

St Mary Magdalen's Newsletter



Nurturing Hearts and Minds

Worship Reflection

It is estimated that the world has over 8 million different species of plants of animals – all of which are unique and special in their own way. It is important for us to remember that how something looks, is only part of its story.

O God who created everything, we thank you for all the wonderful and unusual animals in the world. We can see how you created each animal with a specific purpose and design to maintain the balance of nature. Bless them we pray, and help us live with them peacefully and kindly.

Amen.

Happy birthday this week to: *Anthony K, Remy G, Lola M & Abigail F.*

School Meals

We will be on **Week 1 of the menu** next week.

Sports Day – Family Picnic Lunch

Please remember that today is the last day to complete your form for the Sports Day family picnic day. Thank you.

Guitars

There are beginner guitar lessons starting in September. Please return your reply slip by **Friday 15th July** if you would like your child to start. Thank you.

School Drop Off

Just a reminder that staff are not on the gates or drop off point until 8.40am. If you arrive before please stay with your children until this time. Thank you.

Last Saturday the Year 5 children received their First Holy Communion. You will probably have seen on the app how beautiful and smart they looked and how special their day was. From being very small you prepare your children for that day by teaching them how to grow God in their hearts. This is strongly built on in school so that by the time the children leave us the children understand how to spread the peace and love of God.

I am often asked how I keep my faith so strong and in particular why I go to church. My faith is very simple; I use Jesus as a role model for my life and try to live my life in the way he taught. I fail often but believe that God loves me regardless. I truly believe that it is working with children all these years that has allowed me to keep it simple and not overcomplicate it with doctrine and church rules. Teaching God's love reminds teachers daily how to live our lives.

The gospel this week talks of how we grow God's kingdom in our hearts. One of the greatest blessings of my career is to watch the children grow in faith and love and learn how to reach out and help others. In our busy lives it is hard to make time to remind ourselves of God's love through the gospel and take time to reflect on ourselves. Mass allows me to do that, it is spiritual wellbeing time for me. I don't see it as a duty but as a gift for myself. I hope that the children will always take the opportunity to allow themselves the privilege of Mass and I hope that you all indulge yourselves at times too. No-one will judge you for not going weekly and you will be welcome. A little like going to the gym; it feels like a lot of effort to go but you always feel better for having gone.

On my day off on Monday I will be fulfilling a long held dream of going to Wimbledon; a retirement treat from my sister and brother-in-law. I am very excited. I hope you have a lovely weekend too.

Mrs Gallagher

Staff Appointments

Last week governors appointed a number of people to fill our vacant position. Congratulations to:

Mrs Shelley Scales who will be the class TA in Year 4 in September.

Mrs Charmaine Bamber who will work Monday- Friday as a lunchtime assistant

Mrs Naomi Forster and Mrs Laura Williams who will job share a lunchtime assistant role.

We hope that you will enjoy being part of the best school team ever!

Sparkle Bean Charity – Next Friday!

You will recall that a primary school in our cluster, Tarleton Primary, lost a child to the MEN bombing in May 2017. Saffie Rose. Mr Upton the headteacher there has set up a charity to help schools when terrible things like this happen. It is called the Sparkle Bean charity. The charity supports schools in two ways following the sudden death of a primary aged pupil. Firstly, through sharing learning. Secondly, by providing small grants to a school for the leadership of that school to use as they see fit. Read more here: [Home - Sparkle Bean](#). Having gone through this ourselves and knowing how much we have needed to support other schools who have gone through similar we know there is little support out there. I am therefore very keen to support fundraising for this charity.

On Friday 8th July we will have an own clothes day to raise funds for Sparkle Bean.

Farewell Mass and Assembly

Over the last three years a number of staff have retired without a proper farewell: Mrs Ainscough, Mrs Elsdon and Mrs Wadsworth.

Miss McNulty finished at Easter to focus on her other business and a number of us are retiring in the summer: Mrs Di Franco, Mrs Marshall, Mrs Costello and myself.

To give thanks for the careers of all the above we are having a Mass of Farewell on Tuesday 19th July at 6.30pm. We would love it if some children could be there. If your child is in Year 4, 5 or 6 you will have received a Parentmail form asking if your child could attend. I appreciate any of you who are allowing your children to come. If any parents wish to attend too you would be welcome. Seating will be reserved for the retirees and their families, staff and governors so please don't be offended if seats are hard to come by. There is also an assembly for me on Tuesday 19th morning at 9.15am. I am really not sure what to expect from that. Parents are also welcome to attend this.

PTFA

Thank you to everyone who came along to the PTFA meeting on Tuesday and for my lovely leaving presents. It has been lovely to work alongside you.

Mrs Leung (Chair) and Mrs Macmillan (Treasurer) have been fantastic committee members for years but are finally stepping down. The key people on the committee are now::

Tanya Dos Santos –Chair

Faye Scholes –Vice Chair

Secretary – Lisa Robinson

Treasurer – Helen Burgess