



St William of York Catholic Primary School

Head Teacher's Newsletter

September 2024

Dear Parents,

We are half way to the October half term; we have had an incredibly busy and full September and the children have made a fantastic start in their new classes. Thank you for your continued support and patience while we navigate the changes and turbulence of the RAAC remedial work.

Thank you

A huge thank you from the bottom of my heart for welcoming and embracing me so warmly as the headteacher. I am so proud of our school and our community and feel genuinely lucky to work in such a positive and warm community. Your children really are superstars!

Coffee Mornings

We have had two coffee mornings in September, including the Macmillan Coffee Morning last Friday, in which we raised almost £200. Thank you for your generosity and support of this important cause.

We are holding a Harvest Coffee Morning this Friday; the children are all learning a Harvest song in their classes, which they are very excited to share with you. Doors open at 8.45am– we would love to see you there!

Miss Iqbal

We have had a few staffing changes since September but we are incredibly thankful that Miss Iqbal has stepped into the role of Nursery teacher. I know our EYFS parents have welcomed her warmly– in true St William's style!– and I am confident that she is the perfect addition to our Early Years team.

Catholic Life and Mission

Mrs Coyle has been working hard this month in further developing our pupils leadership teams. She has lead the GIFT team, who now lead whole school prayer and liturgy in our Monday Gospel assembly. She has also established our Caritas Ambassadors, who are driving the Catholic Life and Mission in our school. They were fantastic ambassadors at our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday, serving our community with enthusiasm and compassion; they have also delivered our foodbank donations to Emmaus. They will continue to lead our charity work across school. Mrs Coyle has also further developed our Eco Team, who are busy planning more ways of how they can be Steward's of God's creation by taking care of our school environment and beyond. A huge thank you to all these pupils involved in pupil leadership, and to Mrs Coyle.

Multicultural Week

We are holding a multicultural week in the week before half term. The children will visit places of worship other than the Catholic church– including a mosque and a temple– and will spend time in classes reflecting on their family's history through writing their own migration story. Our school is incredibly diverse and we love and our proud of this. We will end the week with an own clothes day, encouraging children to come in in clothes linked to their culture or heritage. If any parents or grandparents would be willing to come into school during the week and talk to our pupils about their heritage and culture, please speak to Miss Adams or Mrs Coyle.



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OUR LEARNING UPDATES

NURSERY

There has been lots of exciting learning happening in Nursery this half term. We have worked hard to follow the new rules and routines, we are developing independence and confidence daily! We have worked incredibly hard to create some beautiful self-portraits. When creating our portraits we thought really hard about the colours we were going to use, and we used a mirror to help us. We have enjoyed a variety of stories, one of our favourites is 'Calm Down Boris'. Nursery have enjoyed retelling the story to each other using the different props and resources. The late summer sunshine has been enjoyed to the full and our outdoor area has been a busy and active learning zone, even on the rainiest of days. We have enjoyed learning how to play different games outdoors, with bowling as one of our favourites!



RECEPTION

Reception have had a fantastic start to the year. We have settled well into our rules and routines and have explored all the activities on offer as we play indoors and outdoors. We enjoy mealtimes as we eat our lunch with our friends, developing our skills to manage the school day successfully. Already we can re-tell the story 'Peace at Last' using our story map and Makaton signs to help us remember the sequence. Our vocabulary is growing as we learn new words through our stories and interactions with our teachers and friends. In RE we recognised how important our names are and that God knows us all by name.



YEAR 1

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 busy counting forwards and backwards to 10 in Maths and have enjoyed lots of practical activities. In English, we have been reading The Shopping Basket and have written our own shopping list!. We have talked about our families in RE and we discussed the roles of people within families. We are very lucky to have Mrs Shercliff teaching us Music this term and we are enjoying learning the song Nursery Rhyme Rap.



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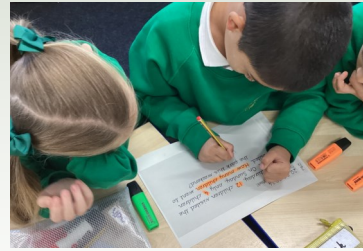
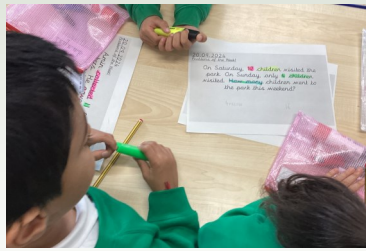
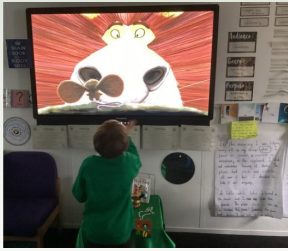


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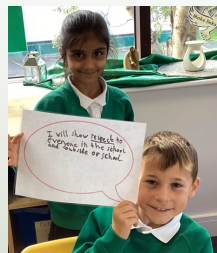
YEAR 2

Year 2 have made a fantastic start to the year in their new classroom! They are already getting to know numbers up to 100 in Maths and are building confidence and stamina in their reading and writing. They are enjoying hearing all about our first significant person - Neil Armstrong - and his journey to the moon from people who remember watching it on TV! In Science, they have been investigating different materials and how they can be used for different purposes and are looking forward to creating artwork in the style of John Piper. They have learned how to log in to some new devices and are starting to learn how to keep themselves safe when talking to other people online. They are also spending some quiet afternoons thinking about all the wonderful things God has given us.



YEAR 3

The children have settled well into Key Stage 2 and made a great start to Year 3. They are really enjoying being in their fully refurbished classroom. We are enjoying learning about the Stone Age and have found out how long ago this period in history was. In science, we are fascinated by how many different rocks there are and have loved studying them closely using magnifying glasses. We are learning about online safety in computing and know that we must never share private information online. Monsieur Abalain has been visiting our classroom to teach us French which makes us feel very grown up as only Key Stage 2 learn French! Miss Baxter has been teaching us the rules of 'dodge ball' which is really good fun. We have discussed the joys and sorrows of being part of a family and studied the scripture of St Paul where he helps us understand how we can bring more joy to our family life.



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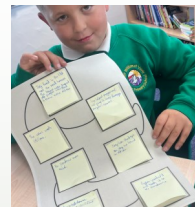
YEAR 4

What a busy start to the year we've had! In RE, we have been learning all about our family tree and Jesus' family tree. In science we have been learning about our teeth and how we use them! We even conducted an 'eggsperiment' on how different food and drinks impact the enamel on our teeth. Our place value knowledge has impressed Miss Lally in maths; we can now round numbers up to 1000! In English, we have loved learning and writing about Anthony Browne's The Tunnel! We also know how to keep ourselves safe online, how to drive a hockey ball and even why the Anglo Saxons came to Great Britain! Phew! All that in just 4 weeks!



YEAR 5

Year 5 have been enjoying reading 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' and have been writing some beautiful setting descriptions based on the story. Their Maths work has been impressive, with children able to round up to 1,000,000. As a class, they have been exploring the history of the Industrial Revolution and have particularly enjoyed finding out the origins of the houses in Great Lever and how they are linked to the mills in Bolton. Our investigation into the Industrial Revolution has linked to our Art work, where we have studied works by L.S. Lowry and pupils are looking forward to painting their own Lowry inspired pieces. In Science, pupils have thoroughly enjoyed practical investigations into the properties of materials. In RE, Year 5 have been learning about their role in our school family, at home and within the community. The children have been enjoying plenty of wider opportunities, with representatives of the class already enjoying success at local football competitions, getting involved in our after school clubs and taking up new responsibilities as part of our ECO team, school council and CARITAS groups. It has been an amazing start to the year, the pupils are motivated and are loving the responsibility which comes with being in upper key stage 2.



YEAR 6

Year 6 have had a fantastic start to the new school year and have shown determination and enthusiasm from the very first day. In English, we have used the video 'A book of butterflies' as a stimulus for our writing. We have explored a range of vocabulary to support and improve our ability to write. We have made a good start in maths and have applied previous knowledge to help us through our place value topic. In science, we have been learning about the functions of the heart and how blood travels throughout our bodies. We have been learning about Ancient Greece in History, and how Sparta and Athens were both city states but life in each of them was very different. In art, we have enjoyed researching history heroes as we prepare to create our portraits. We learnt about and then presented to parents during our Catholic Social Teaching assembly all about the dignity of the human person. We are looking forward to continuing to shine over the next few weeks of the half-term!



Well done everyone- I am so proud of each and every one of you! What a fabulous start to our new school year. *Miss Adams*

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