

Newsletter February 2024



Dear Families,

Signs of Spring are well and truly here, all the cold spell is as unwelcome as all the rain! I hope you are all keeping well as we motor through the first part of the year. Your children are enjoying school and continue to make our school a great place to be.

We are now approaching the middle of Lent and it has been lovely to see so many of you join us for Arlington charity walks on a Friday morning.

These are continuing, rain or shine, and we ask if you would like to make a financial donation that you bring some loose change on these mornings. All donations will go directly to the CAFOD charity we subscribe to.

Family mass this Monday (4th March) at 2pm

Everyone is welcome to our Lenten mass at St Mary's Newhouse. This is a great opportunity for us to come together as a parish community.

World Book Day

Our theme this year is SUSTAINABILITY and very much builds on from the encyclical Laudato Si.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOgF2Kgel6k> We ask that your child comes to school in full costume - but nothing new!!!! An old t-shirt, someone else's clothes, recycled items, something homemade, something junk modelled. All the books we will be enjoying will have a reuse/recycle and save theme! <https://www.worldbookday.com/>

Diocesan Levy

If you feel you are able to make a final contribution to the diocesan levy we have to pay, we would be most grateful. The payment option is available via SCOPAY and any size donation would be welcome.

Hothersall Lodge

The next, and final payments for Hothersall lodge are due for Y5 and Y6 pupils on 1st Feb, 1st March and 1st April. Unfortunately, we are unable to extend any payments beyond 1st April and the total payment needs to be settled in full by this time, thank you.

Attendance

You will be fully aware of the national drive to increase school attendance and ensure all pupils receive their full entitlement to the education available to them. Please find this school year's attendance so far. Please do help us by bringing your child to school every day unless they are unwell and by booking holidays outside of term time.

Current academic year up to Friday 23 February 2024

| Number of pupils | Overall attendance % | Overall absence % | Unauthorised absence % |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 126 | 96.3% | 3.7% | 0.5% |
| Persistently absent | | Severely absent | |
| Number of persistently absent pupils | Percentage of persistently absent pupils | Number of severely absent pupils | Percentage of severely absent pupils |
| 8 | 6.3% | 0 | 0.0% |

Updates and events!

More and more families are accessing our online calendar, thanks for doing this; we are updating it every week and hope to text out more regular reminders to you.

<https://www.st-mary-st-andrews.lancs.sch.uk/calendar/?calid=2,1,3,4&pid=10&viewid=2>

Reading at home with your child.

We love you to read with your child every day - no matter which year they are in, listening to your children read is so good for them. You can help them decode new words, develop fluency and accuracy and truly develop as life-long readers. Don't forget to sign their reading record when you have read together!

Parents' evening and reports

You may have noted that our parents' evening was provisionally planned for March 27th, apologies in advance but we need to move this to the week before which will be Wednesday 20th March. Appointment slots will be sent out next week for this.

We have also taken the decision not to send a written report home to you this term, please rest assured this decision has not been taken lightly. The last report you received was at the very end of the Autumn term - but in full teaching weeks, that was not very long ago. This Spring term is exceptionally short and to mitigate for this, some of our topics have been planned to be delivered over Spring 1 and Spring 2. Therefore, a written report may not be able to cover all the topics taught. However, a full and comprehensive conversation will be had with you at parents' evening. A report will be sent home in the summer term and will cover all of the progress made from this term and the next.

Keeping safe online

Thank you to the families who were able to access the online training from Knowsley City Council this month. I hope you found it useful. This months online safety newsletter is a great read, especially if you are trying to manage your child's screen time. It also offers some advice for families considering buying their child a phone - this is the case for many of our y6 children and the advice included is a great help. <https://www.st-mary-st-andrews.lancs.sch.uk/page/?title=Keeping+Safe+Online&pid=30>

Sporting events

It will come as no surprise to you that our school is doing brilliantly in the mini leagues and super mini leagues; in netball, multi skills, cricket and football! We could not be more proud of our children. This week our Y3 children were fabulous at Mini skills at West View Leisure Centre and the netball team won 7-5 in the local competition on Tuesday. It has been noted the sportsmanship of our pupils at these external events and that is where we feel our greatest achievement is - we are proud of these great people who are also good at sport!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the families and friends who help us attend these events by your volunteering time, transport and support in many ways. Without your help to travel to these events, we would really struggle to attend! Thank you from us all.



Mothering Sunday, 11th

March this year, is a day where we may think about those people, across our lives, who have cared for us, this often includes aunts, sisters, cousins, grandmas, nannas, neighbours, friends and other significant females in our lives.

For some of our school community, Mother's Day can be a difficult time and we send our love, thoughts and prayers to you. To all the people who have a

motherly role in our school community, we thank you for the love you give our children.



FIZZY TREE THEATRE Co.
CREATIVE MINDS GROWING TOGETHER

JOIN OUR TEAM!

We are looking for someone to join our after school workshop team!
If you you have a passion for Performing Arts and working with KS1 & KS2, please get in touch!

Parking

I know parking outside is tricky for everybody, we have kept our staggered start and finish times to try and mitigate for this. However, please can I ask that you do not use the farmer's land or private house for turning your car and that if you come to assemblies, or larger school events, that you try and secure a position in the church carpark. I am presently in talks with the local parish council and other community members working on further parking solutions. School now has to contribute to the resurfacing of the church carpark, which will be a huge financial commitment for us but we hope to create as many spaces as possible.

