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HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Firstly, I would like to wish all mothers a very special day on Sunday.

This week was the 42nd anniversary of the death of Archbishop Oscar Romero who was tragically assassinated in El Salvador on 24th March 1980. Oscar Romero used his platform to speak out against violence and social injustice. He encouraged us all to be a microphone of God; to amplify his message

Yesterday student leaders travelled to St George's Cathedral and celebrated Mass with Archbishop John. St Mary's were asked to write and read the bidding prayers for the service and they received their certificate for reaching the Participator Level in the Oscar Romero Award.

In the Key Stage 2 assembly today, children learnt about the life of Oscar Romero and how he inspired others to think about the poor and those that do not have a voice. Please talk to your children about this message this weekend.

<https://twitter.com/StMarysEltham/status/1507261095744094226/photo/1>

Next Friday, 1st April, is the last day of this term. The children will finish school at 2pm so please ensure you collect your child promptly.

Enjoy your weekend.

Kind regards
Mr J Sims
Headteacher

WEEK BEGINNING 28th MARCH

Tuesday 29th March

Y5 children will attend Stations of the Cross at Christchurch

Thursday 31st March

Easter Service for KS1 children. Fr John will be on site

Friday 1st April

Easter Service for KS2 children

Last day of the term. Children will leave at the earlier time of 2pm.

Easter egg hunt at school for all the children.

Week beginning Sunday 10th April

Palm Sunday (Sunday 10th) is the beginning of Holy Week.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FOR NEXT HALF TERM

Tuesday 19th April

Children return to school wearing their full summer uniform

Friday 22nd April

Stephen Lawrence Day

Monday 9th May

SATs week begins

Saturday 14th May

PA Event – Dad's football match in Eltham Park South

Tuesday 17th May

Y5 Educational Trip – Greenwich Planetarium

Friday 27th May

French Day

MOTHER'S DAY GIFT SALE

Thank you to the PA for organising the Mother's Day gift sale today. The children were so happy to be able to choose their own gifts, which makes the gift more special.

A very happy Mother's Day to all mothers. I hope you get to put your feet up and enjoy some relaxation!



PARENT'S EVENING

Miss Brophy's rescheduled parents' evening is taking place on Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th March. Children should be collected at the normal time of 3.15pm. The appointments that were booked originally will stay the same. If you are unsure of your time, please contact the main office.

Parents of SEND children can book their time slots on Wisepay for their meetings with Mrs Lopez. Please ensure you book so you can have an informative meeting with Mrs Lopez.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

All the after school clubs, except art and gymnastics, have now finished for this term. Art and gymnastics will have their final classes on Tuesday 29th. Parents are invited to see their children perform in the gymnastics show at 4pm on Tuesday 29th.

Y6 booster classes will take place as normal next week.

Please look out for information about the clubs restarting after Easter. Mrs Jeffrey from the main office will be sending enrolment letters to parents so look out for them. The clubs are very popular so if you wish to enrol your child please be quick!

If your child is in receipt of pupil premium, please speak to the main office for information about clubs.

WALK TO SCHOOL WITH THE WALKING BUS

Many thanks to Mrs Turpin for organising the walking bus last Wednesday. Children joined her on the way to school and they enjoyed a nice walk and talk, on a beautiful Spring morning, to start the school day off in a positive way.



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.

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

LENTEN BOXES

Please remember your Catholic Children's Society Lenten boxes. Encourage your child to put a few pennies from their pocket money in the box each week. The boxes can be returned to school after Easter.

E-SAFETY

25% of parents of 4-5 year olds are concerned about the time their children spend online. Here are some online safety tips for parents of pre-school children (0-5 year olds):

Put yourself in control – make use of the parental controls available on your home broadband and internet-enabled devices.

Search safely - Use safe search engines such as swiggle.org.uk or kids-search.com. Safe search settings can be activated on Google and other search engines as well as YouTube. You can find out more by visiting the Google Safety Centre.

Set boundaries - It is never too early to start setting rules about when and for how long your child can use devices and start to introduce the subject of internet safety at the same time. Encourage children to use devices in shared spaces like a lounge or kitchen. Make sure to keep other devices out of reach and use passwords so they cannot go online without asking you first. It is also a good idea to have techfree mealtimes and not to allow children to have devices in their bedrooms at this age.

Explore together - Set your homepage to a child-friendly site such as CBeebies and give them a user account which only allows access to sites and apps you've chosen.

Help them learn through games – Choose a variety of safe and educational online games and apps to play with your child.

RETURNING TO SCHOOL FOR THE SUMMER TERM

The children will return to school on Tuesday 19th April to begin the Summer term in their Summer uniform. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to one of the office staff. Details on our uniform policy is on our website:

https://www.stmaryrc.org.uk/docs/UNIFORM/UNIFORM_LIST.pdf

PA NEWS

Many thanks to the PA for organising a thoroughly enjoyable St Patrick's Evening. The atmosphere was very relaxed and people enjoyed milling around having the craic! There was £1,000 profit made on the evening so thanks to all those who attended.

The next PA event will be the **Easter Egg Hunt** for the children on Friday 1st April, the last day of term.

All children, including the Nursery, will take part in the Easter Egg Hunt on the last day of term. The children love hunting for the eggs so say a prayer for a dry day. All children will require an egg basket/container to collect the eggs so please send it to school with your child on that day. Many thanks to the PA for organising the event.

Dates for the diary.....

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.

Saturday 14th May – Dad's football match in Eltham Park South

Friday 17th June – Father's Day gift sale

Saturday 25th June – Annual Summer Fayre

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