



## CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

# February 2023 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 through towards Spring. We have a busy half term ahead with some special events such as our 'Living Eggs' in Year 2, Music Concert in Y3 & 4 and Swimming, as well as World Book Day, which will take place in school on Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March with the children and staff being able to dress up as their favourite book character.

## Ash Wednesday

On 22<sup>nd</sup> February, Linda Guilding visited the school to lead a liturgy for Ash Wednesday and distribute ashes to the pupils and staff. The ashes are taken from blessed palm branches, from the previous year's Palm Sunday mass. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection and fasting, which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday.



## 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. The PTA also held a pancake flipathon! They made £125.30 in funds for the school.

## Tea, coffee and biscuits morning drop-in – PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

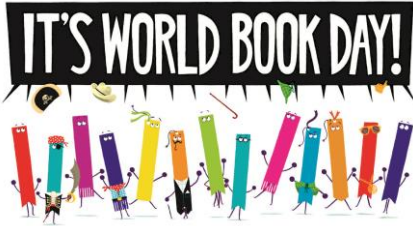


Thank you to those who attended our first coffee morning. The next one will be on **Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March** and will be held in the hall. We hope this will be another way to drop in and have an informal chat and cup of coffee or tea with a member of the senior team. We do have an open-door policy, 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!

## ECO Warriors

Our ECO Warriors have been meeting regularly to think about how we can continue to improve our school grounds. They have been discussing which RSPB wildlife challenges they would like our school to take part in. They have written to different garden centres to ask for purple plants for World Epilepsy Day and have had an overwhelming response! Watch this space for more information.

## World Book Day



We will be celebrating World Book Day at school on **Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March**. (*Please note this date has changed from Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

We also ask that pupils bring in a £1 donation for BookTrust, the UK's largest children's reading charity. They ensure that books reach children across the country and have previously donated reading material to Year R pupils at our school.

As part of our 'World Book Day' celebrations, we are asking all children to take part in our partnership "Bookface" competition! All children need to do is choose a book cover to create a photo that blurs the lines of reality - by replacing the book's cover with a part of themselves! There will be a prize for the winning entries across the partnership. All entries will be printed and used as part of a school display. Please email your child's photo in to [bookface@holylive.net](mailto:bookface@holylive.net) by **Wednesday 1st March**. Don't forget to state your child's name and school in the email – all entries to be sent to this email address.



## 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.

### Year R

During our term so far, we have been learning a new traditional tale - The Gingerbread Man! During Writing, we have been focusing on retell the story in different ways. We have used puppets, masks and story spoons to deepen our understanding of what happens at the beginning, middle and end of the story. Then, we have used our knowledge of the story to write our own using WOW words to describe the different animals and people The Gingerbread Man meet along the way. To mirror this learning, within EAD, we have been thinking about malleable materials, particularly biscuit dough. We were lucky enough to make our very own Gingerbread men! We gathered our ingredients, followed a recipe, baked them and then decorated them. We had the best time! In Science, we have been thinking about dissolving. Miss Cassar set us a mission to make our own boats

so that The Gingerbread Man did not dissolve on his journey across the river as well as stopping him from being eaten by the fox!

To find out more about our learning, please use these links to the Year R curriculum page on our website:  
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/62fe504e009fb30bb9cc92c0/t/62fe7a6b8c77e107e155e5ca/1660844651546/EYFS+-+Spring+2.pdf>

## Year 1

In Spring 2 Year 1 have been learning about: Writing: We have been writing all about monsters! We have considered our word choices ensuring our descriptions scare any reader! Maths: In maths, we have been recapping multiplication and division. We have been working on arrays and thinking about how our understanding of our timetables can help us when presenting our work. History: In History, we explored a range of different pictures and used our inference skills to write down what we thought. We found out it was a rescue carried out by a young girl named Grace Darling. RE: In RE we have been learning all about Lent. We thought about how Jesus was feeling during his 40 days in the wilderness. We've had lots of fun during our first couple of weeks back and look forward to seeing where our learning takes us.

To find out about what the children will be learning over the next three weeks, please use these links to the curriculum pages on our website:

[Computing](#)  
[English](#)  
[Geography](#)

[Maths: Fractions](#)  
[Music](#)  
[PE](#)

[PSHE](#)  
[RE](#)  
[Science](#)

## Year 2

In Year 2, we have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes! We've been learning how to compare them using lots of mathematical language! We also went on a shape hunt to discover new shapes! In writing, we received a mysterious egg to protect! We have been making inferences about what creature could be inside using our mythical creatures book! We have loved learning about the miracles Jesus performed in RE and learning about parables he told and the messages they give us!

To find out about what the children will be learning over the next three weeks, please use these links to the curriculum pages on our website:

[Computing](#)  
[English](#)  
[Geography](#)

[Maths: Money and Fractions](#)  
[Music](#)  
[PE](#)

[PSHE](#)  
[RE](#)  
[Science](#)

## Year 3

Year 3 have started off Spring 2 by diving into some interesting topics such as Climate Change. The children have really engaged with this important topic and are looking forward to producing some persuasive speeches that will be accompanied by their own powerful eco-themed artwork. They loved creating their own graffiti last term, which featured important messages that they wanted passers-by to see, so I have no doubt that their eco artwork will be just as inspired! In reading this term, we have looked at a book called 'Wisp'. This book explores themes of hope and peace for children who have only ever known refugee camps. The children have been connecting to this book in a deep and profound way and it has been lovely to hear their thoughts and feelings surrounding this text, especially in regards to their own wishes to help others. In Science this term, we will be looking closely at plants, which includes an exciting bean growing experiment! The children will build on their Year 2 understanding of plants to explore the pollination process of plants and we will also touch on how important bees are for our world!

To find out about what the children will be learning over the next three weeks, please use these links to the curriculum pages on our website:

[Computing](#)  
[English](#)  
[History](#)  
[Maths: Fractions and Money](#)

[MFL](#)  
[Music](#)  
[PE](#)  
[PSHE](#)

[RE](#)  
[Science](#)

## Year 4

Year 4 have been working really hard this term. Their English Journey setting descriptions sounded fantastic and had lots of lovely language. They all really immersed themselves within the topic. This term we are very excited about writing a diary entry from the perspective of a witch or wizard who will attend Hogwarts. This will be part of a rags to riches change. In Geography we have started our unit on rivers and in science we will be learning about states of matter. The children are already enthused by these.

To find out about what the children will be learning over the next three weeks, please use these links to the curriculum pages on our website:

[Computing](#)  
[English](#)  
[History](#)

[Maths: Statistics, Fractions,  
Decimals and Measures](#)  
[MFL](#)  
[Music](#)

[PE](#)  
[PSHE](#)  
[RE](#)  
[Science](#)

## Year 5

This term Year 5 are writing a character description on an evil villain using new sentence techniques and punctuation to create fear and tension for the reader. In reading, they are exploring inferences of different characters and character relationships. In maths the children will be working on fractions, decimals and percentages. They will be exploring the close relationship they have and learning to convert between these units.

To find out about what the children will be learning over the next three weeks, please use these links to the curriculum pages on our website:

[Computing](#)

[MFL](#)

[Music](#)

[PE](#)

[Maths: Fractions, Decimals and Percentages](#)

[PSHE](#)

[RE](#)

[Science](#)

[English](#)

[History](#)

## Year 6

Year 6 are reading The Explorer this half term and using the plot as a stimulus for our own adventure story. We are considering using 'flashbacks' and re-organising the story structure for the best impact on the reader. Our stories will be set in different places around the world because we need to consider different obstacles the characters may encounter and how they will overcome these!

To find out about what the children will be learning over the next three weeks, please use these links to the curriculum pages on our website:

[Computing](#)

[English](#)

[History](#)

[MFL](#)

[Maths: Fractions, Decimals and Percentages, Measures and Shape](#)

[Music](#)

[PE](#)

[PSHE](#)

[RE](#)

[Science](#)

## Year 6 Residential to Bude

Year 6 are becoming very excited about the residential to Bude in 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 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023, as Bude requires payment at this time.

## REMINDERS

### Class Photographs



Tempest photography will be in school on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> 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 96.05%. 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](http://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

- Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Coffee Morning
- Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March – World Book Day
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March – Open Class at 3.15pm
- Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> March – Year 2 Duckling kits arriving
- Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> March – Year 3 & 4 Music Showcase 2.30pm
- Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March - Class Photographs
- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Y4 & 5 Stations of the Cross Mass 9am
- Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> March – Parents Evening
- Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> March – Parents Evening
- Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> March – Spring Songs & Poems 8.45am
- 3<sup>rd</sup> April – 14<sup>th</sup> April – Easter holidays
- Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> April – Year 1 & 2 trip to Marwell Zoo
- w/c 24<sup>th</sup> April – Year 3 & 4 swimming
- Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> May – May Day bank holiday
- Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> May – King's Coronation – extra bank holiday
- Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> May – Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> May – Year 6 SATS Week
- Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Sports day and family picnic
- Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> May – Inset Day
- Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> May – Inset Day
- 29<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June – half term
- Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> June – 13<sup>th</sup> June – Scholastic Book Fair
- Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> July – break up for the Summer Term
- Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> September – Inset Day
- Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> September – Pupils return to school



Have a great half term.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. Montague". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mrs Gerida Montague  
Executive Headteacher