



St Mary's News

Friday 6th January 2023

Spring 1

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas break and you are feeling refreshed and ready for 2023.

It was wonderful to begin this new term with a Mass this morning led by the children from Wheatland Class. The children sang and read beautifully and many parishioners complimented us on their behaviour. It is great to see so many families at 11 am Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows on Sundays too. The children always join in with the children's liturgy and hymns so enthusiastically and make new friends along the way.

Many of our school community attended Romeo's funeral during the Christmas holidays. It was a chance to share happy memories and pray together to recognise our loss. He will always be remembered in our school community and the *Families and Staff Association* are making plans for a commemorative bench in the playground. The children wrote such heartfelt prayers and poems which we sent to his family.

The children have returned with a very positive attitude and I have been delighted by their hard work in class and smart uniform. As the days gradually get lighter there will be more opportunities for playing on the field, Forest School and Beach School. It may not feel very spring like at the moment but a few snowdrops have started to appear around the school field and so there are certainly signs of nature coming back to life. Please keep reminding the children to wear coats to school so they avoid getting drenched at break-times and before and after school.

You will shortly receive a curriculum newsletter from your child's class-teacher which will tell you about the exciting learning ahead this term. Bognor Library is always worth a visit to help with their research and they are open most nights until 6.00 pm at the moment. The stunning starts planned by the teachers will enthuse the children and the new topics are shown below:

Key Stage 1	Arctic Explorers
Years 3 and 4	Ancient Egypt
Years 5 and 6	Global Citizenship

Finally a big thank you for the prompt drop-off and pick-ups before and after school this week. We start and end school 15 minutes earlier so the gate now opens at 8.15 and the school doors open at 8.25. Please be aware that the gates will be locked at 8.30 from now on. We hope this has reduced congestion and made the journeys to and from school a lot safer.

I hope you have a great weekend and hope to see you soon.

Best wishes

Mr Edgington – Headteacher

Housepoints This Week

St John Bosco	4679
St Catherine	3466
St Francis	3652
St Bernadette	4837

Dates for your diary

- 9th January – Seagull class Forest school
- 10th January – Year 6 Sports Festival at St Phillip Howard
- 12th January – Disco:
EYS & KS1 - 3.00pm
KS2 – 4.00pm
- 16th January – Ocean class Forest school
- 17th January – Year 5&6 Boys football County Final

Trading Card Club begins next week. It is open to all year groups and will take place on a Friday lunch time in the Parish Hall.

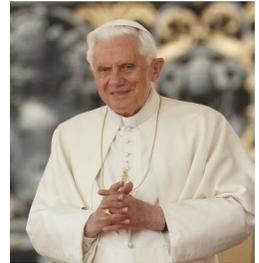
West Sussex West Champions

We are very proud of our year 5 and 6 Boys football team who have worked their way through this year's tournament starting in the Felpham & Bognor area, qualifying for and winning the Area Finals and now they are through to the County Final, where they will represent West Sussex West in Lancing on 17th January!



Pope Emeritus Benedict's Funeral

Joe Biden - only the second Catholic to serve as US president - said Pope Benedict "will be remembered as a renowned theologian, with a lifetime of devotion to the Church, guided by his principles and faith". Mr Biden singled out the pope's remarks during a 2008 visit to the White House in which the former pontiff said "the need for global solidarity is as urgent as ever, if all people are to live in a way worthy of their dignity".



Christmas Events

As always, we had a wonderful time celebrating Christmas in school. We would like to thank everyone who sent in donations and gifts, helped to organize events, and contributed their time to make this all possible!

