



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: 26
Friday 4th April 2025

It's been a wonderfully busy week at St John's with so many fantastic things to celebrate! The children are doing incredibly well at their **Big Lent Walk**, and our Year 1 class have even finished their laps!! They've walked 15 miles which is the equivalent of 90 laps of the school field – incredible efforts from Year 1. The rest of the school are still walking their way throughout Lent too so, any more donations would be so greatly welcomed. Follow the link to donate: <https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-johns-rc-primary-school-fundraising-page?edit=page>
THANK YOU to those who have donated already – we are over halfway to our fundraising total!

As we journey towards **Holy Week**, we take this time to reflect on the love, sacrifice, and hope that Easter brings. In school, the children have been deepening their understanding of this most sacred time through prayer, reflection, and acts of kindness, reminding us all of the true meaning of the season.

A gentle reminder that on Wednesday 23rd April, you are most welcome to come and join us for our **EYFS and KS1 Easter Bonnet parade!** And for any **KS2** children who are budding gardeners in the making, they have the opportunity to create their very own **Easter Garden!**

Wishing you a blessed Holy Week and a joyful Easter.



Stars of the Week

Congratulations to the following people who received awards this week:

Nursery: Dhatri

Reception: Raul, Amayah, Ella

Year 1: Florina, Kenzo, Takunda

Year 2: Theo, Agnes, Esther

Year 3: Hamilton, Angela, John

Year 4: Sanchez, Jesse, Felicity

Year 5: Zion, Isabella B, Chidindu

Year 6: Elaina, Olivier, Nathan



House Points

Earth: 449 (7337)

Fire: 383 (7542)

Water: 389 (7267)

Air: 349 (7281)

Attendance to 28th March 2025 (we always report a week behind)

EYFS	95.1%	Year One	97.9%
Year Two	93.7%	Year Three	89.3%
Year Four	97%	Year Five	93.6%
Year Six	99.3%	Whole School	95.2%

Mercy and Compassion

This Sunday's Gospel reveals the depths of God's mercy and compassion and the need for each one of us, in our own way, to make a new start with God.

Jesus was teaching in the Temple when the teachers of the Law brought a woman to him who had broken the Law. They said to Jesus, "Master, this woman has broken the Law and should be stoned to death. What have you to say?" Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, "If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." When they heard this, they went away quietly, one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman. Then Jesus asked the woman, "Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she replied. "Neither do I. Go, but do not sin anymore," said Jesus.

Regardless of our past, each day we are given an opportunity to make a new start. Jesus just waits for us with the gentleness and patience of God. Lent is traditionally a time for making a new start. Perhaps we can: remember to start each morning with a prayer and thank God for each new day and for each other; make a new start with church; follow Jesus' example in this Sunday's Gospel by being merciful to 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, and during the holidays, we celebrate:

Esther – 1st April

Evana – 9th April

Meeval – 19th April

Aithan – 1st April

Sefania – 12th April

Litta – 20th April

Sienna – 4th April

Henry – 13th April

Osmond – 6th April

Amelia – 14th April

Stefan – 8th April

Ruva – 18th April



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 exploring the events of Holy Week through role play, song and art. The children have been brilliantly engaged and focussed. Nursery have asked some insightful questions and Reception have produced some lovely writing and thoughtful artwork. We have been talking about the importance of the cross to Christians and have been making some crosses and searching for crosses around our rooms.



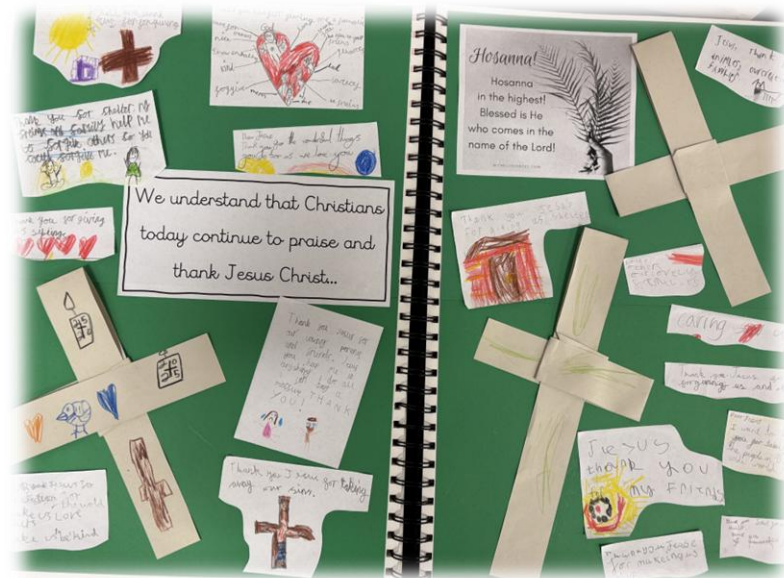
Year One Class News

In our final week before the Easter holidays, we have been focusing on Holy Week in RE. We re-enacted the Palm Sunday story, bringing it to life in a fun and engaging way. We also completed our challenge of running 90 laps of the field to raise money for CAFOD this Lent—what an incredible achievement! In science, we continued our topic on human features by making the most of the lovely weather. We traced around our bodies outside to explore what we looked like, which was both exciting and educational. What a fun-filled way to end the term!



Year Two Class News

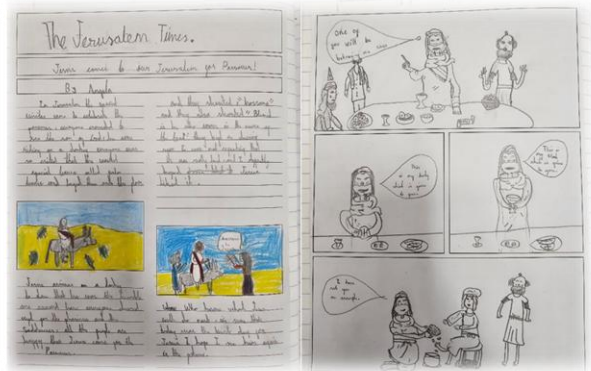
✚ PRAISING AND THANKING ✚



We have been busy exploring Holy Week this week in our R.E and English lessons. We have retold some stories beautifully and used our artistic skills to represent stories well. We started the week exploring Palm Sunday and how this is celebrated in Church. The children made some paper crosses of their own and we reflected on why we continue to praise and thank Jesus today. We know that Holy Week is a super special time for us all and I hope you have a lovely Easter break with your wonderful families! 🕯️

Year Three Class News

What a fantastic week to end the term! To commemorate Holy Week, the children wrote newspaper reports detailing the events of Palm Sunday. They also designed some beautiful comic strips depicting the Last Supper, learning about its symbolism and relevance to the Eucharist. We have also concluded our learning of fractions, as well as our Lent walk, with the class showing fantastic determination and perseverance on both fronts. The children should be proud of how hard they have worked this term, and very much deserve some well-earned rest over the Easter break. See you on the other side!



Year Four Class News

🌍 INVASION GAMES 🌍

Year 4 spent yesterday morning at BGN competing in a variety of invasion games with other local schools. These activities includes football, rugby, roller ball and netball. The sheer determination, perseverance and teamwork was utterly wonderful to see. Year 4 represented themselves and St John's so wonderfully – amazing efforts from the whole class!



Year Five Class News

Year 5 Lead the Stations of the Cross

This week, Year 5 took on the important role of leading the Stations of the Cross for the whole school. The prayerful and reflective event was a powerful reminder of Jesus' Passion, as each station was thoughtfully presented by the children. As part of their preparation, the students created beautiful artwork using watercolours and chalk pastels to craft stunning sky backgrounds, with silhouettes of each station capturing the significant moments of Jesus' journey. It was a meaningful way for the entire school to come together in reflection this lent.



Year Six Class News




A huge congratulations to Alex, Arianne, Artur, Cailean, Cian, Holly, Ivy-Bella, Jagoda, Julianna, Kingsley, Max, Nathan, Olivier and Zuzanna who made the Sacrament of Confirmation last weekend! It was a beautiful service, and all the children were so reverent—truly a pleasure to witness. The readers did a wonderful job, and we are all incredibly proud of you! May the Lord guide you with his love and keep you in his care.

Key Dates

Tuesday 22nd April	School begins – School opens at 8:45am
Wednesday 30 th April	Key Stage 1 All Stars Cricket Festival at BGN
Monday 5 th May	Bank Holiday – School Closed
Wednesday 7 th May	EYFS class assembly – all invited 9:05am
Monday 12 th May – Thursday 15 th May	Year 6 SATs week
Thursday 15 th – Friday 16 th May	Year 4 residential to Youlbury
Monday 19 th May	Key Stage 2 Quadkids at BGN
Wednesday 21 st May	Year 5 class assembly – all invited 9:05am
Friday 23rd May	School finishes for May half term 3:20pm
Monday 26th – Friday 30th May - Half Term	
Monday 2nd June	School begins – School opens at 8:45am
Monday 2 nd June – Friday 13 th June	Year 4 Multiplication Table Check
Thursday 5 th June	Year 5 & 6 Dynamo Cricket at Banbury Cricket Club
Monday 9 th June – Friday 13 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
Wednesday 11 th June	Whole School Pilgrims of Hope Retreat Day
Wednesday 18 th June	Year 2 class assembly – all invited 9:05am
Wednesday 25 th June	Year 3 class assembly – all invited 9:05am
Thursday 26 th June	Year 3 Multi-skills at BGN
Saturday 28th June	Year 3 First Holy Communion, 10.00am, at St John the Evangelist Church
Monday 30 th June – Thursday 3 rd July	Year 6 transition week at BGN
Wednesday 2 nd July	Year 4 class assembly – all invited 9:05am
Wednesday 9 th July	Year 1 class assembly – all invited 9:05am
Wednesday 16 th July	Year 6 class assembly – all invited 9:05am
Wednesday 16 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Play
Thursday 17 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass at school (10:30am)
Friday 18 th July	Year 6 Leavers' assembly (9:05am)
Friday 18th July	School finishes for summer 1:30pm
Monday 21 st July	INSET Day for staff – school closed
Tuesday 22 nd July	INSET Day for staff – school closed

OneLife Music

As we begin our journey through Holy Week, we would like to share with you some wonderful 'One Life' resources that your children have enjoyed using in school during Lent  These resources have helped them to reflect on the themes of prayer, sacrifice, and the love of Christ as we prepare to celebrate Easter.




To continue this special journey at home, we encourage you to explore these materials together as a family. They offer a meaningful way to deepen faith and reflection during this sacred time.

Monday 14th March: youtu.be/6OC_GTMeT7U

Tuesday 15th March: youtu.be/CG6U3hDZtr4

Wednesday 16th March: youtu.be/4oC8aW9k3jY

Maundy Thursday 17th March: youtu.be/N6fQocmFdeI

Thank you for your ongoing support in nurturing the spiritual life of our school community. We wish you and your families a blessed and peaceful Holy Week   

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.





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