



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: 25

Friday 28th March 2025

As we enter the fourth week of Lent, we continue to reflect on this season of preparation, prayer, and kindness. It has been wonderful to see the children embracing this time with enthusiasm, showing kindness to one another and a real dedication to their learning. We are so proud of them and their wonderful attitudes in and out of the classroom.

This week, we keep in our prayers our Year Six children who will be making their Confirmation tomorrow. This is such a special moment in their faith journey, and we ask God to bless them as they receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We were also delighted to welcome Bishop Richard to our school yesterday. The children asked him some very thought-provoking questions, and it was a truly inspiring visit.

We also say a fond farewell to Mrs. Pearson, who will be leaving us to begin an exciting new journey in her new job. Mrs. Pearson has been a much-loved part of our school community, and we will all miss her beautiful smile and the warmth she has brought to our school. We wish her every success and happiness in her new role.

Let us continue to keep each other in our prayers as we journey through Lent together.

We hold Pope Francis in our prayers as he continues his recovery, we ask God to grant him strength and healing.



Stars of the Week

Congratulations to the following people who received awards this week:

Nursery: Chile

Reception: Hazel, Kelo, Jessica

Year 1: Marie Bernadette, Naia, Neso

Year 2: Nela, Freyja, Reina

Year 3: Millie, Shean, Gracie

Year 4: Eli C, Audrey, Ellie K

Year 5: Khadijah, Marta, Connie, Fikile

Year 6: Emmanuel, Musa, Jagoda



House Points

Earth: 296 (6888)

Water: 340 (6878)

Air: 345 (6932)

Fire: 375 (7159)

Attendance to 21st March 2025

(we always report a week behind)

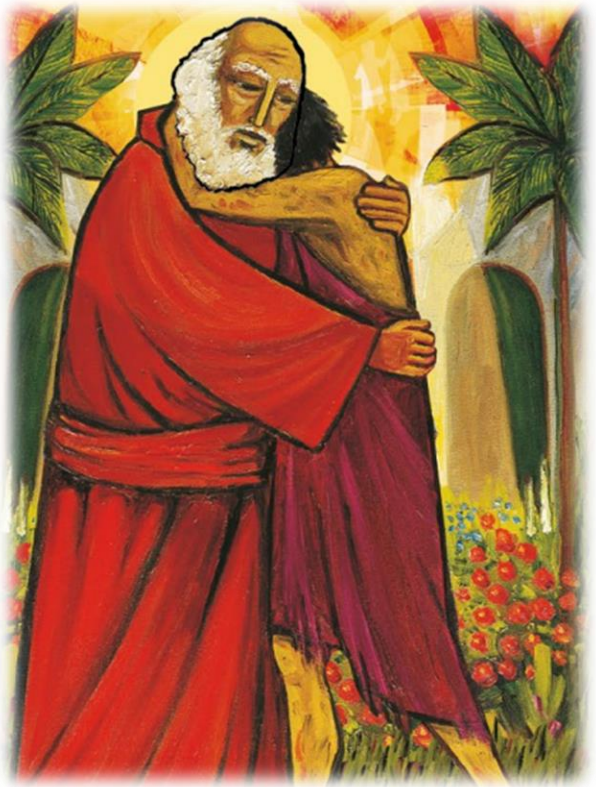
EYFS	92.4%	Year One	95%
Year Two	91.9%	Year Three	100%
Year Four	94.2%	Year Five	93.3%
Year Six	96.3%	Whole School	95.2%

Forgiveness

Forgiveness is the lifeblood of any family or community.

In this Sunday's Gospel the younger son insults his father; his inheritance is all he thinks about. To make matters worse, his reason for returning is not love or consideration for his father, but simply his own desperate hunger. The father doesn't even question his son's motives. He welcomes his son back with the open heart and the open arms of forgiveness.

The message for us is that, whatever we may have done wrong, if we are truly sorry, we can still count on the loving forgiveness of God, who is our Father, and on the freedom that his forgiveness brings.



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:

Ava – 24th March

Rexford – 25th March

Joseph J 26th March

Elyna – 28th March

Sanchez – 30th 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

Early Years Class News

This week in Early Years we have been dedicating our afternoons to outdoor collaborative role play to give the children lots of opportunities to boost language development and develop social skills. Being outside is also the best way to experience the seasons changing and this is a fundamental part of our Curriculum. Now that the daffodils are all flowering, the tadpoles are swimming and the birds in the woods are singing so loudly so we really understand that Spring has arrived.



Year One Class News

This week, Year 1 kicked off their learning with a hands-on activity, labelling body parts to deepen their understanding of the human body. In Maths, we've been mastering counting in tens, with the help of a catchy new song to make learning fun and memorable. In English, we've been busy planning our diary entries from the perspective of our new favourite character—the Polar Bear from Leaf. Through hot-seating activities, we explored his thoughts and emotions, bringing the story to life in our classroom discussions. It's been a fantastic week of learning in Year 1!



Year Two Class News

💖🌸 Our Class Assembly 🌸💖

A huge thank you to those of you who joined us this week for our Mother's Day Class Assembly 🌸. The children did a superb job at speaking clearly, smiling and learning a special poem to share with you. They were very excited to share about why they love their amazing mummy's so much! We hope you like our cards and flowers we gave to you 🌸🌸🌸. I hope you all have an amazing Mothers Day this weekend, filled with happiness and lots of love!



Year Three Class News

It has been another wonderful week in Year 3! Following our Reconciliation last Thursday, the class has written diary entries detailing the most important aspects of the sacrament of Reconciliation. In Maths we have continued our learning of fractions, and in English we have been learning about story settings, where the children wrote some thoroughly spooky descriptions of a haunted house. We have also enjoyed some explosive Geography lessons, learning about how volcanoes are formed. Well done, Year 3!



Year Four Class News

🌸🌿 Year 4 have been learning about William Morris in art, exploring his intricate floral and leaf designs and evaluating his wallpaper designs. We looked at various leaves and flowers and had a go at sketching some simple ideas using line drawing. We considered the technicality of symmetry with leaves and flowers as a lot of William Morris' style uses symmetry. We are super excited with this learning as we are going to be creating our own wallpaper designs in the style of William Morris. 🌿🌸



Year Five Class News

This week, Year 5 embraced their creativity by making beautiful outdoor art using natural materials. Working in small teams, they used leaves, sticks, flowers, soil, and bark to craft unique pieces. The children thought carefully about size, pattern, shape, form, and colour, and the results were truly impressive. Each group collaborated to bring their artistic vision to life, creating stunning works that showcase their teamwork and imagination.



Year Six Class News

On Thursday, Year 6 took part in an online safety workshop with Diana and Michael from the People's Theatre Collective. We started with some warm-up games before splitting into six groups to explore what we want from our relationships—both online and offline. We discussed what a healthy relationship looks like with our friends and families, as well as the signs of an unhealthy relationship and we used drama to explore these themes. Using our ideas, we created a conscience alley and reflected on the pressures of being online versus offline. We wrapped up with a debate on whether phones should be allowed in school. It was an engaging, fun, and active way to learn about a really important issue.

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**





Arbor

We are excited to announce that we will be moving our MIS (*a school MIS is a suite of powerful tools that helps schools and trusts to manage daily school life. As well as meeting important statutory obligations like Census, it facilitates the management of attendance, behaviour, assessment, and staff data*) to Arbor during the Easter Holidays.

Adopting Arbor will allow us to communicate with you more efficiently and bring all core school data and workflows into one system.

We are really looking forward to getting started with Arbor and invite all our parents to familiarise themselves using the link below.

Getting started - Log into the Parent Portal and the Parent App.
<https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/sections/201716749-Parent-Portal-and-the-Arbor-App-as-a-parent>

Arbor also offers access to many training resources which are completely free for you to make the most of! These can all be found here - <https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/sections/201716749-Parent-Portal-and-the-Arbor-App-as-a-parent>

We will send further communication on Parent Hub, and how to register on during the new term, please look out for this information and register your child when prompted.

We hope you are looking forward to using this new feature as much as we are!

Holy Week at St John's and St Joseph's, Banbury

Palm Sunday

- 4pm Saturday Vigil Mass.
- 8.30am Procession and Holy Mass at St John's
- 10.00am Procession and Holy Mass at St Joseph's
- 11.30am Procession and Holy Mass at St John's

The Sacred Triduum

Maundy Thursday

- 7.00pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at St John's followed by The Watch until 11.45pm Compline

Good Friday

- 9.30am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer
- 10.15am Children's Stations of the Cross
- 3.00pm The Liturgy of Good Friday at St John's
- 7.00pm Stations of the Cross at St Joseph's
- 8.00pm Stations of the Cross at St John's.

Holy Saturday

- 9.30am Office and Readings and Morning Prayer
- 8.30pm Solemn Vigil of Easter

Easter Sunday

- 8.30am Holy Mass at St John's
- 10.00am Holy Mass at St Joseph's
- 11.30am Holy Mass at St John's