



# 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 17  
Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

## Head's News...

Wow, that's another half term gone in the blink of an eye, and what a half term it has been too! I have loved every single minute of it, listening to children's squeals and laughter echoing across the playground tells us all how much the children are enjoying school. Let's hope that we can continue to give all of our children memorable learning experiences that they will take with them throughout their lives. As always it is a privilege to spend time with each and every one of our children.

Next half term we have another very busy one, which will be jam packed full of exciting curriculum links for our children. World Book day is on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March, but we will be celebrating on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March as we will have an author in the building! We are asking all children (and staff) to dress up as their favourite word. The reasons behind this choice is two-fold: in the current climate we don't want parents going out buying expensive costumes and the message that we want to promote this year is, "You are a reader." And as a reader the children are exposed to a plethora of new vocabulary. Reading here at St. John's is one of our whole school priorities and we have re-vamped the entire curriculum to instil a love of reading. Reading opens so many doors and is such a vital skill – the foundation for all learning. After half term we will be continuing to encourage the children to share what they are reading by creating book reviews for the library. Talking about Libraries – I would encourage you to take the children to the local library in Banbury.

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which is on 14<sup>th</sup> February, this is during half term but please do take your children along to mass with Father Philip. During Lent, we are all asked to pray more, repent, support charities and to give something up or do something extra. This year, each class will be doing something to raise money for our Lenten Charities – more information will follow soon.

**Attendance** Our overall attendance this week as a school is **92.9%**, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 (we always report a week behind)

EYFS	92.6%	Year One	91.3%
Year Two	84.7%	Year Three	98%
Year Four	92.3%	Year Five	92.5%
Year Six	97.4%	Whole School	<b>92.9%</b>

## Stars of the Week

Congratulations to the following pupils who received awards this week:

**EYFS:** Axel and Harry

**Year 1:** Steven, Erica, Elvis

**Year 2:** Ruby, Angela, Sophia

**Year 3:** Henry, All of Year Three, Ruby

**Year 4:** Geona, Freddie B, Meeval

**Year 5:** Arianne, Aishe, Emilia

**Year 6:** Josi, Kacper, Ancelin



### Mrs Betteridge

Today we say goodbye to our wonderful Mrs Betteridge who is moving on to pastures new. What a loss to education as she starts a new chapter in her life. We want to say a heartfelt **thank you** for all of the amazing work she has done with our children. She will be greatly missed by us all.

### House Points

**Earth: 177 (1108)**

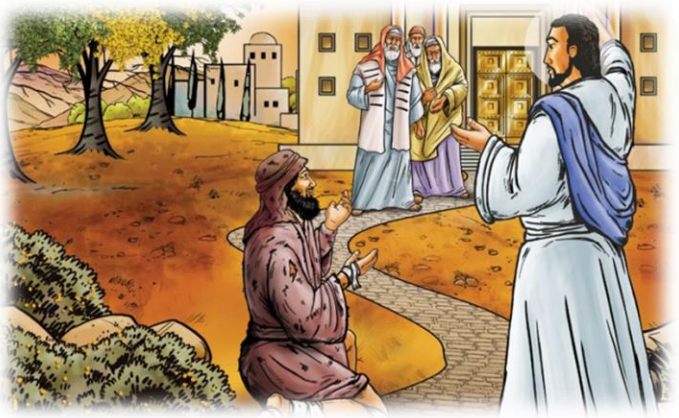
**Water: 183 (1129)**

**Air: 151 (1173)**

**Fire: 143 (1104)**

## Compassion

One day a man who had leprosy came to Jesus because he wanted to be healed. The man knelt in front of Jesus and said, "If you want to, you can heal my leprosy." Jesus was filled with compassion and said, "Of course I want to." Then Jesus reached out to touch him and said, "Be healed!" At once the man's leprosy disappeared and he was healed. Before sending the man on his way Jesus said firmly, "Don't tell anyone about this. Just go and show yourself to the priest, and take an offering to the Temple as commanded by Moses, and everyone will know that you have been healed." But, instead, the man went and told everyone what had happened. This meant that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay out in the country. Even so, people would still come to him from everywhere around.



## 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:**

Amanda – 5<sup>th</sup> February

Nadia – 6<sup>th</sup> February

Azrin -10<sup>th</sup> February

Freidda and Esther – 14<sup>th</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.

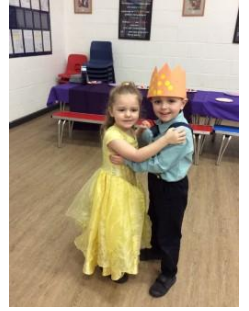
If you have safeguarding concerns about a child or family, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01295 263740 and ask to speak to a member of the safeguarding team. Alternatively, you can email our DSL (Maureen Collier) directly:

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



## Early Years Class News

Early Years have been working extremely hard exploring the story of Cinderella- we have listened to different versions of the story, acted it out, designed ball dresses and Reception have done some amazing writing. To finish in style we had a fabulous time at their ball on Wednesday. All the children enjoyed acting out the story and then waltzing and feasting. We had to race back to class before the clock struck 12 and the magic wore off!



In English this week, we have watched the short film Lune et L'autre. The children have learnt how to write dialogue and how to use adjectives when describing something. We also managed some drama which involved acting out the story. They have really impressed me.



## Year One Class News

## Year Two Class News

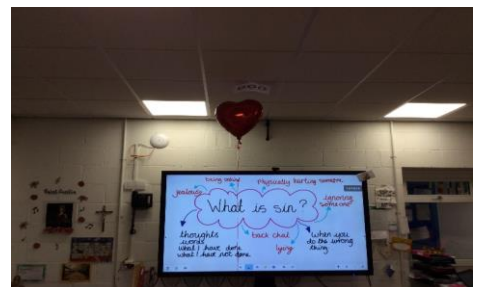
Year Two had a lovely Number day with some inventive outfits and hair decorations to celebrate. We were inspired by the artist Alex Konahin, to create beautiful symmetrical insects. We went outside into the woods to investigate if symmetry was just a man-made idea and were surprised at how much of nature has symmetry. Millie found a ladybird 🐞 for us to look at, on a symmetrical leaf.

🍁 The reflections the children drew were AMAZING, showing great skills.



## Year Three Class News

This week in year 3 we have discussed what is meant by sin and how sin makes us grow further away from God. We also look at Reconciliation and by saying sorry and truly meaning it our sins are forgiven and we are wiped clean, which means we can become closer to God again.



# Year Four Class News

👉 Our Parish 👉

Within R.E this half term, we have been exploring the roles and responsibilities of ourselves, the Priest and people in our Parish. The children have concluded the unit and shared everything they have learnt by creating some BEAUTIFUL leaflets. They took great care and detail and the information and pictures they shared were lovely! We can't wait to display them on our R.E window 😊



As part of our geography work this term, Year Five have been investigating the local area using Ordnance Survey maps. We've been having a go at reading and writing map references to locate nearby points of interest. We also found it linked quite nicely to our recent work on reading and plotting co-ordinates in Maths!

# Year Five Class News



# Year Six Class News

Year Six had a fantastic number day last Friday! We kicked off the day with some Maths problems that required a lot of careful thinking and problem-solving skills. Next, we were visited by HSBC who taught us all about the digital world of money, including bank transfers and mobile banking. After that, we were grouped together and given some jellybeans to think of and create our mathematical investigations. Some of our ideas included how many jellybeans would it take to cover an exercise book, measuring various objects with jellybeans and then coming up with our own word problems about Mr Bean! And if that wasn't enough.... we were fortunate enough to welcome some excellent parent speakers who spoke about how important Maths is for life outside the classroom.







We would like to extend our huge appreciation for all of the Parents and Carers who have purchased items from our Amazon wish list. We are blown away by your generosity and this will all help to make learning experiences memorable for all of our children.

## *Number Day*

Again, another huge thank you to Mr Cyriac and Mr Marshall for coming into school last Friday to talk to the children about their jobs, involving numbers. This was such a fantastic way for them to see that number has a real-life context.



# St. John's RC Primary School

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

## 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**

