



St. Mary's Catholic Primary Academy
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Wednesday 28th March

Happy Easter to you all

Dear Parents/Carers,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support during this last term at St Mary's Catholic Primary Academy.

We have had an extremely busy, but successful, few months and we were delighted with the outcome of our Ofsted inspection back in January. We have already started to work on key development areas and continue to work hard to improve the progress of our pupils' reading – a key area for our whole school development since September. We have transformed our reading areas in EYFS, KS1 and KS2 and there is now a much-improved 'culture of reading' within school.

I would also like to thank you for your continued support in our Family Learning Projects and in other areas of school life: parent involvement in our 'Friends of St Mary's', supporting us in charity fundraisers, parent volunteers to support reading across school and attendance at School/Parish Masses. We hope to see more parents in school during the summer term joining in with your child's learning in a variety of ways.

Next term is extremely important for a number of our pupils across school as they will be participating in national tests. We are very proud of the hard work and commitment of all our children and staff, while they have been preparing for these. Please keep these pupils in your thoughts as they sit the following tests next term:

- Y1 Phonics screening
- Y2 – KS1 SATS
- Y6 – KS2 SATS

You will receive a newsletter during the first week back in the summer term and this will also be uploaded onto our website. There are few important reminders detailed for you below:

- School opens to all pupils on Monday 16th April
- Extra-Curricular Activity Clubs start on Monday 16th April and children will have received a letter earlier this week confirming their place.
- You will have received a letter regarding milk on the first day back after Easter (the cost of milk is £12.00 per term)

- PE kits must be washed and returned to school on the first day back as PE lessons will be taking place.
- Swimming for Y2 starts back on Monday 16th April.
- Summer uniform may be worn after Easter (please see the prospectus on our website for guidance)

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Mrs Glawinska the best of luck and safe delivery of her baby as she begins maternity leave. We are all very excited to meet her new addition!

Mr S Cross will be taking over as the class teacher of 4 Seacole. He has been working alongside Mrs Glawinska during the last week to ensure a smooth transition for the children and parents.

We are extremely sad to be saying farewell to Mrs Ashcroft this Easter. Mrs Ashcroft has been our Business Manager at St Mary's for 6 years and she has decided to take early retirement. She is going to be sadly missed by all of us, but we wish her many years of happiness as she begins her next adventure!

Father Goodman sent a letter home earlier this week regarding Mass times throughout the rest of Holy Week and into Easter. I hope you will be able to attend some of these services during the next few weeks and enjoy spending time strengthening your faith as a family.

Leadership at St Mary's

The Board of Directors of our Multi-Academy Company wish to let parents/carers know that Mr Russell has decided to leave his post, as Executive Headteacher of the Academy, to explore new challenges and opportunities moving forward. This will take effect from the end of this spring term. Mr Russell has led the schools, at times through challenges and changing educative landscape, making many positive changes, which have placed schools in a good position to move forward.

Mr Russell would like to thank staff, pupils and parents/carers for their support over the years and wishes all at the Academy luck for the future.

We would like to thank Mr Russell for his work and commitment to the pupils at the Academy and wish him the best of luck for the future. We are sure that his skills and experience will be well utilised in his future roles.

Miss L Craig, Vice Principal at Our Lady and St Chad has been appointed full-time Acting Executive Headteacher for the summer term to support Mrs Minihane, Head of School of St Mary's, and the other Heads of Schools. Miss Craig will be meeting parents/carers in the new term to introduce herself.

May I finally wish every single member of our school community - children, parents, staff and parish a wonderful, Holy Easter and I look forward to the new and exciting challenges ahead for us all in the summer term.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs V Minihane
Head of School