

Weekly Newsletter

Safe
Valued
Loved



Friday 27th February 2026 Edition 22

**'Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
And after fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry.'**

Matthew 4:1-2

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to school after the half term holidays, I do hope that you all had a lovely break.

As we begin our journey through Lent, we are invited to slow down, reflect and grow closer to God. During this special season in the Church year, we remember the 40 days that Jesus Christ spent in the desert and we try to follow His example through prayer, acts of kindness and small sacrifices.

As a school community, we encourage our children to think about how they can help others, show forgiveness and live out our Gospel values each day.



World Book Day

World Book Day is next Thursday 5th March and we are really excited about it! We have lots of wonderful activities planned as well as inviting children to dress up as their favourite book character.

Please see email and Class Dojo for activities that children have been invited to complete including a 'Book in a jar or a box'.



Nursery

We have Nursery places available—children are able to start Nursery the term after they are 3.

If you are interested in registering a place for your child please call in to the office.

Dates for the Diary

Mon 2nd—Y4 swimming

Tues 3rd—Y2 attend Mass in Church and Phonics Workshop for Y1 & Y2 Parents 3.15pm—3.45pm

Wed 4th—Y4 LMT class and FHC classes after school until 4pm

Thurs 5th—World Book Day and Y5 Forest School

Fri 6th—Y3 attend Mass in Church and Y5 LMT class

Mon 9th—Y4&5 attend Wizard of Oz rehearsal at AHCC and Y4 swimming

Tues 10th—Y4 attend Mass in Church

Wed 11th—Y4 LMT class and FHC classes after school until 4pm

Fri 13th—Y5 Choral Concert in Town Hall

Lenten Fundraiser

During Lent, Saint Mary's will be taking part in the 'Big Lent Walk' to raise money for CAFOD. Please support your children and the CAFOD charity by adding a donation to the just giving page that has been posted on class dojo. We aim to raise money for this essential, Catholic charity that supports development overseas.

Please click on the link to donate : <https://donate.justgiving.com/fundraising/saint-marys-catholic-primary-school-congleton-big-lent-walk-fundraising-page/donation-amount>



The Wizard of Oz

All Hallows invite you to watch their production of The Wizard of Oz.

Tuesday 10th—Friday 13th March, tickets are from £12.



Taking Holidays during term time

Please remember that taking your child out of school without the school's authorisation may result in the school requesting the Local Authority to issue a fixed penalty notice to each parent / carer for each child, the penalties are shown in this table.

Please be aware that only a few days of absence can impact significantly on a child's attendance percentage and consequently the child's education and learning.

Penalties for unauthorised absence		
Timeline	One child	Two children
Paid within 21 days	£80 per parent	£80 per child = £160 per parent
After 21 days and before 28 days	£160 per parent	£160 per child = £320 per parent
After 28 days	You will be summonsed to appear before the Magistrates' Court on the grounds you have failed to secure your child's regular attendance	You will be summonsed to appear before the Magistrates' Court on the grounds you have failed to secure your children's regular attendance

Laudato Si trip

Y4 and the Gift team had a wonderful trip to Laudato Si to focus on Faith and the world around us, it was a thoughtful and reflective visit that helped the children consider how they can put their faith into action.

The children explored the seven principles of CST, discussing the language used by organisations such as CAFOD and CARITAS and linking to the work of Pope Leo XIII.

They reflected on how these values connect with St Mary's core values and how we live them out both in school and in the wider world.



Y3/4 Cross Country

Well done to all the children who took part in the second Cross Country event at Eaton Bank Academy this week. You should all be very proud of yourselves. They all showed great teamwork cheering each other on and there were some personal records beaten too!

Stars of the Week and Gospel Values

Nursery	Bella	For always sharing and including others
	Lando	For trying so hard with his reading
Reception	Elena	For her excellent effort in handwriting
	Scarlett	For excellent answers in R E Lessons
Year 1	Faith	For great work learning to use question marks
	Konrad	For helping to keep the classroom tidy
Year 2	Leo	For lovely story writing
	Indi	For being a good friend to others
Year 3	Mia	For always joining in with class discussions and working hard this week
	Olivia	For showing kindness and respect to others
Year 4	Leala	For always being an absolute superstar and role model at Saint Mary's
	Harriet	For treating others as you would like to be treated
Year 5	Abhinav	For super engagement, effort and focus in Maths
	Emily & Muhammad	For creating excellent posters about Ash Wednesday and super teamwork
Year 6	Edith	For great use of tools in Forest School
	Harry	For being helpful in Forest School

Dojo winners

Year 3



Mothers Day Gift

Please can all children bring in a small gift for Mother's Day before next Friday 6th March, along with a £1 donation. Donations can also be made online on Arbor under 'shop'.

On Friday 13th March, the children will be able to choose from a selection of gifts and this will be wrapped ready for them to bring home in time for Mother's Day on Sunday 15th March.

Volunteers would be much appreciated to help wrap on the 13th, so please come along after school drop-off if you are available.

Talking point

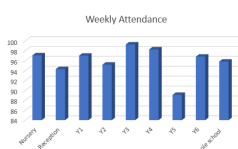
Why do Christians spend time preparing before Easter? Lent is a special season when we pause, reflect and try to grow closer to God. For 40 days, Christians remember the time that Jesus Christ spent in the desert praying and preparing for His mission. During Lent, we try to follow His example through prayer, acts of kindness and sometimes giving something up.

Preparing in this way helps our hearts and minds get ready for the joy of Easter, when we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and the hope and new life it brings.

Talk together as a family: *What is one small thing we could do this week—through prayer, kindness or helping others—to help us prepare for Easter?*

Attendance

Nursery	97.06%	Year 4	98.26%
Reception	94.29%	Year 5	89.09%
Year 1	97%	Year 6	96.8%
Year 2	95.19%	Whole School	95.8%
Year 3	99.26%		



Prayer

Loving God,

As we begin the first week of Lent, help us to slow down and remember how much You love us. Guide our hearts to make good choices, to be kind to others and to grow closer to You each day.

Help us to pray more, to share with those in need, and to try our best to follow the example of Jesus. May this Lenten season be a time when our school community grows in faith, hope and love.

Amen.

