

# Newsletter

Ysgol Santes Fair

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Friday 28th February 2020

**This week we celebrate the 1st Sunday of Lent.**

## IMPORTANT DATES!

### MARCH

Wednesday 4th

Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, school.

Friday 13th

INSET day—school closed to pupils.

Sunday 15th

School led Mass at 11am, St. Mary's Church, Third Sunday of Lent.

Tuesday 24th

Open Afternoon to look at your child's learning with them.

On Wednesday Fr. Tim led a beautiful service to celebrate **Ash Wednesday** with us, all of our children received a blessing with the ashes which resulted from the burning of the Palms from last year's Palm Sunday. All of our children have been encouraged to identify a Lenten promise for them to focus on during the season leading up to the great fest of Easter time.

A reminder that our next **School Led Mass** to celebrate in the Lenten season will take place **at St. Mary's Church on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 11am, which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent.** We very much look forward to seeing you all there.

On Wednesday of next week, a team of Deanery Priests will visit school and we will have a **Reconciliation service** followed by the **reception of the Sacrament** for all those who are able to receive it. I am very grateful to Fr. Tim and to the other Priests involved in being able to facilitate this wonderful opportunity for our children.

On **Friday morning of next week, Mr Howe's class** will be leading us in their **class assembly**. You are most welcome to come along and join us, we will begin at **9.10am**.

A reminder that we have our next **INSET day on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March** for staff training and therefore the school will be closed to pupils on this day.

We will have our **Open Afternoon on Tuesday March 24<sup>th</sup> between 1pm and 5pm**. Please put this date in your diaries as it gives you an opportunity to come into school and to look at the learning your child has been doing whilst talking to them about it. We look forward to seeing you then.

Accompanying the newsletter today you will have a copy of the **Governors' Annual Report to Parents**. I trust the information included is of interest to you. You are welcome to contact me with any follow up questions that you may have.

We have an excellent area ready to be further developed as an allotment zone in school. **We are looking to have parents or other family members who have an interest in gardening** and would like to spend some time here in our allotment, either individually or in helping children to learn to grow and look after vegetables. Please get in touch with me at school if you have an interest in this area.

**This weekend I will be sending a one item questionnaire via the Schoop app.** This will be asking you to think about themes and topics you think should definitely be taught to our children. I'm not thinking here of the obvious Maths and English things but rather specific themes such as climate change or the classification of insects for example, the list is literally endless. I'm most interested in finding out what you think should be taught in our school. We will take your ideas into account as our curriculum continues to evolve in readiness for implementation of the new curriculum in Wales as published recently by the Welsh Government.

On **Monday afternoon** our children will have their **Eisteddfod** here. They are welcome to come along dressed in traditional costume or in the colour red. We are very much looking forward to the afternoon.

If you have any **school uniform** which is **no longer required** and in a very good condition, we would welcome it in school and we will then be able to offer it to people who are not in a position to purchase new items, thank you for your support.

We have an interest in **developing some play areas for our children** using the concept of, '**loose parts play**'. This involves the children having a chance to develop imaginative play using a whole host of materials such as tyres, planks, pallets and containers for example. If you are able to help us in any way with these sorts of items, I'd be very happy to hear from you at school.

The **total raised for our school** via our **Sports for Champions sponsored event** before the half term break is **£1802.53**. This is an excellent figure and we are very grateful for your support. I have been hearing from children about the various PE equipment that they would like to purchase with this money. Football goals have already arrived in school for example and a range of other equipment will be with us soon, including new mats for gymnastics and a basketball net for the children to play with in the grounds.

**World Book Day is next week, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March.** The Bishops of England and Wales have asked us as it is the **Year of the Word to focus on the Bible and the Gospels in particular**. On the day, staff will be sharing some of their favourite bible stories with the children, children of different ages will be reading together and we will have an active Collective Worship to begin the day on the theme of the Year of the Word. This gives us a uniquely Catholic aspect from which to approach this day aimed at celebrating reading. On that theme, I am most grateful to you for your continued work with your children in relation to reading with and to them. We know that it makes a real difference. Thank you.

I would be very grateful to parents if when arriving in the morning they would give priority to children who are being supervised into the school grounds from our buses. This is in the interest of our children's health and safety. It is imperative that groups of children do not become adrift of others. Thanks, in advance, for your help in relation to this.

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Headteacher: Mr Lyndon Watkins, BA (Hons), MA (Ed), PGCE, NPQH Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Rachel Azzopardi, BA (Hons), MA (Ed) (Hons)

