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#### HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Today was the Kingswood Assembly for Year Six parents and carers where children got to share their experiences of their school journey. This is an important part of their time at St Mary's and one that they will never forget. The children talked about their adventures in Kingswood, falling in cold water and staying up to 4:30am – this is not to be encouraged for future years!

There was a real determination from the Year Six team to go ahead with this journey even in the midst of Covid- many schools were unable to go; thankfully the trip went ahead and was a great success!

Please take a look at the video that was created for the assembly.

<https://jwp.io/s/qhb3rOry>

I would like all the St Mary's community to continue to keep the people of Ukraine in your prayers and to continue to pray for peace.

Enjoy your weekend and I look forward to seeing many of you at parents' evening next week.

Kind regards  
Mr J Sims  
Headteacher

#### WEEK BEGINNING 14<sup>th</sup> MARCH

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March & Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March**

Parents' Evenings 3.30pm-6pm

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March**

Y6 visit Christchurch for Stations of the Cross

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

Happy St Patrick's Day to all our Irish families

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March**

Y3 visit Eltham Palace

PA Event to celebrate St Patrick's Day

#### IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FOR THIS TERM

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March**

PA Event – Mother's Day Gift Sale

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

Mother's Day

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March/Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

Easter Services at school

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

Last day of the term

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April**

Palm Sunday

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April**

Maundy Thursday

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April**

Good Friday

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April**

Easter Sunday

## PARENTS' EVENING

If you have not already booked your slot on Wisepay please do so by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 9am. The booking system will be closed after this time. Parents are asked to kindly collect their children at 3pm on both of these days so the teachers can be ready for a prompt 3.30pm start. I hope you are able to support this. The children's books will be available for parents to look at. Please look at your child's work but not at the books belonging to other children. Children who normally walk home without an adult will not be allowed to leave before 3.15pm unless an adult accompanies them. If you make alternative arrangements please inform either their teacher or the main office. It is essential that you keep to your time. If you take more than 10 minutes, other appointments are delayed, which is unfair. Everyone should be able to discuss the key points in 10 minutes.

## DINING HALL

**YR** Miss Dennis/Miss Brophy  
**Y1** Mrs Holmes/Mrs Harkin/Mrs Piechota  
**Y2** Mrs Hansen/Mrs White/Mrs Bone

## GYM HALL

**Y3** Mrs Whitewood/Mrs Turpin  
**Y4** Miss Baker/Mrs Woodhouse  
**Y5** Miss Gannon/Miss Dineen  
**Y6** Miss Collins/Mrs Williams

## LENTEN PRAYER FROM FR JOHN

*Dearest Lord, I hope to be more observant of your grace. May you look upon my soul and may my sins erase.*

*May I know of sacrifice and cherish all you bless and act with courage to assist others who have less.*

*Prepare my soul for joy to come and cleanse me of all sin. I will wear my faith and do my best to nurture it within.*

*With a humble heart I hope to be your faithful servant for all to see.*

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

Oliver Fannon, 6M, recently took part in the West Kent Battalion Unihoc Tournament and scored the winning goals to bring home the trophy for the 28<sup>th</sup> West Kent Boys Brigade Group.

Well done Oliver!



## WALK TO SCHOOL WITH THE WALKING BUS

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, parents and children are invited to leave the car at home and join the walking bus to come to school. We are encouraging families to take part and to enjoy some exercise, company and fresh air on their way to school. It is very important for children to know the positive impact walking to school has, both for themselves and for the environment.

Please see the attached letter with details of the bus stops and times. Fill the form in and return it to the main office so we are aware of numbers.

Many thanks to Mrs Turpin for organising.

## PA NEWS

### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March Event for St Patrick's Day

There are still tickets available so do come along if you can. Tickets can be purchased online –please follow the link below (adults £5, child £2.50).

<https://buytickets.at/stmaryspa/652041>

Bring other family members and friends and get the weekend off to a good start.

There will be live music, an Irish dancing display and everyone will be invited to join in the Ceilidh dancing!

There will also be a licenced bar, hot food and various children's activities. Raffle tickets will be available to purchase with great prizes.

The annual school magazine requires a new editor. Ideally, this is someone with graphic design experience so if anyone in the St Mary's community can help with this please contact the PA. It is approximately 1-2 days' work in total. Failing this, the PA will have to outsource the work to a professional graphic designer and pay full price for the service. Ultimately, this will affect the cost of the magazine and the price that parents pay.

A volunteer is also required to collect the advertising for the magazine. There are some well-established contacts from over the years, so this task involves the relatively simple job of sending emails and collating the ads in a folder.

The same parents have done both of these roles for many years but as their children are leaving St Mary's this year they would like to hand over to new volunteers.

**Date for the diary.....**

Mother's Day gift sale on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March

## Y5 ANCIENT GREEK DAY

The children in Y5 had a very enjoyable educational day learning about the Ancient Greeks. This is their special topic this term.

There was a visiting theatre company on site to enhance the children's learning and to make it fun.



## CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH ADVICE FROM NSPCC

Mental health is as important to a child's safety and wellbeing as their physical health. It can affect all aspects of their life, including their educational attainment, relationships and physical wellbeing. Mental health can also change over time, to varying degrees of seriousness, and for different reasons.

Negative experiences such as abuse and neglect can adversely influence a child's mental health. Mental health issues can also sometimes lead to safeguarding and child protection issues, for example if a child's mental health begins to put them or other people at risk of harm.

Parents sometimes have to have difficult conversations with their children. This may be about breaking bad news which will impact the family or tackling different behaviour that a parent has noticed in their child but the main thing is to have open conversation and be there for your child.

If you have any concerns about your child's mental health please do not hesitate to contact the main office where you will be helped and given advice.

## E-SAFETY

Many of our Y6 children may be getting new phones this year. Whilst deciding if it is time for your child to have their first phone can be a great opportunity to find out what your child expects to use their phone for. This could be for connecting with friends, playing games, for keeping in touch whilst out of the house or other reasons.

Discuss what is okay and not okay to use their phone for. Talk about time limits and expectations of where the device can and cannot be used; this could include things like the phone being charged outside their bedroom overnight. Ensure that you child knows their boundaries, set up parental controls and have open conversation with your child.

## WALKING NUNS NEED YOUR HELP – MESSAGE FROM SR SUSAN

Some of the Sisters of Mercy in different parts of the country are walking 5km each day of Lent to raise money for two small charities which they are actively involved in.

**Whispers of Hope** supports and protects victims of domestic abuse and trafficking who do not have access to public funds.

**Women@theWell** is committed to working towards full abolition of the sex trade.

We are using the "[gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com)" page for online donations. Type "Walking for Lent" and the details of the fundraising will be there.

Thank you in anticipation for your interest and support.