



# RE NEWSLETTER

English Martyrs Roman Catholic School



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## *Summer First Half-Term 2023*

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Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

John 20: 19-23.

Dear Parents,

In John's Gospel we have an account of the coming of the Holy Spirit. It is Easter Sunday and the apostles are gathered together in fear and dread of the Jewish authorities lest they too be arrested for collaborating with Jesus. Jesus appears among them and says, 'Peace be with you'. Their anxiety and worry disappear. The presence of Jesus always brings peace.

### **Whole School Masses**

This term we have gathered as a school at English Martyrs Church to celebrate the Feast of the English Martyrs and the Feast of the Ascension. The Feast of the Ascension is where Jesus tells his apostles that they will receive power from the Spirit and he gives them their mission. The children in Key Stage Two have become very confident in writing their own bidding prayers and speaking reverently at Mass. Some children have also requested to be altar servers to assist Father Alex in the celebration of the Eucharist. Please see Miss Nugent if you want your child to be an altar server.



## Other Faiths – Islam

The children heard about the culture and religious practices of the Islamic faith. The children participated in a whole school assembly and a lesson on Eid. The children were also able to taste some of the sweet treats that are eaten during this time. We also discussed how a prayer mat is used and Key Stage Two children came dressed in their traditional clothing.

The Key beliefs discussed were:

- Allah is the one and only God.
- There were prophets and Muhammad was the final prophet.
- There is a Day of Judgement when Allah decides if a person goes to heaven or hell.
- Allah has already planned out what will happen and this is called predestination.

## May is the Month of Mary

The whole school came together with Father Alex to honour Mary by crowning her with flowers. We have then, as classes, spent time in the school hall saying the Hail Mary and sitting in quiet reflection time.

## Poetry and art competition

The students at English Martyrs have entered the art and poetry competition held at English Martyrs Church. The children have been excited in sharing their gifts and talents with the school.

## The Coronation of King Charles III

The whole school celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III on the 5<sup>th</sup> May with a collective worship assembly, picnic and concert with parents and friends. The school also created art work in honour of King Charles.

## NURSERY AND RECEPTION

This half term, the theme was "New Life". The children heard that Jesus was raised to new life at Easter and learned how Jesus went back to his Father in Heaven and promised his friends that one day they would also be able to go to the Father. Key stories that they listened to and learned were Pentecost and Jesus Ascension into heaven. The children particularly enjoyed acting out the Road to Emmaus.



*Nursery creating Marian art outdoors.*



*Nursery responding to questions about Mary through drawing.*



*Reception role-playing the Road to Emmaus*



## THE RESURRECTION



Year 1 Art on Doubting Thomas

## Year 1

The children recognised some stories of Easter and knew they are from the Bible. They began to retell in simple form a story of Easter and recognise a link with new life. They could say what the stories of Easter tells Christians about Jesus. They could talk, wonder and ask questions about whether the story of Easter has anything to say to about joy, hope or new life. They could recognise some symbols of Easter, e.g. cross (rather than crucifix), new life (spring, flowers), Easter eggs. They also gave at least two examples of how Christians show their beliefs about Jesus' Resurrection in worship at Easter. They could say how at least two symbols are used at Easter and give an answer to a question like, 'What makes you joyful?' or 'What do you hope for?'

## EASTERTIDE

### YEAR 2

The children in Year Two, retold the Easter stories of the Ascension and Pentecost. They asked and answered questions about the feelings and experiences of characters in the stories of Easter, Ascension and Pentecost. They give simple descriptions of what the stories of Easter tells them about Jesus and how the Holy Spirit helped the disciples and related this to their own lives. They described how, what Jesus taught his disciples, is put into practice in the church community and in their own lives. They enjoyed writing poetry on the Ascension.

## CELEBRATING EASTER AND PENTECOST



*Road to Emmaus role-play*

### YEAR 3

The children retold one of the appearance stories of Jesus, ensuring it is accurate in its sequence and detail. They asked and responded to questions about their own and others experiences of sadness, loss, doubt, trust and joy. They expressed a point of view about the gifts of the Holy Spirit - Is courage the most important gift of the holy spirit. Do you agree? Using one appearance story, they could say what it teaches them e.g. Doubting Thomas, Jesus talking with Peter (John 21:15-17).


The children read the scripture of the road to Emmaus as a class. They then acted out the events in the scripture in small groups. They answered some questions about how they thought the apostles would feel about meeting Jesus for the first time after his death on the cross. They also thought about the many lessons that we could learn from that story that we could use in our everyday lives.

Using the stained-glass windows in church as inspiration, the children decorated an image linked to Pentecost. They carefully considered the colours that would be suitable and developed their cutting skills to produce their own Pentecost stained glass window pane.

## THE EARLY CHRISTIANS

### YEAR 4

This term, the children described how the disciples changed after the coming of the Holy Spirit? They described the life and work of key figures in the history of the People of God- e.g. the conversion of Saul to St Paul. They made links between beliefs and worship, giving reasons for actions and symbols- the characteristics of the Holy Spirit and the celebration

	<p>of Pentecost. They asked and responded to questions about their own and others' experiences and feelings-how the disciples felt before and after Easter or Pentecost?</p>
<p><u>LIFE IN THE RISEN JESUS</u></p>	<p><b>YEAR 5</b></p> <p>The children in Year Five described the story of the Resurrection of Jesus accurately and in detail and showed some understanding of it for Christians. They described how prayer strengthens a Christian's relationship with God and their belonging to the Church community. They made links between Christian worship and Jesus' teaching on prayer. They could show some knowledge and some understanding of religious signs and worship which show Jesus is amongst us.</p> <p>The children wrote songs on the topic of the Resurrection and enjoyed performing these to the younger children in Year One and Two.</p>
<p><u>THE TRANSFORMING SPIRIT</u></p>	<p><b>YEAR 6</b></p> <p>This term the children have been showing an understanding of discipleship by making links between Bible stories, the first disciples' and their own feelings and experiences. They showed knowledge and understanding of the religious actions and signs involved in the celebration of Confirmation. They showed an understanding of how their own and others' decisions are informed by beliefs in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. They could show knowledge and understanding of what it is like to serve God and each other at home, school, church and the wider world.</p>
	<p>We pray for a spirit of wisdom.  We pray for a spirit of knowing.  We pray for an open heart.  May we be hope-filled followers of Jesus.  May we see God's power at work in us.</p> <p><i>Mrs Briggs</i>  <b>RE Curriculum Leader</b></p>

## Poem on the Appearance of Jesus

By Maxi Year 2

Jesus told me to wait

Wait behind locked doors

I feel afraid, scared, worried

My master

My teacher

My friend has gone.

Who will help me know what's good and bad.

Who will lead me?

Who will help me?

Jesus never breaks his promise.

He told me to wait for the Holy Spirit.

He said John baptised with water, I will baptise with the Holy Spirit.

How will I know when it is coming?

Here I am waiting

