

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 26th March 2021

A MESSAGE FROM MISS CHOMA

This week in school has been a very 'reflective week.' On Tuesday, we joined in the national minute's silence to reflect on the anniversary of the first lockdown; on Thursday, Year 6 led our Stations of the Cross reflections; on Friday Year 3 received their Sacrament of Reconciliation and we wore hats to raise awareness of Brain Tumour Research. There were some fabulous, colourful hats. Today, we began our Holy Week Assemblies with Reception and KS1 leading the readings and reflections on Palm Sunday. Father Lawrie has left some palms for us to collect in church. Next week we will continue with our Easter assemblies for Holy Week.

Also, this week, the children have been carrying out assessments; the staff are proud of the sensible way all the children have carried out their assessments. They have concentrated hard to the very best they can. Well done everyone - another super week in school; great behaviour and lots of hard work!

Exactly 18 years ago, my youngest daughter was born – it's pay day for teachers. Niamh has been always nicknamed – 'Payday Baby.' We will be having a birthday tea later and enjoying some birthday cake.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend and rest. I will see you all on Monday.

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

WEAR A HAT DAY

On Friday 26th March, we would like children and staff to wear a hat (preferably a funny hat!) to raise awareness about this cause. *Wear A Hat Day* is one of the UK's biggest and best-loved brain tumour research awareness and fundraising days.

For more information, check out <https://www.braintumourresearch.org/fundraise/wear-a-hat-day>



UPCOMING INFORMATION

BIG PEDAL 2021

This year the challenge will run from **19—30 April 2021**. Like previous years, **walking will be counted** alongside cycling and scooting. On each day of the challenge schools compete to see who can record the greatest number of pupils, staff and parents cycling, walking, scooting or using a wheelchair to school. A school's best five days will determine their final position and schools at the top of their leaderboards will receive an exclusive Sustrans Big Pedal Trophy.



We are holding a competition where children will receive a raffle ticket every time they walk, scoot or cycle to school. We are looking for local businesses to donate suitable bike related prizes (or potentially low cost gifts). Your business would be publicly thanked in our newsletter, website and twitter page.

This is a great opportunity to show children the importance of healthy living, and how wonderful the world of cycling is!

LENT ACTIVITIES

During the season of Lent, we try to raise money for different charities. This year we are raising money for: the Good Shepherd Appeal, which help families in need of therapeutic family support work; CAFOD, who raise money to help alleviate poverty and suffering in developing countries and, Mission Together which is the the Catholic Church's official children's charity for overseas mission and aims to provide education, nutrition, medical care and shelter for children living in poverty around the world.

TOAST

As always we will also be selling toast again during Lent to raise funds for the Good Shepherd Appeal and Mission Together. Toast will be sold every Tuesday during Lent from **Tuesday 9th March** and will cost 30p per slice (just 1 slice per child).

EASTER EGG RAFFLE



We will be holding another "egg-citing" Easter Egg raffle on **Thursday 1st April!** We would like children to bring in £1 which will buy them a raffle ticket. St Joseph's staff will be providing a selection of Easter Eggs, from big whopping super prizes to small chocolate eggs to ensure that every child wins something.



EASTER EGG THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to the following families for donating some **Easter Eggs** for our Easter Egg raffle!

- Direct Plumbing and Heating (The Hill Family)
 - The Poole Family
 - The Bellwood Family
 - The Taylor Family

We are still welcoming donations.

A MESSAGE FROM LEEDS DIOCESE

There is an event sponsored by the Briery next Monday (29th March), taking place from 7.30-8.30 pm via Zoom.

Breda Theakston will be leading a one-hour introduction to the main themes of **The Joy of Love** (Amoris Laetitia), Pope Francis' letter on family life which as published five years ago. Families may find this a useful event to reflect on God's presence in families, and the challenges which families have faced during lockdown.

A link to a free copy of Amoris Laetitia (in English) will be sent to you when you sign up for this session. Simply contact The Briery Retreat Centre with your email address to register briery@btconnect.com. More information is available at www.briery.org.uk.

CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,

Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

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](#)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On Thursday afternoon, all the children in the school took part in a Stations of the Cross reflection which was led beautifully by our Year 6 children. Each child had the opportunity to carry a cross around the field and listen to reflections about Jesus carrying the Cross. We finished the reflection with each child placing a pebble at the foot of the cross and thinking about the sacrifice Jesus made for us.



DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

On Tuesday, we joined in the national minute's silence at midday to reflect on the anniversary of the first national lockdown.

We reflect in sorrow for those who have passed away.

We reflect with compassion for those who have suffered.

We reflect with thanksgiving for the generosity of those who have made sacrifices.

We reflect in hope that the pandemic is controlled and that we can open up our lives again.

We remember that Jesus is our comfort in sorrow, our strength when we need help, our joy in the gifts we celebrate and our hope when times are difficult.



VIRTUE TO LIVE BY

In our Collective Worship this week, the children listened to Paul's words from Colossians 3:13: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

RECONCILIATION

Congratulations to the children who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time today. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their faith journey.





CLASS NEWS



YEAR R NEWS

This week we have continued learning about Space! Our focus this week has been on the planets in the solar system. The children have been writing facts that they have learnt about the planets such as "Jupiter is the biggest planet." – Jack and "Saturn has got seven rings. They are made of rock and ice." – Brodie.

Later in the week, we also made our own planets using crafts materials.

In RE this week, we have been learning all about the Easter story. The children had a task to retell the Easter story which they did a super job of! On Thursday, we also joined Year 6 to carry the cross to the four stations.

In Maths this week, the children have enjoyed lots of games/challenges to support them with their subitising skills! You could continue to practise this at home with household objects.



YEAR 1 NEWS

In Music this week, we listened to a piece of music by Benjamin Britten called *The Storm*.

We tapped our feet to the tempo of the music. We chose some percussion instruments and recorded our own musical storm reaching an exciting crescendo and then played softly as our storm diminished.

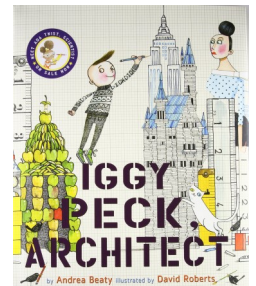
In Science, we have been learning about the five senses. This week we have been focusing on sight. We used mirrors to look at our eye colours and investigated the different parts of the eye. We learnt some very tricky vocabulary including: pupil, iris, sclera and eyelid.

In RE we have been reflecting on the story of The Good Samaritan. When a man is robbed by bandits, several people fail to stop and help him. Finally, a Samaritan (who didn't get along with the Jews) comes by, and he helps the injured man, in an act of mercy and compassion. Jesus taught us this story to explain that people should love everyone, including their enemies.

In English we have been writing our own booklets about London. We chose two well known landmarks and wrote facts about them for others to share and read.

In Maths we have been practising lots of arithmetic. We have used different methods to help us with our calculations.

In PE we have been doing gymnastics. After stretching we made some different shapes with our body. The star, a pike, straight and a tuck.



YEAR 2 NEWS

It has been assessment week in school this week. Year 2 have all worked extremely hard and should be very proud of the progress they have made since the beginning of the year, especially with 8 weeks of online learning thrown in the mix too! Well done to all of Year 2!

In RE, the children learnt all about Holy Week and the events that happened running up to Easter Sunday. The children have all produced some wonderful Easter wall decorations that celebrate Jesus rising from the dead.

We have also managed to squeeze in some work on homophones. We had a brilliant discussion about what they were, and they all did a great job guessing different homophones from clues. We then split into 3 groups and worked hard to recognise words with pictures and then match the words with their homophone partner.

An update on our mouldy bread experiment! It's been 3 weeks since we put the bread out in our classroom, and it is safe to say they have all gone very mouldy! We found that the bread left in the warmth was the least mouldy, and the bread left out in the light was the mouldiest!



YEAR 3 NEWS

Year 3 have worked so hard—it has been lovely to see them all so motivated to do their best - Bella cheered every time I brought out another assessment! For our writing assessment, the children created a fantasy narrative set in the world of 'Cinderella of the Nile'. They created a story map first, and have really developed their story planning skills from September. We then had a Big Write session, and the concentration and creativity that came from it was fantastic.

After our Maths assessments, we continued to explore our topic of length and perimeter. It would help children at home to practise measuring lengths in millimetres, centimetres and metres, as we are finding it tricky to convert equivalent lengths in these measures.

In RE we have been preparing for the children's first Sacrament of Reconciliation. They behaved beautifully in church and enjoyed taking part in such a special meeting with God. We were also lucky enough to be escorted around the Stations of the Cross by Year 6 on Thursday, in order to better understand Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross.



YEAR 4 NEWS

It has been assessment week in Year 4 this week and we are delighted with how hard the children have worked. They have all stayed focused and put 100 % effort! Well done Year 4.

As well as this, we have been learning how to add fractions and subtract fractions. We have use Cuisenaire rods to help us to find totals. We have also been using lots of mathematical language to support our learning and understanding.

In English, we have been planning and writing a story about an adventure. We needed to include lots of different techniques that we have been practising this half term, such as show, don't tell, fronted adverbials, possessive apostrophes and direct speech. We have come up with some weird and wonderful ideas for our stories. Mrs Holmes cannot wait to read them all!

In RE this week, we have been using the Scriptures of Mark to retell the events of Holy Week. We have done a lot of thinking and reflecting about the feelings of Jesus during this week. We then wrote our own versions of the events of Holy Week.



YEAR 5 NEWS

In RE this week, the children continued their work on Reconciliation and used their knowledge about the Sacrament of Reconciliation to write a leaflet for the children in Year 3.

In English, we read the story "When the Giant Stirred" which is about a volcano erupting. The children wrote a summary of the story and a description of an island using different techniques.

In PE this half term, the children have been enjoying playing hockey on a Friday afternoon. We have been practising our dribbling, passing and shooting skills so far.

The theme for Mindful March this week was the importance of sleep and the children learnt about a breathing technique to help us get to sleep which we practised in the beautiful sunshine on Wednesday afternoon.



YEAR 6 NEWS

In Maths, we have continued our Algebra topic and it has definitely been a little bit harder this week. We have been looking at different formulas to answer questions, it took us a while to understand but we have a good understanding now.

In English, we read up to the end of chapter three – Michael has fallen into the sea with Stella. We predicted what would happen to Michael and how he might end up on Kensuke's Kingdom. We wrote a narrative, in third person, from his last log book entry to him falling into the sea. We thought about ways we could write in the style of Michael Morpurgo: short sentences; descriptive writing and personification.

In Science, we concluded our investigation that looked at how mould grows on bread in different places. We found that the mould grew best in a warm dark environment and the bread had to be wet too. We also thought about why some of the pieces of bread didn't grow mould in our week long investigation.

During our PSHE lesson, we learnt about different drugs and how they can sometimes be harmful/helpful. We talked about the risks associated with them and the laws that surround them.

