



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Spring 2 2009

Dear Parents and Children

I hope that you all had a restful half-term break. Now that the snow has gone, all the little green shoots are beginning to push through the earth reminding us of the wonderful new life that is beginning around us. As we begin Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 25th, we too are preparing for the new life that was given to us at Easter.

We give things up for Lent, or try to do additional acts of kindness, to remind us of the sacrifices made by Jesus. Sometimes we find it hard to keep our Lenten promises but, as the children will be learning in school, the important message is to persevere.

Every child will be receiving a little prayer book with this newsletter. Please try to read this book with your child as we travel through Lent together so that the journey towards the joy of Easter will be a shared experience.

With best wishes for the new term ahead,

Ms A Maher

Fundraising

Many thanks to those of you who have sent in your sponsored bounce money. So far we have raised **£584**.

Also, last term we raised **£25.68** through those of you that search and shop online. If you haven't visited this website yet, please find a minute to have a look. Just by using the search engine you can raise valuable funds for school at no cost to yourselves. Just log onto <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/stmaryscatholicps> to register for free or <http://stmaryscatholicps.easysearch.org.uk> to search the internet.

Finally, if you haven't yet returned or paid for the invitation books that were sent out could you please do so as soon as possible.

All funds raised are spent on the 'little extras' for the children and your support is very much appreciated.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



The following children have birthdays during March and April. If your name is not on the list please let us know so that we can check we have the correct date of birth on our records:

Daisy Yr 2	Natalie Yr 1
Sian REC	Prospa Yr 3
Ben REC	Hannah Yr 2
Taraneh Yr 5	Harley Yr 3
Ellen Yr 1	Rhiannon Yr 3
Chloe REC	Myell Yr 6
Jodie Yr 5	Bianca REC
Zara Yr 1	William Yr 3
Cara Yr 3	Kristian REC
James Yr 5	Alannah Yr 6
Harry Yr 5	Orla Yr 6
Tierney Yr 6	Harry REC
Thomas REC	Jordan Yr 4
Jack REC	Kudit Yr 6
Joseph Yr 4	

Absences

Could we please remind you to contact school before 10.00am if your child will not be attending for any reason. If we do not receive information why your child is not in school we have to mark your child's absence as unauthorised as required by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Please can you also ensure that all contact numbers are up to date. **Education Welfare Officers are now asking for written evidence of absence so we would be grateful if you would follow up the initial phone call by sending a letter into school with your child when he/she returns to school. Thank you.**

Attendance Return 5th Jan 2009—13th Feb 2009

Rec —93.39	Our overall absences were:
Year 1—94.80	5.64% authorised
Year 2—95.60	1.11% unauthorised
Year 3—90.99	
Year 4—91.92	
Year 5—94.81	
Year 6—91.55	

Well done to Year 2. You are last half-terms winners.



Whole School Mass List

Weds 25th Feb	Prepared by Year 3 Ash Wednesday	Fr Darley 9.15am
Weds 4th Mar	Prepared by Year 1	Fr Darley 9.15am
Weds 11th Mar	Prepared by Year 2	Fr Darley 9.15am
Weds 18th Mar	Prepared by Year 5	Fr Darley 9.15am
Weds 25th Mar	Prepared by Foundation Stage	Fr Darley 9.15am
Thurs 2nd Apr	Easter Mass prepared by Year 6	Fr Darley 9.15am

We look forward to seeing as many parents and parishioners as possible at our whole school Masses.

Diary Dates



Thurs 26th Feb	Yr 5 and Yr 3 Cycle Training
Fri 27th Feb	Yr 5 Cycle Training
Mon 2nd Mar	Street Dance Yr 3 and Yr 4 Daffodil for St David's Day
Tue 3rd Mar	Dudley Performing Arts visit
Weds 4th Mar	Y3 & Y5 visit to Environmental Zone World Maths Day
Thurs 5th Mar	Y4 & Y6 visit to Environmental Zone World Book Day First Holy Communion meeting 6.00pm in school
Fri 6th Mar	World Book Day costumes
Mon 9—Weds 11Mar	Residential to Alton Castle
Tues 10th Mar	Book Quiz
Thurs 12th Mar	Reconciliation Meeting 6.00pm in school
Fri 13th Mar	Y4 & Y5 to Black Country Museum
Tues 17th Mar	St Patrick's Day Celebrations
Tues 24th Mar	KS2 Production Dress Rehearsal 1.45pm
Weds 25th Mar	Parents Evening 3.10—5.00pm
Thurs 26th Mar	Y5 INSPIRE KS2 Production 6.30pm
Fri 27th Mar	Easter Confessions
Tues 31st Mar	Merry Hill Safety Forum 5.00pm in school
Weds 1st Apr	Easter Disco 1.00—3.00pm Parents Evening 5.00—7.00pm
Fri 3rd Apr	Easter Egg Hunt BREAK UP FOR EASTER
Mon 20th Apr	RETURN TO SCHOOL

Class Assemblies

Fri 27th Feb	Year 4 Assembly	9.10am
Fri 6th March	Year 5 Assembly	9.10am
Fri 13th March	Foundation Stage Assembly	9.10am
Fri 27th March	Penitential Service	9.10am

Eco Warriors Report



Well done to Dev Yr 6, Eleanor Yr 5, Alice Yr 4 and Adam Yr 3 who were the winners of our poster competition. Don't forget to give us your suggestions on how to make St Mary's a more environmentally friendly school.

From Alannah & Jack Yr 6, Eleanor & Jamie Yr 5

World Book Day

World Book Day this year is being celebrated in school on Friday 6th March. Children may come to school dressed as their favourite book character on this day for free if they wish to do so. There will be a prize for the best costume.



Message from the Governing Body

The Governors greatly appreciate the Friends Association for their freely given time and commitment to raising substantial amounts of money. This money is spent directly on the children, providing extras that a limited budget cannot do. The Governors would like to thank all those involved with the friends and indeed all parents who very generously support their fund raising events.

If you have any concerns or questions you would like raised with the governing body, your parent representative is Mr Warwick Trimble. Any letters for Mr Trimble can be left in the postbox outside the school office.

World Maths Day

World Maths Day is being held on Wednesday 4th March when the children will compete online with children of the same age around the world. Your child has been given their own username and password. If you would like to help your child practise or even register and have a go yourself, please log onto www.worldmathsday.com

Easter Egg Raffle

The PTA are organising an Easter egg hunt on Friday 3rd April. Any donations of eggs or chocolate would be greatly appreciated.



School Meals Price Increase

With effect from 20th April the cost of a school meal will rise from £1.65 to £1.70 per day, £8.50 per week.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

To begin week commencing 2nd March 2009

Mon	Circuit Training KS2	3.15-4.15pm
Tues	SATs Club Mrs Keegan-Hobbs Yr 6	3.15-4.15pm
Thurs	Tennis KS2	3.15-4.15pm
	Environment Club Mrs Brereton KS2	3.15-4.15pm
Fri	Football Mr Turner KS2	3.15-4.15pm

Due to costs incurred for materials used etc. we would be grateful for a voluntary contribution of £1 for all after school clubs run by members of St Mary's staff. All clubs run by professionals incur their own costs which is paid directly to the organisation concerned.

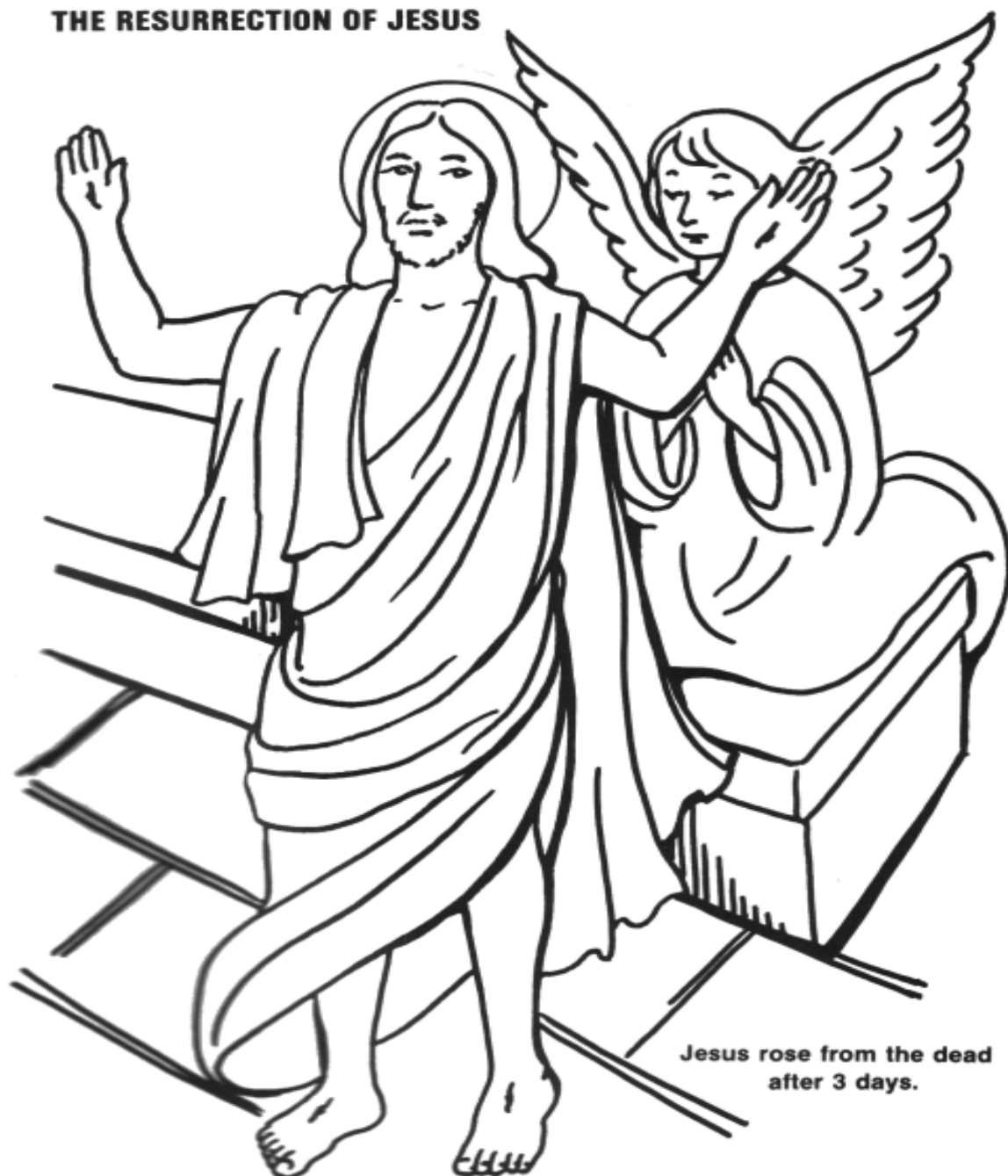
New Pelican Crossing

As you can see, a new pelican crossing is in place but still has not yet been connected to the electricity supply. Please join with us to make this happen by telephoning EON on 0800 1111 or 08457 353637 to lodge your concerns about the safety of your children.

Thank You

An Easter Picture For You to Colour

**1st GLORIOUS MYSTERY
THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS**



Wishing you a Peaceful and Holy Easter
We return to school on Monday 20th April