

**Mrs Julia Pearce**

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### Important Dates

#### Friday 26 March

Last day of term

(usual Friday staggered pick-up times apply, but no after-school club)

#### Monday 12 April

School reopens with usual staggered drop off and collection times.

### Pupil Highlights



Congratulations to our Creative Royston winners!

Year 3 pupils Rose, Ada, Ollie and Jonah proudly hold their head teacher awards and framed copies of their artwork. Excellent creativity, well done!

# St Mary's Newsletter

## Easter 2021



## Welcome back from Mrs Pearce

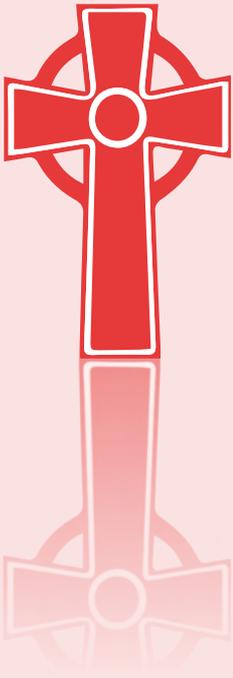
It has been a delight to welcome all the children back to school. They have settled well, enjoyed catching up with their friends and the joy of learning has returned. I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents, staff, and governors for all they have done over this last very challenging year.

School has not yet returned to normal and it will be some time before whole school activities can be permitted. I am immensely proud of the resilience of our children throughout this time; they have adapted to such challenging circumstances, making the best of the opportunities they have. Our Twitter feed or Tapestry will keep you updated with their school day as I understand that return to school has left a gap for some families.

This year the school is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, many events were planned and have sadly been postponed. Year 6 will become event planners and will organise some COVID-secure celebrations during their final term at St Marys. Our 50<sup>th</sup> celebrations will hopefully continue throughout the next year; more information will follow.

**“Aiming high, dreaming bigger,  
Praying together, growing in God’s Love.”**





## Easter activities

We have continued with our virtual Collective worship throughout Lent, with the children learning about Prayer, Sacrifice, Acts of Kindness and Reconciliation.

Next week Year 6 will lead Stations of the Cross for the school in their bubbles, this will be recorded and will be available to view on Good Friday on the church's YouTube channel:



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdZIJ9nc7L8fV8RJ0xafoEQ>

Year 3/4 will also perform The Passion Play outside to all bubbles, again this will be recorded.

## Summer Term

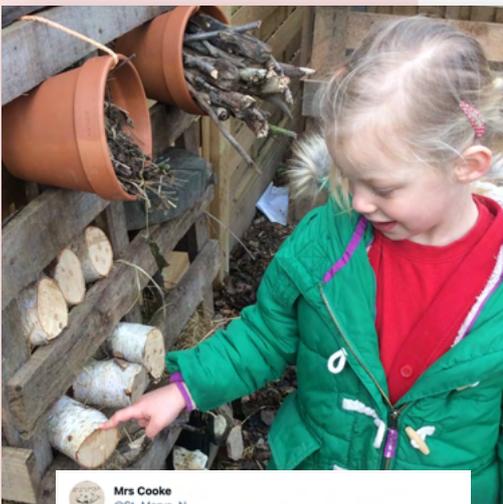
Wrap around care will resume from April 12<sup>th</sup> with breakfast club. Please book in advance and be punctual at the allocated gate.

As the restrictions lift in our everyday lives, we will continue to review our risk assessments and make changes to our daily routines as it is safe to do so. We will continue to keep you updated.

## ...and finally

Wishing you a restful Easter break, hopefully beginning to enjoy some more time with friends and family over this holiday.

**School reopens after Easter Monday April 12<sup>th</sup> usual staggered drop off and collection times.**



Mrs Cooke  
@St\_Marys\_N  
We've been making our bug hotel nice and cosy, plus we've been searching for new guests to visit!



Miss Wright  
@St\_Marys\_R  
Reception are very busy outside today, making the most of the sunshine ☀️



## Information from HCC

We're sharing this information on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council and the Local Resilience Forum who support the countywide response to coronavirus.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

# Latest update

Early years and schools



## 19 March 2021

Only students in year 7 and above have been asked to complete rapid testing, also known as lateral flow tests, twice a week. Secondary schools and colleges will advise how this will work.

**Home tests absolutely should not be carried out on children in nursery, infant or primary school.**

It is explicitly not recommended as part of the testing programme and we are concerned that it could hurt or cause injury to small children. If you are worried about small children or they develop symptoms, please seek advice from your GP or call 111.

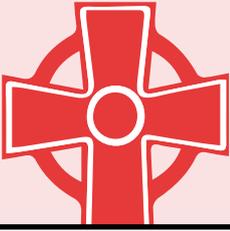
Parents, carers and adults in support bubbles providing childcare are also being encouraged to take twice weekly lateral flow tests (on themselves, not children) at home.

You can find your nearest collection site and order online at:

[www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests](http://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests).

You can also book a test for yourself at one of the county council's rapid test centres:

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest).



# From the Parish



## Holy Week arrangements

We are very pleased by the decrease in infections, the increase in vaccinations and growing confidence in our community which happily is seeing more people come to mass. We now feel that we can safely lift our capacity in Church to a maximum of 50 people and, if the virus continues to be suppressed, raising this to 70 on March 29th. This is dependent on maintaining 'mitigations': booking-in before liturgies, stewarding, social distancing, hand sanitising, face coverings, no congregational singing etc.. More details of these are published on the sacristy notice boards.

Holy Week will be with us very shortly and we have planned for shortened celebrations taking account of the guidance received from Rome, the Bishops' Conference and our Diocese. Please note that all the liturgies will be livestreamed from our Cathedral via

<http://www.westminstercathedral.org.uk>

To book in to any of the major liturgies of Holy Week please go to

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/royston/events/>

Other activities, such as Stations of the Cross, will be accessed through our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/roystoncatholic>

*Palm/Passion Sunday* will be at the usual weekend masses but limited to the capacity of 50 people at any one mass who will need to have booked in beforehand. There will be no outdoor procession and although palms will be blessed at the proper place at the start of the liturgy they will not be distributed until after mass.

*Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Mass at 9:15am.* The Chrism Mass on Tuesday 12noon will be livestreamed <http://www.westminstercathedral.org.uk>

*Holy Thursday 7:30pm* There will be no footwashing this year nor any watch after the liturgy

*Good Friday* The Solemn Liturgy of the Passion will be celebrated at 3pm. Obviously in 'normal' times we would expect ~200 people at this liturgy but the most we can allow this year is 70. Everyone attending must book in beforehand. If this liturgy is fully booked by Palm Sunday we may consider adding a second celebration of the liturgy. NB There will be no individual veneration of the Cross.

*Easter Vigil 7:30pm* and *Easter Day 9am* and *10:30am* will be relatively 'normal', although there will be no new fire or sprinkling of Holy Water.

*Reconciliation* The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available by appointment. Fr Philip will be available in the Sanctuary between 3pm and 6pm on the Saturday before Palm Sunday and after the Good Friday liturgy.

Fr Philip

# March Newsletter

## Dear All,

We are delighted that the children are now back in school and, with them, our school community reunited.

As with so many things, fundraising this year has been much more difficult than in normal times. With your support, however, we were still able to raise funds for the school last term and are continuing to come up with ideas to raise money while building community, as the government restrictions are gradually lifted.

Best wishes, The Friends

[friendsofstmarysroyston@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofstmarysroyston@gmail.com)

## Second Hand Uniform

As we approach summer, please do consider buying uniform second hand from the Friends. We have lots of summer dresses in stock, as well as the usual jumpers, ties, trousers etc. If you would like to buy an item, please contact Michelle via the Friends email or Facebook Messenger.

## Christmas Fund Raising

Thank you all for supporting all of our Christmas fundraising efforts, which have raised a total of £1584 for the school. The 100 Club has raised an additional £606.

## Advent Windows

Thanks to all who took part in creating beautiful advent windows through December. The creativity and innovation on display was appreciated by the whole

community and served to cheer everyone up in these extraordinary times.



## Dates for your Diary

(details to follow)

18 March	FOSM Meeting
26 March	DIY Pizza Night
23rd April	Quiz Night

## Lockdown Bingo

Hopefully everyone spotted the Lockdown Bingo sheet that Miss. Chapman posted on Seesaw / Tapestry. If not, please find it attached. Make sure you post any photos to the Friends of St. Mary's Facebook page.

## 100 Club Winners

	Jan-21		Prize
1st prize	44	Lynsey Gordon	£24.25
2nd prize	28	Alex Norton	£14.55
3rd prize	23	Dominique Snowdon	£9.70

Drawn by Mrs Cooke & Mrs Clarke

	Feb-21		Prize
1st prize	38	Tina Hooper	£24.25
2nd prize	54	Christine Williams	£14.55
3rd prize	65	Nicholas Peer	£9.70

Drawn by Mrs Cooke & Mrs Clarke

# FOSM February Fun Bingo Challenge

<p><b>ENJOY A LITTLE SIT DOWN</b></p> <p>Find a bench and enjoy the view</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><b>FANCY DRESS FUN</b></p> <p>Venture out in fancy dress or some colourful headwear</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><b>DAILY MILE</b></p> <p>Complete the Daily Mile 5 days in a row</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>STIFF AS A PLANK</b></p> <p>Who can hold a plank position the longest in your family?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><b>FAMOUS FOR FIVE MINUTES</b></p> <p>Take a picture in front of something historical where you live</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><b>HIGH IN THE SKY</b></p> <p>Can you walk to the highest place where you live?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>I'M A STAR</b></p> <p>How many star jumps can you do in 1 MINUTE?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><b>SCHOOL TIME</b></p> <p>Walk past St Mary's whilst out and about (or a school where you live)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><b>MUDDY FOOTSTEPS</b></p> <p>Pull on your wellies and enjoy the great outdoors</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>SOMEWHERE SPECIAL</b></p> <p>Take a walk to somewhere that is special to you</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><b>UP, UP AND AWAY</b></p> <p>Run or walk up a hill when you go out</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><b>WOODLAND WANDER</b></p> <p>Explore the woods and build a den</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>WORK IT OUT</b></p> <p>Participate in an online workout session with your family</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><b>SIGN OF THE TIMES</b></p> <p>Have your picture taken beside your town or village sign</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><b>STRETCH IT OUT</b></p> <p>Try some yoga and see what you can do</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>

Please remember to adhere to Government Guidelines and Stay Safe at all times when completing any of the challenges

