



CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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October 2022 Newsletter



*The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our
God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8*

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our October newsletter, which brings us to the end of the first half term of this academic year! How time flies! It is lovely to see all of our children settling back into the routine of school so well and welcoming lots of new members of our school family.

Curriculum and Enrichment

Year R

During this term, we have been thinking all about ourselves. In Science, we have learnt all about our five senses. We've explored these in different ways. This week, we are thinking about touch.

We are learning the different parts of our hands and how we can use them to make observations around the world around us. During Writing, we have focused on our phonics characters - Pip and Pap!

We have learnt what a character is as well as labelling them with our new phonics knowledge. To mirror this, we have created our own Pip and Pap characters out of junk modelling resources where we've joined using our expressive arts and design skills! In Maths, we are continuing to focus on number but this week, we are looking at the number 4! We have learnt to make, write and find four.

Year 1

Year 1 have been having so much fun with their learning. In Writing, we received another letter from Pirate Jolly Roger! He was so impressed with our pirate descriptions that he asked us to immerse ourselves into the role of a pirate to help him find some lost treasure on his island! We have had lots of fun learning the language of a pirate and applying this in our writing! Yo ho! In Maths, we have been learning about addition. We have been able to apply this within part-part whole models and written some of our own addition sums.

In Science, we have been learning about the different seasons. We started off by working with our 'prediction pig' to think about what season we are in. We then went on a nature walk to see if our predictions were correct! We observed the changes in the trees during the different seasons and observed the leaves and how their colours have changed. We have really enjoyed our first half term back and look forward to seeing where our learning takes us after the break!

Year 2

In Year 2 we have produced some beautiful eco themed poetry around our shared class book 'Rainbow Fish'. We explored how sadly, our oceans are filled with debris and plastic – and how Rainbow Fish might feel swimming in such a dirty sea! As part of our English lessons, we have very much enjoyed sharing this book and learning about how Rainbow Fish changes his ways in the story and starts to share with others. We also had a lovely art skills week where we produced a canvas of an underwater picture!

Year 3

This month, Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed arts skills week, where they practised many skills needed for the year ahead. This included mixing primary and secondary colours using powder paints, creating clay pumpkins using a 'score, slip and blend' technique, as well as thinking about how to construct frames out of wood amongst other useful skills. In addition to this, the children wrote some beautiful environmentally focused poems on poetry day, of which I will send home on the last day of school so that you can enjoy these at home too!

Year 4

As we come to the end of the first term we look back at what we have achieved so far. We too have created some beautiful environmental poems – though ours are inspired by the book "The Lost Words," and have been written in an acrostic style. We have also created some fabulous 'abstract artwork' in the style of Wassily Kandinsky.

Year 5

This month children in Year 5 have continued writing their spooky story with a focus of creating fear and tension. They have studied adverbial phrases and fronted adverbials and used these skills in their writing. In maths, the children have continued to work on their problem solving skills, thinking about how the Singapore bar method could be applied to worded problems. They have also worked on addition, ensuring they applied their previous place value knowledge.

Year 6

We have been learning about using perspective in art. We have considered which theme from WW2 topic we would like to design, and have used a vanishing point from which our diagonals come from. This really supports the composition of the piece and ensures a realistic look. As part of our WW2 work, we have also been fortunate to explore some real life artefacts from the 1930s,

which were loaned to us from Hampshire County Council – including gas masks, ration books and evacuees’ suitcases. Year 5 and 6 were also lucky enough to watch a virtual recorded performance of National Theatre’s War Horse to inspire our writing next half term– which was fantastic.

Harvest Celebration

Thank you so much to all parents who attended our 'Harvest Sing Song' on Friday - it was lovely to see so many of you, so much so that we had to find some 'emergency chairs!!' The children absolutely loved performing to an audience and showing you a little snapshot of what they get up to when they are at school! We were overwhelmed with the food donations that the children brought in, as were the New Forest Basics Bank who will be distributing the food to families in need this winter. Thank you for your generosity. The pumpkins, squash, peppers and herbs that you see pictured were all grown by our children on the school grounds! A big well done to our soloists and readers and to the staff who made the event possible.



Year R also enjoyed a Harvest Celebration and sing-song last Friday! They very much loved performing to an audience -Thank you to all the parents that came along. The children also made beautiful salt-dough autumnal leaves to decorate their Harvest Table. Aren't they fabulous?



Pip and Pap Phonics

Our Year R parents are enjoying our 'Pip and Pap Phonics' workshops, where the children and parents share a story together, followed by a game and an art activity! Our pupils love to see their parents in school and to show off all they have been learning.

The children have also started to write words in their phonics sessions.



Gardening Club

A key focus for us at Our Lady is to support children to become 'architects of a better world.' With that in mind, we have started a weekly gardening club run by the green-fingered Mrs Rothwell!

Mrs Rothwell and her gardening team had great fun laying animal footprint 'traps' to see the wildlife that visits OLSJ at night! The children worked together to create 'sand traps' - with animal food in the middle. We will look at the footprints that have been left in the morning and see if we can identify any visitors! We will also use our special 'night vision' camera to help find out what creatures have visited us, and when!



National Poetry Day & Greenpeace Visit

On Thursday 6 October we celebrated National Poetry Day! The theme this year was 'The Environment'. Using our work from our Greenpeace assembly, the children wrote and performed some beautiful poems around this theme.

Thank you so much to Lindsey from Greenpeace who delivered an assembly for the children on Climate Change, it was fantastic.

Year 3&4 Football

Year 3 & 4 had a wonderful time at Priestlands Secondary School, taking part in a football tournament with other New Forest Schools. Both teams played well in their first 'Junior' outing, managing to score four goals between them. Well done!



CAFOD Workshops

We were lucky enough to have Steve and Isabella from CAFOD come to work with us for an assembly and a workshop that focused on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. We learned more about how we can be a good neighbour to others and support our global family around the world. We also received some lovely feedback from CAFOD about our staff and pupils, which you can read below:



Thank you again for the planning and execution of a wonderful day. Isabella and I certainly enjoyed it. All through the school the youngsters were very attentive and engaged with some great ideas and answers! I hope that they learned something of putting faith into action, which is what Catholic Social Teaching is all about. With the CST tree in the hall and the children's collection work, they are certainly active in caring for others. Great work by all the staff.

Library Bus

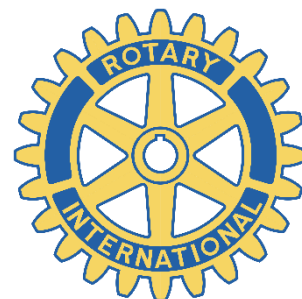


We had a grand re-opening of our Library Bus - complete with new stock after the SLS Library Services came with a raft of new books and titles for our shelves! More than 50 books were checked out on the first day of opening! The bus will be open every lunchtime for children to choose and change their books - these are not 'banded' and children can take home any story that piques their interest to read at home together. Congratulations to our new Year 5 librarians – all of whom wrote a beautiful letter to apply for the position. Our

new librarians will be on hand to support on the Library Bus at lunchtime, to recommend books and to support the younger children with checking out books.

Rotary Shoe Boxes

Don't forget that the Rotary Shoeboxes are due back straight after half term. The charity need enough time to send the boxes to Eastern Europe. If you haven't filled a box yet – you do still have time! Each box (filled with little gifts, such as a notepad and colouring pencils) will make a child smile this Christmas time. Thank you for your continued support.



PE kits

Please ensure your child has their P.E. kit in school at all times and that it is labelled. Below are the P.E. days for each year group:

Monday – Year 1

Tuesday – Year 2

Wednesday – Year 3 and Year 4

Thursday – Year 5

Friday – Year R and Year 6

School Applications

Please do invite your friends and local family members to consider our lovely school for their children

Deadline for September 2023 entry:

Year 7 (secondary school) places: **31 October 2022 at 23:59**

Year R (infant/primary school) places: **15 January 2023 at 23:59**

Please ensure you have submitted your applications on time and used all 3 preferences. Late applications can result in your child missing a place at your preferred school.

INSET Day Reminder

Thursday 20th October 2022

Friday 21st October 2022

Thursday 25th May 2023

Friday 26th May 2023

Dates for your Diary

- Thursday, 20th October – Staff Inset Day– Disaggregated
- Friday, 21st October – Staff Inset Day– Disaggregated
- 24th to 28th October – Half Term
- Monday, 31st October- Shoeboxes to be returned

- Monday, 21st November- Robin Stevens Author Q&A – KS2 Book Club – Book via Tucasi
- Tuesday, 22nd November- Y5 Calshot Trip – note 17.15 finish.
- Tuesday 22nd – Monday 28th November – Scholastic book fair (details to follow)
- Monday, 28th November – Jenny Pearson Author Q&A – KS2 Book Club – Book via Tucasi

- Thursday, 1st December – Y3/4 to see Matilda the Musical in London
- Thursday, 8th December – Y2 to see the Jolly Christmas Postman in Poole
- Thursday, 15th December – Christmas Dinner
- Tuesday, 3rd January 2023 – Back to School

