



<http://www.stmarysprimary.durham.sch.uk/>

## Dates for diary:

Dates for the Diary

Please see holiday dates on our school website and the Weduc calendar.

Friday 19th March- St Joseph's Day

Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd March- Teams Parents Evening 'Settling Back to School'

Friday 26th March- Break Up Easter holidays

Sunday 28th March—Palm Sunday

Friday 2nd April- Good Friday

Sunday 4th April- Easter Sunday

Monday 12th April- Back to school

## God Bless You Father Elkin...

Please keep Father Elkin in your prayers this week. Father Elkin sadly passed away on Saturday 13th March.

He has served the Parish of St Mary's for many years and was always a very supportive, generous priest to the school.

May he rest in peace.



## Year of St Joseph

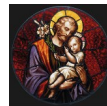
This Year across all Primary schools in the diocese, we will be joining in celebrating 'The Year of Joseph' The children will take part in prayers and reflections each month with a focus on what we can learn from Joseph and the example he sets to us.

### St. Joseph Novena

Pope Francis has declared 8 December 2020 to 8 December 2021 as the 'Year of St. Joseph'. This is 150 years after he was declared as the Patron Saint of the Universal Church by Blessed Pius IX on 8 December 1870.

There will be a Daily Novena from 11 to 19 March.

On the Feast of St. Joseph (19 March) there will be the Novena and time for reflection.



Watch the daily Novena via our YouTube channel [here](#).

## Congratulations to our Stars this week!

Robins: Matthew

Larks: Amber

Swifts: Amelia

Owls: Toby



## Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday to Joshua D who celebrates his 8th birthday next week. I hope you have a lovely day Joshua.

Tomorrow is International Happiness Day... make someone smile!!



## TEAMS Parents Evenings

Monday 22nd March and Tuesday 23rd March 2021

We can see most parents/carers have now made an appointment for next week. If you have not, don't worry- we will make an appointment on your behalf. It is important we have 100% uptake from our parents so that we can discuss how your child/children are settling in since their return after lockdown.

Some children will be asked to come and join us for breakfast club from 8.30am some or maybe each morning (teacher's will inform you) for some pre- phonics/ morning reading or catch up with basic skills starting after the Easter holidays. This will all be shared with you during the meetings and of course you will also have the opportunity to bring any concerns you may have during the meeting too. Many thanks as always for your support and cooperation.



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## Congratulations Taio!

Tomorrow Taia is graduating from Japanese School. He has passed year 2 and he is going to be moving into year 3 ... how exciting Taio. What a wonderful achievement. Well done you!

## 29th March- 4th April World Autism Week

Durham University are holding a FREE online webinar and are inviting parents, teachers and other family members to join if they would find it beneficial or to raise awareness of autism and better understand it.

If you are interested and require further info you can email [cdd@durham.ac.uk](mailto:cdd@durham.ac.uk)

or you can register online for the event at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/ye9boz35>

Thank you

## It's Red Nose Day!!



The children enjoyed their red nose day treat today; thank you Mrs Hickey the cupcakes went down well, even those without chocolate for the children who were giving it up for Lent!

Comic Relief is on the TV tonight at 7pm... get the popcorn ready!!

Here is the link once again for further information and ideas to get involved if you wish.

<https://www.comicrelief.com/>

## PE at St Mary's

Mr Dougall, our PE lead is going to start a PE newsletter each half term. The aim of the newsletter will be to promote events in and around our local area, international events, competitions, celebrate achievements and encourage physical activity and interests both at home and at school. Any celebrations and achievements your child receives outside of school make sure you let us know and we will share it with our whole school community!



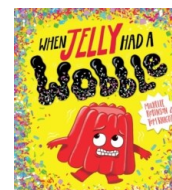
## Mental Health and Wellbeing Recommended Read

### When Jelly Had A Wobble

'A laugh out loud picture book that explores our emotions and reassures us all that having a 'wobble' is okay.

Aimed at Key Stage 1

This has proved a popular choice this week across our nurture and PSHE sessions in school. Use your £1 off World Book Day voucher if you've not already used it. I do have more vouchers if you would like one. Just Weduc message me.



Next week the children will be making their Easter cards in school and we are making a special

effort this year to make sure our friends in the care homes in Barnard Castle also receive an Easter wish... small actions make such a big difference don't they- especially during days like these. If anyone would like to make an Easter card, letter or picture at home too, to help cheer our elderly friends up over the Easter holiday that would be lovely. We will have a safe place to drop them in over



next week.