

## Weekly Newsletter

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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*Nurturing Our God-Given Talents*

### MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

As you know, Pope Francis announced last year that 2025 would be a "Jubilee Year". The theme of this Jubilee Year is that we are all *Pilgrims of Hope*.

*"During the Holy Year, we are called to be tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind"* Pope Francis

We started our day today with a Prayer Service led by the Faith Friends. Thank you to all the family members who joined us to say the Jubilee Prayer of Hope together and sing "Christ Be Our Light".

At the Headteacher's assembly this morning, I spoke to the children about celebrating this special year. I talked about hope and I reiterated things that families can do together to generate hope.

- Practice mercy as a family. Visit elderly friends and relatives, bring donations to the food bank, donate to those in need.
- Talk about hope - the foundation of mental health and wellbeing, the belief that things will improve with time and effort.
- Learn about the Holy Door - the path to a new and eternal life.
- Practice forgiveness and go to confession. Say sorry, let go of anger and resentment.
- Make a pilgrimage to a cathedral

Every child got a Jubilee 2025 Prayer Card at assembly. Please say this prayer with your child as often as you can.



Keep safe over the weekend. Say a prayer for all those affected by Storm Eowyn.

Mrs Hansen  
Head of School

WEEK BEGINNING 27<sup>th</sup> JANUARY

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January**

Burns Night

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January**

Y6 Residential Journey to Kingswood

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January**

Chinese New Year

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January**

Y4 visit Christchurch for Reconciliation

### Y6 RESIDENTIAL TRIP

Y6 children are very excited about their trip to Kingswood next week. The coach is expected to leave St Mary's at 10am so all Y6 children must be on site at 9.30am to make last minute checks. The children are welcome to arrive at 8.55am, especially if there are younger siblings in the family.

Please take your children to the gym hall with their luggage and medical bags. If your child is taking extra medication, please see Mrs Williams on Monday morning. Information has been sent to parents so please refer to the letters and emails. Please ensure your child has adequate clothing and pack wisely.

A daily email update will be sent from the main office to parents so please look out for them. We will upload some photos onto X (Twitter).

The children will return to St Mary's on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January. We will inform parents of timings but we estimate a 2.45pm arrival at St Mary's.

**SCHOOL VALUES: FAITH, MERCY, TRUTH, RESPECT, RESILIENCE, LOVE**

## FAITH FRIENDS

Faith Friends met with the Infant children today to celebrate the Jubilee Year launch day. They explained what the Jubilee means for us and what we can do to be **Pilgrims of Hope**. The children made posters for their windows at home.



## CELEBRATING HERITAGE

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January (tomorrow) is **Burns Night**. Burns Night is a Scottish cultural celebration that pays tribute to Robert Burns, one of the most celebrated poets in Scotland's history. The event typically includes the recitation of Burns' poems, singing Scottish songs, enjoying Scottish food with a glass of whiskey!

**Chinese New Year** takes place on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January. 2025 is the Year of the Snake! The old year is ushered out to let the new year in, bringing luck and prosperity. It is a time to feast and to visit family members.

If you are celebrating either of these festivals, please enjoy and have a good time.

We would love to hear about your celebrations so please send us some photos and a little synopsis of how you celebrated.

Many thanks for your support.

## LITERACY

*This week Ms Gannon recommends a poem.....*

**Shel Silverstein,  
The Lost Cat**

*We can't find the cat  
We don't know where she's at  
Oh, where did she go?  
Does anyone know?  
Let's ask this walking hat*

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*And Mr Sims recommends a book....*

**Open  
Andre Agassi**

*As a tennis player myself, I resonate with many of the challenges Andre Agassi faced throughout his career. Open is more than just a sports memoir; it's an inspiring account of how much Agassi had to overcome, from the immense pressure of early success to his battles with self-doubt and injury. His honesty about the struggles behind the glamour of professional sport is both eye-opening and relatable. Whether you play tennis or not, his journey of perseverance, resilience, and self-discovery offers powerful lessons that apply to all areas of life. It's a truly compelling read.*

## ECO EXPLORERS INITIATIVE

Mrs Evans would like to thank all those who donated their empty plastic sweet tubs. We collected 132 tubs which is amazing!

The tubs will be taken to the collection point this weekend so they can be recycled and a donation will be made to Macmillan Cancer.



## CHILDREN EXCELLING

Some of our Y3/Y4 children have independently produced outstanding homework this week.

Zac Atsetski, 3G, created a very informative power point presentation on volcanos, which he presented to Class 4J. He impressed everyone with his knowledge.



Sydney Baretic, 4J, built a pok-a-tok stadium inspired by the studies of Maya culture in class.



Bella Robinson, 4J, created a poster about Maya temples.



## CHARITY

We are very pleased to inform you that we collected £250 in aid of St Vincent de Paul and £382 for the Catholic Children's Society at our Christmas collections. We received this message this week:

*"We, the volunteers at St Vincent de Paul, are very grateful to all the children's families for giving so generously; it helps us greatly in supporting people who need some financial support. Please pass on a big thank you to all!"*

*Helene Agnew  
for SVP*

Many thanks for your continued support for these charities who are always available to help those in need.

## DYSLEXIA WORKSHOP

Please put Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March in your diary for the Dyslexia Coffee Morning.

Mrs Henderson would like to invite parents and carers to attend to learn about:

- The signs of dyslexia and how it can present
- How it can impact the life and education of children
- Ideas and strategies to support your child at home

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served.

## PA NEWS

The Parent's Association are working behind the scenes organising their next two events. Please put these dates in your diary:

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March – St Patrick's Day family event (PM).

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Mother's Day gift sale (during the school day)

More details will follow about the St Patrick's Day event but the PA have asked parents to think about putting their name forward for volunteering.

## Y1 ART WORKSHOP

The children in Y1 had a wonderful time exploring Winter art. Helen from Magic Lantern helped the children to step into the picture and imagine themselves as part of the Winter scene. They felt inspired and excited to create their own Winter artworks!

