



St William of York Catholic Primary School

Head Teacher's Newsletter

January 2025

Dear Parents,

What a busy January! But also a very successful and productive half term. Many thanks for your continued support, encouragement and friendliness.

MY MATERNITY LEAVE

Mrs Rabbett, who is currently Headteacher at St Joseph's Primary School in Haliwell, will be supporting St William's over the rest of the Spring and the Summer term as Executive Headteacher. She will be in school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Mrs Coyle will continue as Deputy Headteacher.

I have no doubt at all that St William's will continue to thrive during my absence; our staff, children and you, our parents, truly make our school exceptional. This exceptionality will continue whilst I am not here! I will be in to visit with my baby when she arrives. I won't be a stranger!

Thank you again for your support and encouragement since I took over from Mrs Lightbown as headteacher. I am incredibly proud of this community that we have built together and very thankful to work with such compassionate families.

STAFF

A huge, HUGE thank you to our staff this half term. We have had two very vigorous inspections since Christmas– the Catholic Schools Inspection and Ofsted. In true St William's style, our staff and school community shone and we should all be very proud.

Our Ofsted report is not yet published but I will share it with you myself as soon as it is! I am hoping it will be before I leave on 14th February!

I am sure you will join me in wishing our staff a restful and happy half term when it comes.

PARENTS' EVENING

This is planned for Tuesday 4th March. This is a meeting for adults only; children cannot attend. The conversation needs to be honest, focused and productive, and children being present could hinder this. A number of children did attend the Autumn Parents' Evening. We are making sure we give you lots of notice so that arrangements can be made for child care if necessary.

DISMISSAL FOR EYFS

Many thanks for your support with the changes we have made to the dismissal of our Early Years children at the end of the school day. It's in the very early stages but the feedback so far is that staff and parents are positive about the new systems! If you have any feedback, please do not hesitate to come and speak to me. My door is always open!

Miss Adams

Stay with us Lord on our Journey!



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Dates for your Diary:

We have lots of exciting events planned for the rest of the academic year!

Parent Workshops/ Events/ Coffee Mornings

04/03/2025	Parents' Evening 1.30-5.30pm
07/03/2025	Year 3/4 Book Look 3.20-3.45pm
11/03/2025	Year 1/2 Book Look 3.20-3.45pm
14/03/2025	Year 5/6 Book Look 3.20-3.45pm
27/03/2025	KS2 Mothers' Day Coffee Morning
28/03/2025	Mothers' Day Stay and Play Year 1 and 2 9-10am
	Mothers' Day Stay and Play Nursery and Reception 8.45-9.45am
	Mothers' Day Stay and Play Nursery 2.15-3.15pm
14/05/2025	Reception Stay and Play Triangles 2.15-3.15pm
15/05/2025	Reception Stay and Play Circles 2.15-3.15pm
24/06/2025	Sports Day
27/06/2025	Transition morning to new classes
15/07/2025	Whole school art gallery/ coffee morning (in school) at 9am

Trips and Visits

25/02/2025	Pupil Leadership groups at Laudato Si Centre
17-18/03/2025	Y5 Voices for Equality (in school)
26/03/2025	Y1 at Blackpool Zoo
21/05/2025	Y3 at Chester (Romans)
16/06/2025	KS2 Choir at Victoria Halls
19/06/2025	Y6 Design & technology Day (in school)
04/07/2025	Y2 at the Science and Industry Museum
07/07/2025	Y5 Rivers Study Trip
09/07/2025	Y6 at Gulliver's World
11-12/07/2025	Y6 Sleepover (in school)

Class Assemblies

27/02/2025	Y4 Catholic Social Teaching assembly at 2.45pm
27/03/2025	Y2 Catholic Social Teaching assembly at 2.45pm
03/04/2025	Y5 Stations of the Cross assembly 2.45pm
08/04/2025	Y3 and Y4 Passion assembly 9am
22/05/2025	Y1 and reception- May Queen assembly 2.45pm
15/07/2025	Y6 Leavers' production at 2pm
16/07/2025	Y6 Leavers' Mass 9.15am
16/07/2025	Nursery Graduation at 10.45am
18/07/2025	Y6 Graduation at 9am

Miss Adams

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OUR LEARNING UPDATES NURSERY

This term has been an exciting journey of exploration and creativity for our nursery children as we dive into our key texts, "The Three Little Pigs" and "Little Red Riding Hood." Through engaging story maps, our children have not only narrated these classic tales but also brought them to life through imaginative role play in the small world area. This has encouraged them to expand their vocabulary and develop comprehension skills as they listen to longer stories and retain plot details with enthusiasm. In Mathematics, we've been focusing on subitising numbers up to 5, where students demonstrate their understanding by showing fingers to represent various amounts. Our theme of "Celebrating" has sparked lively discussions as we've explored the meaning and significance of different celebrations in our lives. Highlighting our community involvement, this month we hosted "Play and Stay" sessions, allowing parents to engage with their children's learning, and we've also been thrilled to launch new music lessons with Bolton Music Service, enriching our children's educational experience. Overall, it has been a term filled with joy, discovery and collaboration.



RECEPTION

Reception began the new year by reading 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt.' We re-told the story using our story map along with Makaton signs and used our creative skills to map the journey to the bear's cave. We were so surprised to then discover a dinosaur was loose in the school and decided to go on a hunt to find it! We re-invented the original story of the bear hunt and changed the key parts to match our dinosaur discovery. We are exploring numbers to 10 in Maths as we use our ten frames to spot patterns and different ways to make 10, as well as recognising the numerals. 'Celebrations' is our topic in RE and we have been talking about our own experiences and feelings about celebrations we have been part of and how the celebration was shared.



YEAR 1

We have been learning all about materials in Science. We investigated the best material to use for Mrs Bolton's ripped umbrella and have been describing the properties of the materials by using exciting new vocabulary like absorbent, waterproof and fragile. In English, we have enjoyed reading The Tiger Who Came to Tea. We wrote a shopping list in case they tiger should come to tea again. In Maths, we have been exploring numbers to 20 and had fun exploring and comparing them. In RE, we have been talking about special people and we have learned about many religious signs, symbols and words linked to Mass. History Alive came into school and told us all about toys in the past. We had great fun playing with them!



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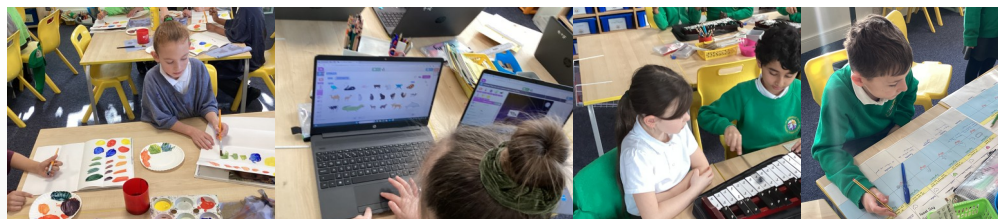
YEAR 2

We've had a busy January in Year 2! We have created our very own innovations of The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark called The Frog who was Terrified of the Pond. We are now full of information from History about the Great Fire of London and have learned all about what animals need to survive in Science. We have become coders in Computing, writing algorithms, and now know how to group and share for multiplication and division in Maths. In RE, we have looked into some of the stories of the four gospel writers in the New Testament and will be attending Mass to see some of the books used by the priest at Church.



YEAR 3

In Year 3 this half-term, we have been finding out about Ancient Egypt in History. We know when the Ancient Egyptian civilization began and why people settled along the River Nile. In Art, we have been studying Vincent Van Gogh. We have experimented with different tools and different types of paint. We have also practised mixing primary colours to make secondary colours. Our most recent English text has been 'The Egyptian Cinderella', we have been collecting lots of great vocabulary to help us write a character description of the main character; Rhodopis. During RE, we have explored a unit called 'Journeys'. We have learnt about the liturgical calendar and know the names of the different liturgical seasons. We have been learning football skills in PE and have had great fun learning about rugby with a rugby coach. We have read 'Monster Slayer' in Guided Reading and practised a number of reading skills. In Music, we have learnt to sing the song, 'Your Imagination' and played glockenspiels to create simple melodic patterns.



YEAR 4

What a busy month we have had in Year 4! We are absolutely loving learning all about the Vicious Vikings and their ruthless attacks on the British Isles. In maths, we are learning about fractions and have been using fractions walls to find equivalent fractions. In art, we are enjoying looking at the work of Yayoi Kusama and designing our own dragon eye sculptures that we are going to make out of clay. We have started to learn about states of matter in science and know that the particles behave differently in each state.



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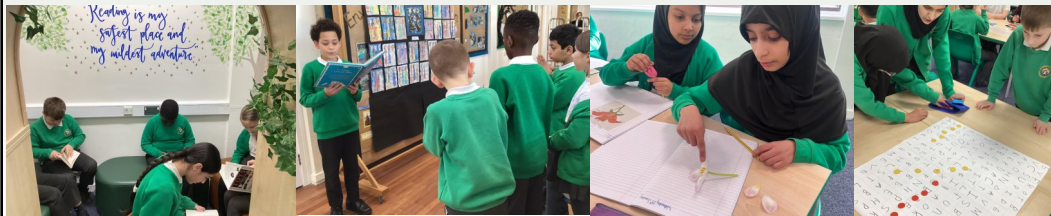
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YEAR 5

In year 5, reading lessons have involved exploring the opening of 'A Kind of Spark' by Elle McNicoll, which we are now enjoying reading as our class novel during story time. We have been learning all about Dragonflies in order to write our own non-chronological reports in English, which are just about finished and look fantastic! In Maths, we have enjoyed a lot of success during our current 'fractions' unit; converting improper fractions and mixed numbers, finding equivalent fractions and ordering fractions with different denominators. As a class, we have been exploring the history of the Suffragettes, learning about how Emmeline Pankhurst fought for gender equality and influenced the freedom to vote which we enjoy in Britain today. We are studying William Morris in Art, learning about how the arts and crafts movement was a response to changes during the Industrial Revolution, which we learned about in Autumn. It has been interesting to learn how Morris favoured a return to handcrafted work and was inspired by nature. In Science, we have thoroughly enjoyed expanding our knowledge of living things, conducting independent research into the lifecycles of plants and animals, and how different living things reproduce. In RE, we are exploring the concept of 'mission', understanding Jesus' mission to spread the word of God, how he passed on this mission to his Apostles and what mission looks like in our own lives. We have also enjoyed Rugby delivered by Wigan Warriors and continued our French lessons with Mr Abaline.



YEAR 6

What another fantastic half-term we've had in Year 6! We are going from strength to strength with our learning; we are able to know more and remember more every single day! In English, we have been writing using dialogue to convey characters such as Otto, the sassy ornament. We have also been researching Emmeline Pankhurst, ready to write our reports about her extraordinary life. To conduct our research, we made full use of our beautiful LRC. In Maths, we have been solving tricky word problems involving fractions, decimals and percentages. Ask us how to convert between all three- we will be able to tell you! We have particularly enjoyed our science electricity topic, learning more about how electrical circuits work. Using many different circuits, we were able to suggest which candidate to hire by who created a complete circuit! On top of all of this learning, we are going to be meeting an author this week and also have an exciting trip next week to Crucial Crew, where we will learn a variety of life skills. A wonderful half term has been had so far and we are going to finish it the same way we've been throughout- by being dedicated and hard-working!



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