



Welcome to our February 2024 Newsletter

## Headteacher Message

The last 6 weeks of Spring term have been filled with lots of learning and fun. It has been lovely to welcome Mrs Hague back from maternity leave and we are delighted to congratulate Miss Hamer on the arrival of her daughter Jane this week.

The children have worked really hard this term and they have enjoyed trips and visitors into school as part of their curriculum provision.

The PTA have been active this term and have provided wonderful opportunities for the children and raised lots of money in the process.

I hope you all have a wonderful week with your family and we look forward to school opening on Monday 26 February 2024 at 8.40am. God bless, Mrs Nealings

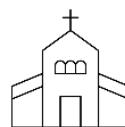


### Curriculum

This term Year 5 are learning to play the ukulele and Year 6 are learning to play the violin as part of our music curriculum.

KS2 children and staff are continuing to enjoy the new Latin curriculum. Staff have received additional training to deliver the ancient language.

Remember we encourage children to read daily to ensure fluency. Please support your child to read daily and to complete their reading records.



### Catholic Life

Year 5 and 6 visited St Charles' Borromeo Catholic Church on Wednesday to take part in the parish Ash Wednesday Mass. The rest of the school participated in a Celebration of the word to mark the start of Lent.

Have you thought about your Lenten promises? The children have thought about their promises and changed their sacred spaces in their classrooms to begin their journey through Lent.

The children will be deciding which charities to fundraise for this Lent. We will share any alms giving ideas with you next half term.

*"Together we follow Jesus in our living and learning"  
Lent. "Turn your life toward God and live!"  
(based on Ezekiel 18:32)*



## Children Mental Health Week

Mr Gray led our assembly that reminded us to look after our mental health. We talked about zones of regulation, how exercise can help and how we can ask for help in school or at home if we do not feel happy.

## Online Safety

Last week, the children completed curriculum tasks linked to internet safety day. This year's theme was 'together for a better internet'. The children's messages are displayed in the discovery hall.

Tips for parents and carers can be found at:  
[Top Tips for parents and carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

## Early Years News

This term Nursery children have enjoyed their spa day as part of children's well being week. They have also had a lot of visitors into Nursery class as part of their Stay and Play sessions. They have also been busy writing a card for Fr Michael to see if he can come and visit them in school as they learn about the role of a priest. Reception class have really enjoyed learning about the Naughty Red Bus and have displayed wanted posters all around school. Have you seen the Naughty Red Bus?

## That History Bloke

This half-term, Year 5 enjoyed a workshop with the History Bloke all about the Vikings. Within this workshop, we explored a range of artefacts including armour, helmets and shields. We also wrote our names on wax boards just as the Vikings did. We had a great morning!

## Year 4 and 6 visit a local Mosque

Earlier this week, we visited Newcastle Central Mosque to learn more about the Islamic faith. We had a great time learning more about Mecca, the five pillars of Islam and learning about how Muslims pray. One of our class members recited some of the Qur'an.

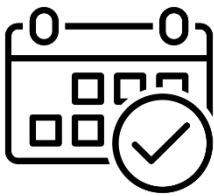
## PTA Breakfast supported by Year 6 and Disco

Last week, Year 6 led a fantastic breakfast to celebrate Children's mental health week. The children across school enjoyed some mindfulness colouring, well-being books and a tasty breakfast for all. Thanks everyone for joining us!



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## Attendance

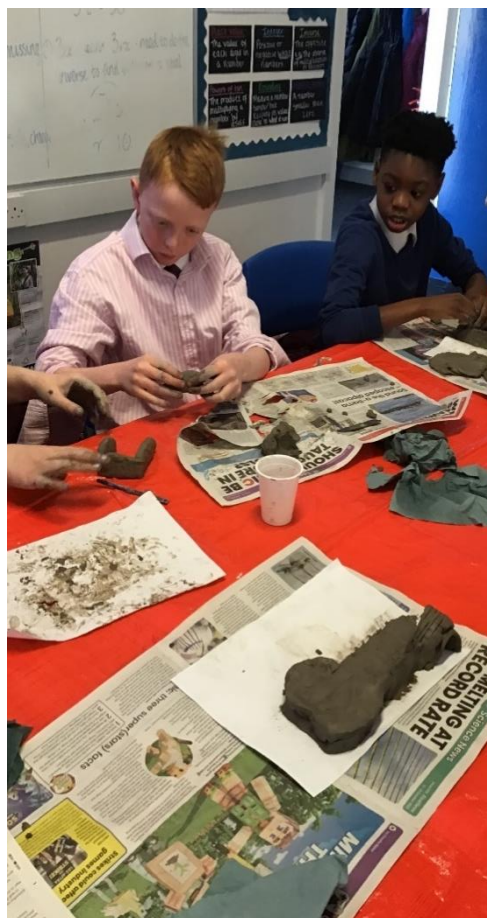
Thank you once again for your support with punctuality and attendance.

We fully understand if children are unwell they should not attend school. When we monitor attendance, we do look at patterns of absence e.g. if a child is regularly late on a Tuesday or absent on a Friday. Illness is included in absence figures. Attendance letters are generated every Friday for children that have hit a trigger point.

Remember it is just as important to collect your child from school at 3.20pm. It is very distressing for children when they are left behind when their peers go home. If you need childcare, please contact Happy Days after school club and make sure you are registered with them. Teaching staff have meetings and tasks to complete after school which means we are unable to provide childcare.

## Take One Picture Project

Miss Warsap, Art leader, planned a project across the school this term on the Take One Picture Project. All of the classes worked on the same painting and produced a range of pieces inspired by it including clay sculptures. This year's painting was by Pieter de Hooch, *The Courtyard of a House in Delft*, 1658.



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## Prayer and Liturgy

Thank you to all of the parents and grandparents who have joined us for the pupil led Celebrations of the word at the end of the RE unit of work. It is lovely that you can join us and we are trying to host these on different days as requested by you in our parent voice. Mrs Binney will continue to share a newsletter with information about Catholic life. This month we are focusing on grace prayers for the Year of Prayer.

## Holocaust Memorial Day

Thank you to Year 6 and Miss Thomas for leading us in prayer and reflection in January to remember the events of the Holocaust. The children read with confidence and respect as they led us in prayer.

## Gospel group

The Mini Vinnie children have decided to rename Bible Crew to Gospel group. They have started sharing scripture at lunchtimes with the children. This will continue as we journey into Lent.



## Collective Worship

The children have been enjoying creative prayer this half term and enjoy their weekly homework missions.

They have enjoyed living out their missions by being kind, helping others and sharing a smile. Thank you to the Year 6 children who had led our 'Praying in Paradise' for the other children this term, providing them with opportunities to reflect and pray.

As a school community, we have talked about our Lenten promises and how we can try and do more for others during Lent as well as give us something we like.



## Fr David Visit

Today, Fr David visited our school to talk to us about the Muhoroni Mission. After visiting Kenya 21 years ago as part of his training to become a priest, Fr Michael has returned 18 times and has supported the people living in the area. He has helped build a well with the help of our school and the other Catholic Primary Schools in Newcastle in 2016. He has raised £75000 for an ambulance and he has helped women set up a business weaving baskets and bags using sisal.

We have bought some of those baskets for each of our sacred spaces in school. We would like to fundraise for Fr David to support his work this Lent. We will share information with how you can help after the half term.



## General

Remember to refer to the school diary dates and the school calendar on the website for events next half term. World book day is after half term and during the last week of term, the children in Key Stage 2 will be leading us in prayer and reflection as we enter into Holy Week 2024.

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