



# Academy News

St Mary Queen of Martyrs VC Academy takes seriously its responsibility to safeguarding all children and adults and has a rigorous procedure in place to do so. The Academy does not tolerate bullying and deals with all forms very seriously

## Note from our Head of School

**Welcome back.** It was lovely to walk round school on Monday morning and see the children looking so smart and ready to work hard. Thank you for ensuring they were dressed in their uniforms and had correct footwear. We really appreciate your support in making our school a lovely place to be.

**Lent** During half term, the season of Lent began with Ash Wednesday. In our first Mass of the half term, Father spoke to the children about the journey through Lent and how we are all preparing for the great feast of Easter.

**Football Finals** Our boys football teams from Y4, Y5 and Y6 have all qualified for the local finals. This is a superb achievement and we wish them luck. The finals take place at Goals Soccer Centre from 4-6pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday next week. Please go along to support them if you are able.

**Swimming Galas** Our children have participated in 2 galas this week. They all swam really well and were a credit to our school with their positive attitudes and excellent behaviour.

**Parents' evenings** Thank you to those who have already booked an appointment online. We really want to see **every** parent so please book a time as soon as possible. If you are unable to attend on 7th & 8th March, please contact the school office to make alternative arrangements. Thank you.



This week, the Junior Chaplaincy Team marked the beginning of Lent with a beautiful Ash Wednesday Liturgy which reflected upon how we can learn to love more like Jesus as we journey through Lent.

## Attendance

This week: 94.72 %  
Well done!

Miss Allen and Mrs Allen's classes attended the attendance reward parlour this week—well done!

Please contact the school office before 9 am if your child is too ill to attend that day. Thank you.

## Home Reading

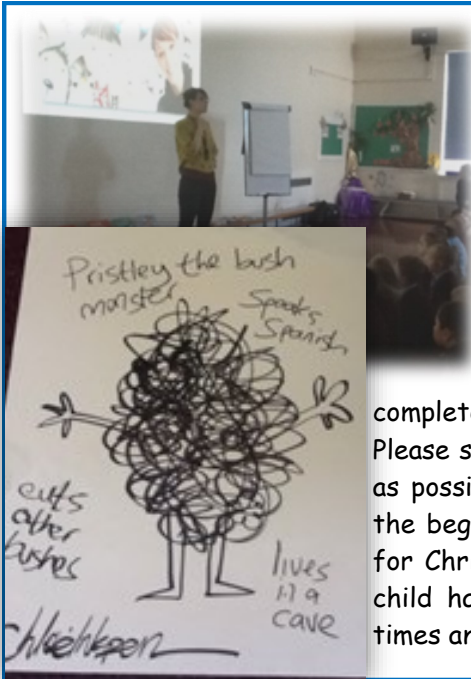
SB/CR	71%	ME	48%
KA	50%	LA	82%
KM	61%	NA	84%
SR	61%	JH	86%
JF	56%	JC	82%
HH	68%		

Date	Event - February
27th	Yr 4 music visit to City Hall
28th	2.20pm Mrs Merckel's Stay and Pray 2 pm—FOS gathering—all welcome
1 Mar	1pm Y3/4 Topic session for parents
2nd	World Book Day
7 & 8	Parents' Evenings
9th	2.30 pm Mrs Allen's Class Assembly
14th	2.20 pm Mrs Clark's Stay and Pray
20/21	1.30 pm Phase 2 Easter performance
22nd	9.10 am Mass
23rd	9.10 am—Good Citizenship awards 2pm—Good Friday Liturgy BREAK UP for Easter

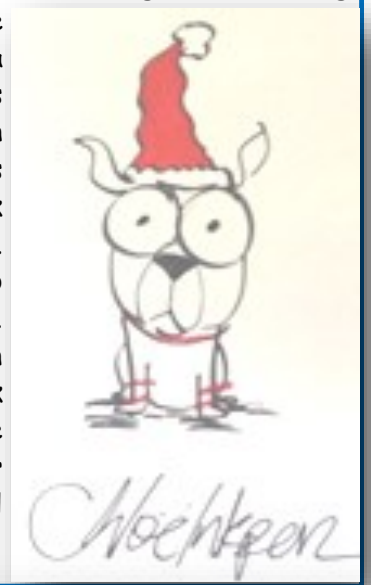
## Foundation

The first week back after the half term break has flown by! In maths this week we have been looking at the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. It would be great if you could ask your child to find some of these shapes around the home or outside. In Literacy we have started our first book based around Talk for Writing. This is a strategy aimed at helping children to retell a story independently. We have based it on 'My Octopus Arms' by Keith Baker. In RE this week Mrs. Hewitt's class held their Stay and Pray Afternoon. Thank you to those parents who attended. Both classes have been thinking of ways in which we can show we are friends after falling out with each other. The children had some fantastic ideas. In guided reading we have started reading 'The Rainbow Fish' by Marcus Pfister. We have made lots of shiny scales to use on our own Rainbow Fish display. In FS1 children have also been looking at 2D shapes and have started reading 'Commotion in the Ocean' by Giles Andreae & David Wojtowycz. The children have been very creative when making fish for the classroom display.





**Phase 1** We hope you have had a great half term holiday with your family. Spring is definitely in the air as the mornings and evenings are becoming lighter. Phase 1 have made a great start to the new term as always. On Tuesday, we enjoyed a visit from the author Chloe Inkpen who writes the Zoe and Beans books. She is also well known as the daughter of Mick Inkpen who is famous for creating Kipper the dog. They often work together creating new characters and books. Your child has been given an order form to complete if they wish to purchase any of Chloe's books. Please send the order form and money into school as soon as possible. On Thursday, we celebrated a Mass to mark the beginning of Lent. Please discuss this important time for Christians with your child. Finally, please ensure your child has an indoor and outdoor PE kit at school at all times and your child has sandshoes. Have a lovely weekend!



**Phase 2** We have had a lovely week back following our half term holiday. The pupils have instantly become engaged in their new class texts as Year 3 explore the world of Alice in Wonderland while Year 4 read about the Egyptian Cinderella. Both books will give great opportunity for creative writing and Year



4 pupils were creative as they became 'apostrophe surgeons'. In Maths, Year 3 have entered into their Data topic by learning how to collect and present a range of information. Year 4 are learning all about fractions and how to find common equivalents. In the afternoons, we have had a very scientific week! Empiribox science experts taught in Mr Evans' class and carried out a range of experiments. Film canister rockets were shooting everywhere! A messy classroom is a productive one... The pupils are working hard on our performance preparation as it starts to take shape!



**Phase 3** We hope you enjoyed the half term break! We've had a busy start to the new half term in Phase 3. In English lessons Year 5 have started to read and study a new book: Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo. It is certainly a gripping read and we are looking forward to the work the pupils produce over the coming weeks. Year 6 have continued to read the book Wonder and have written some excellent diary entries about August's first day at school. In topic lessons we have moved onto World War II focusing on the rise of Hitler. This has certainly caused much interest and discussion amongst the children. In art lessons we have enjoyed studying clay techniques and over the coming weeks will be designing and making our own pieces of art based around poppies out of clay. On Thursday morning we also celebrated Mass marking the start of Lent. This is an extremely important period of time in the Christian calendar and will become focal within our teaching and activities throughout school in the run up to Easter. Next week promises to be another exciting one with World Book Day being celebrated in school next Friday. Have a great weekend!

