



The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary Academy

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Diary Dates

Headteacher Newsletter 11, 28th March 2024

March

28th Last day of term

April

15th Children return to school

16th Year 4 trip to Cadbury's World

23rd Kingswood information evening – 5pm

May

1st - 3rd Year 6 to Kingswood

6th Bank Holiday – school closed

7th Hathersage information evening – 5pm

9th Ascension Day Mass in school – 9.30am

13th – 16th Year 6 SAT's week

17th Mental Health Day & PTA film night – more information to follow

24th Last day of the half term

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe the Lent term has come to an end and we are now well over half-way through this academic year. We have certainly had a busy few weeks in school, with many big events taking place – Reconciliation, Mothers' Day, Lenten Reflection Day - to name just a few.

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend the Stations of the Cross in church on Sunday. It was a beautiful service that enabled all the children and families to be involved as we brought the story of Jesus' final hours to life for our young people.

As you know, we also had our Ofsted Inspection a few weeks ago. I had hoped to be able to share the final report with you before we break up, however, this has not been possible due to the time frames Ofsted are working to.

I hope you all have wonderful Easter holiday with your families – hopefully a dry one with plenty of sunshine!

I look forward to seeing you all when we return to school on Monday 15th April.

Yours sincerely,

Celine Toner



Our Lenten Fundraising for CAFOD.

Many thanks to everyone who has already brought in their sponsor money for the Big Lent walk which we completed last Friday. The children were brilliant and full of energy they completed many laps of the field on the Helicopter Park. As you know, all money raised goes to people around the world who are living in poverty and so far we have raised an amazing **£1,460 so far!** It's not too late to send in sponsor money – either via Arbor or as cash into the school office. All donations by Friday 19th April please. Thank you.



Spreading Hope and Joy this Lent

We have received so many positive comments from people in our community about the children's messages of hope this Lent. From posting cards in the community to singing at mass, to collecting food for the food bank at Emmanuel House - each child across school has contributed something to bring a little joy to our community this Lent. They are true Missionary Disciples.

Finally, Year 4 would like to share their Easter video with you all. [View the video here](#) and watch their recording of 'Living Hope'. We really hope you enjoy it - please do pass it on to your friends and neighbours as we continue our mission to spread hope and joy to others this Eastertime.

Parish Easter Events - Your child came home with a flyer last week outlining all the events taking place at Church over the Easter Holidays, starting tomorrow with children's stations at 10.30am. We hope to see you there.

Staffing News

Both Miss Sweeney and Mrs Walsh return from maternity leave after the Easter break. This means we say farewell to Mrs Baguley and Mrs Coley this week. Miss Sweeney will take over as full-time teacher in Year 1IB and Mrs Walsh will work across both Year 3 classes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Miss Baguley and Mrs Coley for their contribution to The Good Shepherd this year and I wish them well in their future careers.

As you know, Mrs Shajpal is expecting a baby soon and plans to commence her maternity leave at the end of May. Mr Barfield will take over as Acting Deputy Headteacher in her absence and we will advertise internally for an Assistant Headteacher to step into his current role.

First Reconciliation & Holy Communion

Many congratulations to the children who received the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time a few weeks ago in church. The children are now well on their way in their preparations towards making their Holy Communion on Saturday 8th June. Please keep them in your prayers.

One of our families has very kindly donated 2 brand new beautiful communion dresses – age 8. If you would like to take a look, please let me know.

Year 5 Easter Performance – 'Resurrection Rocks'

For those of you who attended the children's Easter Production of Resurrection Rocks yesterday, I know you will join me in saying what a wonderful performance it was. From the singing, the dancing, the acting and the stage crew – all of it fantastic! Well done children – you are such a talented bunch! Thank you so much to the Year 5 staff team who worked tirelessly to bring it all together in record time. Thanks also to Mr Walters who provided the music.

Lost Property

We have accumulated a large amount of lost property over this term! The boxes will be emptied at the end of the first week back (19th April) after Easter and any unnamed items sent either to the PTA's pre-loved or to charity. If your child has lost any items, please look for these at pick up on the 19th. Many thanks.

Finally, thank you to...

- The Y3 and 4 'swim-watch' volunteers who have been helping out each Monday and Thursday.
- The PTA for their work this term – in particular for taking food to Arnold Foodbank and for arranging the Mothers' Day flower bouquets.
- Our school governors, who give up so much of their time - offering support and challenge to ensure the success of the school.