



St William of York Catholic Primary School

Head Teacher's Newsletter

Dear Parents,

As my first term as headteacher is drawing to an end, I want to thank you for your support, encouragement and positivity over the last few months. I have thoroughly enjoyed leading our wonderful school this term and am incredibly proud of everything we have achieved. Your children make it a joy to work in this school and I am looking forward to everything that Spring will bring!

END OF TERM

School will close for the Christmas holidays at 1.30pm this Friday. The spring term will start on Monday 6th January 2024.

NEXT TERM

We have lots of exciting events planned for next half term!

Parent Workshops

10/01/2025	Y6 Maths Parent Workshop Session 1 3-3.20pm
15/01/2025	Y1 Phonics Parent Workshop 9-9.30am
17/01/2025	Y6 Maths Parent Workshop Session 2 3-3.20pm
21/01/2025	Nursery Stay and Play 2.45-3.30pm/ 8.45-9.30am
22/01/2025	Y2 Reading Fluency Parent Workshop 9-9.30am
24/01/2025	Y6 Maths Parent Workshop Session 3 3-3.20pm
28/01/2025	Reception Stay and Play (Triangles) 2.30-3.10pm
31/01/2025	Y6 Maths Parent Workshop Session 4 3-3.20pm
04/02/2025	Nursery Stay and Play 2.45-3.30pm/ 8.45-9.30am
06/02/2025	KS2 E Safety workshop 9-9.30am
11/02/2025	Reception Stay and Play (Circles) 2.30-3.10pm

Trips and Visits

07/01/2025	The Dogs' Trust Workshops (in school Y1-Y6)
23/01/2025	Y2 at Moss Bank Park (The Wildlife Trust)
12/02/2025	Y3 at Bolton Museum
13/02/2025	Y6 at Crucial Crew

STAFF

I am sure you will join me in saying a huge thanks to our school staff. They work incredibly hard and are the reason St William's is a very special place to be! I am very grateful for everything they do for us.

I hope you all have a lovely, restful break with your families. Have a very happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all in the new year!

Miss Adams

Stay with us Lord on our Journey!

December 2024



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OUR LEARNING UPDATES NURSERY

As we wrap up December, we are excited to share the vibrant learning and exploration that has taken place in Nursery this month. Our play and learning activities have been centred around our key text, "The Nativity". The Nativity has introduced our little ones to the story of Christmas. We have re-enacted the story, encouraging storytelling and comprehension through movement and expression, bringing the narrative to life! Discussions about the importance of Advent have deepened our understanding of the Christmas season. This term's phonics focus has been on body percussion and rhythm and rhyme. The children have loved clapping and tapping out syllables in their names and familiar words. The Nursery children have engaged in creative mark making, creating circles, lines, humps, and up-and-down lines. Each mark has inspired conversations about its meaning, allowing children to give purpose to their creations. Nursery have enjoyed hands-on exploration of both 2D and 3D shapes, using various materials to create and identify shapes in our environment.



RECEPTION

Reception have been so busy this half term. We have created our very own instructions about how to have a pyjama party. We used our voice 21 skills to orally rehearse our instructions before writing them! We then used our Fred fingers to help us write words. We also had our very own cosy light party inspired by our story 'The Light in the Night'. We have explored shapes in maths and looked at different ways to make pictures with a variety of shapes. In RE we have learnt all about birthdays and how counting down for a birthday makes us feel. We even had a birthday for Baby Bear! We used our oracy skills to tell others how birthdays make us feel. We are so excited for Jesus' birthday! We are busy practising our nativity inspired by our new story 'Jesus' Christmas Party!'.



YEAR 1

The children in Year 1 have been learning all about the United Kingdom in Geography. They have found out lots of exciting things about the four countries including the capital cities and some interesting characteristics. They went for a walk around Great Lever to find out what's great about Great Lever and designed some basic maps with symbols. In English we read 'The Jolly Christmas Postman' and wrote our letters to Father Christmas. We retold the Christmas story in RE and made everyone smile with our beautiful singing. In Maths we have been adding and subtracting using a number line and have been finding out about 3D shapes. Animal Magic came to visit us and we got to hold lots of interesting mammals, reptiles and amphibians.



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YEAR 2

Year 2 can now name all the oceans of the world and have been expanding on our learning about continents by locating them on world maps, globes and atlases in Geography lessons. In Science, we know the difference between habitats and microhabitats and can give reasons an animal or minibeast might choose to live somewhere. During Computing lessons, we learned simple ways to input data onto spreadsheets and graphs. We performed a spectacular nativity and used our show to help us retell the Christmas story in RE. In English, we have been busy writing letters to Father Christmas and Maths has become a little trickier as we start grouping and sharing for multiplication and division!



YEAR 3

Year 3 have explored the picture book 'Flotsam' in English. They wrote a beautiful descriptive paragraph to describe one of the images in the book. In science, we have been learning about forces and magnets. We have carried out a number of fair tests and understand that magnetism is a non-contact force. Miss Baxter has helped us to create our own dances to the 'Oompa Loompa' song from 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. We also joined in a fantastic workshop linked to Financial Capability where we discussed the cost of living and what our wants and needs are. The 'Life Bus' also visited us and we explored the different ways we can help our mental health. In RE, we are learning about Advent and the joys and demands of visitors. We have also had great fun learning how to design and make healthy pizzas. We were like real chefs!



YEAR 4

We cannot quite believe Autumn term is coming to an end in Year 4! We have enjoyed learning about the water cycle as part of our learning on the rainforest. We loved our trip to Bolton Museum and learning all about the animals that lived in and around the Amazon. We are getting extremely quick and accurate at our times tables in Y4 and finally beat Y5 in our TTRS tournament! We have been learning to play the notes C, B and A in our glockenspiel lessons and can recognise these notes on the stave. In RE, we have been learning about the gifts from the three Kings and the tradition of giving gifts during the Christmas season.



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YEAR 5

This half term, Year 5 have been busy exploring a variety of exciting topics across the curriculum. In PE, we have been developing our skills in dance, while in English, we have written persuasive letters inspired by *Inside Out 2* and Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Guided Reading has taken us through Remembrance with a study of McCrae's *Flanders Fields* and more recently, we enjoyed reading extracts from *The Boy at the Back of the Class* by Onjali Q. Rauf. In Maths, we have tackled multiplication and division with 4-digit numbers, as well as squared, cubed, and prime numbers. Our RE lessons have focused on the theme of 'commitment' and, during Advent, the concept of 'hope.' In Science, we have explored materials and their properties, including reversible and irreversible changes, and we have completed many more practical experiments to test our hypotheses. Geography lessons have taken us to Brazil, learning about its location and the deforestation of the Amazon rainforest, while DT has seen us creating our own tote bags which are soon to be finished. We have also enjoyed French and Music lessons this half term. In music, we have been learning about 'The Blues' and also had the opportunity to watch Raga Jyoti at the Bridgewater Hall. We have been visited by the Life Bus, the Canal and River Trust and the Money Charity, and we took a trip to Mount St Joseph's for a Year 5 taster morning ... it's been a rich and varied term of learning!



YEAR 6

Year 6 have had a fantastic and productive half-term. We have been busy bees with improving our maths and arithmetic skills, which have helped us when completing our assessments this week! We feel even more confident tackling tricky maths problems. In English, we have been writing spooky setting descriptions, inspired by the graphic novel version of Hansel and Gretel. We are very good at coming up with sentences to make Miss Neille feel scared! In RE, we have been preparing for Christmas Day by focusing on expectations and what was being expected during the lead up to the birth of baby Jesus. We will be portraying a section of this story through art work next week. In Science, we used sweets to help us to understand classification and how we are grouped based on the things we observe. We are starting an experiment this week on bread and how much bacteria will grow depending on where it has been left! We enjoyed a wonderful visit to the Anderton centre earlier in the half-term, where we worked on our orienteering and teamwork skills. We enjoyed recapping on the eight points of a compass and recognising ordnance survey symbols. In PE, we have been creating our dances based on *The Remarkables* book, which we studied last half-term. Our dances have been very impressive! In Art, we have been enjoying our food and nutrition topic and are very excited to make our ravioli; we have all decided on different fillings and can't wait to try them! Overall, we have had a great half-term and are ready for a lovely break before working even harder in Spring 1!



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