

### Dear Parents

Our Lenten observances are in full swing. Children in Years 3, 4 and 5 are busy preparing for their Stations of The Cross service, our Eco Council have been preparing our Spiritual Garden and all children have been working at home and school on their Lenten Challenge. Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 will take part in a Service of Reconciliation next week in preparation for Easter.

### St Patricks Day

Congratulations to all involved in the cake sale on Monday. The children were able to raise £287 for our twin parish of Regina Coeli. Thank you to everybody.

### Governors Day

Thank you to our governors who, as always, gave so generously of their time and spent a day with us this week. The day involved joining 3G for a Eucharistic Service, spending time in their buddy classes, speaking to children in Key Stage One and Two and meeting with phase leaders and subject leader teams. Our governors join us each term for such days but are also regular visitors to our school and these visits help us all to work together effectively for the good of all staff, parents, parishoners and children.

### St Patricks Fundraising

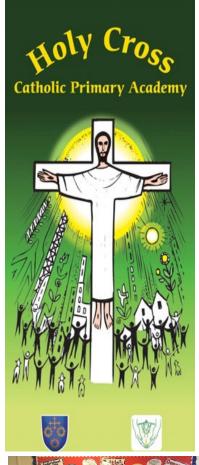
We were delighted to receive a cheque for £1041, money which was raised from the St Patrick's Day Party last Friday. Thankyou to Mr Fennelly, Mrs Corrigan

and all involved. This money will be used to buy much needed ICT equipment such as digital microscopes, digital thermometers and cameras.

### Reception visit to Barleylands

On Tuesday Reception visited Barleylands farm to support their work on the farm and the story of the Little Red Hen.

The children experienced what it is like to be a farmer like the little Red Hen. They had a go at grinding wheat to make flour and made their own bread rolls. They went on a tractor ride, learned how farming has changed over many years, and stroked and fed a range of farm animals. It was a very enjoyable day.







### Car Park

Advanced notification that from the beginning of the summer term our carpark will only be used by staff and visitors. There will be two disabled bays established on the grass area in front of the yellow barrier. Our governors have taken this decision owing to the congestion caused by the number of cars that currently access the carpark. Please make use of Nicholls Field car park which is only a 5 minute walk away.



### Voice in a million

Thank you to staff involved in organising this for our children. They sang beautifully and joined thousands of other children at Wembley Arena on Wednesday evening. It was a vey long day for all involved but well worth the sleepy eyes in school the next day. Such a great evening for memories.

### Easter Hampers

Please remember to bring in an Easter themed item in for the annual Easter Hamper raffle.

### Congratulations

Many congratulations to one of our Midday Assistants Mrs Sarah Scott who got earlier this month in Jamaica. We wish you many years of happiness.



# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to **2C** and **Butterflies**, winners of the KS1 Attendance Award this week with **99%**. The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are **4C** and **6CA**, with a fantastic **100%** attendance!

Attending school is so important and makes a huge difference to your child's learning.

It is essential you notify us of your child's absence by 9am either by telephone or using the Parentmail report absence option. We need full details of why your child is unable to attend school. We are frequently having to contact parents, to find out why their child is absent from school.

Parents of children below attendance targets will be invited in for a meeting with the Educational Welfare Officer.

1D 95 1S 92 2C 99 2HD 95 3G 98 3N 98 4C 10 4E 98 5P 93	0%
15 92 2C 99 2HD 95 3G 98 3N 98 4C 10 4E 98 5P 93 5S 97	%
2 <i>C</i> 999 2HD 95 3 <i>G</i> 98 3N 98 4 <i>C</i> 10 4E 98 5P 93	5%
2HD 95 3G 98 3N 98 4C 10 4E 98 5P 93	2%
3 <i>G</i> 98 3N 98 4 <i>C</i> 10 4E 98 5P 93 5S 97	)%
3N 98 4C 10 4E 98 5P 93 55 97	5%
4 <i>C</i> 10 4 <i>E</i> 98 5 <i>P</i> 93 5 <i>S</i> 97	3%
4E 98 5P 93 5S 97	3%
5P 93 5S 97	0%
55 97	3%
-	3%
6CA 10	7%
10	0%
6ND 96	%

### Boys Football Team

On Thursday 14th March the boy's football team travelled to Tanys Dell for two matches. They were hard fought matches resulting in two resounding victories. Well done to Takunda, Oliver, Liam, Lucas, Gene, Roman, Dawid, Jack, Josh, Opemipo, James, who won 3-0 and Artiom, Oisin, Vincent, Hayden, Max, Finn, Pirajina, Jake and Kajus who won 4-2.





### Girls Football Team

On Friday 15th March the girls hosted a match with Purford Green. The battled well but ended up losing the game 4-0.

Then Thursday 21st March the girls welcomed Tanys Dell and showed great character to come from behind and win 6-2.

Well done Lily T, Taylor-Grace, Olivia, Niamh, Oliwia, Eva, Martha, Emilia, Lily B, Manuela and Alex.





### Tag Rugby Tournament

On Friday 15th March a team travelled to Harlow Rugby Club for a Tag Rugby Tournament. The played brilliantly winning all four of their games against Church Langley, Fawbert and Barnard and the Downs x2, scoring an amazing 21 tries.

Congratulations Summer, Erasmus, Kobe, Shane, Jonjo, Cora and Martha.



### RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for Sunday 24 March, Luke 13:1-9

"A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none."

In the parable Jesus tells today, a fig tree fails to bear fruit. The owner wants to dig it up, but the gardener persuades him to keep it for another year, to nurture it and see if it can change.

This is like our relationship with God, who always gives us another chance to change and to bear fruit.

Today is the anniversary of the day St Oscar Romero was shot and killed while saying Mass in El Salvador in 1980.

He did not always look like he was on the path to martyrdom. He was made archbishop of San Salvador during a dictatorship because he was considered a safe bureaucrat. Instead he became a brave defender of the poor.

He was changed by long nights listening to poor farm workers tell their stories, and by the murder of a close friend. These experiences brought him back to his roots amongst the poor in the countryside of El Salvador.

Despite threats and violence against him, he stood faithfully beside those who had nothing. He experienced profound change in his own life. He taught: "We need constant conversion". This is the call in today's gospel.

Defender of the Poor, Prophet of Peace, guide us and inspire us to work for justice and reconciliation with wisdom and compassion in witness to our faith in Jesus Christ. St Oscar Romero, pray for us.

Prayer from the Romero Trust



### The Words of Pope Francis

Lent is a reminder to stop, to return to the essential, to fast from all that is superfluous and distracting. It is a wake-up call for the spirit.

### Holy Cross Coffee Afternoons

Please come along to our second coffee afternoon on Thursday 28th March 2 - 3 in the Parish Hall. All are welcome.

Come along and learn more about our twin Parish Regina Coeli. Mr Dave Somerville will coming along to do a talk. Our Learning Mentor, Mrs Gallagher, English Additional Language Co-Ordinator, Mrs Laporte and Teaching Assistant, Mrs To will be present for any help and advise.

There will be a raffle and refreshments, cakes and biscuits provided. There will be a donation tin, with proceeds going to Regina Coeli.

# Come along to our Holy Cross Coffee Afternoon

Once a month in the Parish Hall 2pm - 3.15pm Children welcome.

Refreshments Choir Guest speakers
Raffle E – safety School Nurse
Community Police Officer
Learning Mentor Mrs Gallagher
Parent workshops
English Additional Language support
Mrs Laporte

Please try to attend; These sessions will be very informative and a chance for you to ask questions and make Suggestions to make these gatherings helpful for all our parents and carers in our school community.



# MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> AND TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup>APRIL 10.M-32M 25 ADAY 02 20 FOR BOTH COME AND EXPERIENCE 'A FUN FILLED DAY OF FOREST SCHOOL' EGG HUNT- CAMP FIRE- COOKING DEN AND SHELTER BUILDING - USING TOOLS MUD KITCHEN AND POTIONS CLAY SCULPTURES - FOREST ART TREE

CLIMBING - BUG HUNTING AND LOTS MORE!

LIMITED SPACES SO BOOK ASAP.

TO SECURE YOUR PLACE, PLEASE RETURN THE SLIP ALONG WITH PAYMENT TO MRS ALLARDYCE



Please join us in our Easter Egg-stravaganza event!

Starting with an Easter Bonnet competition on Wednesday April 3rd. We are asking for a £1 donation for this competition. There will be a winner in each class and each winner will receive a prize, winners will be announced on the 3rd.

On Friday April 5th at 1:30 after school, please join us in the playground for Easter themed fun and games with prizes including:

Mask Making

Egg piñata



Hook a duck



Easter tin can alley



Face painting and glitter tattoos



Guess the name of the chick



Throw the beanbag through the bunny

Refreshment stall with sweets and cakes



Please remember to bring your loose change on the day! Easter bonnet competition is to be paid prior to the event by parentmail. Those that prefer can pop the money in an envelope. Please clearly mark the envelope with your child's name and class and pop it into the box in the main reception at school.

Good luck in the competition and we look forward to seeing lots of you on the 5th!

Reception Class





# HOUSEPARTY?

Houseparty is a live streaming app described as a face-to-face social network where people drop in on each other to video chat, leave messages and hang out in groups. In the UK alone, there is an estimated 1.5 million people using the app, more than half of which are under the age of 24. Houseparty is available for iOS, Android and macOS, and it's important to note that children under the age of 13 must have a parent's permission to access the services, however, no proof of age required to create an account.

### **HOW DO YOUNG** PEOPLE USE IT?

Each time the app is opened, your child will be instantly connected to other users who are also on the app. Users can create group conversations of up to eight people at one time. Each time a person joins, the screen splits to show everyone who is part of the conversation. Your child can add contacts via phone numbers, search for their usernames, and share a link to their profile. They can have as many rooms as they want and move from chat to chat by swiping across the screen. Along with this functionality comes a few associated risks to be aware of ...

# What parents need to know about

### "STRANGER DANGER"

Friends of friends can join conversations on the platform without the need to be connected or known to all the other users in the chat. Houseparty calls this feature 'Stranger Danger'. While it does alert users when individuals they may not know enter their chat room, it also suggests strangers might be a reason for 'party time'. There's also the danger of people attempting to deliberately mislead others by using false names or usernames.

### **SEXUALISED MESSAGES**

### **CONTENT BEING SHARED**

### **CYBERBULLYING**

### OVERSHARING PERSONAL **INFORMATION**

Children often don't understand the risks involved in giving out too much personal information in a live stream or within their profile. They may also be less protective of personal etails during online conversations. One example of this within a live chat could be their background revealing information about where they live or go to school without realising.

### **IN-APP PURCHASES**

# Top Tips for Parents

### **SAFER CONVERSATIONS**

With live streaming being such a popular feature on apps, it is important that you are aware of the dangers associated with it in order to protect your child effectively. Have regular and honest conversations with your child about what apps they are using and how they are using them. It may be a good idea to have your child show you how they use Houseparty and how to navigate through the platform so you are aware of how it works.

### CHECK COMMUNICATIONS

Also, it's important to be aware of who is on their friends list and who they are communicating with. Remind your child to not communicate with people they do not know and trust. If they experience something on the app that makes them feel uncomfortable then they should tell a trusted adult immediately. Remind your child that if they get an invite to join a Houseparty room from someone they don't recognise, then they should ignore the request.

### **'LOCK'ROOMS**

In regards to communicating with users on the platform, we advise that your child uses the 'lock' feature to make especially strangers, can't join their conversations.

### PROTECT THEIR PRIVACY

Your child may unknowingly give away personal information during a live stream, including their location. Talk to them about what constitutes 'personal information' and make sure they do not disclose anything to anyone during a live stream, even to their friends. Advise them to remove any items in their live stream (school uniform, street name, posters etc.) that could potentially expose their location or personal information. Check your child's privacy settings thoroughly. You have the option to opt out of certain uses and disclosures of personal information, such as turning off the app's location sharing option.

### PROTECTING YOUR CHILD'S **DIGITAL FOOTPRINT**

As the videos are live, it may lead to the misconception that whatever happens in the video will disappear once the live stream ends. All content shared on the app can be recorded or screenshotted and shared to a wider community. It is important that your child knows that what they do now may affect their future opportunities. In addition to this, the video chats can't be reviewed later which means unless a parent or carer is sitting nearby during a call, they won't know what has been said. It's worth bearing in mind that parents can see when their child has last communicated with someone and for how long for under the 'We Time' feature.

### **REMOVE LINKS TO OTHER APPS**

Users can link their account to both Facebook and Snapchat, or can simply share a link to their profile. We advise that your remove these links and remind your child not to publicly share access to their online profiles as there is the potential for strangers to get hold of your child's information or communicate with them.

### **BE PRESENT**

A study conducted by the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) found that 96% of streams showed a child on their own, often in their bedroom or bathroom. If your child is going to conduct a live stream, ask them if you could be present for it. This will give you a greater understanding of what your child is doing during their live streams and who they are streaming to.

### REPORTING AND BLOCKING

If your child faces a problem while using the app they can report direct to the platform by shaking their phone. A prompt will pop up allowing you to report issues immediately by clicking on the 'report now ' button. They also have the option to report and block users directly on the user's profile.



Houseparty ② @houseparty · 15h Replying to @natonlinesafety

Thanks for such a thorough write up! Trust & safety is SO important to us. One additional tip is to use the app settings to turn on 'Private Mode' which automatically locks the room, instead of doing it manually. Parents with questions can always email us at hello@houseparty.com

SOURCES: https://

A whole school community approach to online safety

### www.nationalonlinesafety.com

Email us at hello@nationalonlinesafety.com or call us on 0800 368 8061

SEE ALSO: LIVE STREAMING GUIDE FOR PARENTS







### Wednesday 20th March 2019 - A WEEKLY PRAYER CUSTOM



# Encountering Christ Prayerfully preparing for the

Sunday Mass and praying in particular for our school families



### Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 24th March 2019 - The Third Sunday in Lent



### Relax & Remember

Set aside 10 -15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross † and remain still for a minute of settling silence. Call to mind the love that God has for you. Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present. Then read the Gospel, preferably aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.



# 2

### Read

### Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 24th March 2019 - Time for Repentance (Luke 13:1-9)

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, "Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did." He told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, 'Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?' 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

# 3

### Reflect

### After spending a few minutes considering this Gospel, continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

We have seen how St Luke, in his gospel, places great emphasis on Jesus' message of repentance and forgiveness. At the beginning of Jesus' ministry Peter must admit his sinfulness before he is called to be an apostle; at the end, the good thief acknowledges his guilt and is welcomed into Jesus' kingdom. This gospel reading, with its historical examples and its parable, reinforces the Old Testament lesson of repentance. Notice also how, in Luke's account of the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax-Collector, the latter wins through: his prayer is only 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner'. Every proclamation of the gospel in Luke's Acts of the Apostles ends with an appeal for repentance. Repentance means not simply bewailing our sins but doing something about it, changing our way of life, our scale of values. However, we are made in the image of God, and cannot expect God's forgiveness unless we too follow God's example and show the same forgiveness to others. The sinful woman who loved much was forgiven much (Luke 7:36-50). Nor is Luke the only evangelist to stress this point. Matthew adds at the end of the Lord's Prayer the saying of Jesus which underlines the importance of the single petition, 'Forgive us our sins as we forgive others'.

If you think of yourself as the fig-tree, what do you consider to be the most 'rotten' part of yourself that you really need to change? Would the sacrament of reconciliation help? What sort of injury do you find it hardest to forgive - an affront to your pride, your pocket or your person? Is there anyone you have not forgiven?

**Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB** 



### Respond & Request

Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Then thank God for any insight you may have received. Conclude by asking God to bless you with one of the following spiritual gifts to help you act on any resolution you have made: love, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self control, patience, or joy. Please remember to pray for the Church and particularly our school families. **Then conclude by requesting the prayers of Our Lady & St Joseph.** 



The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church Within the tradition of the Catholic Church, each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph

# WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS +





### First Reading: Moses at the Burning Bush

### Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. "I must go and look at this strange sight," Moses said, "and see why the bush is not burnt." Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. "Moses, Moses!" he said. "Here I am," he answered. "Come no nearer," he said. "Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father," he said, "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God. And the Lord said, "I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow." Then Moses said to God, "I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?" And God said to Moses, "I Am who I Am. This," he added, "is what you must say to the sons of Israel: 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come."

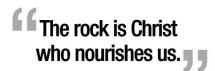
In our Lenten readings we have progressed through the story of God's people and now we come to the crucial point when God reveals his name to Moses. This is a decisive moment, because to give your name is a sign of trust and friendship. Someone who has your name has power over you in all kinds of ways, so you give your name only to those you trust. The Hebrew people, descendants of Abraham, are at a low point, a mere oppressed rabble of immigrants in Egypt, lacking land or security, marked out for extermination by a powerful bureaucratic state. It is as though God had waited for this moment to raise them up, to form them as a coherent group with a leader who could stand up for them in God's name. God does not yet give the meaning of the name; perhaps 'I Am who I Am' even means 'You mind your own business!' God's name does have something to do with Being, and the Greek translation of the Hebrew text understands it as 'Pure Being', 'the One who Is'. In the Hebrew Bible the meaning of the name is given later on at Sinai, after Israel's worship of the Golden Bull, when God passes before Moses crying out the name, 'The Lord, the Lord, a God of mercy and forgiveness'. This is the true significance of God's name which will echo in passage after passage later on in the Bible.

What does this understanding of God's name mean to you?

## Second Reading: The Rock which is Christ

### 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

I want to remind you, brothers, how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert. These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer. All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.



As with the readings of the previous two Sundays, the second reading moves the first reading into a higher gear. God revealed his name to Moses in the desert, led the Israelites across the sea and cared for them in the desert with manna for food and water from the rock to drink. Paul uses the current rabbinic explanation of the two accounts (in the books of Exodus and Numbers) of Moses striking the rock for water: it is not two accounts of the same incident, but they are separate incidents. It is the same rock who accompanied the Israelites on their journey through the desert. How does a rock follow the people in their wanderings? Paul explains to us that the real meaning of the rock is Christ who nourishes us. However, Paul is really writing to chide the Corinthians on their undisciplined behaviour, especially when gathered at the Eucharist. Despite the wonders that accompanied the Israelites, the desert wanderings were a time of infidelity and rebellion which even the God of mercy and forgiveness was compelled to correct. Let the Corinthians learn their lesson! Even though their Christian life was marked by plentiful gifts of the Spirit, they must repent of their wild behaviour.

Is Christ the rock who is with you always - the one who gives you the waters of life?

The Wednesday Word: Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God w: www.wednesdayword.org e: info@wednesdayword.org

Happy Birthday to... Samuel Reed-Langley, Iris Wells, Pierre Hombre, David Owolabi, Praise Owolabi, Emma Woodhouse, Nina Krasa, Mahayla Hackett, Trishelle Owusu, Leah Hyde, Filip Skowron, Indie Usedon-Duff



### Merit Certificates:

Butterflies: Stevie Ginn, for persevering, on Forest School day, to make a mud sculpture

Sian Hanifin-Flynn, for becoming more confident with her writing

Ladybirds: Frankie Cripps and Ella Stopplecamp, for each writing an excellent sentence about the

farm

1D: Mara Ciotoi, for her fantastic story telling

15: Thomas Brest-Ndeyi, for his excellent sentence writing

2C: Mmasi Ihekaigbo-Iwuaba, for outstanding money work in numeracy

2HD: Farrah Kent, for having such a lovely attitude to learning

3G: Erin Downing, for always trying her very best in all subjects

3N: Xavier White, for demonstrating great resilience

4C: Joseph Robson, for incredible acting skills as 'Augustus Gloop'

4E: Pierre Hombre, for great problem solving in numeracy

5P: Mario Olaru, for having an outstanding first week at Holy Cross and settling in well

55: Arthur Colussi, for consistently trying his best in all lessons and producing outstanding work

6CA: Cairo Kyriacou-Mason, for all his hard work all day in Forest School, helping others

6N: Alex Gronert, for excellent effort with her reading comprehension- Well Done

# **Diary Dates**

### Menu Week 2

All clubs finish after this week

<u>Monda</u>	y 25th	March

Dance KS2 3:15 - 4:15 5P Swimming Lesson Funky Fingers KS1 3:15 - 4:15

- 4C, 4E, 5S, 6CA & 6N

Mothers Day Gift Sale

### Tuesday 26th March

Choir KS2 3:15 - 4:15 Football Team 3:15 - 4:30 2HD Library Visit Parents Evening 4 - 7:30

Mothers Day Gift Sale - 2C, 2HD, 3G, 3N & 5P

### Wednesday 27th March

Football KS2 3:15 - 4:15 Multisports KS1 3:15 - 4:15 4C Eucharistic Service 9:10

Parents afternoon 2:30 - 5

### Thursday 28th March

Hockey KS2 3:15 - 4:15 Choir KS2 3:15 - 4:15

4C Library Visit

Coffee Afternoon 2 -3:15

Mothers Day Gift Sale

- Reception & Year 1

### Friday 29th March

Netball KS2 3:15 - 4:15

Girls' Football Team 3:15 - 4:30

Karate 3:15 - 4:15

2HD Class Assembly 2:40

### House Points

Congratulations to the winning house St Andrew

Miss S McGuiggan

Headteacher

Please download our News & Events
App for dates for the year. Details
are available on the schools website
under News & Events at
www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk

Seew KEhlm

Mr S Kelliher

Deputy Headteacher