

St Mary Magdalen's Newsletter



Nurturing Hearts and Minds

Worship Reflection

A protest is when people show they don't agree with something and want to change it. There are many different ways people choose to protest and have their voices heard.

Heavenly Lord,

Help me when I disagree with other people's actions. May I act with love and not hate. Give me serenity to accept what I cannot change, courage to change what I can and wisdom to know the difference between the two.

Amen.

Birthdays this week

Happy birthday this week to: Charlie Hunter, Noah Prout, Isabelle Livesey and William Walker.

Spare uniform please

The grandmother of Claudia Howarth is very busy making bears made out of old school uniform. We are selling these as keepsakes for the Year 6 children to raise money for the PTFA. They will be in the Year 6 Parentmail shop soon. It is something I would like to continue to do in future years too. We are in need of old uniform especially old jumpers and PE tops with the logo on and ties. The condition does not matter as we just use parts of the uniform. Please send into school if you have any of these things. Thank you.



Drop off / Collection of Children

Just a reminder that face masks must be worn by all adults when dropping off and collecting children. We have also had reports of parents, in cars, dropping children off in the morning on Buller Avenue, then doing a turn in the road. Please could we ask that children are dropped off on the playground, using the playground as a means of turning your car around as this makes it safer for everyone. Thank you.

The last 12 months have taught us many things and we have had to totally review the way we do things in order to keep everyone safe. Since September I have tried to view everything with an adopt, adapt or abandon approach. Some new approaches we will gladly abandon when we can like the working in bubbles and wearing of face masks. Some we will continue to adopt like more stringent hygiene procedures but others we can take the best bits from and adapt them to suit our new needs for example using Purple Mash for homework and having access to the teacher through email. One of the things I would like to use are your newly developed skills in supporting your child's learning. Don't worry I am not going to ask you to do more work with your children than before.

In order to fill the gaps in children's learning teachers will be working extra hard to assess and teach very precisely. We were given a little extra money this year to help with this but I don't know whether this will continue next year. So I am working on making sure that we make the most of the time the children are in school and that they are constantly learning, without putting them or their teachers under too much pressure. You can help us by ensuring your child does their homework and reads whenever they can. We are overhauling our reading system at the moment and aiming to ignite a passion for reading in every child. Infant parents please read the email I sent earlier in the week about reading procedures so you are clear how things are changing. Junior parents, you will hopefully notice a more frequent changing of books with a greater range of texts. I will be updating our reading policy to reflect all these changes.

More than anything I would just like you to enjoy books with your child. Reading is a one of the greatest gifts you can give your child. The more children read, the greater their vocabulary will be and the better their sentence construction and spelling will be in their own writing. Please do not see it as a chore but as quality time with your child.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Gallagher
Headteacher

PTFA Balloon Race

We are having a virtual balloon race. Children get to choose a design for their balloon, name it and put a greeting on it. Balloons cost £3 each. Children will be able to tune in daily to see the progress of their balloon. We will also be tuning in at school to rev up the excitement. The race is in out final week in school Monday 29th March- Thursday 1st April.

<https://www.balloonrace.com/marymags>



James Kirby is father to Thomas in Y3 and Olivia in YR. James is a corporal in the army and is based at Catterick in North Yorkshire. Sadly, James lost his Mum, Denise, last week at the young age of 59. Denise lost both of her legs ten years ago as a complication of diabetes and sadly lost her life to Covid. She was an inspiration to James and he would like to honour her memory by marching with 59 kg on his back from Market Square in Preston to Catterick. All money raised will go to BLESMA which is an army charity that supports soldiers who have lost eyes or limbs on active service. If you would like to support James in his worthy mission please go to his [Just Giving](#) page.

If you would like to read more about James and his march please see [the Lancashire Evening Post article here](#).



Merit Winners

Congratulations this week to:

*Year R – **Ace Luxton-Love** for his wonderful focus in all his work & **Annie Turner** for brilliant confidence in her own abilities. A great 'can do' attitude.*

*Year 1 – **Ava Mongan** for brilliant always being polite & **Mason Ratcliffe** for being on fire with everything all week.*

*Year 2 – **James Coleman** for being an enthusiastic and keen reader & **Isla Marsden Cartwright** for having lovely manners and always being a kind and thoughtful friend.*

*Year 3 – **Elsie Cross** for becoming so much more confident in all aspects of her maths work & **Jessica Whittaker** for just being such a hard worker and giving her all in terms of energy and effort.*

*Year 4 – **Chloe Brindle** for super work during Maths and persevering even when it was a little tricky & **Jack Mountford** for trying really hard learning his spellings.*

*Year 5 – **Jenson Trusch** for being kind, polite and an avid reader & **Max Swindlehurst** for working enthusiastically with his Maths and doing amazing work with fractions.*

*Year 6 – **Alex Dawson** for always being such a caring and considerate member of class, checking on his friends and his teachers & **Alexis Williams** for getting into role during drama and dance and performing so well!*