



# 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 19  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

## Head's News...

We have had another wonderful week here at St. John's and whilst I am biased in my opinion, the children are an absolute credit to you all. We as a family are very grateful to share in the journey all of our children are on, whether that be academic, social, emotional or, as most of us are, on all of those things. It is a blessing to see the children all playing together again at break and lunch. Our wonderful Sports Captains will be planning some games to share with the younger children at lunch times. We have worked hard to give each class a range of P.E equipment for them to use so that we can structure play times a little more and now our older children will be helping them further. They have some fabulous ideas.

## Parking

This appears to be becoming more of a problem again. I would implore all adults that come to collect the children in cars to be very mindful about where you park. Please, please, please do not park in front of the gates as this blocks access. The parking on Wednesday this week was particularly busy and the road was blocked by cars. There is lots of parking by the shops and you can cut through the walk way, which will deliver you to right beside the school gate. Our children are precious and I do not want anything to happen to them.

## Attendance

Our overall attendance this week as a school is **94.5%**, 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 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2024 (we always report a week behind)			
EYFS	93.7%	Year One	93%
Year Two	94.3%	Year Three	97%
Year Four	94.2%	Year Five	97.1%
Year Six	94.9%	Whole School	<b>94.5%</b>

## Stars of the Week

Congratulations to the following pupils who received awards this week:

EYFS: Navya and Nora

Year 1: Nella, Rachith, Leelan

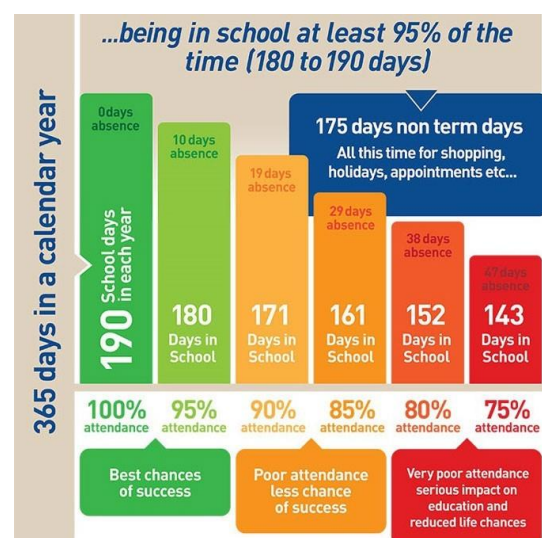
Year 2: Zahfyr, Caleb, Gracie

Year 3: Kevin, Eli C, Ummayah

Year 4: Lewis, Zion, Sammy

Year 5: Stelios, Ivy-Bella, Jacob P

Year 6: Chiara, Emmanuella, David C



## House Points

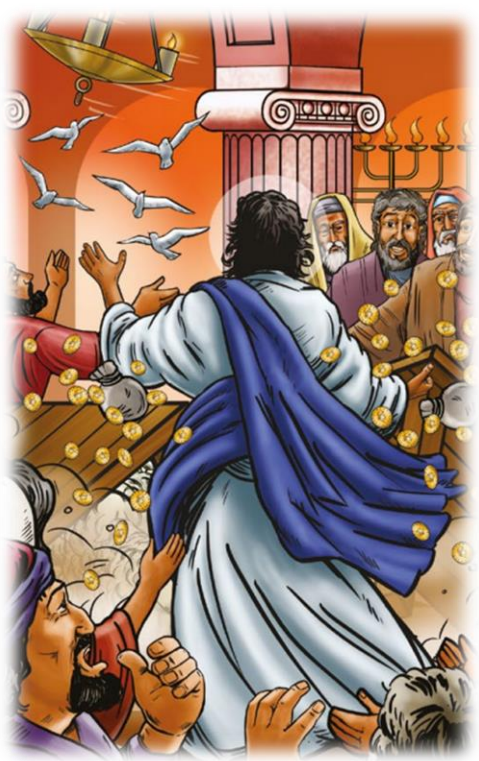
Earth: 198 (1499)  
Water: 178 (1528)  
Air: 239 (1639)  
Fire: 168 (1477)

## Enthusiasm

Enthusiasm is one of life's most important ingredients. The word 'enthusiasm' comes from the Greek word 'entheos' which means 'God-filled'. Life really is joyful when we are enthusiastic about the right things.

In this Sunday's Gospel, we read how the people had actually lost sight of God by getting caught up in their buying and selling. Jesus' enthusiastic action was a protest that things had gone seriously wrong with how they were relating to God; something needed to change.

Lent is a time to renew our own relationship with God and to be filled with a new enthusiasm for God and for life in all its fullness. Enjoy your week together and help spread God's love – with **ENTHUSIASM!**



## 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:**

Khadija – 26<sup>th</sup> February

Audrey – 27<sup>th</sup> February

Emmanuel – 3<sup>rd</sup> March



## 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)

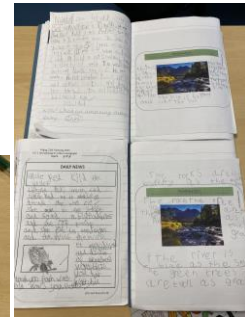
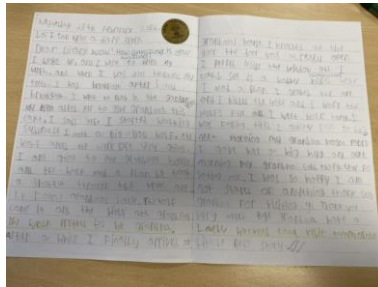


## Early Years Class News

In EY this week we have been keeping an eye on our frogspawn – the dots have sprouted tails and we have begun learning about other interesting animals that also come from eggs but slightly larger eggs... We discovered that dinosaurs lived a long, long time ago and we only know about them because of the fossils they left behind. We looked at some photos of fossilized dinosaur eggs and a real live fossil of dinosaur teeth. We also had fun turning a large box into a rocket!



Year One have been so busy this week in English. We have written a newspaper report, we have looked at what a simile is, and we have also written diary entries. I am so proud of how hard the children are all working. They are producing some amazing writing.



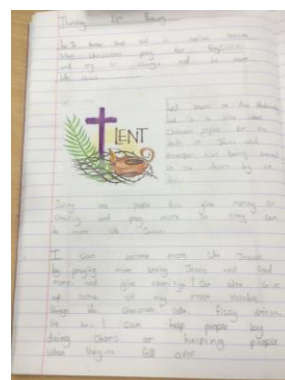
## Year One Class News

## Year Two Class News

Today Year 2 explored the effects of the weather on the coastline. We created a mini beach in transparent container and watched what happened to the little houses on the top of the beach as the waves lapped or crashed against the shoreline. Apparently, the orange house won because it fell over last! We then created a barrier with big rocks to protect the shore. Amazingly this worked and the houses all remained standing after a fair bit of tidal wave creation by Mrs Avilez. The story of the man who built his house on sand and the man who built his house on rock came up and we all thought we understood the parable a bit better... as well as coastal erosion.



This week in Year Three we have continued to look at the significance of Lent and why we are blessed with ashes on Ash Wednesday. We have also been thinking about how we will pray more, give more and fast more.



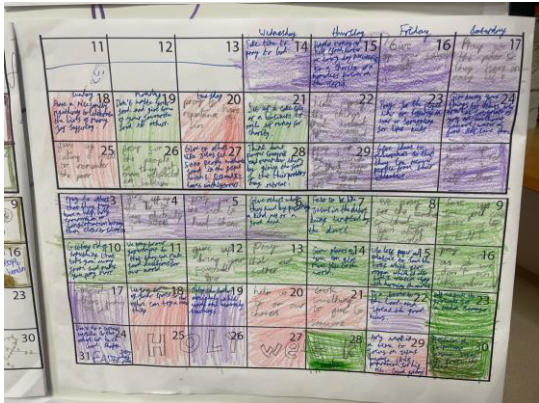
## Year Three Class News



Year Four Class News

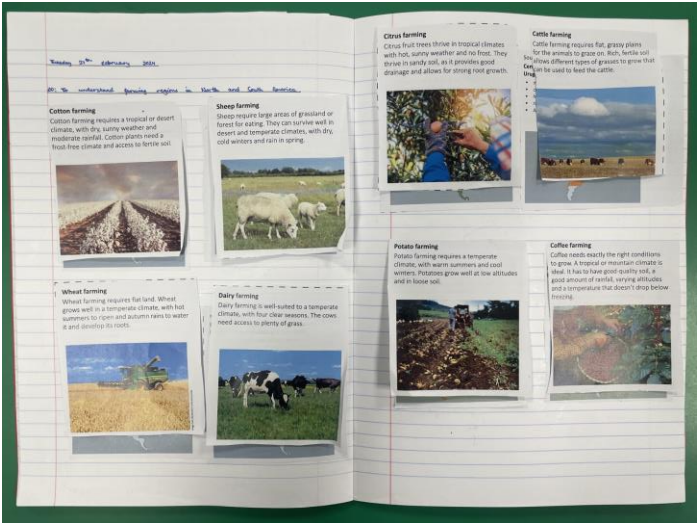
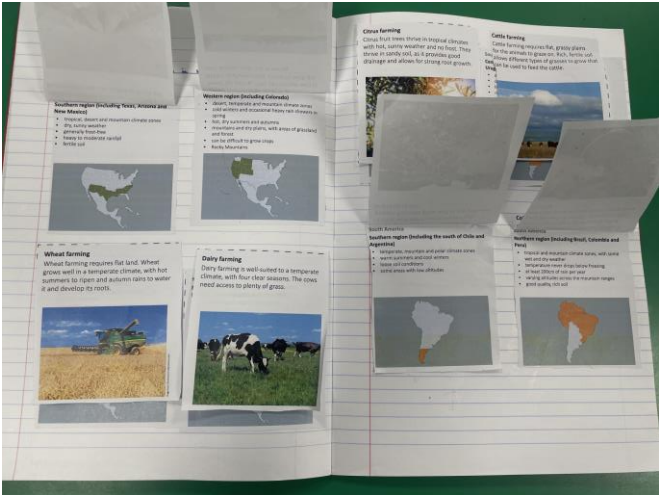
PLANNING FOR LENT

We have explored how Lent is a time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Year 4 have had some wonderful discussions around how we can show acts of these 3 things. We spent some time looking at the Catholic Lent calendar and identifying acts of prayer, fasting and giving. The children then worked in pairs to design their own calendars for Lent. We are trying really hard to select something to do each day during Lent, using our own calendars. We have proudly displayed these around our R.E window in our classroom.



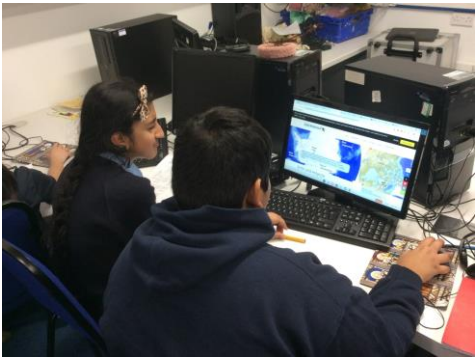
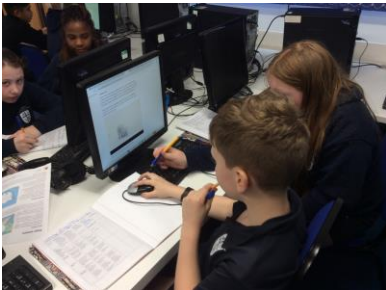
As part of our geography topic, Year 5 have been learning about climate zones and different farming practices. This week, we broadened our horizons and visited the Americas! We discovered that North and South America experience many different climates, which in turn effects the type of farming, animals and crops that can be produced.

Year Five Class News



Year Six Class News

As part of our Frozen Kingdoms unit in Geography, Year 6 have spent some time using the computers to conduct their own research into polar oceans. We then compared and contrasted them with other oceans around the world.



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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:

### **Faith-filled and Hopeful**

**Faith-filled:** We are faith-filled when we are living life as God inspires us to live it, putting the Gospel into action through our deeds. Faith gives us belief and trust in God and in other people. We have to build on it every day through prayer, being part of a faith community and living out the gospel values. Faith gives us hope. **Hopeful:** We are hopeful when we are optimistic about the future, we trust ourselves and others, and we don't give up. Our faith teaches us that God is hope – that Christ walks before us and gives us the courage to follow. Hope makes us unafraid to step into the unknown and face challenges. Hope can deepen or restore our faith.

