



St William of York Catholic Primary School

Head Teacher's Newsletter

Dear Parents, and Carers

As we near the end of this term, I want to thank you for the warm welcome I have received at St. Williams. It's been a fantastic period, filled with the great enthusiasm and enjoyment that our wonderful staff and fantastic children bring to our school community. Each day, I observe dedication and hard work shown by your children and great commitment from all staff who seek to create an enriching, positive learning environment. I congratulate you all on the outstanding outcome from the Ofsted inspection.

There have been a number of religious events this half term and the childrens' Lenten journey has been prayerful and reflective. Year 3 have embarked on their Sacramental Programme and have celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation. I would like to thank our parishioners and our parish priest, Fr. Morrough, for their welcome and support and parents for their dedication to our childrens' spiritual journey. Parental engagement at these events has been strong which is wonderful to see.

I am impressed by the creativity and resilience from your children whether in their prayerful reflections, learning, assemblies and presentations or extracurricular activities. Their achievements and progress reflect the collaborative efforts of both our staff and the supportive involvement of families like yours.

As we look forward to the next term, I'm excited about continuing our partnership in fostering a great atmosphere for learning and development. Together, we can support our children in reaching their full potential and encourage them to embrace new challenges with confidence.

STAFF

Throughout this half term, our staff have worked extremely hard to ensure that every child receives a high-quality education. They have not only delivered engaging lessons, but they have spent many hours preparing a number of additional events in school. I'm sure you will join me in expressing our appreciation to all staff members. We thank the staff for all of their hard work and dedication. Your involvement in recognising their efforts is greatly encouraged, and it strengthens our school community. I am sure you will join me in wishing our staff a restful half term.

The Easter holiday is also a cherished time for family gatherings and relaxation. I recommend that you take this opportunity to enjoy quality time with your children, encouraging them to be mindful of the blessings in their lives and to reflect on the values that guide us as a Catholic community.

Thank you for your ongoing support and engagement in our school community. Wishing you all a restful, prayerful and enjoyable, Easter break, and I can't wait to welcome everyone back in the new term!

Warm regards,

Mrs Nicola Rabbett

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

12/05/2025	Year 6 SATS week
14/05/2025	Reception Stay and Play Triangles 2.15-3.15pm
15/05/2025	Reception Stay and Play Circles 2.15-3.15pm
15/05/2025	Yer 6 Pizza Party
09.06-13/06/25	Phonics Screening Check week Years 1 &2
09.06-13/06/25	Year 4 Multiplication Check Week
09/06/2025	St. William of York Feast Day
23/06/2025	Aspirations Week
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

21/05/2025	Y3 at Chester (Romans)
16/06/2025	KS2 Choir at Victoria Halls
19/06/2025	Y6 Design & technology Day (in school)
01/07/2025	EYFS Smithills Farm Visit
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

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

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OUR LEARNING UPDATES NURSERY

We have had a busy month in Nursery! In Maths, we have continued subitising up to 5, encouraging the children to represent amounts in lots of creative ways. Our key text, Goldilocks & The Three Bears, provided a wonderful opportunity for storytelling and imaginative play, as the children actively engaged with the characters and themes of the story. We even had a visit from Goldilocks herself and put on our detective hats to solve the case! With Easter approaching, we learned all about the Easter Story and enjoyed taking part in lots of fun Easter crafts and singing! We have been busy bees outdoors, from making bird feeders to exploring in the mud kitchen and practising our biking skills!



RECEPTION

During March, Reception read My Two Grannies. After reading the story we started to talk about the past and how things are different now. We had a very special visitor in Reception! Grandma Marion 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.

We have enjoyed exploring the concept 'Growing' in R.E. We have learnt about how things grow in nature and then we have thought carefully about how we can grow during Lent. We know that we can be kind, compassionate and respectful.

We enjoyed preparing for our Mother's Day stay and play session, we created paintings, cards, a video and we created our own lemon curd pastries.



YEAR 1

We have continued our learning about Blackpool in Geography and went on a trip for the day. We saw Blackpool Tower, the Central Pier, the Pleasure Beach and we went to the Zoo. We had a great time and enjoyed a stick of rock on the way home. In English, we have been reading Handa's Surprise and have made up our version of the story. We changed the characters and the fruit we found along the way. In DT we have been making hand puppets so that we can entertain Year 2. We used a needle and thread to join the felt together. We are learning all about Lent in RE and have made Lenten promises. In Maths, we have been counting forwards and backwards in 2s, 5s and 10s and have been looking at the length and height of various objects. We have been coding in Year 1 and have used Bee-Bots to navigate to places.



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YEAR 2

Another busy term in Year 2! We have thoroughly enjoyed using creative nouns, imperative verbs and adverbs to create a recipe for a Big Bad Wolf potion. We know all about fractions and can find both unit and non-unit fractions of amounts. Our moving nursery rhyme pictures are almost complete, and we are looking forward to using special knives safely to create slots 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 thought of lots of ways we can celebrate Jesus' life by giving back to our school, our community and our world during Lent.



YEAR 3

Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed World Book Day and loved sharing the story of 'Dandelion's Dream' and dressing up in favourite book character costumes. We have been learning about counties, the 8 points of a compass, Ordnance Survey maps and 4 figure grid references in geography. We went on a walk of our local area and used an Ordnance Survey to identify human features. In DT, we have been developing and practising our sewing skills. We designed and made textile Easter cards and perfected the running stitch. In RE, we have been learning about the significance of Lent and how Christian people prepare for Easter by fasting, giving and praying. We have also worked incredibly hard putting our beautiful Passion Play together. 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 completed a newspaper article based on The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane and we are looking forward to publishing our final 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 and have come up with some amazing designs! We even designed our own keyrings, which Andy Sledge has made for us! We are so lucky! In science, we have been learning about States of Matter and have observed different materials as they change state. We have also enjoyed spending time with our new friends at Lostock Primary School as part of the School's Linking Project.



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YEAR 5

In year 5 this month we have been writing a lot, we composed persuasive speeches based on our world book day text 'dandelion's dream', narratives inspired by 'the day the colours came home' and 'Pilgrims of hope' persuasive letters written to our school community to inspire all to join in with this special Jubilee year. We have really enjoyed learning about the world we live in and its power. We have looked in depth at natural disasters, including monitoring the recent news of earthquakes in Thailand and volcanic eruptions in Iceland. In Maths, we completed our fractions, decimals and percentages unit and have begun reading and interpreting data as part of our 'statistics' learning. We have been exploring structures in DT, looking closely at the design of bird hides. In Science, we have focussed our learning on the life cycle of human beings and the physical changes which we go through during our lives. In RE, we explored the concept of 'memorial sacrifice', remembering Christ's sacrifice when he died on the cross and have been reflecting on how Lent is an opportunity to turn away from evil, hearing the stories of how Judas betrayed Jesus, Jesus' arrest and his sacrifice for us. We have continued coding in Computing and we have been enjoying gymnastics lessons with Beth Tweddle Gymnastics. In Music, Bolton Music Service have been visiting each week to teach us how to utilise music technology. We have received weekly visits from Fort Alice, to support our 'healthy families' PSHE learning. Finally, we enjoyed the fantastic 'voices for equality' workshops delivered by the Anne Frank society, learning about discrimination and how our own behaviour affects the society we live in. It has been a lovely half term and Miss Harkin, Mr Hinde and Mrs Cooper 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 music, we have been exploring different types of music and how, when we put different instruments together, we can have a different impact on the listener. We have thoroughly enjoyed sharing these with the rest of the class and creating music to go with a scene in Harry Potter. In PE, Miss Baxter has been teaching us through completing outdoor adventurous activities; we have followed maps and found things outside. In English, we have written non-chronological reports about Afghanistan and used a range of writing techniques to edit and improve. We loved celebrating world book day and dressing up as our favourite characters. Most of all, we enjoyed our trip to crucial crew where we learned many life skills to help us in daily life! 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.



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