



CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
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March 2024 Newsletter

*Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like
showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants.*

(Deuteronomy 32:2)



Dear Parents

Spring is truly here at Our Lady & St Joseph! There are daffodils and crocuses on the school grounds and the sound of new life filling the corridors, with the quacks of the little ducklings that have successfully hatched in Year 2!

Curriculum and Enrichment

Year R

In Year R, we have been exploring animals! We have enjoyed learning about different places and the animals that we might find there. We have explored jungle and farm animals. We explored the role of a farmer and enjoyed looking at jobs on the farm such as milking cows, shearing sheep and collecting chicken eggs. We have extended our learning by listening to stories such as *What the Ladybird Heard* and *The Scarecrow's Wedding*.

Year 1

This month, Year 1 have been learning... **Writing:** In our outdoor area we discovered some slime and a pair of underpants! We realised that Norman had been flying over our school! We needed to share this information with the school therefore, we decided to become news reporters. We have been writing our own news reports on the event using lots of exciting features. **Maths:** In Maths, we have been learning all about capacity. We have been using different containers to measure alongside using keywords in our written responses to show our understanding. **History:** In History, we have continued with our learning about Grace Darling. We have considered the thoughts and feelings of key individuals during the rescue and compared how a water rescue would be different now. **RE:** In RE, we have been learning about Lent and thinking about how can we use Lent to get to know God and Jesus better.

Year 2

We have been very fortunate to have five gorgeous ducklings hatch in our class. During the incubation period we ensured the eggs were kept warm and moist, keeping a close eye on them to spot any cracks. After a day or so the eggs began to hatch and we were lucky enough to witness the ducklings emerging from their shells. We have done a great job in rearing the ducklings, keeping them fed and watered and even showing them how to swim. It was sad to see the ducklings leave but we wish them good luck in their new home with Miss Taylor's sister. Volunteers from the NSPCC came into our class, bringing with them a very special guest, Buddy the speech bubble. Buddy and the volunteers delivered an assembly teaching us how to speak out and stay safe. We talked about who our safe adults are at home and at school with whom we can talk to when we have a worry. We also learned actions to remember the childline telephone number!

Year 3

Year 3 have been exploring the world around us in Geography and Science. We have researched what the Greenhouse Effect is and what causes it. We have then explored the life cycle of flowers and dissected a flower to see the different parts needed for pollination. In maths we have become fraction experts and we are able to find unit and non-unit fractions of amounts. We have worked very hard to use mathematical language when talking about fractions. Things have taken a spooky turn in our writing and we are busy writing a journey narrative that builds tension about Edward Tulane in an empty park.

Year 4

Year 4 have had an amazing half-term! We have had the opportunity to explore and relate to some wonderful poetry and developed our skills in writing our own poems. We were able to link our work to themes in the natural world which gave them deeper meaning and context. Of particular note was how much we have developed our creativity and use of language. In our Geography lessons, we have looked at rivers, locations of rivers, processes that take place in rivers and the geographical features associated with river formation and development. The River Itchen has been our case study as a local river that displays many of the features we are learning about. Linked to this our science has been all about the water cycle. Specifically, we have considered the states of matter and global issues surrounding it. We are looking forward to our upcoming charity auction as we have some great contributions made from beach-found debris and sea glass.

For the entire half term, Year 4 has amazed me. Some of our poems were so excellent that I am at a loss for words. The children relished the connection to the natural world, and their language and creativity were remarkable. Our upcoming unit, a diary entry written from Hagrid's point of view in Harry Potter, has me very excited. They all seem really inspired about it, and I have no doubt that they will sound fantastic. We have been studying rivers further in Geography. We covered a great deal of ground about the formation and meandering of rivers, including the Itchen River. We now know about what is known as Oxbow Lake as well. We are studying the water cycle and the many states of matter in Science. We have thought about the global water cycle, why it is the way it is, and the potential issues that could arise if human activity were to alter it. We are all very

excited about the upcoming auction to raise money for charity. We have some fantastic pieces that incorporate various beach-found debris and sea glass.

Year 5

In writing, Year 5 have been exploring the stimulus of The Piano Man. Using a range of technical skills, they have created sorrow and sympathy when creating a key flashback of the character's life. In maths, the children have been learning about fractions, decimals and percentages. They have looked closely at the links between them and how a part of a number can be presented in many different ways.

Year 6

Year 6 have been studying coasts this half term. We have discussed erosion, how this occurs, who or what is at risk and the engineering which can help to slow the process down. We also studied the pros and cons of soft and hard engineering and how different strategies are appropriate for different technical needs. The children looked at our local area and investigated the issues from Milford-on-Sea to Durdle Door and explored what is already in place to help support our homes, businesses, damage to infrastructure and agriculture.

Sporting News

Year 3/4 Netball

The school entered 2 teams into the local Priestlands netball tournament. Some children were playing in their first sports competition whilst others were more experienced at competing against other schools. After a tremendous effort, our B team finished 5th in their league and the A team managed to secure second place, only losing 1 game to Milford. A great effort from all our players.

Year 5/6 Netball

After weeks of lunchtime practise, the netball team finally got to put their hard work to the test at our local tournament. After defeating Pennington 3-1, South Baddesley 7-0 and Beaulieu 1-0 the team topped their qualifying group. In the final, they were met with a very well trained Milford side who were victorious by 7 goals to 1. This left the team with a well-deserved second place finish. As always, the children played with lots of determination and showed great sportsmanship.

Catholic Life News

Last week we had the exciting RISE Theatre visit our school.

RISE Theatre CIC is a professional Christian theatre company with a passion for delivering exciting, original, transformative theatre, with the aim of inspiring people of all ages to realise their full potential in life. Through multi-creative platforms they create opportunities for people of all ages to explore their sense of identity and purpose in the world. Together, we creatively explored God's planet, the impacts of a changing world and what we can do to help look after the planet in our own lives. Each class also had the opportunity to create some artwork, depicting what is happening to our planet and what we can do to look after God's creation. It was an AMAZING day and we can't wait until next year's visit!!



World Book Day

The children and staff all enjoyed World Book Day, as they do every year. A great chance for them all to dress as their favourite characters and for the teachers to decorate their classroom doors based on a book they are reading in class.

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 **95.76%**. If your child is too ill to attend school, please contact the school office each morning that they are away from school so that we can correctly record the reason and to ensure that we don't worry. Any absence from school without an explanation will be recorded as an unauthorised absence and will be investigated.

Uniform

Please ensure all uniform is clearly labelled with your child's name so that we are able to return any lost property to your child as and when it is found.

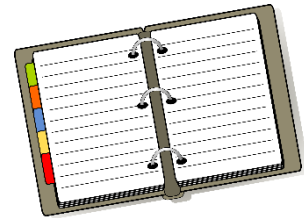
School Meals

Please check out the new Summer term menu from HC3S on our website that will be available after the Easter break.

School meals are £3.00 per day. Year R, 1 and 2 are all entitled to Universal free school meals. If you think your child may be eligible for free school meals due to your personal financial circumstances please use the below link to run an eligibility check.

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants/>

Dates for your Diary



- Friday, 29th March – Friday, 12th April – Easter Holidays
- Monday, 15th April – Back to school
- Tuesday, 23rd April – Yr 1 Pip & Pap Workshop 2.45pm
- Wednesday, 24th April – Yr R Pip & Pap Workshop 2.45pm
- Thursday, 25th April – Yr 2 Pip & Pap Workshop 2.45pm
- Friday, 3rd May - Raffle ticket selection with children (During Celebration assembly)
- Monday, 6th May – Bank Holiday
- Tuesday, 7th May – Yr 1 Pip & Pap Workshop 2.45pm
- Wednesday, 8th May – Yr R Pip & Pap Workshop 2.45pm
- Thursday, 9th May – Yr 2 Pip & Pap Workshop 2.45pm
- Monday, 13th May – Thursday, 16th May – Year 6 SATS
- Tuesday, 21st May – Yr 1 Pip & Pap Workshop 2.45pm
- Wednesday, 22nd May – Yr R Pip & Pap Workshop 2.45pm
- Thursday, 23rd May – Yr 2 Pip & Pap Workshop 2.45pm
- 27th – 31st May – Half Term
- Monday, 3rd June – Inset Day
- Tuesday, 4th June – Inset Day
- Wednesday, 5th June – Yr R Pip & Pap Workshop 2.45pm
- Thursday, 6th June – Yr 2 Pip & Pap Workshop 2.45pm
- Thursday, 6th June - Father's Day Wrap Room (PM)
- Thursday, 6th June - Whole School summer disco - After school
- Friday, 7th June – Outdoor Summer Mass Pentecost (Parents welcome)
- Monday, 10th June – Friday, 14th June – Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
- Tuesday 11th to Monday, 17th June – Scholastic Book Fair
- Monday, 17th - Friday 21st June – Year 6 Little Canada Residential
- Tuesday, 18th June – Yr 1 Pip & Pap Workshop 2.45pm
- Wednesday, 19th June – Yr R Pip & Pap Workshop 2.45pm
- Thursday, 20th June – Yr 2 Pip & Pap Workshop 2.45pm
- Tuesday, 2nd July – Yr 1 Pip & Pap Workshop 2.45pm
- Wednesday, 3rd July – Yr R Pip & Pap Workshop 2.45pm
- Thursday, 4th July – Yr 2 Pip & Pap Workshop 2.45pm
- Wednesday, 24th July – Last day of school

Have a wonderful Easter break.

Gerida Montague

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Executive Headteacher