lucky enough to receive a chocolate egg today, think about what the shape represents. Eggs are a symbol of new life. We can each look forward to a new life with God because of Jesus' death and resurrection. Today, say 'Alleluia' ('praise God), say thank you to God for the gift of Jesus and the gift of new life, and lastly, wish somebody a 'Happy Easter' and remind them about what we are celebrating today.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Liturgical colour:

Gold or white 🌟

Music Suggestions:

(Ask an adult to help you skip any adverts)

This is the Day

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76atGdkKhvY>

Lord I Lift Your Name on High

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c12Ta6W1rx>

A prayer:

Living God,
We know that all things are possible for you.
Fill us with hope for a future where all people
may live their lives to the full. Inspire us to
work together to make this change happen.
Amen



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WHAT WE HAVE BEEN UP TO IN MARCH

We love to explore the seasons and changes around us in *Reception class*. This half term we have been exploring Spring. Children have been observing what has been growing around our school and looking at changes in the weather. Noticing that some days it feels warm and then others we still need our coats, hats and gloves. One day it seemed extra sunny, so we played on our school field which the children loved. The children noticed blossom on the tree, daisies and daffodils. Some children decided to draw some beautiful flowers too! Whilst thinking about spring we have also been learning the Easter story in RE and think about this time of year being a time to help others like Jesus did. We acted out stories of the Good Samaritan, tasted hot cross buns and decorated an Easter tree. Great work reception class!





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In RE for **Year 1** we have been working on our topic, Desert to garden. We have learnt how Jesus spent 40 days in the desert and know that this is why there are 40 days of Lent. We can talk about how we can follow Jesus' example of praying, fasting and giving to others. We have retold the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem and reflected on the actions and thoughts of those around, along with the scripture readings of The Last Supper, Good Friday and the Resurrection. We recognise and know how other communities around the world celebrate Lent and the final week of Jesus' life.



In PE we have been working on our orienteering unit. This has included working in teams and using symbols and compass directions. We have all thoroughly enjoyed it.



In Science we have been learning about Biology, animals and humans. We have learnt that goldfish, minnow and carp are all types of fish, that frogs, newts and toads are all amphibians and adders, bearded dragons and crocodiles are all reptiles.



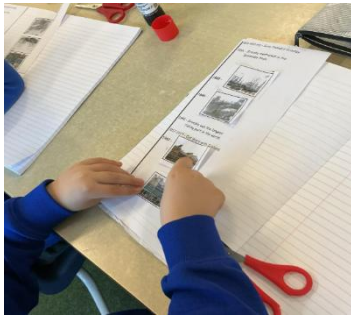


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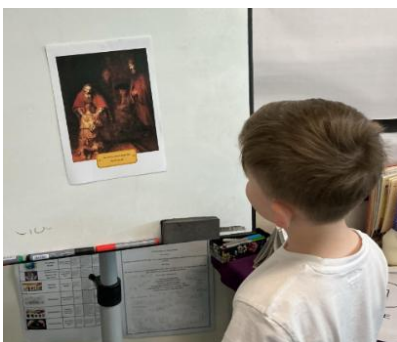
In History **Year 2** children have been learning about how Grimsby has changed over a long period, starting from when it was founded by Grim in 801, to the first mention in the Domesday book to the present day. They learnt how the fishing industry has had a significant impact on the growth and changes to the town.



In PE in our OAA (outdoor adventurous activities/ orienteering) unit children have been learning a variety of skills. The focus has been on teamwork with some problem solving when it comes to obstacle courses.



In RE we have been learning about the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the different times we ask for forgiveness. Children looked at different pieces of artwork based around this theme before creating their own.





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The children in **Year 3** visited the town hall as part of their history topic. They asked the mayoress some amazing questions and were so intrigued in understanding how the town is run. They even got to go through the Time Trap museum and complete some quizzes.



In maths we have been learning all about fractions. Our focus has been understanding what the denominator means and what the numerator means. They have practically built fraction towers and written what they represent. We also used pizzas to compare and order fractions.



In English we have started by looking at creating their own magic jam to turn someone invisible. We looked at different examples of instructions and ingredients we could use. Recently, we have been looking at using speech in our work and bringing our characters to life.





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In **Year 4** Maths, the children have been working hard to develop their understanding of perimeter including finding the lengths of missing sides in rectilinear shapes. They have approached this with great determination and are becoming increasingly confident in applying their knowledge. We have now moved on to fractions, where the class is exploring mixed numbers and improper fractions, building a strong foundation for future learning.



During Holy Week, we took time to learn about the Stations of the Cross. This is a meaningful part of Catholic practice during Lent, offering an opportunity for reflection on the journey of Jesus and its significance. The children engaged thoughtfully with this experience, showing respect and maturity, and many expressed how much they valued this quiet and reflective time.



In Writing, the children have been developing their instructional writing skills by creating a set of instructions on how to make a good cup of tea. To bring this to life, Miss Campbell followed some of their instructions, which led to plenty of discussion and refinement. The class worked hard to improve their writing by using time conjunctions and imperative verbs effectively, showing great progress in making their instructions clear and precise.



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Year 5 have been really enjoying History this term, learning about what it was like to go to St Mary's in the time of the Second World War. It was very different, but we did still find some similarities! We have also been working hard on our Great Fire of London narratives. The children really have put their best effort in and produced some fantastic writing! In Science, we have been exploring the different stages of a human's life cycle and what each age category goes through, which we have found very interesting.



Year 6 have been pressing on with practising in reading and maths, to prepare ourselves for the SATs coming up in May. We completed our unit on volume, perimeter and area and are now focusing on position and direction- learning the four quadrants and coordinates. As part of our topic on the circulatory system, we have been looking at drugs and alcohol and the effects they can have on the body. We are able to distinguish between legal and illegal drugs, and how to keep ourselves healthy. We studied how exercise changes the speed of how blood travels to the parts of the body that need it most. In History, we have been studying the effects of WW1 and WW2 on Grimsby and Cleethorpes. We researched the devastation caused by the Butterfly bombs and the great work from the Grimsby Chums. We visited Eden Camp to experience the smells and sounds of what it was really like in the war.

