



## St William of York Catholic Primary School

### Head Teacher's Newsletter



November 2023

Dear Parents,

As we approach the season of Advent, our thoughts turn to this special time of preparation. Advent and the lead up to Christmas are always a special time in our school and this year will be no exception.

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

Thank you to all the families who participated in our Remembrance Prayer sessions. Thank you also to the members of the GIFT team who stayed behind every night to lead the prayers.

The Year 3 children who are due to start The Sacramental Programme up at Church, should have been notified. Please complete the slip and return it as soon as possible so that Father has an idea of numbers.

Our Climate Group have been working on their mission to support Bishop John with his commitment to help save our planet. They have been planting in our school grounds and looking at how we can develop sustainability in our school environment.

One thing we have really missed this year is our family coffee mornings. As soon as we have our temporary hall in use, we will prioritise family events and bring our community back together.

We are supporting our parish with their annual Christmas Fair which will take place on Saturday 2nd December at 12.30pm in The York Room at church. Bishop John came to visit school to gain a greater understanding of the challenges we are facing at the moment—as always, the children were a credit to their school and families.

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

We are still awaiting our new hall which is very frustrating but we will continue to work around it. Work has started on the field and we should have a new playground before the Christmas Holidays. We are also having all the doors and gates around school fobbed so that we can access all areas of school with greater ease.

#### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

We have just about managed to deliver a full PE curriculum this term despite the fact we do not have a functioning school hall. Our Key Stage 1 children are going to Beth Tweddle gym for their gymnastic sessions. We have secured sessions at Bolton Arena for the Spring and Summer terms so we can continue to offer a rich and varied PE curriculum.

Thank you for your patience, understanding and continued support—it is much appreciated. Together we can do great things! *Mrs Lightbown*

*Stay with us Lord, on our journey!*



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## NURSERY

In Nursery we have read 'Aliens love Underpants' which has led to lots of exciting opportunities for learning. We've enjoyed using 2D shapes to create our own aliens and have been using lots of mathematical language like 'corners' and 'sides' to describe shapes. We have been using scissors to cut out shapes and experiment with combining them together. We enjoyed using puppets in our small world area to re-tell the story 'Aliens love underpants'; we used our funky fingers to peg the underpants on the washing line. We are beginning to recognise our written names during our key talk time groups and we are continuing to subitise up to 3 and represent amounts up to 3 using our fingers. We are starting to explore various ways to show a number using our fingers. We brush our teeth every day, we are super at following instructions and waiting for our turn to get our toothbrush.



## RECEPTION

Reception have explored the season of Autumn through our observations of the outdoors and our story 'Leaf Man'. We used watercolours to paint the tree in our playground, noticing the colours on the leaves. We used the Autumn treasures we found on our walk to create temporary artwork in the style of Andy Goldsworthy.

We followed the adventures of Circle and Triangle in their stories, copying, recreating and continuing patterns of shapes and spotting shapes around school. We looked at Kandinsky's artwork and created a whole class piece using his 'concentric circles' as inspiration.

We have written instructions for how to have the perfect pyjama party using our magnetic sounds boards to make the words 'put' 'get' 'sit' and 'hot'. We came to school in our pyjamas, brought our teddies and enjoyed a hot chocolate whilst listening to a story!

In RE we talked about feeling welcome and how we welcome a new baby into the Church. We planned baby Sam's baptism and took him to Church where Father Morrough baptised him.



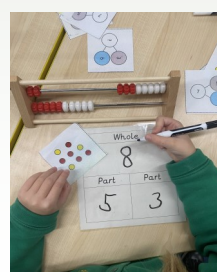


## Head Teacher's Newsletter

### YEAR 1

In Maths we have been learning about addition and subtraction and have used the whole part model and bar model to help us. We have been identifying and naming a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles and birds in Science. In English we have been reading *The Runaway Chapatti*; we found it very entertaining and similar to the story of *The Gingerbread Man*.

In Computing we have been gathering data to create our own pictograms. In PE we have been visiting Beth Tweddle Gymnastics; we have a wonderful time exploring their fully equipped gymnasium. We are so lucky to be able to have our gymnastics lessons there. We have been learning about Baptism and visited church to baptise baby Sam. Father Morrough taught us all about the signs and symbols of Baptism and we now know lots more about this special celebration.



### YEAR 2

Year 2 are finished with the recipes for their DISGUSTING sandwiches and have been very excited about our new book *The Twits*. They have learned lots of new vocabulary to describe the revolting Mr Twit. We are now adding and subtracting two two-digit numbers in Maths using base 10 and are becoming more confident using bar models to solve problems. In Science, we are looking forward to getting out and about in the local area to search for Microhabitats and we are getting used to using Atlases to find out more about the continents and oceans in Geography. We have finished our moon buggy designs in DT and are getting ready to figure out what type of materials we can use to build them. We have been learning about the importance of symbols in RE and can now discuss what the priest uses during Baptism and why. Our Computing skills are improving every week and we can now use spreadsheets to input different types of data and organise it so that it is easier to use.



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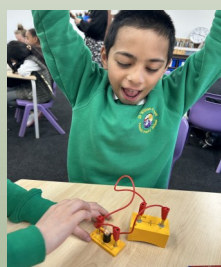
### YEAR 3

Last week, Year 3 completed a non-chronological report about the Stone Age. We have just started our new book, 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.' We are working hard at becoming more descriptive when describing scenes and people. In RE, we have continued to explore the theme of 'Promises.' We have been learning about the sacrament of Baptism and the different actions and symbols that are used during the ceremony. We acted out how Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist. In geography, we are beginning to learn about our European neighbours. We have researched different European countries, and we know how to locate them on an atlas. PE has been really fun; we have been learning the Haka! Science has been fascinating because we have been learning about forces, particularly magnetic forces. We have found out which materials are magnetic and what the difference is between a contact and a non-contact force is.



### YEAR 4

What a busy and exciting time of the year! In Year 4, we have started to learn about the rainforests of the world in Geography. We have been using maps and atlases to locate the different types of rainforests and looking at the biodiversity of these amazing places. Linked to this, we have been writing our own narrations to David Attenborough's Planet Earth in English and we know so many cool facts about the strange creatures that lurk in the under storey. In Maths, we have been focusing on times tables! We love practical times tables in Year 4 and are getting really quick at out 6s, 7s, 8s and 9s. In RE, we have been learning about what it means to be called to do God's work. We have learned about how the disciples were called and retold their stories in our work. In Science, we are learning about electricity! We can now make a circuit and know that all the components of the circuit must be connected for electricity to pass through it. We have continued to work with Mr Navecar from Bolton Music service and are learning some tricky rhythms on the djembe drums.



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### YEAR 5

Year 5 have been reading 'The boy at the back of the class' by Onjali Q. Rauf and are currently planning a non-chronological report about Syrian refugees inspired by Ahmet, the protagonist in the novel. In Maths, we have come to the end of our multiplication and division unit having had great success learning to multiply and divide 4-digit numbers and have used these skills to tackle complex word problems. As a class, we have been thoroughly enjoying studying Brazil, looking closely at how and why our world is changing because of deforestation in the Amazon rainforest. We learned the poem 'Flanders Fields' by John McCrae and performed this for our Armistice Day Gospel assembly. We have studied the purpose of slippers in DT, exploring different materials and practicing running and back stitches in preparation for making our own pair. In Science, we continue to enjoy exploring different materials and their properties through lots of practical experiments. We have looked at 'life choices' in our RE lessons and the many different ways in which people are called to serve God. We have also been lucky enough to welcome Miss Haworth from Bolton music service who has been teaching us how to play the 12-bar Blues on the glockenspiels and to have had a visit from Trikids who led a brilliant triathlon session with us in our outdoor space. It has been another successful half term and we have continued to show our dedication and enthusiasm for our Year 5 learning.



### YEAR 6

We have had a fantastic few weeks in Year 6. We have especially been enjoying our English topic as we are writing newspaper reports on the RAAC issue which has been affecting many schools in the UK. As part of this, we had the opportunity to interview Mrs Lightbown, Miss Lally and Miss Iqbal to hear how they have tackled the issue! In maths, we have been using our prior knowledge to solve tricky problems involving fractions. We are very excited to be making our own ravioli in DT and have come up with some delicious filling ideas! We are looking forward to tasting the final product. Commitment has been the focus of our RE lessons, we have been discussing what it means to be committed and how we show our commitment to school everyday. In science, we have been classifying animals and discussing why we would group them in the way we have. We are working incredibly hard and are excited for the last few weeks of term!



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