

Message from Mr Williams

Dates for the diary:

- 23rd April, first day of term 5.
- 23rd April, Year 1 & 2 Easter Church Service, 1pm.
- 24th April, Year 3-6 Easter Church Service, 9.30am.
- 25th April, Year 4 Swimming
- 26th April, EYFS Easter Service, 2.30pm @ school
- 26th April, Y2 'Bug Man' visit
- 3rd May, 9.10am Hedgehogs class led worship

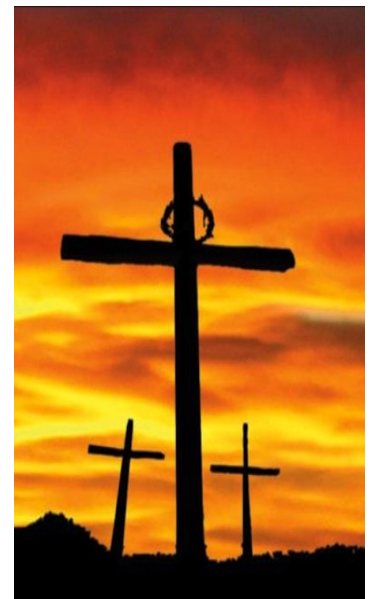
Please see our website calendar or events on our school app for more dates.

It has been a wonderful term, filled with exciting learning opportunities for the children. St. Mary's has been turned into an enchanted garden; predators have roamed the school leaving their footprints and there have been detectives at work in Year 6. It is these moments of school that the children will remember and I thank all of the staff for developing these stimulating learning environments and planning the engaging lessons that the children have received. I would like to reiterate my thanks to Mr Wood for his support in building the yurt; this is developing into an inspiring outdoor learning environment.

This term we have thought about our vision for the school; we have used the thoughts of staff, children and parents in developing our school vision, which is attached to this newsletter. It will guide us in all decisions we make as a school community and I am confident that it reflects our aims for the school.

I am delighted that we are supporting the 'knitting project' to help those with dementia in our community (please see our recent App message for more information).

I wish you all a peaceful and relaxing Easter holiday and look forward to seeing you next term.



Collective Worship

This term Polar Bears class were leading the worship. They have really gained confidence and taken ownership over the different aspects of worship; even greeting children at the door and welcoming them. We have been preparing for our Easter service by learning some beautiful worship songs. Richard Dray and Miss D'Anna are playing the piano and guitar and it sounds amazing. Year 5 are also practicing an instrumental piece for the church service. We hope that you will be able to come and join us.



EYFS

In Early Years we have continued with our 'Traditional Tales' topic. We focused lots on the story of 'The Little Red Hen' and some lovely ladies from Greggs Bakery came in to visit us!



We decided we wanted our own version of Greggs in the area. First of all we made some salt dough all by ourselves—it was very messy! Then we made our own pastries to use in our role play area.



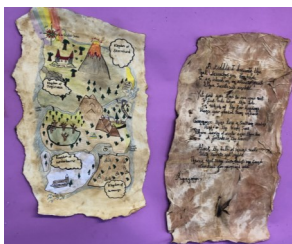
Greggs has been open for a couple of weeks, and although the sausage rolls may be expensive (£5 last time Miss Riggs was peckish!), our customer service is absolutely excellent!

Lower School



Year 1 have enjoyed the Enchanted Woodland. We made fairies, clay faces, fairy gardens and learnt all about trees and plants. We had lots of fun baking cakes to help us learn about weighing.

In Year 2 we have enjoyed learning about plants and how things grow. We have visited Longacres Garden Centre where we found out about different kinds of plants. We are really looking forward to exploring more of the outdoor environment next term when we get out again learning about mini beasts and habitats.



Upper School

In Year 5, we have been studying the topic called 'Alchemy Island'. We started off by having to unpick a riddle to find out where our adventure started on the map that was mysteriously delivered to the classrooms. Through-out the term, in English, we have travelled far and wide across the island, writing jaw-dropping descriptions and gripping fantasy stories.

This term, Year 6 studied a topic called 'Tomorrow's World'. They were learning all about espionage, gadgets and the Alex Rider 'Storm breaker' stories. They carried out secret missions and even used walkie-talkies and cameras to report back to each other.

This term in Year 4 our topic was Playlists. We learnt to play the recorder and we wrote our own version of the Sound Collector. It is a poem with all sorts of sounds and noises. We had a journey around the school and collected some sounds of our

own. We are looking forward to learning about the Romans next term.

By Jack, Dolphins





New School Uniform Supplier

We are pleased so say that we have a new supplier for school uniform, County Sports and School Wear.

You will be able to buy uniform directly from Emporia Fabric & Craft, Park Mall Shopping Centre, Ashford, Tel: **01233 612278**. There will be an area within the shop dedicated to our school uniform and a display rail with sample garments for children to try 'before you buy'.

They are currently working on having a stock available straight after the Easter holiday of school jumpers and cardigans in all sizes, complete with logo.

The prices of each garment are as follows:

Sweatshirts - £11.99

Cardigans - £12.99

Fleeces - £15.49

Rain Jackets - £11.99

House T Shirts - £3.99 No Embroidery (£4.99 embroidered - order).

We are also very pleased to say that the school will benefit from a 10% royalty of all embroidered items.



Christian Values, Innovative Curriculum, Inspirational Teaching, Transformational Outcomes

Our Christian Vision:

To provide the children and adults of St. Mary's with exceptional learning experiences, which offer opportunities to develop their unique skills and talents, underpinned by strong Christian values. Our nurturing environment will foster creativity and enable our children to make a positive contribution to society, enjoy life in all its fullness and to shine as lights in the world to the glory of God.

Biblical Inspiration for our Vision:

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. **Matthew 5:16**

We aim to achieve this vision by:

Having strong Christian values through which we live out our vision

Supporting and challenging all abilities, helping every child to achieve beyond their potential in all areas of learning – intellectual, emotional, physical, social, moral, spiritual and cultural.

Ensuring that all adults are highly skilled, access high quality professional development and flourish in our Christian environment

Providing children with a broad, creative curriculum and a range of enrichment opportunities

Empowering our pupils to become active learners who can problem solve, question, think critically, take risks and lead their own learning

Ensuring that every child flourishes and fulfills their own potential, with resilience and self-belief.

Promoting British values of: The rule of law, Individual liberty, Mutual respect, Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs, through our curriculum

Ensuring that our entire school community has an opportunity to reflect on their learning and have opportunities to pray

Our Christian Values:

RESPECT FRIENDSHIP PERSEVERANCE FORGIVENESS COMPASSION TRUST