



# 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: 24

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025

As we journey through the second week of Lent, it has been truly inspiring to see our children embracing this season of reflection and renewal. Our Big Lent Walk continues, and it has been amazing to watch the children encourage one another with such enthusiasm and determination.

This week, our Year Three children made their Sacrament of Reconciliation—a significant step in their faith journey. We keep them in our prayers as they now prepare to receive their First Holy Communion in June. We also pray for our Year Six children, who will be making their Confirmation on 29th March. It will be a special blessing to welcome Bishop Richard back to St John's on Thursday as he visits the children ahead of this important sacrament. May this season of Lent bring us all closer to Christ as we walk together in faith.

We hold Pope Francis in our prayers as he continues to receive medical treatment, asking God to grant him strength and healing.



## Stars of the Week

Congratulations to the following people who received awards this week:

**Nursery:** Samir

**Reception:** Jovan, Adeife, Tallulah

**Year 1:** Annliya, Bethany, Nicolas

**Year 2:** Joseph C, Erica, Rachith

**Year 3:** Aben, Ugom, Sophia

**Year 4:** Henry, James Mc, Kevin

**Year 5:** Leo, Sean, Geona

**Year 6:** Sienna, Aishe, Arianne



### House Points

**Earth: 309 (6592)**

**Water: 251 (6538)**

**Air: 377 (6587)**

**Fire: 272 (6784)**

### Attendance to 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025

(we always report a week behind)

EYFS	94.5%	Year One	92.9%
Year Two	90.4%	Year Three	98.9%
Year Four	94.5%	Year Five	94.2%
Year Six	96%	Whole School	94.5%

## Change

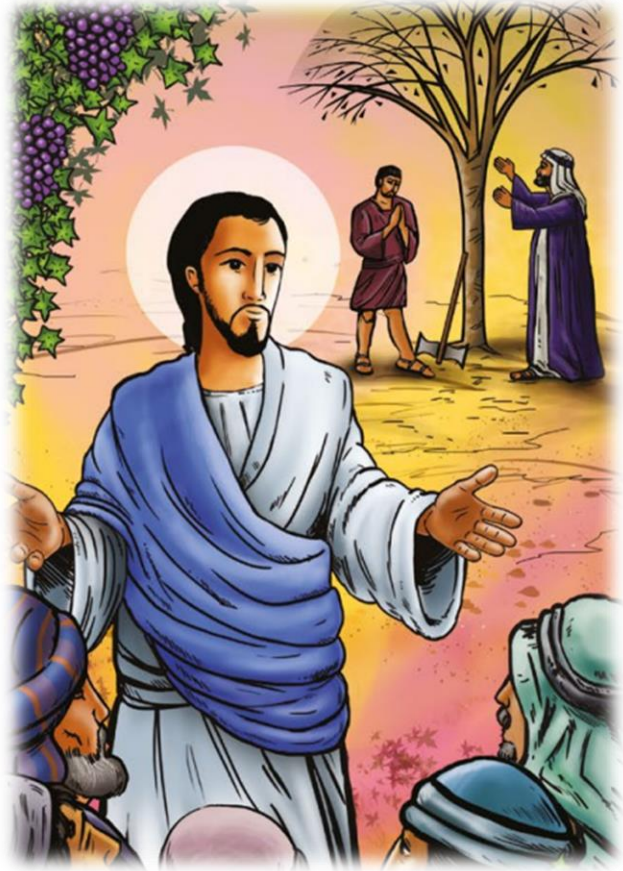
Throughout the school years, the whole family will grow and change – learning more about life and about one another.

Change can be an exciting part of family life. The Season of Lent presents a great opportunity to examine our conscience – do we need a change of heart, a change of attitude?

In this Sunday's Gospel, the fig tree represents God's people – it represents all of us.

We are all called to change: to grow and so enrich the world around us – to love as Jesus loved.

That is what being fully human means! Jesus is like the gardener. He is patient with us, nurtures us and helps us to change for the better.



## 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:

Lorcan – 17<sup>th</sup> March

Erica – 18<sup>th</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:

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

## Early Years Class News

This week in EY we have watched carefully as the chicks have grown taller and become more flappy everyday. All the children (and adults!) have thoroughly enjoyed observing these changes and Reception have done some super chick inspired maths and writing. Everybody really enjoyed the opportunity to hold them for a little while, the chicks enjoyed themselves too. We will be sorry to say goodbye to them as they go back to the farm at the end of this week.



## Year One Class News

This week we have been on an exciting journey, flying around London and discovering its famous landmarks! ✈️ 🇬🇧 We described iconic places such as Big Ben, the Tower of London, and Buckingham Palace, using wonderful adjectives to bring them to life. We also took time to reflect on the season of Lent by creating our own Lenten promises. Each child thoughtfully chose a promise to help them grow in kindness, patience, and faith. We are committed to following these promises throughout Lent, supporting one another on this special journey.



## Year Two Class News

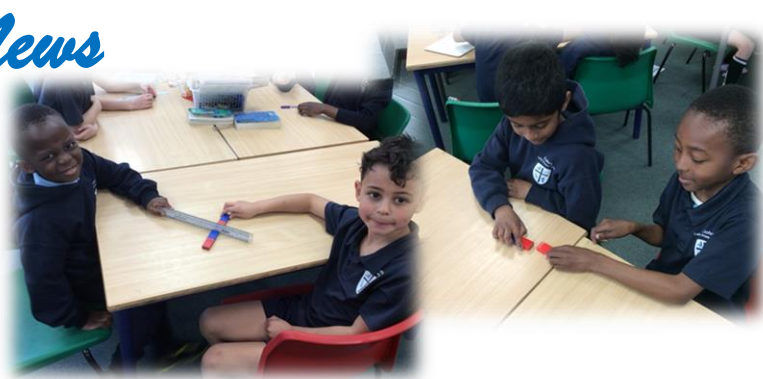
🧵 ✂️ SUPERB SEWING IN D.T ✂️ 🧵

There has been some AMAZING perseverance in Year 2 throughout the week - I have watched so many 'lightbulb' moments from the children 💡 😊. In particular, we have practised running stitches onto fabric in our D.T lessons. The children used the running stitch to stitch a butterfly shape onto a piece of fabric. Look how amazing they are! Every single one of the children carried on even when they found the new skill tough!



## Year Three Class News

We have enjoyed a fantastic week in Year 3. The children especially enjoyed their work on forces and magnets, where they investigated non-contact forces, and how the north and south poles interact. We have also continued our learning of fractions in Maths, and are pleased to report that we have now completed one third of our Lent walk. Keep up the good work!



## Year Four Class News

💡 🖥️ STEM WORKSHOP 🖥️ 💡

We had a BRILLIANT morning earlier this week when we had a visitor from EKO come in to deliver a STEM session with us. In our session we learnt that STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. We explored what this looked like in terms of careers and jobs. We learnt a lot of interesting facts such as Rolls Royce invent the engines for aeroplanes including the Spitfire.

Then we got onto the microbits! Small computers which had been programmed with various algorithms for us to explore. We found smiley faces, a heart and even made it show the sun when it is light and the moon when it was in a dark space. We even got to record our voices! It completely blew our minds that this small device was a computer capable of doing SO many things - amazing!



## Year Five Class News

This year's Science Week was full of exciting and hands-on activities for our Year 5 students! They started by diving into the fascinating world of moths, recreating the famous peppered moth investigation. The children camouflaged moths around the classroom, testing how well they blended into different backgrounds, just like in nature!

Next, they braved the chill with a frosty experiment to learn how polar bears survive in the icy Arctic. Wearing "blubber gloves," the children compared how their bare hands fared in ice-cold water versus their hands protected by a layer of "blubber." It was an eye-opening experience that really helped them understand the amazing adaptations of animals in extreme environments.

A big thank you to all our Year 5 scientists for their curiosity and enthusiasm – Science Week was a huge success!



## Year Six Class News



Year 6 delivered a heartwarming and thoughtful assembly to celebrate the International Day of Happiness. The assembly began with the lighting of the candle and a reflection on why happiness matters for everyone, no matter their age or background. The children explored how different countries value happiness, including Bhutan's Gross National Happiness index, and shared that kindness and gratitude are powerful ways to spread joy. They reminded us that happiness isn't about material things but about appreciating what we have and helping others feel valued. The assembly ended with a beautiful moment of reflection and prayers for happiness around the world, followed by an uplifting performance of "Mr Blue Sky." Well done, Year 6, for inspiring us all to spread happiness every day!

# Key Dates

25 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	School begins – School opens at 8:45am
4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Parents' Evening
5 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Year Three Class Assembly – all invited 9:05am
5 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Ash Wednesday – KS2 Mass at 10.30am
7 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	World Book Day and Author Visit
WC 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Science Week
12 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	EYFS Class Assembly – all invited 9:05am
13 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Athletics Finals!
19 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Year Six Class Assembly – all invited 9:05am
20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Year Three Sacrament of Reconciliation
24 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Reception and Year 6 Vision Screening
26 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Year Two Class Assembly – all invited 9:05am
29 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Year Six Sacrament of Confirmation at St. John the Evangelist at 10.00am
2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025	Year Five Class Assembly – all invited 9:05am
4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	School finishes for Easter half term at 1.30pm
7 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2025	EASTER HALF TERM
TUESDAY 22 <sup>nd</sup> 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**

