



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: 21

Friday 28th February 2025

Head's News ...

What a fantastic first week back we have had at St. John's! It has been a joy to see the children return with such enthusiasm, ready to embrace their learning and all the exciting opportunities this term has to offer.

This week has been filled with enriching experiences, from engaging music lessons to an inspiring visit from our local firefighters, where the children learned about fire safety in a hands-on and memorable way. We also came together as a school community to celebrate Mass, reflecting on our faith and the values that guide us each day. Alongside these special moments, our usual lessons and activities have been in full swing, setting a positive and productive tone for the term ahead.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to another wonderful term of learning, growth, and faith-filled experiences.

March marks the beginning of Lent, a time in the Church that focuses on prayer, fasting and almsgiving (charitable giving). This year also brings the added invitation to explore and grow our friendship with God through the celebrations of the [Year of Jubilee](#).

The season brings an exciting opportunity to slow down, put the most important things first and experience the joy that God offers each one of us.

Forthcoming newsletters will share some of the content children will experience in school throughout March, and suggests ways for you to engage with them about it. We hope it is a useful resource for your family prayer time.

Stars of the Week

Congratulations to the following people who received awards this week:

Nursery: Elyna

Reception: Ammu, Amare, Oliver

Year 1: Litta, Elias, Maya

Year 2: Esther, Elvis, Joseph J

Year 3: Shean, Gracie, Hamilton

Year 4: Mollie, Anton, Comfort

Year 5: Stasiu, Zion, Isabella B

Year 6: Jagoda, Ted, Emilia



House Points

Earth: 234(5772)

Water: 297(5722)

Air: 212 (5520)

Fire: 282 (5881)

Attendance to 14th February 2025 (we always report a week behind)

EYFS	99%	Year One	92.1%
Year Two	92.1%	Year Three	95.4%
Year Four	96.1%	Year Five	94.2%
Year Six	100%	Whole School	95.6%

Action

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus is using parables – short stories – to teach us important lessons. Just as good fruit is a sign of a good tree, so our words and actions show what is truly inside our heart.

“Actions speak louder than words; let your words teach and your actions speak.” St Anthony of Padua

This Gospel also reminds us not to criticise others' actions but rather to look at our own actions and try to grow in goodness. Decide on some kind of action that you could take to show your love for God and others. Perhaps you can: visit a person who may need your help; try to be humble and truthful about any of your own faults; say sorry to one another for anything you have done wrong; help around the home more; offer to help out with a voluntary project; resist being quick to criticise; always try to look for the good in others; remember to be understanding, compassionate, caring and speak kindly of others.



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 – 26th February

Audrey – 27th 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:

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

Early Years Class News

This week we have been looking for signs that Winter is, at last, turning into Spring, the EY garden is bursting with life, the daffodils are showing lots of yellow in time for St David's day. The children were delighted to have the opportunity to explore outside without coats and have demonstrating some great skills in their play- lots of creative thinking and imaginative play and lots of collaborating to solve problems together.



Year One Class News

We have begun exploring our new book, The Queen's Hat. The children have been researching famous London landmarks and using adjectives and verbs to describe the city. In our topic lessons, we have been following Paddington Bear on his adventures through Banbury and London, comparing the differences between towns and cities. We have also been lucky to enjoy some wonderfully sunny PE sessions since returning this half term! The children have been focusing on developing their foundational PE skills, and this week, they did a fantastic job of jumping and leaping like frogs. Well done, Year One!



Year Two Class News

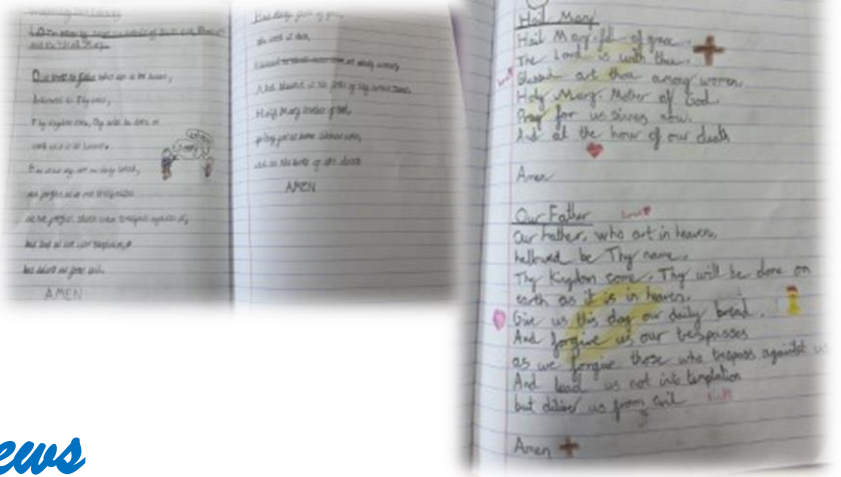
Year Two were lucky enough to recreate our very own GREAT FIRE! 🔥

We welcomed local fire fighters into school to talk to us about the importance of fire safety, their role in the local community and how we can keep safe around fires. They spoke to us about what number to call if we ever need them and the importance of a smoke detector in our own homes! We were also fortunate enough to climb in the fire engine and see what they kept inside! 😁 The most exciting part was the FIRE! The children lined their houses and bakeries up and the fire fighters set them alight. We were able to see how quickly fire spreads and how it destroys buildings! It was such a fantastic experience!!!

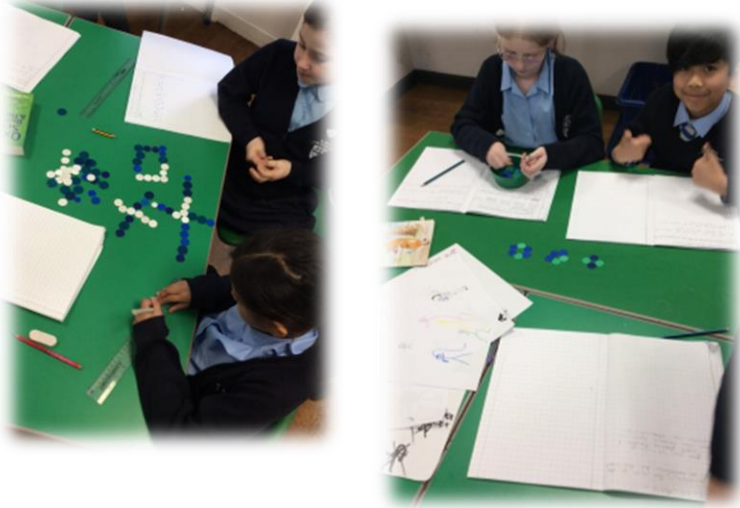


Year Three Class News

In RE we have been looking at the prayers, "Our Father" and "Hail Mary" we looked at each prayer as a whole and then investigated the deeper meaning of the prayer itself. It was amazing to see how knowledgeable and reflective the children were with this and how the words had a deeper meaning which we we



Year Four Class News



During maths this week, we have been exploring parts and wholes, looking at the size of the part in relation to the whole. We recognised that if one part remains the same as the whole increases, then that part becomes a smaller part of the whole. We used counters to support our understanding of this before moving onto constructing wholes using given parts. Well done Year 4 - you have really impressed me with your fantastic understanding and reasoning!

Year Five Class News

Year Five have been investigating the science behind building your house on rock or sand (Mathew 7: 27). The children really thought about how a life built on solid foundations is much more likely to hold up in tough times. Here are some of the suggestions the children came up with: regular prayer, helping others, putting God first, going to mass and hearing the word of God and putting it into practice. Wise words from Year Five.



Year Six Class News



In RE, Year Six have been learning about our Church community. This week, it was time to find out all about our local Church community, The Parish of St. John the Evangelist. We used the computers to complete our own research and found out about the history of our Church along with many interesting facts. We discovered when it was built and consecrated and were surprised by how old it is! It was lovely to look in more detail at such a special place.

Key Dates

25 th February 2025	School begins – School opens at 8:45am
4 th and 5 th March 2025	Parents' Evening
5 th March 2025	Year Three Class Assembly – all invited 9:05am
5 th March 2025	Ash Wednesday – KS2 Mass at 10.30am
7 th March 2025	World Book Day and Author Visit
WC 10 th March 2025	Science Week
12 th March 2025	EYFS Class Assembly – all invited 9:05am
13 th March 2025	Athletics Finals!
19 th March 2025	Year Six Class Assembly – all invited 9:05am
20 th March 2025	Year Three Sacrament of Reconciliation
24 th March 2025	Reception and Year 6 Vision Screening
26 th March 2025	Year Two Class Assembly – all invited 9:05am
29 th March 2025	Year Six Sacrament of Confirmation at St. John the Evangelist at 10.00am
2 nd April 2025	Year Five Class Assembly – all invited 9:05am
4 th April 2025	School finishes for Easter half term at 1.30pm
7 th – 21 st April 2025	EASTER HALF TERM
TUESDAY 22 nd April 2025	School begins – School opens 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: **Attentive and Discerning**
Attentive: We are attentive when we listen to our calling from God to love and serve one another in all that we do. We are attentive to our experiences and can see where they will take us in our future vocations. **Discerning:** We are discerning when we decide to do the right thing in the interest of the needs of others because we know the positive impact that will have on their lives.

A Prayer for Attentiveness

Lord God, Give us a spirit of attentiveness to turn our attention to those who we can help with the gifts and talents you have given us. Show us how, with your assistance, we can learn to draw them closer to you, day by day, through kind acts of service. **Amen**



Extreme Reading Challenge!

