



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: 07

Friday 25th October 2024

Head's News...

Well what an absolutely fantastic first half term we have all had! I know that I am very bias, but our children, families and staff are the best! As a family we have all enjoyed getting to know the children, parents and new staff and to form those positive relationships to ensure we are creating the best learning environments for our children. With the season of winter nearly upon us please take additional care if you are out over the holidays. The clocks also turn back an hour so the evenings now will be much darker and earlier. Please remind your children to continue to be cautious and to continue to not talk to strangers and to protect themselves.

Prayer and Liturgy

This week we participated in the 'One million children praying the rosary' for Peace and Unity in the World. The prayer initiative aims to rekindle faith in the power of prayer. The worldwide campaign is an invitation to remember the words of Our Lady of Fatima that the childlike and trusting prayer of the rosary can truly change the world, defeat evil and bring peace. Praying the rosary together with children will strengthen unity in the Church and amongst peoples. We are all called to form one family across borders, united in prayer.

Change of Seasons

As we are now well and truly in Autumn children must bring a coat into school each day. At break times it is imperative that children go outside for some much-needed fresh air. As long as the heavens haven't opened, we are outside.

Attendance

Our overall attendance this week as a school is **94.7%**, our target is a minimum of **97.5%** - please do send children in for every learning opportunity. Our attendance is beginning to dip, every child should be in school for every learning opportunity.

Attendance to 18th October 2024 (we always report a week behind)

EYFS	89.6%	Year One	92.9%
Year Two	96.9%	Year Three	97.4%
Year Four	95.9%	Year Five	94.4%
Year Six	95.7%	Whole School	94.7%

Stars of the Week

Congratulations to the following people who received awards this week:

Nursery: Parker

Reception: Hazel

Year 1: Selene, Maya, Miraya

Year 2: Erica, Margaret, Joseph

Year 3: Aben, Matthew, Angela

Year 4: Gilroy, JP, Eli C

Year 5: Leo, Sammi, Fikile

Year 6: Nathan, Arianne, Musa

House Points

Earth: 292(1707)

Water: 232(1702)

Air: 217 (1838)

Fire: 340 (1716)

Year Six PFMAC Concert

Oh my goodness, last night I was absolutely astounded and so very, very proud of our Year Six children. They performed a stunning concert and their behaviour was impeccable. A huge THANK YOU to the children and to Miss Callen and Miss Bingham for all of their hardwork!

Reflection of the half term

In the Gospels, Jesus reveals the true nature of His style of leadership: servanthood.

“Anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant...”

Mark 10:43

Children have been focusing on praying for leaders in different situations. They have learnt that we can all lead like Jesus and draw on the strength of the Holy Spirit.

You might like to use this short prayer as part of your family prayer time...

Jesus,

We want to be like you.

Send your Holy Spirit to

help us to be good leaders in all we do.

Amen



Sacramental Journey

We have now had dates from Father Philip and we will send further information regarding Commitment Masses and Parent meetings. The dates for the Sacraments are as follows:

Year Three Reconciliation – Thursday 20th March 2025

Year Three First Holy Communion – Saturday 28th June 2025 at 10.00am

Year Six Confirmation – Saturday 29th March 2025 at 10.00am

If you have a child in a later year group that has missed their First Holy Communion, please see Mrs Collier and we can add them this year

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:

Mariam – 22nd October

Alex, Evelyn and Navya – 23rd October

Kevin – 25th October

Joseph – 28th October

Aibel and Nora – 3rd November

Birthdays



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:

familysupport@st-johns-Banbury.oxon.sch.uk

Early Years Class News

This week Early Years have been investigating Autumn seeds, we have discovered hundreds of sycamore seed helicopters that had been blown of the trees in last weeks storm and had fun launching them and watching them spin, then we looked at the seed inside. We have been using conkers in the mud kitchen and enjoyed watching the squirrels stealing them away for the winter snack. We have also dissected pumpkins and looked closely at the many large seeds inside. Reception looked closely at the seed heads of the Japanese Anemones in the front of the school and made some beautiful observational drawings.



Year One Class News

In Year One we have been looking at Jesus' miracles, in particular his first miracle at the Wedding Feast at Cana. We have been role playing that we were wedding guests at that special moment. These were our super facial expressions 😲



Year Two Class News

WOW! Year 2 have LOVED our learning on Mary Seacole this week for Black History Month 🧡. We have written AMAZING fact-files on her work and then had a go at making our own herbal medicines. We smelt each ingredient and then carefully added them one-by-one to the mixture. We all had a go at stirring the ingredients to make our herbal medicine. Some of us liked the look and smell of it and some of us didn't! We all decided we would NOT like to taste this nowadays! Mary Seacole was so clever to heal soldiers in this way!



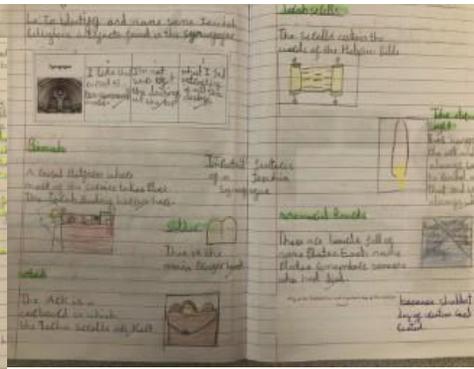
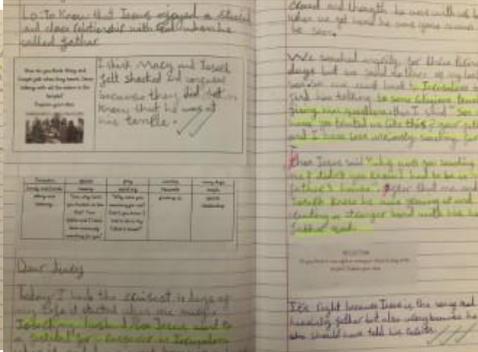
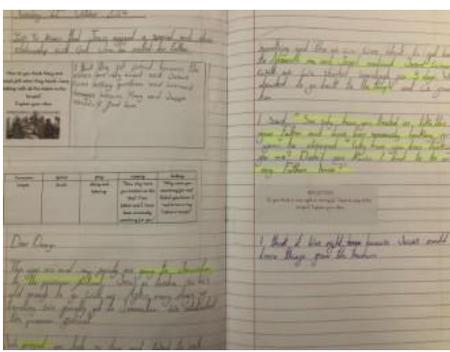
Year Three Class News

This week in PE with Mr Mawn, we have had inter house competitions! We played a lot of football, and we learnt the valuable lesson of working as a team and sportsman ship! Mrs Burton was so very proud of us all.



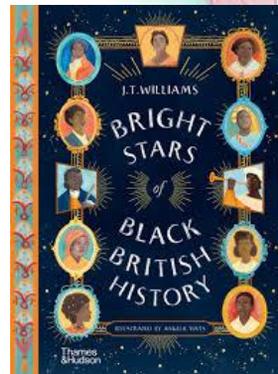
Year Four Class News

We've been so busy in our new RE unit all about how Jesus teaches us how to pray. Through our learning, we know that Jesus grew up as a Jew and would have heard Old Testament stories in the temple/synagogue. We've explored what a synagogue looks like and learnt about important features inside. We've read scripture about Jesus as a child in the temple and wrote diaries from the perspective of Mary or Joseph after realising the special relationship Jesus had with his Heavenly Father.



Year Five Class News

In celebration of Black History month, Year Five have been looking at inspirational Black men and women in the United Kingdom. We have learnt about multiculturalism and the role of activists in changing the world. One Activist we learnt about in greater detail is Claudia Jones, the Trinidadian Journalist who was deported from the USA because she stood up against intolerance and racism. We learnt about her role in starting the Notting Hill Carnival as a place to celebrate Caribbean culture and to invite everyone to come together and understand each other - not just see differences. The children's writing has been inspirational, and we may have some journalists just like Claudia amongst us.



Year Six Class News

On Thursday, Year Six had a fantastic time taking part in the PFMAC concert. Together with other schools in our academy trust, we went to Oxford Town Hall and performed songs that we have been preparing around the theme of "The Change Makers". Our favourite songs were Touch the Sky, Mr Blue Sky and You are my Sunshine. The children were wonderful and we are so proud of them for their performances.



Key Dates

20 th September 2024	Year Two Carbon Monoxide Workshop
27 th September 2024	Year Five Carbon Monoxide Workshop
8 th and 9 th October 2024	Parents Evening from 3.30pm
9 th October 2024	Year One Class Assembly – All invited 9.15am
16 th October 2024	Reception Class Assembly – All invited 9.15am
23 rd October 2024	Year Three Class Assembly – All invited 9.15am
16 th October 2024	Police visit to Year Two *** postponed due to Banbury Fair ****
17 th October 2024	Flu Vaccinations
23 rd October 2024	Reception Open Morning
25 th October 2024	Break up for Half Term at 3.20pm
4 th November 2024	School begins – School open at 8.45am
6 th November 2024	Whole School African Drumming
20 th November 2024	Year Six Class Assembly – All invited 9.15am Reception Open Morning
27 th November 2024	Year Two Class Assembly – All invites 9.15am
4 th December 2024	Year Four Class Assembly – All invited 9.15am
10 th December 2024	Year Five Class Assembly – All invited 9.15am
11 th December 2024	Key Stage One Nativity Play – 9.30am and 6.00pm
19 th December 2024	Key Stage Two Christmas Carol Concert @ St John's Church 6pm
20 th December 2024	Break up for Christmas holiday School closes at 1.30pm

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:

Active and Curious

Active: We are active in our engagement with the world, changing what we can for the better. We do this as God's children and to make the world a better place.

Curious: We are growing to become more curious about everything in God's world.

