



# St. John's RC Primary School

*Inspired by the Holy Spirit and guided by the teaching of Jesus*

Love one another, as I have loved you

Newsletter: Issue 16

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

## Head's News...

The weeks really are flying by and it will be half term before we know it! We've had a busy week in school (when isn't it busy – small school, big impact!), Key Stage Two have completed assessments and Year Two will be completing theirs just after half term. For Year Six and Year Two, it is essential at this mid-way point that we get an accurate picture of how we can support and challenge our children to be the very best that they can be, I know that all of the children always give 100% and I look forward to seeing the results and analysing the date with Teachers. All of this information will be shared with you on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March during Parents Evening.

Attendance and Safeguarding both have great importance at St John's. We want to keep your children safe in school and to do this we look at Safeguarding along with attendance. These are monitored on a regular basis. It is the school's statutory duty to monitor attendance. Not only can regular absence, particularly unexplained absence, be a red flag for safeguarding issues, but only when children are in school they can talk to staff and be given support for any pastoral and safeguarding problems. Furthermore, as has been widely seen and discussed in recent months, 'Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary school.' (Extract from p. 5 of School Attendance: Guidance for Schools). Any absences, including medical appoints should be taken out of school time where possible

A reminder that it is vital that your child brings a healthy lunchbox into school. Please think of the type and the amount of food in children's lunchboxes. Please only send in one snack size treat for them to eat after their sandwich, or even better, just fruit for their snack. The amount of sugar consumed at lunch will have an effect on their ability to concentrate and learn in the afternoons. **Please make sure absolutely no item containing nuts or traces of nuts is brought into school due to possible allergic reactions.** Guidance for what makes a healthy lunchbox can be found here <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes>. We do ask the children to take home any leftovers from their packed lunch, this helps parents be aware of what has been eaten.

## Attendance

Our overall attendance this week as a school is **95.7%**, our target is a minimum of **97.5%** - please do send children in for every learning opportunity. Our attendance is getting better so let's keep it going, every child should be in school for every learning opportunity.

Attendance to 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 (we always report a week behind)			
EYFS	95.8%	Year One	95.7%
Year Two	95.3%	Year Three	99.3%
Year Four	94.7%	Year Five	95.4%
Year Six	97.4%	Whole School	<b>95.7%</b>

## Stars of the Week

Congratulations to the following pupils who received awards this week:

**EYFS:** Tymon and Evana

**Year 1:** Elsie, Oran, Esther

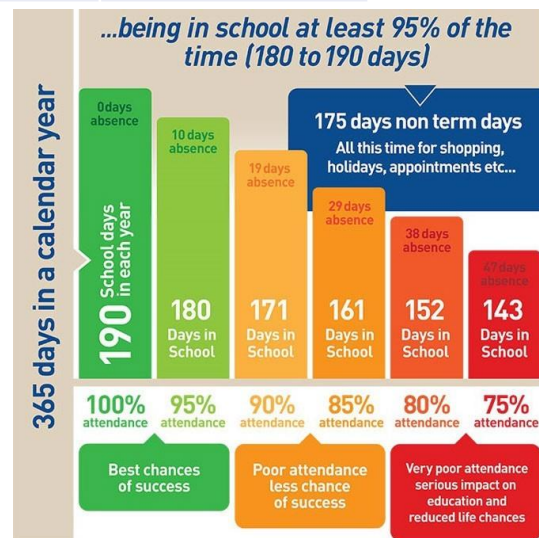
**Year 2:** Osmond, Irena, Ethan

**Year 3:** William, Mala, Ellie K

**Year 4:** Azrin, Sharon, Leo

**Year 5:** Alex, Elaina, Cian

**Year 6:** Vedith, Benjamin, Joshua



## House Points

**Earth: 239 (931)**

**Water: 241 (946)**

**Air: 281 (1022)**

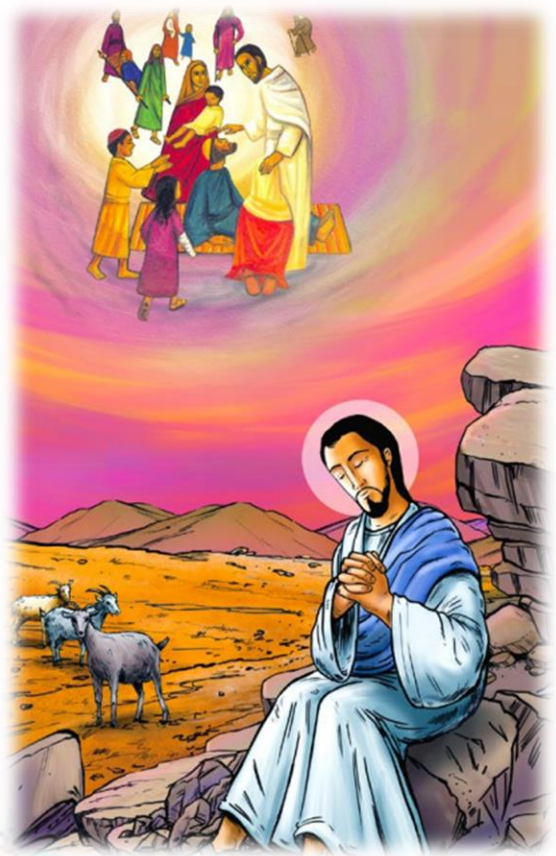
**Fire: 248 (961)**

## Teacher

In this Sunday's Gospel, we read how Jesus healed Simon's mother-in-law. After he brought peace and recovery to her, everyone crowds in on Jesus, wanting to be healed. Finally, Jesus goes off in the early morning to gather strength by praying to his Father.

Difficulties, worries and sickness can sometimes be part of our lives. St Thomas More reminds us that, "Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal."

When we believe in Jesus and we pray and look carefully, we can often learn something about the world and ourselves, and about how Jesus is always there for us. Believing in Jesus and loving others changes how we see the world and brings healing.



# Birthdays

## An important message about birthdays!!!

Children can come into school in non-uniform on their birthday. This is so wonderful as everybody within our school community who sees them will know that it is their special day. If their birthday falls on a weekend, on PE day or within a school holiday the child may come in non-uniform on the Friday before or the Monday afterwards.

**This week we celebrate:**

Milly-Rose – 29<sup>th</sup> January

Liliane and Miriam – 31<sup>st</sup> January

Fikile and Aarav – 1<sup>st</sup> February

Ruby – 3<sup>rd</sup> February



## Safeguarding

If you have concerns that a child may be in immediate danger, call the police on 999 or MASH on 0345 050 7666.

If you have safeguarding concerns about a child or family, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01295 263740 and ask to speak to a member of the safeguarding team. Alternatively, you can email our DSL (Maureen Collier) directly:

[office.3350@st-johns-banbury.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3350@st-johns-banbury.oxon.sch.uk)

# Early Years Class News

Now that days are slowly lengthening Early Years have been out enjoying the garden. In the Wildlife garden we spotted the first snowdrops and primroses peeping out. In the planters we have spotted some buds on the beautiful pink hellebores and the daffodils that were planted last year are now quite tall. No sign yet of the bulbs we planted this month but we will be patient and keep watching and hope that the squirrels don't dig them up for a snack!



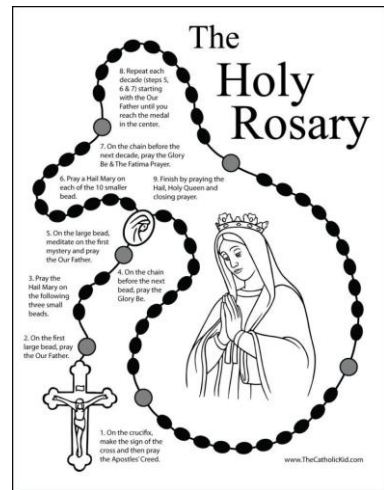
Year 1 have had another fantastic week. During worship this week we talked about how we can worship Jesus through song. The children all enjoyed singing Our God is a great big God and God made us. They have all been very reflective about how we can live out our values by showing love and kindness to each other.

# Year One Class News



# Year Two Class News

Year Two have enjoyed the opportunity to reflect on the Rosary and the use of Rosary beads to help with the order of prayers in this beautiful meditative and intercessory set of prayers. Some children brought their Rosary beads in from home, and we realised it was quite mathematical as we were drawing them in our books. It would be great if you could talk about the rosary at home and maybe say a decade or two, as a family if you are able.



# Year Three Class News

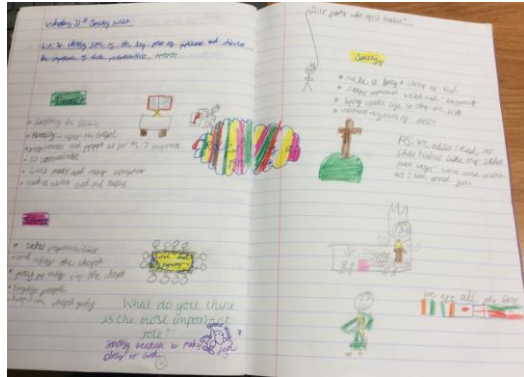
In Maths this week Year Three have been measuring! We have been looking at millimetres, centimetres, and metres. We have been exploring how to measure correctly using a ruler and we are now beginning to explore equivalent measurements.



# Year Four Class News

## ★ Roles and Responsibilities of a Priest ★

Last week, we invited Father Philip in to talk to us about his roles and responsibilities as our Priest. This week, the children gathered all the information they remembered and created wonderful informative double page spreads! We explored the 3 roles of Teach, Sanctify and Govern and the responsibilities within these.



This term we've been learning the song 'Fresh Prince of Bel Air' by Will Smith (apologies in advance if your child has been coming home rapping this to you... it felt very nostalgic for us as teachers!!). We've worked incredibly hard on understanding the rhythm and beat as well as appraising other Hip-Hop songs. It only felt fitting to learn a danceroutine to accompany the song and in our PE lessons we've been mastering just this! We've understood pace and flow as well as the importance of counting to the beat. Amazing work Year Five!

# Year Five Class News



# Year Six Class News

This week in Year Six, we have been busy with our new English learning based on the book "Everest: The remarkable story of Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay". We used the book to research Mount Everest and created some amazing fact files. Head to Parent Hub to see some photos of our brilliant work!



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## Key Dates

8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Spring Term begins
10 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Reception Open Morning
11 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Wizard of Oz Trip
11 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Whole School Mass – The Epiphany 10.30am
15 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Year Six SATs meeting for parents – Year Six class at 3.30pm
25 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Year One to Blessed George Napier for Multi Skills
2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2024	Number Day
4 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Confirmation Commitment Mass and Choir to lead singing at St John the Evangelist at 11.15am Mass
7 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	First Holy Communion Meeting for Parents in Year Three classroom at 3.30pm
9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Valentines Disco led by the PTFA EYFS and KS1 4.30pm – 5.30pm KS2 6.00pm – 7.00pm
9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	School closes for half term
19 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Spring Two term begins 8.45am
23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2024	Year Five Safety Workshop
8 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	World Book Day and Author Visit
19 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Parents Evening 2.30pm – 7.00pm
28 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	School Closes for Easter Holidays at 3.20pm
15 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Summer Term Begins at 8.45am

As a Catholic School in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, we have embraced the Catholic Schools' Pupil Profile, which teaches the children a set of eight pairs of virtues to be internalised and cultivated - enabling them to grow in wholeness as fully rounded individuals in the image of God. This half term we are: **Compassionate and Loving**

**Compassionate:** We are compassionate when we feel sympathy and concern for other people who are in difficulty, whether they are near to us or far away. **Loving:** We are loving when we show our sympathy and concern for other people by our actions and by our words.

### **A Prayer of compassion** (St Teresa of Calcutta)

Lord, open our eyes that we may see you in our brothers and sisters. Lord, open our ears that we may hear the cries of the hungry, the cold, the frightened, the oppressed. Lord, open our hearts that we may love each other as you love us. Renew in us your spirit. Lord, free us and make us one.

**Amen**

