



English Martyrs Newsletter

8th March 2026

Our Mission Statement

To accept each individual as they are and to enable them to develop their full potential within a Christ-centred, worshipping community in a spirit of love, happiness and understanding



Smartphone free childhood

Oscar Romero would like to invite parents to an event taking place on 11th March about the effects of smart phones and digital devices on children. All details are in the letter on page 3.



3rd Sunday of Lent

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar and, tired by the journey, sat straight down at Jacob's well. A Samaritan woman came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." She was taken by surprise because Jews and Samaritans rarely spoke to each other. She replied, "What? You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink of water when Jews and Samaritans don't have anything to do with each other?" Jesus replied: "If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: 'Give me a drink,' you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water." "You have no bucket, sir," she answered, "and the well is deep: how could you get this living water?" Jesus replied: "Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside them, welling up to eternal life." "Sir," said the woman, "give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty again."

John 4:5-42 (paraphrased)

World Book Day

We had a great time celebrating World Book Day this Thursday (and on Friday, for our Year 1 children). There were guessing games galore as we tried to work out which word different children were representing, a World Book Day assembly in which we were joined by the Puffin Class from Palatine School, and lots of wonderful reading-inspired writing projects and creative activities across the school. Many thanks to you as parents for supporting this, we hope your children had as much fun as we did!



Spring Term Dates for your Diary

Thursday's 5th to 26th March	Year 1 Woodland sessions, every Thursday
Wednesday 11th Mar	Year 5 Bikeability
Thursday 12 th Mar	Year 3 Class Liturgy, parents welcome from 2.45pm
Friday 13th Mar	Year 5 Harry Potter day at Oscar Romero
Monday 12th Mar	KS2 visit from Author David Fuller
Monday 16th Mar	Rocksteady Concert 9.30am parents welcome
Tuesday 17th Mar	Year 5 & 6 Annie show at Oscar Romero
Wednesday 18th Mar	Class photos
Wednesday 18 th Mar	*Date change* Parent Consultation Meetings
Thursday 19th Mar	Fire Brigade visit Year 1 & 2
Monday 23 rd Mar	Parent Consultation Meetings
Tuesday 24th Mar	SEN Coffee Afternoon
Thursday 26 th Mar	Year 3 Butser Farm Trip
Thursday 26th Mar	Year 5 Fire Brigade visit
Thursday 26 th Mar	Year 2 Class Liturgy, parents welcome from 2.45pm
Friday 27 th Mar	Last day of Spring Term
Friday 27th Mar	Spring Disco— KS1 4.45-6.15pm KS2 6.45-8.15pm

Summer Term Dates for your Diary

Monday 13th Apr	Children return to school after Easter break
Thursday 23rd Apr	KS1 Hedgehog visit
Friday 24th Apr	Year 3 Egyptian workshop
Tuesday 12th May	Year 1 Arundel Wetlands visit
Thursday 14th May	Year 4 Lodge Hill day visit
Friday 22nd May	May Procession—Details TBC
Friday 22nd May	Last day of half term
Monday 25th to 29th	May Half Term
Monday 1st June	Inset Day
Tuesday 2nd June	Children return to school
Tuesday 2nd—5th June	Year 6 Residential
Thursday 11th June	Year 4 Fishbourne Roma Villa trip
Tuesday 16th June	Year 5 Life of Christ play trip
Thursday 2nd—3rd July	Year 5 Blacklands Farm Trip

Parents evening bookings

Slots for parents evening are now live, to make a booking please do so via the app under the tab Parents Evening.



OPAL Lunch time activities

As we continue introducing OPAL play times, children have become more interested in bringing in different activities to do in the 'Quiet Club'. We are happy for children to bring in individual projects that they can complete on their own. For example, a number of children are wanting to continue with individual needlework projects inspired by attending needlework club, and this is fine. However, please do not send in loom bands, any collector type activity or those with multiple pieces as sharing these can be problematic and it can cause upset when parts get lost. As a reminder, children also should not be bringing their own toys to school to be played with at playtime. This includes cuddly toys and card collections. If you are unsure whether something is allowed to be brought in, please do ask. Thank you for your support.

Year 2 Great Fire of London

There was great excitement for Year 2 this week when we had a re-enactment of the Great Fire of London ... in the car park! The children had made fantastic models at home of houses from the Stuart period, knowing that we were going to burn them. We set them up closely together and Mr McGuire set fire to the first one and the children watched how quickly the fire spread. It was such a memorable learning experience for the children – thank you to Miss Kingston for organising and the Year 2 parents for supporting their children to making the amazing houses.





St. OSCAR ROMERO CATHOLIC SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

Mr P Byrne BSc (Hons) MA
Headteacher

Goring Street, Worthing,
West Sussex, BN125AF

Main: 01903 241 368

office@stromeros.co.uk

www.stromeros.co.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to invite parents from our Deanery schools to attend an information evening organised in partnership with the charity **Smartphone Free Childhood** (<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org>)

The event will take place on **Wednesday 11 March** at 6pm at St Oscar Romero's and will focus on the impact of smartphones and digital devices on children and young people, including their wellbeing, safeguarding, sleep, learning, and social development. All are welcome.

This event features a panel of experts discussing the multifaceted impact of smartphones on young people, covering cyber security, physical health, and online safety.

- *Mr Daniel Sykes* – Representing Surrey Police (Cyber Protection Team), he provides specialist insights into digital safety and the legal implications of online activity for youth.
- *Dr Eleanor Mason* – A General Practitioner in West Sussex; Dr Mason brings a medical perspective to the developmental and physical impacts of device usage.
- *Mandy Marshall-Taylor* - An educator from the Naked Truth Project, she focuses on the damaging effects of online content and pornographic material, helping young people navigate romantic relationships in a digital world.

There is also an opportunity to look at Smartphone alternatives, during the course of this evening.

The evening will provide an opportunity to hear from key individuals with expertise in this area and therefore a chance to reflect on the evidence, and consider how schools and families can work together to support children's safety, wellbeing, and learning.

If you would like to attend please can you complete the following Google form Link.

<https://forms.gle/ZHuVFbaSWXxHznc77>

Yours sincerely,

All the best
Mr S Bell
Deputy Headteacher