



St William of York Catholic Primary School

Head Teacher's Newsletter

Dear Parents,

RAAC Update

The building work is due to be completed this week! All our classes are back in their permanent classrooms– which is fantastic! The rest of our portakabins are due to be removed this week, so by Friday the KS1 playground will be back to being a playground again! Thank you for your continued support through what has been a very turbulent time. I am genuinely very grateful for your understanding and compassion.

IQM Centre of Excellence Review Day

I am incredibly proud of our school community and strive to ensure that inclusion is at the heart of everything we do. It is lovely to have this recognised through our IQM Centre of Excellence Review Day. I hope you had a chance to read the report that I text out and shared on Twitter. The report summarises our wonderful school by saying, "St William of York RC Primary School is described by a parent as "Totally inclusive, you just know it when you walk in." I heartily agree with this sentiment, the school has a strong and clear vision and the whole team is relentless in their quest to ensure that all children are given every opportunity to be the very best version of themselves, socially, academically and spiritually."

Again, thank you for your continued support and positivity: you and your children are what make our school so very special!

Parents' Evening/ Book Look

Parents' Evening will be held this Thursday, starting at 1.30pm. Slips with your child's time on are going home tonight.

Book Looks will take place next week, starting at 3.20pm.

Tuesday 19th Years 1 and 2

Wednesday 20th Years 3 and 5

Thursday 21st Years 4 and 6

I will be at Parents' Evening and I would be very grateful if you could come to me to fill in the Parent View questionnaires.

We will also be supporting any families who may be eligible to fill in a Free School Meals application. If you get Income Support, support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 or Universal Credit, please come and see myself or Mrs Mohammad and we can support you with completing the application. You will need your National Insurance number, so please bring this with you.

Parents' Events

We are continuing to run a range of workshops in school to support you with your children at home. Over the next few weeks, we are running:

- Year 1 and 2 Reading starting 15th November from 3-3.20pm, for four weeks.
- A Triple P (Positive Parenting) course 9-10.30am starting 14th November, and lasting for 5 weeks.
- An Early Writing EYFS workshop on Thursday 21st November starting at 2.50pm.
- An E-Safety workshop on Friday 22nd November for KS2 parents, starting at 9am.

We would love to see you at these events!

November 2024



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Head Teacher's Newsletter

Christmas!

November is quickly disappearing and the start of Advent is imminent! Please see below a list of all the Christmas events happening in school. We look forward to welcoming you into school for these special celebrations!



CHRISTMAS EVENTS



Wednesday 27 th November	Whole school mass + parishioners (in school) at 9.15am
Saturday 30 th November	St William's Parish Christmas Fayre 12-2pm
Thursday 12 th December	KS1 Nativity at 2pm
Thursday 12 th December	KS1 and KS2 Choir singing at Lever Edge Care Home at 1.30pm
Thursday 12 th December	St William's Christmas Stalls 4-5pm and Lantern Festival 5-6pm
Friday 13 th December	Y1-6 at the Pantomime (am)
Friday 13 th December	Parishioners Christmas Coffee Afternoon 2-3pm
Friday 13 th December	EYFS Nativity 2pm
Monday 16 th December	Journey to Bethlehem day
Wednesday 18 th December	Whole school + parishioners mass (in school) 9.15am
Wednesday 18 th December	Whole school Christmas party lunch/ Christmas jumper day
Friday 20 th December	Whole school Carol Concert (in school) 9am
Friday 20 th December	School closes at 1.30pm

Shoe Box Donations

We are collecting donations of small gifts (such as stationary/ bouncy balls/ colouring books etc) to include in our shoe box parcels, that we will be donating to Manchester Street Angels. Please could all donations be with us by Tuesday 19th November, ready for us to donate that week. Our Caritas Ambassadors will be parcelling up our donations. A huge thank you to the families who have already donated!

Miss Adams

November 2024



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OUR LEARNING UPDATES

NURSERY

This month in Nursery, our learning has been vibrant and engaging as we explored key texts such as "Ten little fingers and Ten little toes" and "Baby goes to market". These stories sparked discussions about our families and diverse experiences, helping children connect with their own life stories and history. This half term in Maths, we have been subitising amounts up to 3 allowing children to quickly recognise small quantities, and we have been experimenting with creating our own marks and symbols as well as numerals to represents amounts up to 3. We have been fostering creativity through drawing and painting, where children expressed various emotions, further enhancing their understanding of feelings and self-expression. We are incredibly independent with our care needs and are fantastic at brushing our teeth, washing, using the toilet and making healthy choices. It has been a month filled with exploration, creativity and personal connections!



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. During our First Aid workshop, we practised applying a cold compress, plasters and putting each other in a safe position. In RE, we learnt about how we can welcome our friends into school and how Christians welcome babies into God's family, we had our own baptism celebration for baby Sam.



YEAR 1

In English we have read Not Now Bernard. We used colourful semantics to write some great sentences about the story. We have been writing mathematical statements which involve using the addition and equal signs in Maths. In Multifaith week, we enjoyed learning about 'Islam'. We compared Islam to Christianity and looked at the places of worship, special books and important figures within each faith. In History we looked at different types of homes and explored the changes that have occurred to homes within living memory. In Science we had fun exploring the five senses and identified which part of the body is associated with each sense.



November 2024

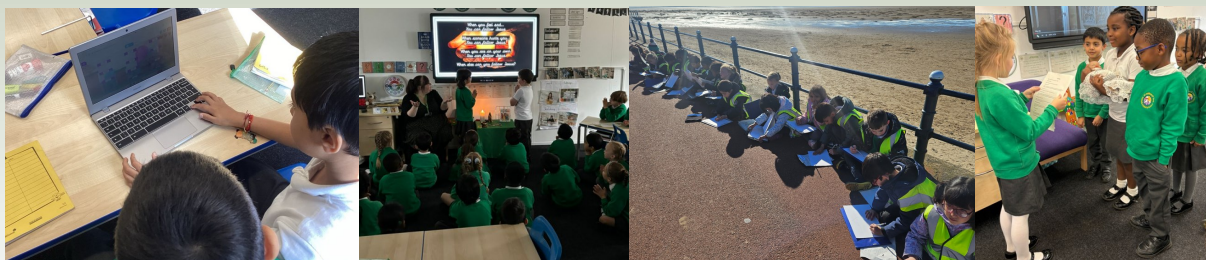


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YEAR 2

Year 2 have had a brilliant term so far! They are adding and subtracting two-digit and one-digit numbers in maths and are already impressing everyone with their new vocabulary in writing. They know all about the Apollo 11 mission to the moon and had a fantastic time on their trip to the beach, where they were able to sketch in real life! They know how to report anything that they don't like online and have investigated the best uses of different materials during Science lessons. In RE they have talked about the signs and symbols of Baptism and have learned a little more about Islam too.



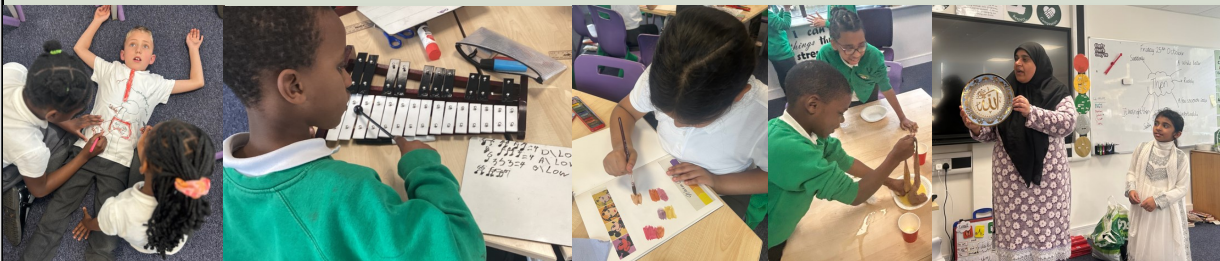
YEAR 3

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. 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. Our school trip to 'Bring Yer Wellies' was great fun and informative. We learnt how archaeologists have to be incredibly careful when digging for historical artefacts. In English, we have been learning how to write a newspaper report based on the book 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. We have worked really hard in art developing our drawing skills, this has resulted in our own mini piece of Stone Age cave art. During Multicultural week we found out a lot about Hinduism and especially the festival of Diwali. We have had a great first half-term in Year 3!



YEAR 4

What a busy term so far! In science, Year 4 learned all about the digestive system! We learned about the different organs, created our own digestive system and watched how the food changed and then we presented this using a t-shirt diagram. In art, we learned all about Andy Warhol. We mixed contrasting and complementary colours and painted our own portraits in the style of Andy Warhol. In music, we have been continuing our lessons with Mrs Lord on the glocks and have been learning to read music on the staff! History was all about Anglo Saxons and we had fun about learning all the gory details!



November 2024



Head Teacher's Newsletter

YEAR 5

Year 5 have been enjoying the animation 'The Lighthouse' and have used this to write some wonderful diary entries. Our Maths work has been impressive, with children able to add and subtract numbers with an increasing number of digits. 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 as part of our multi-cultural week celebrations we studied the religion of Sikhism. We also completed first aid training with mini first-aid and really enjoyed performing our Catholic Social Teaching assembly on the theme of 'family, community and participation'.



YEAR 6

Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed reading the book 'The Remarkables' and writing diary entries from the point of view of one of the characters. We had some children writing as icy children, some as sunny children and even some as speedy children! In maths, we have been working hard on the long division method. Even though we found it tricky to begin with, we have all made progress and can now solve problems using this! We have found that working hard and trying our best does pay off! In Art, we completed our portraits using a range of media to portray our world heroes. We have had many experiments in science. Investigating how our bodies absorb nutrients by using skittles and water was a highlight! We also got to measure our lung capacity to find out whether taller people have a greater lung capacity. In RE, we have started to discuss commitment and vocation, and we understand ways we are committed to supporting within our school. It was so special to dress in our clothes from our culture during multi-faith week, we are all so unique and that makes us even more special. It has been a very successful few weeks and we are looking forward to shining even more in Autumn 2!



November 2024