



St William of York Catholic Primary School

Head Teacher's Newsletter

February/March 2024

Dear Parents,

This is a very short term so we have combined our February and March Newsletter.

It is with a mixture of sadness and gratitude that I write to you today. After nine incredibly fulfilling years, the time has come for me to embark on a new chapter in my professional journey. Reflecting on the past nine years fills me with immense pride and gratitude. Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones, fostered a culture of excellence, and most importantly, positively impacted the lives of countless children. This is a very special community and I am going to miss being part of it.

Together with the school governors, It has been a privilege to lead such a dedicated team of educators, staff, and children who consistently demonstrate a commitment to faith, learning, growth and community. I am profoundly grateful for the unwavering support and trust extended to me throughout my tenure. Getting to know our families has been one of the highlights of my role and I will miss you all. Your support, kind words, encouragement and ambition for your children have been instrumental in shaping St William's into the exceptional school it is today.

I leave with a heart full of cherished memories and deep appreciation for the privilege of working here. As I bid farewell, I am confident that St William's will continue to thrive under the capable leadership of the interim head teacher. I have every confidence in the resilience, creativity, and collective spirit of this community to overcome any challenges and continue on the path of excellence. Please know that I will always carry a special place in my heart for this school community.

Thank you once again for the privilege of serving as your head teacher. I look forward to witnessing the continued success and growth of St William's in the years to come. Please continue to trust and support the school in anyway you can; it is always in the children's best interests when school and home work together.

'Together, we can do great things' - St Teresa of Calcutta

With much love,

Mrs Clare Lightbown



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OUR LEARNING UPDATES

NURSERY

In Nursery, we have particularly enjoyed listening to the story 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. We enjoyed using a variety of materials to create our very own big bad trolls! In R.E we have continued to talk about celebrations and why people celebrate. We enjoyed learning about the celebration Valentine's Day. We talked about who we love, and we made them a special love heart. We've enjoyed clapping syllables in words! We love using a drum to do this! We have learnt how to read a story map to retell the story Brown, Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see? We have explored how to take care for living things! We talked about how Miss Ashworth cares for her dog and then we discussed how we can take care of animals. We decided to take care of the birds and we created our very own bird feeders!



RECEPTION

Reception read What the Ladybird Heard and explored the new vocabulary of 'dainty' 'hefty' and 'handsome.' After looking at the map the two thieves use in the story, we had a visit from 'Birdie' who had been flying around our classroom, school playground and local area creating bird's eye view maps. We used the maps to find objects she had hidden and locate key features of Great Lever: the park, the shop, our school, the field and Settle Street.

After some fantastic music sessions with Miss Haworth we attended a performance of Jack and the Beanstalk in Salford. We loved joining in with the songs and listening to the story.

During March, Reception read My Two Grannies and we started to talk about the past and how things are different now. We had a very special visitor in Reception! Grandma Karen came into our classroom. She shared stories, artefacts and told us all about her past! We looked at an old telephone and a record player as well as a modern-day phone and an Alexa and we talked about their similarities and differences.

During our maths sessions we have been exploring one more and one less, we were super at filling our tens frames, using our special dice then adding one more or making one less.

We have continued to build upon our ever growing physical development during our gymnastics lessons at the Beth Tweddle centre. We've enjoyed jumping, travelling in different ways and balancing!



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YEAR 1

In English we have been reading Six Dinner Sid. We had fun inventing our own version of the story by changing his name and the foods he ate. We have been learning all about 'coding' in computing. We used our new skills to programme a beebot on a journey and had to discuss what might happen if the algorithms were incorrect. In Maths we have been counting forwards and backwards to 50 and finding one more and one less than a given number. In PE we visited Bolton Arena and have been working on different rolls and balances in Gymnastics. We have been using religious words and phrases in RE to describe some religious actions and symbols of Ash Wednesday and Lent. We have also retold the story of the Last Supper.



YEAR 2

Another busy term in Year 2! We have thoroughly enjoyed potion-making in English and using creative nouns, imperative verbs and adverbs to create a recipe for the Big Bad Wolf. We know all about money and can recognise all different ways to make certain amounts in both pounds and pence. Our Great Fire of London storyboards are almost complete and we are looking forward to using special knives safely to create slows for the sliding mechanisms. We made predictions and then investigated to see what types of exercise really gets our heart beating as we continue to think about how to keep ourselves healthy in Science. We are now experts in using directional language and we used it to locate the features of our school grounds as part of our fieldwork in Geography. We have looked forward to our Lenten Daily Missions and thought of lots of ways we can celebrate Jesus' life by giving back to our school, our community and our world.





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YEAR 3

Year 3 went on a fantastic trip to Bolton Museum. We spent a morning in the Ancient Egypt section. We saw hundreds of genuine artefacts and two real mummies! Later on, we found out about the canopic jars and how organs were removed from bodies during the mummification process. We completed our final self-portraits in art. These were in the style of Van Gogh and looked just like his with textured backgrounds. This term, we also visited the Anderton Centre and found out about 4-figure grid references, ordnance survey map symbols and compass points. In RE, we have been exploring the holy season of Lent and the importance prayer, almsgiving and sacrifice during this special time of the Liturgical year. Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed World Book Day and loved dressing up in favourite book character costumes. In DT, we have been developing and practising our sewing skills. We are designing and making textile Easter cards and perfected the running stitch. We have learnt about skeletons and muscles in science and the importance of eating a balanced diet.



YEAR 4

What an eventful half term we have had in Year 4! We are having a lovely prayerful period of Lent and have spent lots of time reflecting on our gratitude for the sacrifices that Jesus made for us! We have learned about His final journey when we listened and acted out the Stations of the Cross. In English, we have started our writing based on The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe and looking forward to publishing our final descriptive piece. We are now fractions experts and can add and subtract them as well as find fractions of amounts! In DT we have been designing our own light boxes with the help of Belinda (our resident artist) and have come up with some amazing designs! We even designed our own keyrings, which Andy Sledge is going to make for us! We can't wait! In science, we have been learning about States of Matter and have observed different materials as they change state.



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YEAR 5 In year 5 we have been writing explanation texts about the causes and consequences of flooding, inspired by our geography learning about natural disasters. Our science units have focussed on the life cycle of a human being and the physical changes which we go through during our lives. In Maths, we have been multiplying fractions, converting fractions to decimals and exploring percentages, all with great success. We have been exploring structures in DT, designing our own bird hides and we are about to begin the process of building them from our designs. In computing we have been coding. Our Suffragettes topic came to an end in History with a wonderful trip to the Pankhurst Centre which the whole class thoroughly enjoyed. In RE, we are exploring the concept of 'memorial sacrifice', remembering Christ's sacrifice when he died on the cross. We have been reflecting on the Stations of the Cross and we took part in a 'Walk for Water' as part of our continued commitment to Catholic social teaching and to raise money for those less fortunate than us. In PE, we enjoyed more trips to Bolton Arena where we furthered our football skills and since the beginning of March, we have been enjoying basketball lessons in school with Miss Baxter, refining our dribbling and passing skills. In Music, Miss Howarth has been visiting from Bolton Music Service to teach us how to utilise music technology. Finally, we enjoyed our final taster morning at Mount St Joseph's where we got to experience a science lesson, testing the acidity of different liquids and measuring this on the pH scale. It has been a lovely half term and Miss Harkin, Mrs Mohammad and Miss Baxter wish all of year 5 a happy and holy Easter break.



YEAR 6

Year 6 have had a busy few weeks in school. We have been preparing for our SATs tests in the summer term and solidifying the things we have learned throughout our time at St William's. In geography, we have been trying to convince Miss Neille to move to either Rivington or Great Lever by using persuasive writing techniques and the human and physical features of both. We recently took part in the CAFOD Lent walk for water and discussed the importance of the charity and how fortunate we are to have direct access to clean water. In music, we have been exploring the genre of grime music and producing our own samples. We have thoroughly enjoyed sharing these with the rest of the class and can even access them from home to show our families! In PE, Miss Baxter has been teaching us basketball at Bolton Arena and also tag rugby. We have been improving our passing and receiving skills, dribbling skills and becoming better decision makers. Madame Smith has been teaching us the French alphabet and we are becoming more confident when writing in French. Overall, we have had a lovely half-term and Miss Neille is sure we will continue to go from strength to strength in the summer term.

