



“Grow together in Christ”

Rothwell St. Mary's
Catholic Primary School Leeds



www.rothwellstmarys.co.uk
(0113) 2828182

Head Teacher's Newsletter 21 – 22.2.23

Virtue to live by:
LOVE OF NEIGHBOUR:
I say kind and loving things.

Kind words
can be short and
easy to speak, but
their echoes are
truly endless.
(Mother Teresa)

Welcome back: We welcome all families back to school this week. I hope that you have managed some outdoor time over half term to recharge your batteries. We are now halfway through the year and our expectations of all children is very high. Today is the start of Lent and our Year 5 and 6 pupils are attending mass. Lent is a time to give and to pray. We look forward to working in partnership with all families for the remainder of the year.

It is with sadness that we pray for one of our past governors. Many of you will know John McGrory from Church and his excellent singing skills. John sadly passed away last week. John gave his time to our Governing Body for many years, and I had the privilege of working with him. He was a kind, gentle, giving person who enjoyed coming into school and serving our community. We offer our prayers and condolences to Joan his wife, and Sarah his daughter at this sad time. May John rest in peace.

Attendance: Last week the class with the best attendance was Year 1 with 99%. This is amazing attendance. Our current school attendance is at 95.3% up to 3.2.23. This is well below average. I do hope that we have good health this half term and for the summer term to follow. Please also ensure that your child is on time to school. The gate opens at 8.20am each morning and pupils should be in classes by 8.30am.



Lateness can build up over time and affects the attendance of a pupil without you really knowing (and that of the overall attendance of school). If a child was late every day for the following number of minutes, this table shows how many days this equates to over a year! Imagine how many lessons missed this would equate to! A reminder also that the gate will close at 8.30am. We allow 10 mins for children to arrive at school and get to their classroom. Lessons do begin at 8.30am.

Minutes late	Number of days over a year
5 mins	3.4 days
10 mins	6.9 days
15 mins	10.3 days
20 mins	13.8 days
30 mins	20.7 days



Awards: These awards are given out in Friday's Gold Book assembly and must be returned the following Thursday.

Handwriting:

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Sophie	Milo	Seamus	Gia	Thomas P	Ruby	Maxwell

Excellent attitude to learning award: these are prestigious awards, and the children should be very proud of themselves for achieving these. Well done.

EYFS/ KS1: - Fern – Year 1

KS2: Isabella – Year 4



Important days and dates for this half term

Friday 24th February
Assembly – Introduction to becoming a plastic free school

Monday 27th February
Leeds Rhinos Assembly

Tuesday 28th February
Y2 Visit to Thackray Museum

Thursday 2nd March
World Book Day
Author Visit – James Nicol
<https://jamesnicolbooks.com>

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Friday 3rd March
Bringing Books to Life
Dance Workshops for whole school- No Gold Book
Assembly or open classrooms

Tuesday 14th March
Y1 visiting Abbey House
Museum

Friday 17th March
Year 1 Poetry Recital

Thursday 16th March
SCOPE SEND coffee morning
(please let Mrs Sweeney know if you can attend)

Monday 20th / Tuesday 21st March
Parent Consultation Evenings

Friday 24th March
Panathlon
9.30-12.30
More information to follow.

Friday 24th March
FOSM
Cinema Night straight after school. No ASC on that evening.

Saturday 25th March
Y3 Reconciliation 9am at Church.

Gold Book: Our School Council in conjunction with the President of Mini Vinnies have registered to become a Plastic Clever School. They have received their registration certificate and will be sending more information in the coming weeks. They will be talking about this venture in Gold Book Assembly on Friday 24th February.



Parent Consultation Evenings for the Spring Term: These will be going ahead in the second half of the Spring Term in the week beginning 20th March. This gives us another term to see how well your child is performing. If you have any worries or questions during the term, please do come and have a chat and likewise, if teachers need to flag anything, they will be in contact.

Assemblies - Please note change to Y2 Class Assembly date.

Term	Spring 2	Sum 1	Sum 2	Sum 2
Year	Year 2	Year 1	Year 6	Rec
Date	24/3/23	5/5/23	16/6/23	14/7/23

Poetry Recitals: In an aim to continue to encourage a love of reading, we are introducing poetry recitals in assemblies this year. Here are the dates when your child's class will perform:

Year 1 – 17th March 2023 / Year 4 – 5th May 2023 / Year 3 – 16th June 2023

Provision beyond the school day: We are so lucky to have so much on offer to extend and enrich the personal development of your children. Here is a reminder of what is on offer and when:

Day	Provision	Year Groups	Staff
Monday	Reading Fluency Cheer Leading	Selected pupils All	Mrs Sweeney Ace Club
Tuesday	Reading Fluency Booster Choir Games Club Computing	Selected pupils Y6 KS2 KS2 KS1	Mrs Sweeney Miss Nicholson Miss Leonard/ Dionne Mrs Sheldon-Price Miss Drury
Wednesday	Reading Fluency Basketball Booster Food Ambassadors (once per half term)	Selected pupils KS2 Y6 KS2	Mrs Sweeney Ace Club Miss Nicholson, Mrs Hallos, Mrs Poole Mrs Sheldon Price
Thursday	Reading Fluency Y4 TT Rockstars (before school) Football Gardening	Selected pupils Y4 KS2 All	Mrs Sweeney Mrs Poole Ace Club Mrs Sheldon -Price / Mrs Penchion
Friday	Netball	Y5/ Y6	Mrs Sweeney

FOSM: Please be aware that Amazon are winding down their Amazon Smile service at the end of February. Amazon is one of the retailers listed on easyfundraising, so please can anyone who used to use Smile please switch across to easyfundraising. These contributions really do add up, and with the amount we all spend at Amazon these days the potential benefit to FOSM is huge and at no additional cost to you too. You can access easyfundraising [here](#)

Your School Lottery

Our school lottery has launched, and tickets are available now! To be in with a chance of winning and raise funds for the school please visit www.yourschoollottery.co.uk and click on Buy a ticket. Search for the school using 'Rothwell St Mary's' and click on the Support us button under the school image.

Future Dates:

Friday 31st March

Year 2 and Year 3 Spring Play – 9am Families welcome.

Friday 31st March

Break up for Easter at 3pm. No ASC on this day. This is due to staff delivering training until 3pm. Back to normal for summer 1pm finish!!

Tuesday 18th April

Year 3 Trip to Eden Camp

Friday 21st April

Year 4 / Year 5 Resurrection Play 9am. Families welcome.

Friday 28th April

Class Photograph Day

Tuesday 2nd May

Pedestrian Training

Friday 5th May

Fancy Dress Day – Coronation Day
Tea / Scones after assembly for parents.
Juice and buns/ healthy choice for the children.
Fr Eamon to judge the best costume!

Friday 5th May

Year 1 Class Assembly 9am

Monday 8th May

Bank Holiday

Tuesday 9th – Friday 12th

SATS Week for Year 6

Thursday 18th/ Friday 19th May

This Green Moon for Year 5

Sunday 21st May

First Holy Communion
Year 4

Thursday 25th May

Break up

Friday 26th May

Training Day

Monday 5th June

Training Day
New Parents Meeting
5.30pm

Tickets are just £1 a week with a TOP PRIZE of £25,000, and 1 guaranteed winner for each school receives 30% of the ticket sales in the Saturday weekly draw. Remember 40% of the sales is coming straight back to FOSM and the lottery is open to anyone who'd like to support us so share with friends and family and keep boosting the prize fund.



Twitter: All our teacher now keep our Twitter page updated. Please follow us @rothwellstmarys to find out what has been happening in school each day.

Year 6 have completed their DT project of cooking a well-balanced meal. From cooking salmon to spaghetti bolognaise - and even making and proving our own dough - we made delicious meals and enjoyed sharing them together!

Year 6 have been creating field guides of our school, classifying their findings using the Linnaean system!



Healthy Schools and birthdays: As we continue to strive to be an outstanding Healthy School, our policy now states that sweets for birthdays are no longer going to be allowed. I know that you agree that working towards a healthier lifestyle is important and that you will work with us on this. If you would like to see our draft policy or contribute any thoughts, please do email for a copy.

Safeguarding:

Our safeguarding policy for 2022/23 is available on the school website <https://www.rothwellstmarys.co.uk/school-info/safeguarding/>. Our safeguarding team is below.

Miss Leonard, Mrs Sweeney, Ms MacPherson, Mrs Sheldon-Price should you wish to contact us, please use the usual address. We have a duty of care to protect all our children and families.

Safeguarding Support for Parents: This week's safeguarding topic is talking to your child about difficult topics. We are here to help at school too, but here is a starting point! <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/talking-about-difficult-topics/>

Church Bulletin: Please use the link below to access St Mary's Church weekly bulletin. <https://www.stmaryrothwell.org.uk/bulletin/>

Telephone: 0113 824 2819

Email: pp.stmary.rothwell@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Always remember that the door is open, and your first port of call should be your child's class teacher. If you need to speak further, then please see Mrs Sweeney or failing that myself. It is always better to nip things in the bud and get a resolution quickly with your child's teacher.

God Bless Miss S Leonard –head teacher head@rothwellstmarys.org.uk

