



Friday 26th April 2024

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A message from Mrs Fanzo



'I am the vine, you are the branches...'

In this week's Gospel from John, Jesus, declares: "I am the vine; you are the branches." In this metaphor, Jesus likens himself to a vine, the source of life and sustenance, while his followers are depicted as branches, reliant on him for spiritual nourishment, strength and growth.

By exploring this passage, we encourage children to reflect on what it means to be connected to Jesus and how they can emulate the supportive relationship between a vine and its branches in their own lives. Just as branches draw strength and vitality from the vine, children are prompted to consider how they

can offer support, encouragement, and care to others, mirroring the nurturing role of the vine in fostering growth and flourishing among its branches.

Catholic Life

This week, there have been a number of events. Well done to all of the children who participated in reconciliation this week. I would like to say a particular to Fr Aaron and Fr Peter for joining us for this special sacrament and a big thank you to Mr Doyle for organising. On Tuesday, 1G held a liturgy for St George's Day. 3M did a fantastic job of representing Team Marist at Our Lady's on Wednesday and today, 3B finished the week on a real high with a fabulous worship. I particularly enjoyed their poetry recital- it was wonderful children and you could hear every word! I would like to congratulate all of the children involved in all of these events and I would also like to thank their teachers for their tireless work in organising these for their children. Well done to Miss Kirk, Mr Moore and Miss Beddow.

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1783806774270709792>

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1783163669297103240>

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1783164264632451511>

Well done, Team Marist!

Thank you to Mrs Walsh for helping us to achieve this accreditation!

Wider Experiences- Can you help?

We are seeking volunteers from our school community to come and share their experiences and expertise with our Marist Learners. Do you have a career or hobby you're passionate about? Would you like to inspire our children and broaden their horizons? Your involvement can make a significant impact on our children's futures. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact info@marist.surrey.sch.uk to liaise with Mrs Wort. Thank you for your support in shaping the future leaders of tomorrow.

Food in School

Please may we remind families of our procedures regarding the sharing of sweets or cakes among children at our school. While we understand the generosity behind such gestures, we kindly request that children refrain from bringing in sweets or cakes to share or send home with other children. This is in place to promote a healthy and inclusive environment for all children, considering various dietary restrictions and health concerns that may be present within our school community. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in upholding this, ensuring the well-being of all our Marist learners.

Disco

A huge thanks to the PTA, particularly Miss Render, for organising the fantastic discos that are taking place as you read this! It's been a joyous sight seeing the children laughing, dancing, and having fun together. The hard work and dedication in putting together such enjoyable events are truly appreciated by all of Team Marist. Thank you for creating wonderful memories for our children. We hope they are having a wonderful time!

With every blessing,

Emily Fanzo

Follow The Marist on social media!

We love sharing what is happening in school with our Marist families. Please click the links in the captions below to follow our social media!



1 - [Instagram](#)



2 - [Twitter](#)

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1783164045949796457>

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1782395265489510649>

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1782374972893130811>

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1783758052929249767>

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1783525619784949905>

Parent Survey



As those of you who have been at the school in previous years will remember, we usually conduct a parental survey during the summer term as a way of gathering the parents views of The Marist.

The data collected in the parental survey is shared with the staff team, and with governors.

As well as general 'tick box' questions, there are also two questions that ask for a written response. We would ask that these more personalised responses encompass both positive and developmental comments relating to the whole school year.

As always, if there are specific or immediate issues regarding your child that need addressing, these should be directed to your child's class teacher in the first instance. Its anonymous nature means that we cannot reply to individual concerns raised via the survey.

Thank you in advance for completing the parental survey, the results of which will be published in due course. Please complete the survey by Tuesday 7th May, 2024.

With thanks for your continued support

Please use this link or QR code

<https://forms.office.com/e/MGJEvrfpph?origin=lprLink>



In the Diary for ...

Full details of term dates and events are available on the [School Calendar](#)

Monday 29th April

Tuesday 30th April

- Years 1, 2 and 3 to wear PE Kit to school

Wednesday 1st May

Thursday 2nd May

- Years 4 and 5 to wear PE Kit to school

Friday 3rd May

- PE Kits for Yrs 6
- 1P Class Worship at 9 am - parents welcome
- 4T to 10 am Mass at Our Lady's - parents welcome

Looking ahead

Monday 6th May

- Bank Holiday - School Closed

Tuesday 7th May

- Years 1, 2 and 3 to wear PE Kit to school

Wednesday 8th May

Thursday 9th May

- Years 4 and 5 to wear PE Kit to school
- Mass for Ascension Day at 9am (led by 5J) - parents welcome

Friday 10th May

- PE Kits for Yrs 6
- EYFS Trip
- 5C Class Worship at 9 am - parents welcome



At time of writing, this evening's disco hasn't yet happened. All who have been involved in organising it sincerely hope that all of the children have a great time and enjoy the old school vibe!

The Marist is now named in one of the charity collection pots in Tesco, both in Brooklands and in the local Tesco in West Byfleet as well as in other stores in the local area. Please remember when you're shopping in store to grab your token and support the Marist. If we can get the most tokens, Tesco will give us £1500 to help put on an amazing Summer BBQ later this term, so please do remember to support us.

Thanks to those who made the PTA meeting on Monday. During the meeting, we discussed plans for the Summer BBQ and the PTA for next year. There were some great ideas around the BBQ which we are now investigating, but we'd always welcome more. If you have anything you think would work well at our biggest event of the year, please email us on pta@marist.surrey.sch.uk.

We also discussed how the PTA would look next year as I will be stepping down after the Summer BBQ. I've been Chair now for three years so it really is someone else's turn to take this on. All of the events for the Winter Term now have volunteers to organise them (thanks to Danielle, Muireann and Louise). The role of Chair doesn't need to be just one person either: two or three people who get on well together could take on the job. If you're interested in stepping forward, please start coming to PTA meetings so you can get an idea of what might be involved.

The next textile collection is on Thursday 20th June. Please start collecting any outgrown clothes and bags and accessories for donation. We receive 50p per kilo for everything usable that's collected, so it makes a massive difference to us and costs nothing to run.

Friday 28th June is the Summer BBQ. More information to follow on this later in the term but for now please get the date in your diaries!

Have a lovely weekend!

PTA Dates



For Summer Term 2023

- Friday 17th May – PTA Meeting, 9am Staff Room
- Friday 14th June – PTA Meeting, 9.30am Staff Room
- Thursday 20th June - textile collection
- Friday 28th June – Summer BBQ
- Monday 8th July – PTA evening end of year drinks, time and venue TBD

Dates have been set for the events for next year, so please be aware of these:

- Thursday 12th September 2024 – PTA Meeting, 9am Staff Room

- Friday 20th September 2024 – New parents and Macmillan Coffee Morning, 9am in the school hall
- Friday 11th October 2024 – Quiz Night
- Thursday 17th October 2024 – PTA Meeting, evening, time and venue TBD
- Friday 1st November 2024 – Textile collection tbc
- Friday 15th November 2024 – PTA Meeting, 9am Staff Room
- Monday 9th December 2024 – PTA Meeting, evening, time and venue TBD
- Friday 17th January 2025 – PTA Meeting, 9.30am Staff Room
- Saturday 8th February 2025 – Winter Fair
- Friday 28th February 2025 – PTA Meeting, evening, time and venue TBD
- Friday 7th March 2025 – Textile collection tbc
- Wednesday 12th March 2025 – PTA Meeting, 9am Staff Room
- Thursday 24th April 2025 – PTA Meeting, evening, time and venue TBD
- Friday 9th May 2025 – PTA Meeting, 9am Staff Room
- Friday 13th June 2025 – PTA Meeting, 9.30am Staff Room
- Thursday 19th June 2025 - Textile collection tbc
- Friday 27th June 2025 – Summer BBQ
- Monday 7th July 2025 – PTA evening end of year drinks, time and venue TBD

Online Safety

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to help inform conversations about online safety with their children, should they need it. This guide focuses on some of the risks that parents and carers of young people should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, facts and tips for safety.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AMONG US

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base. Globally, around 80 million regular players each month thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain pointers to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.

AGE RESTRICTION
7
PEGI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SENSITIVE PREMISE
Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be 'crew members', tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to investigate them. While the concept is not far removed from traditional games like Cluedo or 20 Questions, the premise, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their children playing a video game in which deception and killing are centralised.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE
The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the internet's depiction of the game is not. It is important that only deliberately cartoonish and only appear very rarely, however, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI rating of 7+ meaning that certain elements (however heavily disguised they may be) could upset some younger players.

CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS
With up to 10 people participating in most game online, it's hard not to feel Among Us' appeal is speculating with hidden agendas with the impostors. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

GOING OFF PLATFORM
While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord, a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These unmoderated, peer-to-peer services can be a double-edged sword, as they allow players to hear inappropriate language – or be exposed to receiving their privacy in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

IN-GAME PURCHASES
Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £1 to obtain on consoles and PC. A notable in-game purchase, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES
Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder theme unsettling. If so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available for both digital and traditional board game formats, which demystify the potentially grizzly elements some games around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a board game inspired by Among Us.

CHAT ABOUT CHATTING
You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers can't know who they're talking to. Encouraging the conversation around will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

DISCUSS DISCORD
In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow conversations to be kept separate from each other. Once you're familiar with the platform, you should set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS
When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local lobby' – that is, only people connected to the same Wi-Fi (or local network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and taking control of the game, as the players are all physically in the same location.

STOP SURPRISE SPENDING
If you're concerned about the possibility of your child picking up on unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you should consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase, or at least make sure there are no payment methods on the device that your child plays the game on.

Meet Our Expert
Meet Catherine, a digital safety expert and parent, who believes in the power of the game to encourage safe play. A regular visitor to the top of the game, she has helped many parents understand the value of online safety, helping them to make sure their children have fun while staying safe online.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

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At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to protect informed conversations about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ROBLOX

Roblox is one of the most popular video games on the market. By 2020, the game's makers were claiming that more than half of children in the USA play it. It's a sandbox-style game which offers a huge amount of creative freedom. It lets players create their own gaming experiences with the Roblox Studio to create custom levels and games, which can then be shared with other players online. Roblox fosters creative thinking and enjoys a robust online community of fans.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Roblox encourages players to communicate online (including using chat). This could expose children to risks such as unwanted sexual predators, harassment, griefers and more. In the game, chat has some filters, but isn't perfect. Players can still send harmful messages to others – such as general abuse – while predators can reach out to children directly.

PUBLIC SERVERS

Roblox has public or 'open' servers which allow people to play exclusively with their friends. However, many must share servers which focus on all kinds of content, including direct player interaction. Some games are 'free', therefore, will put children more at risk of contact from strangers than others.

ONLINE DATERS

These are also called 'daters' and are quite common in Roblox. An 'dater' is an individual who joins a game with the intention of finding someone to date online – and eventually meet in person. Such online dating is against the Roblox community guidelines, but this usually doesn't deter 'daters'. Some player-built virtual game worlds have even been designed with online dating specifically in mind.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Roblox is actually free to download and play, but there is more than one way to spend money. Players are encouraged to make purchases. People can also buy virtual items (like in-game currency) to spend on cosmetic items in the game, and some private or VIP servers like have a cost.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SET PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox comes with several parental control options, which are explained well on the game's official website. It's essential to enter the correct date of birth for your child, as this often leads to automatically being age-restricted and there, the game also allows parents and carers to set monthly spending restrictions and monitor their child's account.

DISABLE PRIVATE MESSAGING

Roblox's private messaging function raises the risk of children being contacted by people they may not want to speak with – potentially leading to bullying, harassment, teasing and more. The game allows you to disable messages from anyone who hasn't been added as a friend on your child's account.

PRIVATE SERVERS

If your child has genuine friends who they play Roblox with, private servers (or a private or VIP server) increases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, some people could make your child – who might not necessarily be a Roblox fan – feel uncomfortable. If your child is a Roblox fan, it's important to talk with them regularly about what they are playing the game with.

MONITOR SPENDING

If they don't understand they're using real money, it's easy for children to accidentally spend a sizable amount in the game. Using parental controls to place limits on their spending will help avoid any nasty financial surprises. Ensuring that you have two-factor authentication on your payment accounts also makes it harder for your child to spend money inadvertently.

DEALING WITH STRANGERS

At some point in their development, your child will need to learn how to deal with strangers online. Show them their own uncomfortable questions, talking to them about what's OK to discuss – and what they should never tell a stranger online – will help them understand how to communicate with others safely in the digital world.

Meet Our Expert

Claire Gorman (aka Luvswell) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing insights with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She's the owner of Luvswell Gaming and currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.

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FREE TALK



3 - Are you worried about how they are feeling?

May 14th 7-8pm

Jane Keyworth, Lead Facilitator at FACE gives a one hour online talk explaining what we can do to reduce the symptoms of depression.

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk go to PARENT page

Valentino Schoolwear - Annual Discount Promotion 2024

Dear all our loyal customers, parents, friends, and little adults,

At **Valentino Schoolwear** we know things continue to be very hard for many of us right now, so, once again, we're ensuring our **Annual Discount Promotion** for 2024 is **available online** and **in store** for our customers.



15% OFF All school uniform purchases: **20th – 26th May 2024**
Use discount code **SUMMER15** when you click 'View Cart'

10% OFF All school uniform purchases: **27th May – 2nd June 2024**
Use discount code **SUMMER10** when you click 'View Cart'

Anything purchased during our promotion can be exchanged right up until schools open in September!

Please note that we are unable to accept returns and exchanges during our promotional dates above 20th May – 2nd June 2024. Returns & exchanges are all subject to our normal returns policy. These offers are available online and in store. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offers.

www.valentinoschoolwear.com

School Lunch Menus



Absence



Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), they will be liable to receive a penalty notice. Currently the amount payable under a penalty notice is £60.00 per parent/carer per child if paid within 21 days. Thereafter the amount increases to £120.00 if paid between 21 and 28 days. If the penalty notice remains unpaid after 28 days, the Local Authority will consider a prosecution in the Magistrates Court. Please note that penalty notices are issued per parent/carer per child so a family of two parents and two children will receive 4 penalty notices.

Surrey County Council is not responsible for authorising pupil absence and therefore cannot withdraw any Penalty Notice requests without the written permission of the Headteacher.

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/at-school/attendance-and-absence/legal-processes-used-to-enforce-school-attendance-guidance-for-parents>

School Attendance Information & Advice

https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/110186/84992-Inclusion-Service-School-Attendance-Hi.compressed.pdf Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), they will be liable to receive

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School Attendance Information & Advice

https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/110186/84992-Inclusion-Service-School-Attendance-Hi.compressed.pdf

Contact Us



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KS1Team@marist.surrey.sch.uk – please use for emails to KS1teachers

KS2Team@marist.surrey.sch.uk – please use for emails to KS2 teachers

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[Click here for our Privacy Notice](#)