



the children are at the heart of everything we do

Spring

Welcome back, we hope the children had a lovely week off. It is a very short half term, until we break up for Easter, so lots to be packed in!

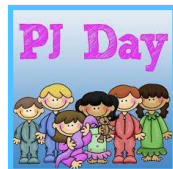
Staffing: Sadly, Mrs Weeks will be leaving St Mary's at the end of this half term. We all wish her well for her future roles. Mrs Buttimore will be teaching the Year 6 class until the end of the academic year.

Mrs Callow, who has been deputy headteacher at St Mary's for 12 years, has taken the decision to step down permanently from the deputy headship. Don't worry though, she will remain as a full-time class teacher at the school. An advert for a new deputy headteacher will be going out soon.

Daffodils: Reminder that the Douglas Borough Daffodil competition will be judged on **Friday 8th March**. Don't worry if your flower didn't survive, the children can still enter their pot! Please bring it to the classroom on the Friday morning.



World Book Day: This is on **Thursday 7th March**. This year to avoid any unnecessary costs for families, and to reduce waste, the children can come to school dressed in their **PJs or own clothes**. If your child already has a costume, they can of course wear this, but you do not need to buy anything for the day. The children will be receiving a book token to buy their own book from participating shops.



Fair-trade Tuck Shop: Our fabulous Eco Club are supporting fair-trade fortnight again this year. They are also going to be running a fair trade tuck shop on Friday 1st and 8th March. Items will be 50p or £1. If the children would like to visit the tuck shop and purchase some fair trade items they are more than welcome - this is optional.

CAFOD - This year CAFOD are doing a **BIG WALK** for lent. Again, we are going to use our walk down to St Mary's Church for Resurrection Rocks as our big walk. If you would like to donate to CAFOD's lent appeal - here is the link;

<https://cafod.org.uk/give/appeals/lent-appeal>



Projects this half term: We continue with our History (discover) focus for the term. Please see your child's class letters with information about what exciting learning will be taking place this half term. The children will continue to be nominated as Thinker of the week and may receive a certificate for using Thinking Moves in their learning.

Dinners/Milk: Dinners this half term are £2.40 per day. Children can swap between packed lunch and dinners at the beginning of a half term, but not during the half term.

PE Kits: **Please can all the children have correct P.E. kits in school by Friday. P.E lessons have started from the first day back.**

Swimming: KS2 swimming remains on Wednesdays until Easter. This is part of the PE curriculum so children are expected to participate. If they are unfit to swim please provide a note explaining why. If they have a heavy cold which prevents them swimming, they should not be in school.

Sporting Events: Last half term we took two Year 3 teams to the Tag Rugby tournament at the NSC. All teams were fantastic and did the school proud.

The cross country championships will be on Thursday 7th March at Nobles Park. We are also entering teams in Girls' Football and Netball this half term - all details TBC for those children competing.

Fundraising: We raised a fantastic £335.27 for the Poppy appeal this year. Many thanks.

Website:

This is a huge source of parental information. <https://stmarys.sch.im>
Please check your child's class page for photos of their learning in class.

Resurrection Rock: To celebrate Easter we will be going to St Mary's church and the children will be performing Resurrection Rock. It would be lovely to see as many parents/relatives as possible at the church. The event will be live streamed for those who can not be there in person.

CHANGE OF TIME THIS YEAR.

Holy Thursday; **Thursday 28th March at 2pm. Parents can collect the children from the Church after the performance, if they wish too.**

Any children not going with parents will walk back to school for pick up as normal.

First Holy Communion: In class, our Year 4 children will start preparing for their First Holy Communion this half term.

FHC is on Saturday 4th May at 10.30am at St Mary's Church.

Validation: The school had an external validation on February 8th/9th. As soon as the summary has been received I will email the link to parents. It was great to celebrate all that has been achieved at the school.

Year 5: On the first day back after the Easter holidays is Cycling Proficiency for all Y5. The children will need to bring a road worthy bike with them on Monday. The bikes can be stored at school for the whole week.

Please see below important dates for your diary for this half term.

Regards, Mrs Martin



Spring 2 - Dates for your Diary

DATE:	EVENT:
Monday 26th February	All P.E. Kits in school
Wednesday 28th February	KS2 Swimming - finishes after Easter holidays
Thursday 29th February and Thursday 7th March	Year 6 Junior Achievement Day
Thursday 7th March	WORLD BOOK DAY - dress in your PJs or own clothes. Cross Country Championships - details TBC
Friday 8th March	Daffodil Judging - bring in their daffodil in the pot Netball Competition at Buchan - details TBC
Tuesday 12th March	Girls' Football Competition - details TBC
Wednesday 13th March	Year 3 Victorian Day - details on class letter
Monday 18th March	Open the book assembly
Wednesday 27th March	Spring reports home
Thursday 28th March	Resurrection Rock at St Mary's Church - 2pm Children can be collected from the Church
Thursday 28th March	LAST DAY OF TERM SCHOOL CLOSED ON FRIDAY 29th MARCH FOR GOOD FRIDAY
Monday 15th April	Children return to school Year 5 Cycling Proficiency Week - Y5 children need to bring bikes into school on this day
Week beginning Monday 20th May	Parents' Evening Appointments

Attendance: We are seeing a huge amount of term time holiday requests. This has contributed to an overall attendance drop at the school. Going forward, a child's holiday will not be authorised if your child's attendance is already under 90%.

