



# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 21st May 2021

## A MESSAGE FROM MISS CHOMA

Hi everyone,

Thank you for another fabulous week in school – again, lots of hard work and perseverance. I am so lucky to read wonderful stories or descriptions written by the children. We have some very talented children who have great imaginations and can use language effectively to bring their ideas alive through the use of words. My sister, who is a writer, is often flabbergasted at the high level of writing the children produce. I would often send her copies of stories written by the children because she enjoyed reading them.

### Reading for Pleasure

This week walking around school, I have heard children reading their class novel; key words and early reading books in YR, YR1 reading their words in the Pentecost Assembly and generally, children reading instructions for their lessons. This brings me to the importance of reading. Reading opens up the world to children; initially, by parents/carers reading and sharing books with their child, and then the child acquiring the skills to read themselves.

One of the most wonderful things for me as a parent was hearing my children begin to read independently. One of the most memorable moments was when we would watch a cartoon together and they would ask – ‘What’s this one called?’ – to find out the title and I would read it to them. As their reading skills developed, they would read the odd word until they were able to read the whole title - an exciting and precious moment for us to share.

The moment my children started to read was the beginning of a magical journey – the unlocking of many new adventures we had sharing and reading books together from The Gruffalo to the Ancient Egyptians.

Research shows that sharing books with children from an early age has a huge impact on their literacy skills and inevitably helps children to read independently.

*‘Children who have lots of experiences with books absorb the rhythms and patterns of language and, at surprisingly early ages, begin to imitate the language and gestures their parents and caregivers use while sharing stories, sometimes turning pages and murmuring as they “read” the pictures.’*

As a school, we are looking at our current books - fiction and non-fiction and having a big sort out. We will be buying some new non-fiction and fiction books for the library for September. Also, each class will be looking at their reading area and ways to improve it to get children reading so get your thinking heads on.

### Reading at Home

It is vital that you listen to your child read regularly – even in Y6. Children should be reading every day at home. Regular, short periods are more beneficial than a big read once a week. Reading Records need to be signed and books returned to school so new books can be sent home.

I believe helping our children to read is giving them one of the best gifts in life. As a school, we are asking all families to think about **when, where and how** you will make sure reading takes place regularly?

From now until the end of the school year, we would like as many pictures as possible of you and your family reading (family – brothers/sisters/parents/carers/grandparents etc.). There will be a reading page in the newsletter to share your pictures as well as some information about reading and books. We will be releasing different reading challenges and looking to find ways to display our love for reading around school.

Have a lovely weekend – hopefully, the weather is better tomorrow as the forecast is cloudy in the morning with sunshine in the afternoon – fingers crossed!

From all the staff - be safe; be kind and be happy. God Bless

# KEY INFORMATION

## EXTREME READING CHALLENGE

1. Choose a book.
2. Find an unusual place to read it.
3. Ask your parent/carer to take your photograph. Email your photo to [homelearning@stjosephsotley.org](mailto:homelearning@stjosephsotley.org) or print it off and hand in to your class teacher.



**Don't forget to include your name and class on the photograph.**

All the photographs which are sent to school will be used on display in school or on the school's website.

**HAVE FUN READING!!!**

## TRAINING DAY - FRIDAY 28TH MAY 2021

Please remember that Friday 28th May is a training day for staff and therefore children should not come into school.

We will return to school on Monday 7th June.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 10th June Corpus Christi Procession
- 11th June KS1 Wildlife Otley Visit
- 23rd/24th June Y6 Confirmation
- 29th June Y3/Y4 Pedestrian Training

## RECEPTION CLASS SEPTEMBER 2021

We still have places in Reception for September 2021, so please share this with friends and family as we would love for more children to join the St Joseph's family.



**Please note - we are an inclusive school and welcome all applications.**

Please signpost people to our school website to get a feel for the school life and ethos.  
Thank you!

## DATE FOR DIARY—FATHERS DAY STALL

FOSJ will be holding a Father's Day Stall on **Friday 18th June**.

Children will be able to buy gifts for £1 per item and they will be able to buy more than one gift (max 3).

Please could any donations be taken to the office.

Many thanks for all your continued support.



## PLEASE READ: IF YOUR CHILD IS LATE INTO SCHOOL

On a morning if you arrive at school after 8:55am, we ask that you come to the office to sign in.

We must insist that a **parent accompanies their child to the office.**

Thank you for your co-operation.



## PARENTPAY

Please can all parents/carers check their Parent Pay account and make any outstanding payments. There are payments due for after-school clubs, trips, activities and dinner money.

Please could we ask that **dinner money balances do not go over 2 weeks (£24.00) in arrears.**

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

# CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

### A prayer for Pentecost

Come Holy Spirit,  
fill the hearts of your faithful  
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and they  
shall be created.

And You shall renew the face  
of the earth.

Amen

## OUR LADY & ALL SAINTS CHURCH

### MASS TIMES

Due to Covid-19 Restrictions, Mass times have  
changed for Our Lady and All Saints Otley.

Please see bulletin for changes to Mass times

[Click here](#)

Please book a place for Saturday evening or Sunday  
morning Mass - [book here](#)

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

In our virtues Collective Worship this week, the children continued to think about kindness and listened to these words from Hebrews 13:16, 'Do not forget to do good and to help one another, because these are the sacrifices that please God.'

The children reflected on the acts of kindness that they see in school and on the examples of kindness that Jesus showed us.

## PENTECOST

On Sunday, the Church celebrates Pentecost which is considered to be the birthday of the Church.

On this day, the disciples received the gifts of the Holy Spirit and were able to tell other people about Jesus' love for us all and many people were baptised.

Next month, our Year 6 children will receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit when they are confirmed in their faith. We ask you to keep them in your prayers.



## EYES OF THE WORLD DISPLAY

Last month, children in school watched the "Eyes of the World" national assembly produced by CAFOD.

The children learnt about the UN'S Climate Change talks called COP26 which are taking place in our country later this year. CAFOD's campaign is encouraging world leaders to take action against climate change and to support the poorest communities in the world. The children used the idea that we are watching the world leaders to create these pieces of artwork for the hall.





# CLASS NEWS



## YEAR R NEWS

This week in Reception, to continue our New Life topic, we have been learning about the life cycle of the frog. Evie explained, "I like learning about frogs as my Nanna has frogspawn in her pond. I am excited to watch them grow into tadpoles and frogs." The children have done some great work to display what they have learnt.

In Maths, we have been working on our subtraction skills. We have been focusing on using the correct mathematical symbols used in number sentences and the children have been learning to support themselves by counting back on a number line. You could continue to work on this over the weekend.

In Music with Mrs Shakespeare, the children have been listening to rocking rhythms and performing actions using their feet and hands.

In PSHE, we have been learning 'How to be a Good Listener'. We understand it is important to look at the speaker, ignore other distractions and show interest by asking questions.



## YEAR 1 NEWS

This week in Maths, we have been focusing on division; we have been introduced to the division symbol  $\div$  and we have started to use this in our number sentences. We have used counters to visually represent division in a variety of formats: bar model, in a number line and in a part-whole model.

In RE this week, we have continued to learn about the events in Eastertide and have been thinking about Pentecost which is the festival when Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is celebrated on the Sunday 50 days after Easter. It is an important event in the liturgical calendar as it is the birthday of the Christian church. We reflected on the events that happened as the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus' followers, arriving like a strong wind and looking like tongues of fire.

Over the past term we have been developing our throwing and catching skills in PE and have practised lots of ball movements around our body. This week we practised some hoop throwing skills and played a game that involved throwing our ball to knock over as many cones as possible.

In English this week, we have been learning about verbs, we know that verbs are 'action' or 'state of being' words. When we want to put a regular verb in the past tense we can add 'ed'. We identified verbs in our book *Dinosaurs and all That Rubbish*. We wrote instructions for the dinosaurs on how to improve the land that humans had ruined.

We've made some cross curricular links from our Topic work on Otley this week and in Art we've been thinking about how we could design a sculpture for Otley. We thought about all the things that Otley is well-known for and designed our own pieces. On Friday we used clay to begin sculpting our designs.



## YEAR 2 NEWS

This week in Year 2 we have been looking at new adjectives to use within our writing. The children used a traffic light system to sort adjectives into 'boring,' 'known' and 'new'. By doing so they also learnt what synonyms are. We have also been using speech marks to create writing with dialogue.

In Maths this week, we have been looking at length and height. We have spent the week looking at rulers in detail, finding out what cm and inches are and how to use a ruler properly to draw and measure straight lines.

In RE this week, we looked at the story of Pentecost. We discussed the main events of the story and talked about why we celebrate Pentecost day. The children re-told the main events of the story in their own words and pictures.

In PE this week, the children had lots of fun putting their cricket skills to the test. We split the class into 3 groups of 7 and had fun scoring lots of runs, before the rain came pouring down and we had to run back inside!!



## YEAR 3 NEWS

In English, we have been planning our own cautionary tale poems. The children planned the structure of their poem, found relevant and irrelevant rhyming words, and have begun to write the first draft. We will be ready for publishing next week!

In Maths, we have been working on adding and subtracting fractions. It has been wonderful to hear the mathematical vocabulary used by the children in their own discussions, and read it in their written answers to problems.

In RE, we prepared for Pentecost by discussing the gifts the Holy Spirit gave the disciples. We thought about all the ways the Holy Spirit has been represented in the Bible stories we have read so far. We used different pictures to represent the Pentecost story, and the children explained which parts they felt were most important and why.

In IT, we have reached the end of our first Scratch coding topic, so the children were challenged to create their own Animation. You can see them coding in our picture!

In History, we looked at how hieroglyphics were translated by archaeologists, and the significance of the Rosetta Stone. We had an interesting discussion about ancient and modern languages and how language continues to develop.



## YEAR 4 NEWS

In English, we enjoyed writing events from Hermia's point of view. We worked hard to write in first person and to use the correct pronouns. We used lots of fronted adverbials, similes and 'show, don't tell' to illustrate Hermia's rollercoaster of emotions!

In Maths, we have been ordering, rounding and comparing decimals using  $<$ ,  $>$ , and  $=$  symbols. Our understanding of decimals is really growing!

In Geography, we discussed the destruction of the Rainforest. We discussed how many products are made using palm oil, which farmers are growing on land which was once forest. We thought it would be a good idea to discourage manufacturers from using palm oil in their products so that no more forest and habitats would be destroyed.

In RE, we had a lovely discussion about the Fruits of the Holy Spirit and how we can live them out in our daily lives. We then moved on to think about the apostles who were trying to spread the Good News of Jesus. We focused on Stephen and how he spoke openly to the High Council and how they were furious. Stephen was not afraid to speak out about Jesus and gave his life for him.



## YEAR 5 NEWS

In English, Year 5 have been using all our writing skills to write a story based on the story of Beowulf. The children have been trying to include expanded noun phrases, alliteration, similes, fronted adverbials and noun plus noun phrases to enhance their descriptions.

In DT, the children started designing their bags that they are going to make after half term. If the children have any material at home that they would like to use for this then please send it in the first week after half term.

In Music, the children enjoyed using different percussion instruments to repeat different rhythms.

In PSHE, we talked about peer pressure and looked at different scenarios where people might feel pressurised to start smoking or drinking alcohol. The children had lots of good ideas about what they could do and say in these situations.



## YEAR 6 NEWS

In Maths, we learnt how to use protractors and measure angles. We also revised key skills in preparation for next week.

In Geography, we identified what human and physical features are. With this in mind, we began to plan a walk around Otley which would include these in. On Monday afternoon, we will be going out into Otley to find these features. Whilst doing this, we will take photos and videos of them to create our own tourist information video on iMovie.

In Science, we carried out an experiment which looked at increasing our heart rate by exercising. Firstly, we counted our resting heart rate and then did 1 minute of exercised and measured our heart rate at 1, 2 and 3 minutes after exercising.

On Thursday afternoon, a group of Y6 pupil went fishing at Far View Fishing Lakes and despite the terrible weather Timo managed to catch a whopping 8 pound mirror carpe - the instructors couldn't believe it!!

