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Friday 21st April 2023

Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all managed to have a restful and enjoyable break.

It has been lovely this week, to welcome the children and school community back as we now move through this summer term following the Easter Holidays.

Easter Joy

As we move through the season of Easter, in school children and staff are reflecting on the joy and celebration of this time of year. Through assemblies and lessons, we celebrate Jesus' resurrection and the events of him returning to the disciples to provide hope, strength, courage and heart to share the Good News.

St Joseph's Penny Collections

A special word of thanks to all of our children and families for your support of our St Joseph's Penny collection during Lent, prior to the holidays.

The importance of thinking about the needs of others and looking after those less fortunate, is such an important virtue that we continue to focus upon as a school community.

Goodbye and Good Luck

It is with sadness and wishes of good luck and thanks that we prepare to say goodbye next week, to Mrs Burton. Mrs Burton has been with us at St Margaret Mary's for over 15 years in her roles as class teacher, Key Stage Lead and SENCO. I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for all of her hard work, professionalism and commitment to the children and the families of St Margaret Mary's. We wish her a lovely final week at St Margaret Mary's with children, staff and parents.



Proposed Strike Action

As you will no doubt be aware there is proposed industrial action planned over the next two weeks. I am not in a position to provide clear information regarding whether school will be partially or fully closed next week, on Thursday 27th April. I will send a text message and email as soon as I am in a position to do so. Thank-you for your patience and understanding with this matter.

Health & Wellbeing

This week's activities are ...

10 Minute Shake Up games: <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/activities/10-minute-shake-up/>



Well Done!

Congratulations to Briony who finished in third-place in an Anti-Bullying campaign promoted by Manchester Healthy Schools. The competition received hundreds of entries from children across Manchester schools, so a special well done to Briony on her achievement!

EYFS Open Evening

On Monday 24th April we are holding an EYFS Open Event where we will welcome parents whose children are starting their school journey with us from September 2023. The event will take place from 3.00 – 5.30 p.m. Parents will have the opportunity to speak with our EYFS staff as well as being able to have a look around our building. Please do come along if you are have a child starting in our EYFS from September!

After School Clubs

Unfortunately, there will be no After School Clubs taking place this half-term apart from Y6 SATS Revision & LSC. After School Clubs will resume again after May half-term.

Y3 children are now able to attend either the Tuesday or Wednesday LSC After School Club, or both nights if parents need this provision.

You can book your child's place for Little Sports Coaching at <https://www.wearelsc.co.uk/book/?venue=380>

Author Visit

On Tuesday, Manchester Poet, Matt Goodfellow, visited our children in school! The children had an amazing time listening to Matt recite poems from his books as well as taking part in a poetry workshop. We thank Matt for a lovely visit and for inspiring our children to write verses of their own!

Please see photographs of his visit in our "Wonderful Work" section of the newsletter.



Plastic Bottle Tops!

This half term, a small group of children will be completing a piece of ocean themed artwork to enter into the Sea Life Sea Savers competition. The piece of art will be created from bottle caps so we would be grateful if you could send any clean plastic bottle tops into school with your children. Thank you!

Class Photographs

Children will have their class photographs taken by John Hunt Photography on the new date of **Friday 28th April**.



Important Information from Manchester City Council

Anyone attending a polling station to cast a vote without a valid photo ID will be not be issued with a ballot paper.

To apply for a photo ID, voters can visit <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/>

- The deadline for applications is 25th April 2023
- You can still use your photo ID if it's out of date, as long as it looks like you.
- The name on your ID should be the same name you used to register to vote.

National Testing of the UK's new Emergency Alerts system

A reminder that on Sunday 23rd April at 3.00 p.m. there will be a National Testing of the UK's Emergency Alerts system.

Your mobile phone or device might make a loud sound, even if it is set to silent; vibrate; read out a message. This will last for around 10 seconds. There will be a message on your screen saying: **"This is a test of Emergency Alerts, a new UK government service that will warn you if there's a life-threatening emergency nearby."**



We are looking to change our school payment system from School Spider to School Comms. This is part of Parent Pay for those parents who have secondary school children. **We will need all parents to download the app** as this will be our method of payment for School Meals, Breakfast Club, After School Clubs & School Trips. We will also be using the app as our way of communicating with you through text and email. Please keep your eyes peeled for more information coming very soon. Thank you!

Some of our wonderful work this week ...

After watching them grow from tiny caterpillars, EYFS released our butterflies! We have loved watching and learning about the life cycle of a caterpillar and we will miss our little friends!



Class 1/2 have really enjoyed the start of their athletics PE sessions!



Year 2 had a fabulous afternoon learning all about Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong with the Freshwater Theatre. They really enjoyed being time travellers!



3S enjoyed their music lesson, they explored how drama is used in opera by acting out scenes from Hansel and Gretel!



Some of our wonderful work this week ...

The children in Year 4T have enjoyed using an angle finder to find right angles around the classroom!



Our Year 5 children had a great day at Sale Sharks on Wednesday ... here they are taking part in a rugby festival!



Manchester poet, Matt Goodfellow led a brilliant poetry workshop with our children on Tuesday. We were inspired by poems that were funny, relatable and touching and even had a go at writing some verses of our own!



Some of our Year 6 children have been supporting and being wonderful peer mentors to children in Years 3 and 4!



Attendance

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4T & 6G are this week's joint "Class Attendance Winners" with an excellent 99% attendance closely followed by 5M with 97.4%

NurW 95.0%	Nur/RecH 96.5%	RecM 94.1%	1J 95.9%	1/2M 97.2%	2R 95.5%
3S 96.8%	3/4D 89.0%	4T 99%	5M 97.4%	5J 92.3%	6G 99%
6W 96.4%					

When one class wins the "Class Attendance Winners" twice during a half-term they will receive a special reward!

Who will be next week's "Class Attendance Winners" ... see next week's school newsletter!





NurRecH: Poppy-Rose Rec: Ronnie W Y1J: Poppy H	Y1/2M: Carmen Y2R: Hallie Y3S: Henry	Y3-4D: Ollie B Y4T: Gabriel Y5J: Jacob A	Y5M: Terry Y6G: Steven Y6W: Carson
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Watch this space for when our next stars will be announced!



Important Dates



Monday 24 th April 2023	EYFS Open Evening 3.00 – 5.30 p.m.
Monday 1 st May 2023	School closed May Bank Holiday
Monday 8 th May 2023	School closed Bank Holiday for King's Coronation
Tuesday 9 th – Friday 12 th May 2023	Year 6 SATS Week
Friday 26 th May 2023	School closes for half-term
Monday 12 th June 2023	School opens after half-term
Week of Monday 12 th June 2023	Year 1 Phonics Check / Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check Year 6 Residential
Friday 7 th July 2023	Summer Fayre 3.00 – 6.30 p.m.
Friday 21 st July 2023	School closes for summer break
Tuesday 5 th September 2023	School opens after summer break

Thank-you again for your continued support. I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Take care and God Bless!

Mr Sutton.

Our Journey through Easter

“With Christ at the centre of our lives, we will never be disappointed.”

Pope Francis

Christ
is
Risen!