St Mary's School, Kells

March

Newsletter

Spring Term Dates: Wed 7th January – Friday 27th March 2026

Easter Holiday: Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April

School opens for Summer Term on Monday 13th April

Headteacher

Mrs Starkie has reduced her working week to 3 days until her retirement at the end of August, so Mrs Miller is now the Interim Headteacher for the other 2 days per week.

Parents will be notified as soon as the Governing Body has appointed a new Headteacher for September 2026.

Food Bank



During Lent we will be gathering items for the Food Bank collection. At this time of year it is nice to remember those people who are less fortunate than ourselves, so if you could donate items for the Food Bank we would be very grateful.
Items on the list are: UHT or powdered milk, sugar, fruit juice, soup, pasta sauce, cereal, tea bags, coffee, rice, pasta, jam, biscuits and tinned goods such as sponge pudding, tomatoes, rice pudding, meat, fish or fruit.
There will be a collection box in the library for donations. Thank you for your help.

World Book Day



World Book Day is on Thursday 5th March and the children and staff are invited to dress up as a character from a favourite story or book.
Children who don't want to dress up should come to school in normal blue uniform. We would be grateful for 'Mystery Readers' on Book Day, so please see your child's class teacher if you are available. Thank you.

- Margaret Wright, Primary RE advisor for the Diocese of Lancaster, will be holding workshops in each class on Friday 6th March.
- Year 2 celebration assembly on Friday 13th March will be based on St Patrick, their class saint. On Tuesday 17th March, they will be wearing something green for his feast day.
- Year 1 celebration assembly on Friday 20th March will be about St Joseph, their class saint, whose feast day is March 19th.
- On Wednesday 25th March parents and families are invited to join us in St Mary's church at 2.15 p.m. for Stations of the Cross.

U Dance Cumbria

Good luck to our KS 2 pupils who are taking part in U Dance at The Crown & Mitre Hotel, Carlisle on Friday 20th March.
They are performing a routine called 'I Am Enough', based on the myHappymind programme and we hope they have an amazing time.

School closes at 1.10 p.m. on Friday 27th March

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Seesaw & Tapestry

These apps are a very useful method of home/school communication, but please remember that teachers are unable to reply immediately to parents' messages during the school day or after 4.30 p.m.
If you need to pass on information urgently during the day, please call the school office or send us a text message. Thank you.

What's Happening:

- Vindolanda/Roman Army museum – Yr 3 - Tuesday 3rd March
- RE workshops with Margaret Wright – Friday 6th March
- Science Workshop – Yr 5 – Tuesday 17th March
- Walby Farm Park visit – Reception class – Thursday 19th March
- Height & Weight checks – Reception & Yr 6 – Friday 20th March
- Liz Million Author/Illustrator visit – Thursday 26th March
- Swimming – Years 3 & 5 – each morning Monday 23rd to Friday 27th March

Life Education Programme

On Tuesday 10th & Wednesday 11th March each of the classes will have a session with a teacher from Life Education, about how the human body works and how to keep fit and healthy. Some of you may remember the Life Bus, which visited us in the playground every year for a very long time. There will be a short session for parents on Wednesday at 8.50 a.m. if anyone would like to know more about the programme. All welcome.

Bikeability

Children from Year 5 will be taking part in 'Bikeability' training with instructors from Cyclewise during the week beginning Monday 2nd March. They will need to wear grey/black PE kit each day and let's hope for dry weather this year!



Wrap Around Care (Booking in advance is required)

Before and after school care is now available for all age groups as follows:
Before school from 7.30 a.m. to 8.40 a.m. **Cost £3.50**
After school (except Fridays) from 3.10 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. **Cost £5.00**
Bookings must be made in advance.
Sessions can be booked using the online form on our school website, or using this QR code, and then paid for using ParentPay. Bookings are only confirmed once payment is received.



Easter Competitions

An 'eggciting' design and technology competition will take place on Tuesday 24th March. Children and parents are asked to work together to make a vehicle, which can transport a raw egg across the school hall.
Prizes will be awarded for the best designs and the vehicles which can transport the egg furthest. Full details were sent home last week in a separate letter.
Our annual egg decorating competition will be on Friday 27th March. The children in Years 1 to 6 should decorate a hard boiled egg and the Foundation Stage children will be given a cardboard egg shape to decorate. Entry to the competition is £1.



Prayer for Peace

Dear Lord,
May we stand in solidarity with all our brothers and sisters around the world who are suffering. Let us be united in your love, and may we work for peace and to build your kingdom here on earth. Amen.