

Committed to Safeguarding

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Newsletter No 21

24th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! On Wednesday, we marked the start of Lent with Ash Wednesday. Father Emeka came into school and led an assembly for Years 1-6, in which he distributed the ashes. Early Years then joined us to receive them too. The children were very reverent and were able to demonstrate their knowledge to Father, by answering his questions really well.

St John the Baptist class, on Thursday, led a beautiful class assembly on Lent. The shared their charcoal crosses they had drawn for Ash Wednesday and their Lenten promises. As always, thank you to all the adults who made time to attend. It really does add to the event.

Big Green Money Show Podcast



As you may have already seen from our social media, the Podcast was released Today! Please visit [BBC Sounds](https://www.bbc.com/sounds) to listen. A huge thank you to Mr Cunningham for his continued commitment to Sustainability and for preparing the children so well. I hope you agree that our children represented the school fantastically and their knowledge and dedication to sustainability issues shone through.

World Book Day

On Wednesday 1st March, we will be celebrating World Book Day! There will be lots of reading based activities on the day. The children and staff are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. You do not need to buy a costume, there are plenty of characters that can be brought to life, with very little cost. Here are some ideas: <https://www.worldbookday.com/dressing-up-ideas/>



Friends of St Winifred's:

Welcome back from the Friends for this busy half term! The second half of the school year is always the most exciting time for fundraising and we are already hard at work planning the Easter Egg Hunt and the Summer Fair! Please also find attached a flyer detailing how the Friend's fundraising has supported the school so far!

Easter Egg Hunt - we are looking for donations of Easter Eggs for our children, we have already had some very generous cash and egg donations but still need 150 more eggs to make sure every child gets one! If you'd like to donate eggs or make a donation for us to purchase eggs please get in touch. In order to ensure that everyone gets a similar size egg on the day, we are offering the 96g or 126g size eggs. Thank you for your support! NB. If your child has an allergy/intolerance or special dietary requirement please ensure the office has up to date information and we will try and ensure there is a suitable alternative on the day.



Summer Fair - SAVE THE DATE - Saturday 8th July! We will be sending out further information very soon.

NEU Industrial Action

As explained in my letter yesterday, on **Thursday 2nd March** the school will be closed to most classes, due to industrial action. Mary Class (Rec), St Veronica (Yr2), St Bernadette (Yr3) and St Josephine (Yr5) will be open as usual.

As you know, there are further dates planned **Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March**.

For further information regarding the rationale for the strike please visit the [NEU website](#).

As soon as I know more information about how the industrial action will affect St Winifred's on the subsequent dates, I will let you know.

Absence Clarification: Many of you have queried why the strike has been recorded as an absence. We use various codes when reporting absence. The code we used for the strike, does not affect their overall absence percentage, as it is not counted as a possible attendance. *If your child's class is open and your child does not attend, their absence will be recorded following normal procedures.*

Planned Events: As many of you have highlighted to me, there are assemblies, trips, swimming planned on the proposed dates. As you know, our celebration of World Book Day has been moved to the day before, on Wednesday 1st March. As to events that are specific for just one or two classes, until we know if the particular teacher is striking or not, I cannot cancel or rearrange. As soon as I do know, I will.

St Elizabeth's Class Assembly : Rearranged to Thursday 23rd March

Class Assemblies:

Please try to come along to your child's assembly, it was fantastic to have the Year 2 and Year 4 parents and carers in attendance again this week.

On the day of the assembly, come through the main gate, wait under the canopy and once I have rung the bell I will take you to the main hall.

March	
Wednesday 8:50am	Thursday 8:50am
1 st : St Josephine B. (Yr 5)	
8 th : St Paul Miki (Yr 5)	9 th : St Mary (Rec)
15 th : St Francis Assisi (Yr 3)	16 th : St Joseph (Rec)
22 nd : St Bernadette (Yr 3)	23 rd St Elizabeth (Yr 1)



Swimming:



If your child is going swimming after half term, are you free to help? I was hoping to find one parent volunteer for every afternoon to accompany the children to the pool and back. This involves being in school by 12pm and travelling on public transport to the pool. Waiting for the children whilst they have their lesson and then travelling back with them, arriving back at school by 3pm. If you are able to offer up your time on one afternoon or several afternoons, please contact your child's class teacher.

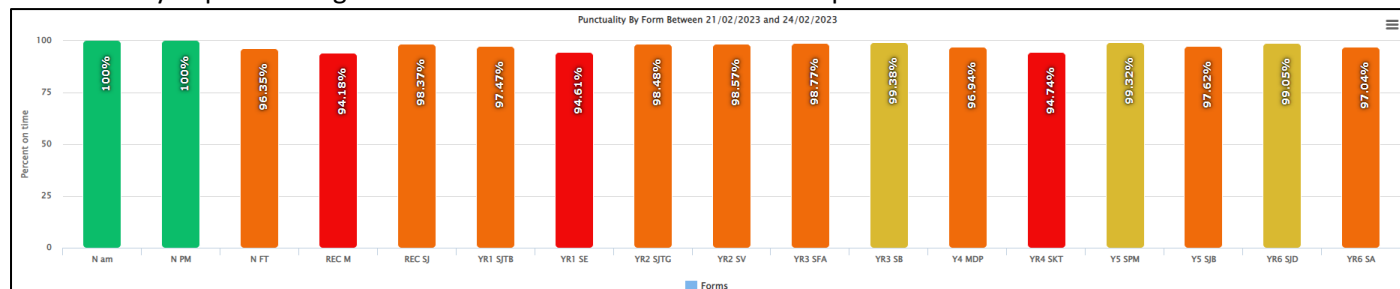
Spring 2: Year 5	6 th -17 th March: St Paul Miki	20 th – 31 st March: St Josephine
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Volunteers:

Now that we are able to welcome more people into school, it would be fantastic to increase the numbers of volunteers. If you are able to spare some time on a weekly basis and would like to volunteer in school, please let Mrs Carey (mcarey@swcps.lewisham.sch.uk) know. Mrs Carey can then meet with you, discuss what you would be able to offer and ensure all safeguarding checks are completed before commencing.

Punctuality:

It's incredibly important to get the children to school on time. We expect 97% + for all children.



This week's winner is St Bernadette, St Paul Miki and St Juan Diego all with 99%! Well done.

Wednesday Word

Please see the [link](#) to this wonderful resource to share with your child, to support them in understanding the Mass Readings for the coming weekend.

Parent App:

If you need any help with downloading the app, please do not hesitate to ask us. Many parents in the school use it to update our records and to inform the office of absence.

**Social Media:**

Just to remind you, follow us on:



St Winifred's Catholic Primary School



St_winifreds_lee



@stwinifredslee

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter, have a lovely half term,

Claire Gillespie