



Dear Parents,

We are continuing to journey through the season of Lent, a time where we are asked to remember the needs of others and to grow closer to God, as Jesus did when he dedicated time to spend alone fasting in the desert. During Lent we are asked to repent and take time to change the way we think and behave. We spend more time in prayer, doing good for charity, almsgiving and making sacrifices. Many children have been keen to tell us about the efforts that they have made to raise a few pennies such as making their bed or about sacrifices they have made such as foregoing a sweet treat. We've even had tooth fairy money being kindly donated to the class fundraising pot too.

We are really grateful of your continued support in our Lenten fundraising project to support the great work of the Starlight charity. As we are currently enhancing the play provision for our children in school, we have chosen this charity as they are a charity who too focus on the importance of play and how this can be facilitated to support the wellbeing of unwell children in hospital. Already our efforts have raised £320.92 which we proudly celebrated in assembly this morning. We've set ourselves the challenge of raising £500 and we're really hoping that we manage to hit that target in these final two weeks of Lent.



Free online training sessions for parents

These free virtual workshops are being run by the Norfolk & Suffolk Foundation Trust Psychology team and are designed to provide up to date advice and guidance on how parents and carers can support the young people in their life. The workshops are 60 -75mins minutes long. Scan the QR code to find out more and book a place on a workshop or visit nsft.uk/workshops



Supporting our Young People with OCD—Tuesday 26th March 13:00

This session covers: what OCD is, how it affects and impacts young people, how parents can support their children/adolescents who might be struggling with OCD, and what further support is available.

Tools for Managing Uncertainty & Building Resilience in Young People—Tuesday 26th March 18:00

Life is always unpredictable, but over the last few years we have been living with a much higher degree of uncertainty than is usual.

This workshop introduces strategies that parents/carers can support their young people to use to help them cope better with uncertainty now and in the years to come. Being able to adapt in situations by learning to tolerate emotions and cope with change reduces stress levels and is a great skill for life.

Childhood Neurodiversity: Supporting Social Relationships —Tuesday 2nd April - 13:00

This workshop will discuss social relationship difficulties for neurodivergent children, and how parents/carers can support their children with understanding and managing social relationships.

Childhood Neurodiversity: The Benefits & Problems with Using Technology—Monday 6th May 13:00

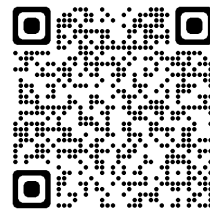
This workshop will discuss the potential benefits and risks to neurodivergent children using technology such as apps and social media. It will explore how families can use technology to support their neurodivergent child.

World Book Day

Last Thursday we enjoyed sharing the joy of reading across the school as the children all had the chance to share stories with children from other classes. It was lovely to see positive interactions between the children, plenty of talk about the books they were reading and lots of smiles and laughter too. Scan the QR code in the top right corner or use the link below to view a video montage of more photos from our paired reading. <https://vimeo.com/921957108/042383cae1?ts=0&share=copy>



Thank you for the purchases that were made at the book fair last week. As a result of the monies spent, we have £929.75 commission to spend on books for the children to enjoy in school.



Preparing for Easter

We are taking the children in KS2 to this interactive Easter event as we journey through Lent and prepare for Easter. It is open for anyone to attend on Saturday 23rd March at St Mary's Church.

The Road... ...to EASTER

An interactive Easter story for Children of all ages
22 | 25 March | 9.00am - 3.00pm | school bookings
Saturday 23 March | 1.30pm - 3.30pm | open to all
St Mary's Church | Bury St Edmunds



If you've ever wondered what Easter is really all about...then here's your chance

...to engage with the real story and reflect on its meaning.

And yes...
...there are
Easter Eggs too..!!

Interactive tours every 20 mins | appropriate for all ages
Children need to be accompanied
School bookings | jackie.crofts@stmaryschurchbse.org

Do you know anyone who could help us?

One of the current things the OPAL play working group of staff are discussing is the storage of wellies for all the children in

the school. We are looking at how and where we can build wellie racks around the school site.

To enable us to do so, we are looking to seek local businesses or suppliers who might be able to donate some money or materials (e.g timber). If you own a business or work for a business that you think would be in a position to help us with this, please let Mrs Copeman know.
Many thanks.



Save the date!
Summer Fayre
Saturday 22nd
June

Diary Dates

Wed 20th March	5D attending Parish Mass at 10am
Thur 21st March	Rocksteady gig—9:00am (Parents of band members are welcome to join us)
Mon 25th March	Friends Easter fundraising events
Thur 28th March	Last day of term
EASTER HOLIDAYS	
Fri 12th & Mon 15th April	PD days (children not in school)
Tue 16th April	Children return to school.
Fri 3rd May	Bishop Peter is visiting

Mud, mud glorious mud!

We are extremely grateful to John Stebbing, the grandad of two of our pupils who has very kindly made a new mud kitchen for the forest school site. Recycling pallets and saving a kitchen sink from heading to the skip, the children have already had great fun putting the kitchen to use.

The forest school team are on the look out for the following items:

a water butt, dressing up clothes, blankets, child size wheelbarrows and milk crates.

Any help with sourcing these would be gratefully appreciated.



Ready, steady, play!

As our lunchtime play provision is continuing to increase through our engagement in the OPAL programme, it's been wonderful to watch some of the mixed age play taking place each day. The children in Owls and Kingfishers classes have been spending an increasing amount of time interacting and playing with children from the main school too. It's been lovely to see some of the new friendships that are forming across the different parts of our school setting. Hockey and basketball have been firm favourites this week.



OutRight Campaign

As part of our ongoing work as a Rights Respecting school we are taking part in UNICEF's annual OutRight Campaign. This year's theme is climate change. As part of the campaign the school council ran a climate competition over half term. They had over 40 entries! Well done to: Hannah (EY), Isabella (Y1), Lois (Y2), Bella (Y4), Empress Agatha (Y5) and Anna and Ruby (Y6). The winners each received a packet of seeds and a certificate. All runners up also received a certificate. The school council would like to thank everybody that took part.



Lego

Do you have any Lego that's no longer being used or that is part of a kit that's now not complete? If so, please send it in for the attention of Mrs Martinez and we'll happily make use of it in school. We don't need complete kits for the purpose of what we're trying to use it for. Thank you.



Prehistoric creations coming from EYs!

The children in Early Years have had lots of fun this week setting themselves the challenge of working together to build a class dinosaur using lots of junk modelling and different materials and resources. They have also been using books and the internet to find out facts about dinosaurs and painted pictures to make a class dinosaur display looking closely at their features.

