



CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Executive Head Teacher: Gerida Montague MA
School Senior Lead: Eleanor Prince BA PGCE

February 2024 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a really great half term and I am glad to see the daylight increasing as we move towards Spring. We have a busy half term ahead, with some special events such as our 'Living Eggs', God's Planet Spring tour and World Book Day, which will take place in school on Friday, 8th March. We can't wait to see children and staff dressed as their favourite book characters.

Shrove Tuesday



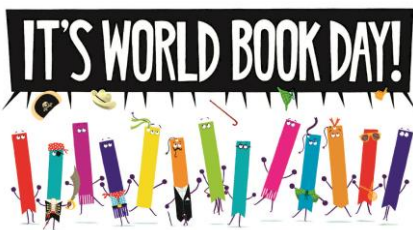
Many thanks to our lovely kitchen staff for helping us to prepare for Lent by offering Pancakes with our lunches on Shrove Tuesday.

Tea, coffee and biscuits morning drop-in



Thank you to those who attended our last coffee morning. The next one will be on **Thursday, 7th March 8.30am** and will be held in the hall. We hope this will be another way to drop in and have an informal chat and cup of coffee or tea with a member of the senior team. We do have an open-door policy, but hope that this regular slot will enable more of our families to come in and share any positive or development items that you may have.... or just pop in to say hello!

World Book Day



We will be celebrating World Book Day at school on **Friday, 8th March**. (*Please note this date has changed from Thursday, 7th March*). To add to the day's enjoyment, all the children will have the opportunity to dress up if they wish as their favourite book character for the day. If your child chooses to dress up please bear in mind that your child will be wearing their costume for the whole day, so costumes will need to be practical and comfortable.

Curriculum and Enrichment

Religious Education

We started this month exploring our exciting Revelations unit, where the children explored how Christ revealed God's love to the world through His many parables and miracles, and how this is revealed to us today through the proclamation of the Gospels at Mass. Higher up the school, the children are also learnt about the Great Commission and the role of the Church in continuing to spread the Good News today. From Ash Wednesday we moved into our Lenten unit to explore the special time of year until Easter. We are looking forward to welcoming Fr David and Linda for Assemblies and Worship as they support and guide us through the Lenten season.

Year R

We have been enjoying exploring our traditional tale of the half term - the Gingerbread Man! In our reading and writing time we have been practicing sequencing the story and thinking about the characters from the story. We enjoyed using our cooking skills to bake our own gingerbread man. In our science learning, we spent time thinking about the word 'dissolve'. We conducted experiments to think about materials that do and don't dissolve before applying our knowledge to create our very own vessels to carry the Gingerbread man safely across the water.

Year 1

This half term, we have been learning all about Norman the Slug with the Silly Shell. Norman has asked for our help in finding him a new perfect shell! We have been exploring a range of different shells using adjectives to help. In Maths, we have been looking at place value of numbers up to 50! We have been exploring different numbers and values and representing them pictorially in our books. In Science we have built on our learning from Spring 1 looking at how we can categorise animals as carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores. We have been creating plates of food for different animals based on their classification. In History we have been learning about Grace Darling. We have been taking into consideration why she is a significant individual, alongside how we can be brave and persevere in our own lives. In Art we have been printing. We have been thinking about the different materials we can use to print and how they create different effects.

Year 2

Coming back from the half term break, the year 2's were shocked to discover a mysterious egg which had appeared in our classroom. We have begun to explore the mysterious world of mythical beasts and magical creatures, in a quest to discover where the egg might have come from, and what is inside it, in order to create a non-chronological report of our own mythical creatures.

In Science, we have begun our new topic; Animals including humans. We have explored food chains discovering how energy is passed between plants and animals. In History, we are learning all about Florence Nightingale and the amazing influence she has had on our world today.

Year 3

In year 3 we have loved sharing the story of Edward Tulane and thinking about what kind of character he is. We are now writing, in role, as the pretentious china rabbit as he sinks to the bottom of the sea. In Geography we are exploring different climates and the impact we are having on climate change. Beans are growing in our Science corner and we will be observing how they change throughout the half term and recording the changes in our booklets.

Year 4

In English, Year 4 have been writing poetry inspired by 'The Lost Words'. Children have been immersing themselves in this to understand how to create descriptions of nature. In Science we are learning about states of matter and the water cycle. We will look at what the water cycle is and how water can exist as a liquid, solid and gas. In Geography we are learning about rivers. We have been identifying rivers in the UK and considering their location in relation to cities. We will learn about how rivers are formed. We will consider the river Itchen as a river in our own locality.

Year 5

Children in Year 5 have been creating an adventure based narrative where their main character has to overcome a hazard. They have created fear and tension in this piece by using show don't tell, repetition for effect and different sentence types. In maths, the children have been studying fractions. They have worked on ordering fractions that have different denominators, changing an improper fraction to a mixed number and converting a mixed number to an improper fraction.

Year 6

Year 6 have just begun a new unit in their writing, 'The Explorer'. This is an adventure story involving a group of children and the journey they take in order to survive being stranded in the Amazon Rainforest... alone. 'As the plane crashes into the canopy, Fred is suddenly left without a choice. He and the three other children may be alive, but the jungle is a vast, untamed place. With no hope of rescue, the chance of getting home feels impossibly small. Except, it seems, someone has been there before them.' We will be using this story as a stimulus to write our own narrative - with a twist... watch this space!

Year 6 Residential to Little Canada

Year 6 are becoming very excited about the residential to Little Canada, 17th to 21st June. Many parents are paying in regular instalments and I would like to thank you for ensuring these are up to date. Full payment needs to be made by **19th April 2024**, as Little Canada requires payment at this time.

REMINDERS

Class Photographs



Tempest photography will be in school on Tuesday, 19th March to take Class photos, whole Year R to Year 6 and the School Council. Proofs will be sent home so parents can place an order online if they wish. We need to supply Tempest with class lists in advance of the day so they can keep a record of photos taken and ensure orders are printed correctly and matched with the relevant children. If you do not wish us to provide the photographers with your child's details please let us know in writing, via the school office, by Friday, 8th March at the latest.



Dogs must **not** be brought onto school premises. This includes the playground and the area in front of school just inside the gates. This is a Health & Safety requirement so we would appreciate your full support.

Attendance

Thank you to all those families who work hard to ensure their children are in school every day. Our school target is 97.6% and currently our attendance is at 95.74%. Sadly, we still have a group of children who do not come to school enough. Please ensure if your child is ill that you call school to let us know... we worry if our children do not attend.



Online Payments

A reminder you can register online to make payments for dinners and school trips. Please check out our website (www.OLSJschool.co.uk) on the Tucasi link. We are unable to accept cash, debit or credit cards as a method of payment.

You will need a Scopay/Tucasi account to sign up for the upcoming parents' evenings. A reminder containing your individual link was sent home last week so please do make sure you sign up as soon as possible.

Dates for your Diary

- Wednesday, 6th March – PTA Mother's Day Wrap Room
- Thursday, 7th March – Gods Planet Spring Tour
- Friday, 8th March – World Book Day
- Friday, 8th March – 1.30pm School Council Belmore Lodge
- Monday, 11th March – Year 2 Duckling kits arriving
- Tuesday, 12th March – 2.45pm Y1 Pip & Pap Workshop
- Wednesday, 13th March – 2.45pm YR Pip & Pap Workshop
- Thursday, 14th March – 2.45pm Y2 Pip & Pap Workshop
- Friday, 15th March – Year 1-6 Children's Reports out to Parents
- Tuesday, 19th March – Class Photographs
- Friday, 22nd March – Inset Day
- Monday, 25th March – 2.15pm Stations of the Cross Mass – Families welcome
- Week commencing 25th March – Parents evenings
- Friday, 29th March – Friday, 12th April – Easter Holidays
- Friday, 19th April – Y2 Marwell Zoo Trip
- Monday, 6th May – Bank Holiday
- Monday, 13th May – Thursday, 16th May – Year 6 SATS
- Monday, 4th June – Inset Day
- Tuesday, 5th June – Inset Day
- Monday, 10th June – Friday, 14th June – Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
- Monday, 17th - Friday 21st June – Year 6 Little Canada Residential



Have a great half term.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'G. Montague'.

Mrs Gerida Montague
Executive Headteacher