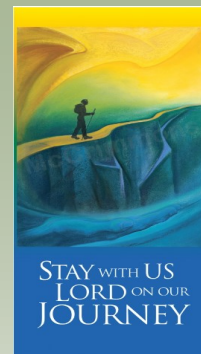




## St William of York Catholic Primary School

### Head Teacher's Newsletter



October 2023

Dear Parents,

It is nearly half term already—we break this Thursday and return on Monday 6th November. Thank you for all your support and patience over the last few weeks; as always, it is much appreciated.

#### **UPDATES ON THE BUILDING**

Year 3&4 are now happy and settled into their new classrooms. We are hoping that they will be carpeted over the half term holiday.

We have two new classrooms and a temporary hall arriving this week.

#### **CATHOLIC LIFE & MISSION**

It has been a very busy start to the new school year. Our GIFT team have been supporting whole school prayer and liturgy with a recent focus on the Rosary. They also did a great job of sorting your Harvest donations and taking them to the foodbank at Emmaus. Miss Harkin's Eco team are busy planning more ways of how we can all be being Stewards of God's creation by taking care of our school environment and beyond.

All our classes have been creating assembly videos to be shared with others as we await our temporary hall. We even had a couple of assemblies outside when the weather was warm and dry enough. We really miss getting together as a whole school family so we can't wait for our new hall to arrive.

#### **UNIFORM**

Thank you for sending your children back to school looking so smart in their new uniforms. We really appreciate your support with our uniform policy—you help us to set the standards for encouraging the children to be the best they can be. We now have quite a collection of nearly new uniform which we will be giving away for small donations. These items are in very good condition; it would be worthwhile having some spares at home, just in case.

#### **PARENT'S EVENING/BOOK LOOK**

On Wednesday 8th November you will have the opportunity to make an appointment to meet with your child's class teacher. The following week, there will be the opportunity for you to come into classrooms and have a look at your child's book.

Year 1&2 Book Look: Monday 13th November

Year 5&6 Book Look: Monday 14th November

Year 3&4 Book Look: Thursday 16th November

*Together, we can do great things!*

*Mrs Lightbown*

*Stay with us Lord, on our journey!*



## Head Teacher's Newsletter

### NURSERY

Nursery have been super busy this half term. We have settled into our new routines well and we have enjoyed exploring the outdoor and indoor area. We've enjoyed listening to a variety of stories, one of our favourites is 'Calm Down Boris'. We've enjoyed telling Boris to calm down when he becomes too excited. We have explored ways in which we are different; we explored hair colour and eye colour. We've talked about how it's good that we are all unique and that God loves us all. We have enjoyed exploring emotions in our drawings and we even created our own happy and sad pancake faces using fruit. We have enthusiastically joined in with our phonics sessions, we love playing "What's in the box?" and "Which instrument". We are becoming increasingly more confident subitising up to 3 and we are super at showing 1,2 and 3 on our fingers!



### RECEPTION

Reception have explored their feelings this half term through the story 'The Colour Monster'. We used our Voice 21 oracy skills to talk in full sentences to ourselves, our partners, and the whole class about when we feel happy, sad, anger, fear, calm and love. We looked at the colourful artwork of Jackson Pollock and created a collaborative piece in his style.

We are excellent story tellers using our story maps and Makaton signs, we can re-tell 'Peace at Last', 'The Colour Monster' and 'The Gruffalo' recalling the events in detail. We were surprised to discover that the Gruffalo was loose in our school and created posters labelled with the sounds we know to make everyone aware of who to keep an eye out for!

During our First Aid workshop we practised applying a cold compress, plasters and putting each other in a safe position.

In RE we recognised how important our names are and that God knows us all by name. We looked at pictures of our families, describing who was in the photos and realising we are all part of God's family.



October 2023

*Stay with us Lord, on our journey!*



## Head Teacher's Newsletter

### YEAR 1

It's been a busy half term in Year 1. We have talked about our families in RE and we discussed the roles of people within families. We know that families are full of love. In Science we have been looking at all the different parts of the body; we sang Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes to demonstrate our body parts to each other. We have been finding one more and one less than a given number in Maths and have enjoyed lots of practical activities. In English, we have been reading The Shopping Basket and have written our own shopping lists. We were very lucky to have Miss Haworth teaching us Music this term and we enjoyed learning new songs. Our favourite was Fairytale Tea Party!



### YEAR 2

We have been settling in brilliantly to the new and exciting challenges of Year 2. We have spent a lot of time thinking about God's most beautiful creations on Earth in RE and the importance of taking care of the world around us. We have had lots of pesky alien visitors helping us to build our stamina for writing in English. We have been using our knowledge of numbers to add beyond two-digits in maths. You can ask us anything about Neil Armstrong and the first moon landing – our History knowledge will blow you away. We know all about the properties of different materials and what they can be used for from our Science lessons. We have used John Piper's artwork to inspire our own collages with the help of Belinda in Art.



October 2023

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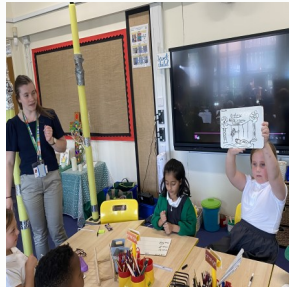




## Head Teacher's Newsletter

### YEAR 3

Year 3 have become experts at online safety. We know how to make a safe password, what we should do if we are ever worried about anything online and how we should never share anything online with a stranger. In RE we have explored the topics of 'Homes' and 'Promises'. We also had a wonderful, 'multi-faith' week where we found out lots about Hinduism. We have also been finding out about the sacrament of Baptism. Our Stone Age topic has been so interesting, we know all about the different time periods of the Stone Age and how Stone Age people became more sophisticated over time. We had a fantastic day out in Hoghton at 'Bring Yer Wellies'. Whilst we were there we became real archaeologists and dug for artefacts. In English, we have been writing stories linked to our book, 'The Stone Age Boy'. We have been so lucky to have Bolton Music Service teaching us music and we love singing 'Rollercoaster' together as a class. Madame Smith has been teaching us French months of the year and we can say when our birthday is. In maths, we have been learning lots of different strategies to help us add and subtract mentally. We have had a great first half-term in Year 3!



October 2023

### YEAR 4

What a fantastic start to the Year we have had in Year 4. The half term so far has been all about the Anglo Saxons, we have used the knowledge we have learned in history to write informative leaflets in English. In RE, we have been discussing our families and Jesus' human family. We have come together as a school family to share lots of quiet, reflective time in our collective worship. It's not all been quiet though, we have been working with Mr Navekar from Bolton Music Service to use the Djembe drums to develop our knowledge of pitch, pulse and dynamics. In maths, we have been building our oracy skills whilst discussing place value problems as well as solving some really tricky problems using the four operations.



*Stay with us Lord, on our journey!*



## Head Teacher's Newsletter

### YEAR 5

Year 5 have been enjoying reading 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' and we have written some beautiful setting descriptions and diary entries based on the story. Our Maths work has been impressive, with children able to round up to 1,000,000, find factors of numbers and identify prime and composite numbers. We have also demonstrated impressive resilience in tackling complex reasoning problems. As a class, we have been exploring the history of the Industrial Revolution and have particularly enjoyed finding out the origins of houses in Great Lever and how they are linked to the mills in Bolton. Our investigation into the Industrial Revolution has linked to our artwork where we have studied works by L.S. Lowry; we have painted our own Lowry inspired pieces. In Science, we have thoroughly enjoyed practical investigations into the properties of materials. In RE, we have been learning about our role in our school family, at home and within our community and we took a trip to Manchester Jewish Museum as part of our multi-faith week celebrations. We have been lucky enough to have weekly cricket lessons with Lancashire cricket club which we have thoroughly enjoyed. We completed first aid training with mini first-aid and welcomed a visit from our local PSCOs. It has been an amazing start to the year, we are motivated and are loving the responsibility which comes with being in upper key stage 2.



### YEAR 6

We have had an incredibly busy start to our final year at St Williams. Our highlight so far has definitely been our trip to the Anderton Centre. We managed to fit in so many super activities and enjoyed spending time with our friends taking part in activities which we have never done before. As part of Multi Faith week, we visited the Jewish Museum in Manchester. We thoroughly enjoyed exploring the Synagogue. We have been learning about the circulatory system in science and have found out who has the greatest lung capacity. In History, we have been learning about life in Ancient Greece and we had a fantastic debate about where would be best to live – Athens or Sparta. We are continuing to work hard in maths and have been learning long division this week. We have been very lucky to have the opportunity to work with Belinda our resident artist this half term and have almost finished our portraits of saints. We have also been improving our cricket with sessions with Lancashire Cricket.



*Stay with us Lord, on our journey!*