



# St Mary's News

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Head Teacher: Mr. Peter Keane

Friday 19th January, 2018

Dear Parents

We were delighted to welcome our children back to school and the new term on Tuesday after what I hope was a fun and enjoyable break for you all. All of the teachers and staff of St Mary's were in school on Monday where we spent the day training in Mathematics Mastery. We are one of 475 schools nationally who are part of the Mathematics Mastery Programme which empowers and equips teachers to improve pupils' enjoyment, resilience, understanding and attainment in maths. The programme is being phased in with all year groups up to Year 4 participating this year. Other initiatives will be introduced in coming months to enhance children's learning as St Mary's grows and continues to go from strength to strength.

From the start of this term we will be introducing the key principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Catholic Social Teaching is based on the belief that God's plan for creation is a world of peace, love and justice. It holds that God has a special place for us in this story. It involves every aspect of our lives including how to live as responsible global citizens.

It reflects the teachings of Pope Francis for the common good in our world.

During this term our Catholic Social Teaching focus theme will be *Stewardship*. The earth and all life on it is God's creation and we are called to care for it. Many thoughtless choices about the use of the world's resources is impacting heavily on our environment and many people, creatures and plants suffer as a consequence. Making wise choices about the care of God's creation is called good stewardship, a very topical and important challenge for us all to embrace.

Mr Keane

Headteacher

## **Welcome**

As the new term begins we welcome three new teachers into our school community.

Year 6: Mr Grimshaw

Year 5: Mrs Donato

Music: Ms Messenger

## **Attendance**

The class with the best attendance in the last week of last term was Year 4G with 98.9%. Year 4G now also have the honour of being the overall leaders for the year so far with 98.7%. Very well done 4G! This week, the winners of the attendance cup was 6H and 3M. Congratulations—it makes such a difference to children's life chances when they come into school every day.

## **Writers of the week.**

Every week, a child is chosen from each class to be the writer of the week. These children are awarded a book to take home and keep.

Some of our brilliant writers of the week from Years 3 and 5 shared their thoughts on writing.

### **Ibrum.**

Ibrum enjoys writing and said “when I write I can let out all of my ideas onto paper.” When Ibrum grows up she would like to be an author.

### **Kiryl**

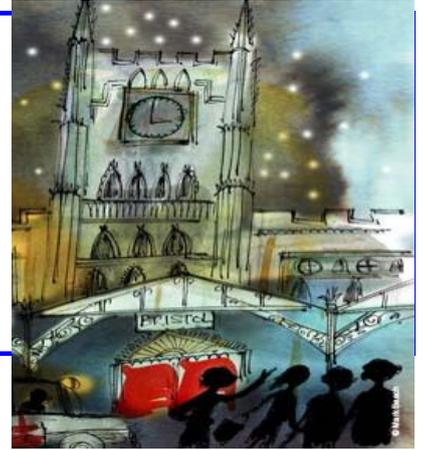
Kiryl would also like to write stories when he is older.

Hebron and Sarah also enjoy opportunities to write and Sarah says that writing helps her upgrade her vocabulary.

## Year 5 English

Year 5 have been studying poetry. They read a poem called 'Last Night, I Saw the City Breathing' by Andrew Fusek Peters and adapted it to create these fabulous poems. We were very impressed by the varied and interesting images the children created.

I hope you enjoy them.



### Last Night, I Saw the City Breathing Adapted by 5P

Last night, I saw the city breathing,  
fast cars whistled by,  
blowing leaves and  
panting exhausts  
gusting down highways to get to their destinations

Last night I saw the city dancing,  
carousels did pirouettes in the warm breeze,  
roller-coasters did backflips in the sky,  
in the park,  
the trees became exhausted and a flash mob  
erupts.

Last night I saw the city starving,  
banks boasted over empty shopping rules  
and Nandos was being spoon-fed with deliveries!  
Overweight outlets gulping 62 lambos through the  
parking lot  
and belching out the rusty old cars.

Last night a saw the city sleeping  
buildings shut down,  
snoring in the midst of the night  
head lamps switched off  
as the buildings in the night screamed out in terror.

Last night I saw the city laughing,  
coffee shops bulging and sniggering,  
theatres dancing, tears flamingoing  
and dining rooms red in the face.

Last night I saw the city crying  
the storm cuddled the cloud  
and it was filled with sorrow.

### Last Night I saw London Breathing Adapted by 5O

Last night, I saw London breathing.  
Mighty waves of busy bodies,  
Breezing in and  
Blowing out  
Of houses' tweeting chimneys

Last night, I saw London laughing.  
Dominoes got the chuckles,  
The West End performed with pizazz,  
And the rooms roared with laughter!

Last night, I saw London dancing.  
Dogs were hip to hip with cats,  
Bendy buses did 'the worm' all over town,  
And the river,  
as it shivers,  
Danced in the moonlight

Last night I saw London ravenous.  
Vulture villas licked their beaks,  
And engulfed seven double deckers!  
Obese, towering towers got jam packed with  
radiance,  
And bragged over dull apartments.

Last night I saw London crying,  
Distraught windows cried tears of sorrow  
And the alleys reflected the stars.

Last night I saw London sleeping.  
Avenues drifted off to sleep,  
Lanterns silently boasted,  
"The moon, I will soon become!"  
And the draught,  
Drifting by,  
As winter flowers began to die.

## Science Museum Trip Studying Forces —Year 3

Year 3 had a most interesting and successful trip to the Science Museum in London on Monday. Some children shared their thoughts with us.



### Isaac 3M

“As soon as my class and I appeared at the science museum we went to look at energy and some rare old cars. I enjoyed the wonderlab because I could use a tube that you put down a ball of paper and the air pushes the ball up!”

### Rinnah 3M

“When I went into the Science Museum I felt super hyper! We saw a rocket and it was massive. The best part was wonderlab, I loved the friction slides.”

### Yaman 3Q

“We explored lots of wonderful and glorious places in the Science Museum. We learnt a lot! I learnt that the first man on the moon was Neil Armstrong.”

### Sarah 3Q

“I was really intrigued to learn all about the different forces. My favourite part of the whole day was exploring the Wonderlab and watching the exciting science experiments take place. We had an amazing time!”



# Jesus at Prayer - Year B

Linking School, Parish and Home



## Key Idea: Jesus at Prayer

This topic is intended for the Spring Term of 2018. It presents pupils with the story of the Exodus and within it, the Passover. As a Jew, Jesus would have celebrated Passover with his family; in preparation for Easter this resource teaches pupils about the story that is the foundation for our own

## Attitudes and Spiritual Dispositions

**Spiritual Outcomes:** *It is hoped that pupils will develop:*

- A sense of the truths contained in Scripture.
- An appreciation of/for our connection to the Jewish people

- Respect for the faith and practices of the Jewish people
- An openness to learning from other faiths

## Activities to try at home

You are the first educator of your pupil in faith. Your pupil's learning in religious education will be much greater if you and the school are engaged in talking about the same ideas and beliefs. This topic takes pupils on a journey back in time to the Exodus. Pupils will be invited to consider the symbolism of the journey the Israelites took and the ritual of Passover which continues to give thanks for the many blessings the people have received.

Talk to your pupils about what they have: foster a sense of appreciation and thankfulness for the many blessings and privileges they enjoy.

## An idea for prayer at home



### Prayer Activity

Blessed are You, Lord our God, ruler of the universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us and enabled us to celebrate this joyous occasion.

May we remember all those who live in fear or oppression; help us to work towards their release and freedom.

**Amen.**

Adapted from the Haggadah, the prayer of the Passover meal.