



Headteacher Message

Dear Parents/ Carers

We hope you had a lovely half term holiday.

Welcome to the Lent 2 term. Isn't it lovely that the daylight hours are getting longer and Spring will soon arrive., so we can start to make more use of outdoor learning? We've also had great fun talking about the planet's alignment in the night sky this week. The children and staff have continued to work on the theme of Hope for the Jubilee and will continue to do this in Lent which begins next Wednesday. We warmly invite families to join with us at the 9.15 mass on Wednesday the 5th of March at St Mary's church for Ash Wednesday. Families are also very welcome to join us for our Monday and Thursday celebrations of the word, at 9a.m in the hall, which are planned around a weekly focus. This week on the theme of belonging, one of the pupil chaplaincy team on the Thursday assembly is teaching the school about Sikhism and in a couple of week's time, the children in their RE lessons will focus on Hinduism in their RE lessons for the week. The school was gifted some money by the Loughborough Catenians for the Catholic life and mission of the school. The outdoor stations of the cross that you can see on the junior playground and the catholic life board in the hall were purchased.

Refurbishment Junior playground and roofing

Our Academy has received a grant to work on the school roofing at St Mary's, clearing the moss, securing the skylights and the roof tiles. This work will be extensive over the Summer holidays. I appreciate your understanding about the condition of the junior playground, but you must be as I am concerned about children tripping on the loose gravel. In our continued partnership with St Mary's parish, we do need to let the cars park on the playgrounds in the weekend for the masses, but this causes further damage. I requested last term a site survey and a health and safety survey on the junior playground- this was completed in the February half term and the Academy agreed it needed resurfacing. However due to the work on the roof in the summer, there will be large vehicles on the playground, which is why the academy wants to delay the resurfacing until after that. I appreciate a suggestion from some parents, that until the resurfacing, one afternoon in March, families get together to sweep it and see how we can make it safer; please look out on class dojo for a date and time. Any help will be gratefully appreciated. Until then, I will keep risk assessing the playground and request for it to be resurfaced sooner.

Please do ensure you have access to class dojo and are getting the messages/ newsletters on the school story page, class story and messages. Most of the communication will be completed this way to reduce paper and printing costs. Thank you.

Miss Jordan

Contact Info

Address: Hastings Street, Loughborough, LE11 5AX Phone: 01509 212 621

Email: office@stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk Website: www.stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk



Dates for your diary



Lent 2 term begins: 24th February 2025

7th March: Talent show rehearsals begin

5th March: Ash Wednesday (children attending 9.15a.m mass at St Mary's Church.
Beginning of Lent.)

Thursday 6th March: World Book Day

10th March: Other Faith's week learning in RE lessons-Hinduism

14th March: Talent Show rehearsals

13th March: individual and Sibling photos (family photos before school begins)

19th March: Career's Day & fayre in the hall

21st March: talent show rehearsals

Friday 28th March: Talent Show 4p.m

3rd April: Rock Steady concert

7th April: Holy week Liturgies in school

Easter holidays begin 14th April to the 25th of April

School begins for the Pentecost term (Summer Term- 28th April)

Follow us on x and instagram

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FOSM Events this term

Volunteer on the FOSM/ Class representatives

The children have enjoyed some excellent events last term: such as the Valentine's Disco and the film night of 'Wild Robot'. We are so grateful for all the parent and staff volunteers, as we cannot put on these events without the help. We need at least 1 parent volunteer or class rep for each event-please message to help at the talent show. So many lovely things have been acquired through the funding, such as benches and the trim trail. We urgently need new bark for the children to use the trim trail safely and activities on the year one and two playground.

Talent Show

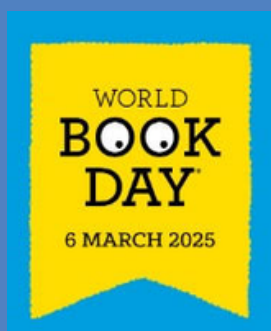
Thank you for all the consent forms handed back- so many talented children. We are looking forward to the show on the 28th of March at 4p.m. Rehearsals begin on the 7th of March.

World Book Day

Next week we celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 6th March!

Children can come into school dressed as a book character of their choice, or just a colour or home clothes- as we don't want to add more costs for you.

The theme this year is Read Your Way so the children are welcome to bring in their favourite book to share. We will have an assembly to start the day and each class will have their own book themed activities during the day.



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Personal Development Curriculum

The key aims of our personal development curriculum are to support pupils to become responsible, confident, healthy, and tolerant young adults who are prepared for life and work in an ever changing world. At St Mary's we deliver a holistic curriculum for life. The PDC curriculum is an ambitious and sequential curriculum. It is an age appropriate curriculum based around three core themes – Living in the wider world, health and wellbeing and relationships. The PDC curriculum focuses on both knowledge, characteristics and virtues.

Each class has a set of Characteristics that they work on, such as resilience, patience, empathy or encouragement. This is also linked to a Gospel Virtue, which is shown on a round circle outside of the classrooms- which are love, faith, wisdom, courage to name a few. Each class also has a Catholic social teaching action and symbol which they work on through the year. This is highlighted in weekly Liturgies linked to scripture. Pupils have half termly time to work in houses and on their Catholic social teaching action and virtue.

Our curriculum includes development of pupils' understanding of religious education, citizenship, equality and diversity, healthy living, British Values- such as democracy in parliament week, and preparing our pupils for their next stage. This is taught through timetabled lessons, is threaded throughout the wider curriculum and through personal development themed days, such as safer internet day, diversity day and the upcoming career's day.

As well as the weekly Liturgies which focuses on moral and spiritual development and keeping safe assemblies and visitors, we have weekly Personal, Social and Health Education lessons. We have had lots of visitors in to help us with this- such as the local PCSO's, school nurses, the air ambulance and the Litter wombles. We teach the children about road safety, water safety and safety at specific events, such as bonfire night.



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Leicestershire Children's Holidays and Trips/ Colour Dash

Leicestershire children's holidays are a great charity that we fundraised last year for on the colour dash. They have helped us so much to fund school trips, such as the year 2 and 5 space centre trip, the Briar's residential and other trips for pupils in receipt of pupil premium funding. Without their support, we would not be able to fund so many trips for the year and reduce parent contributions. The St Mary's colour dash this year, will be on Friday the 2nd of May, which we will aim like last year to run on Cumberland field. We do hope you can support this year, as every child benefits in St Mary's school from this charity. The children will have an assembly on this on the 8th of April at 9a.m. Families would be welcome to join us in the school hall for this assembly.

Careers Day

We need your help! To raise pupil aspirations, at St Mary's, the school council would love to have a career's week. The school council has asked all the children if they wished to, could dress up in a job they would like to have in the future on the 19th of March. We would also like to have lots of parents in that week to talk about their jobs and have a career's fair in the hall/playground. Please let us know if you can help us with this- you could leave a message on dojo. We will be inviting the teaching school in that week, the university and will also make further links with Secondary schools. We'd love for you to be involved. Thank you.

SEND

Friday the 14th of March- after the 9a.m achievement assembly

We warmly welcome parents to a SEND meeting on the above date and time in the school hall to find out more about SEND provision and the Leicestershire SEND hub/ PINS project. Leicestershire is part of the Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland local area partnership who are collectively taking part in the national Change Programme Partnership for SEND and Alternative Provision reforms. The Change Programme Partnership was launched by the Department for Education (DfE) in September 2023 to test and deliver reforms to SEND and Alternative Provision with a small group of local area partnerships. Leicestershire is also an early adopter for the Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) program (now also part of CPP) and has commenced engagement with a selection of local primary schools to test models of support to enable neurodivergent children and young people to remain in mainstream education. St Mary's is participating in the PINS project, with the School Senco Mrs Rutledge at the helm. We are continually working on making St Mary's more inclusive for pupils with SEND and will aim to provide you with more information this year and to enable visits to school to see the provision for children with SEND needs.