



Bishop Hogarth

Catholic Education Trust

Newsletter



SPRING 2023

WELCOME

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome to the Spring 2023 Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust Newsletter. The joy of compiling a Trust newsletter is that we can collect together and celebrate all the wonderful events and opportunities that have happened across the 35 schools.

We know the last few weeks and months have been unsettled by the teacher strikes. However, I am as ever immensely proud of the hard work and dedication of the teachers and headteachers in providing in-class learning, online resources and wider opportunities right across the Trust. I am full of appreciation for all the parents and carers and the support they have given schools throughout this period. I hope and pray that there is a speedy resolution to the dispute that recognises the needs of the children and is both respectful to the profession and manageable by the schools.

As we work through Lent and on towards the wonderful celebrations of Easter, we are reminded of new life and new beginnings. It is also the time of the year where plans are drawn up for the next academic year. Year 6 pupils are looking towards September and joining one of the Trust Secondary schools, Year 11 are thinking about progression after their GCSEs and Year 13 students, in any one of our three Sixth Forms, are considering what their next steps are - possibly picking which university to go to or with an eye on a career. It's all about preparing for and embracing change. We hope pupils, students and parents see their educational path running right through our Nurseries, Primary schools and onto our Secondary schools and Sixth Form Colleges, where the staff know them and they can trust that they will get the best opportunities to excel.

We are very excited to be able to celebrate the two recent Catholic School Inspections, carried out by the Diocese on behalf of Ofsted. Both schools were recognised for their outstanding leadership and catholic life, achieving Outstanding grades in all three categories.

I am pleased to be able to announce the appointment of our two new Deputy CEOs, Stuart McGhee and Nick Conway. Both are highly experienced and skilled in supporting our headteachers in school improvement and continuing our drive for excellence in all that we do. Stuart and Nick join our central team alongside Trish Abbott, our new COO who was appointed in September.

I hope you enjoy reading about all that the children have been doing and join me in thanking the staff in all our schools for all that they do. Thank you to parents for the support you give our schools right across the BHCET region.

Happy Easter.



Mr Mike Shorten, MA (Ed) NLE
Chief Executive Officer of BHCET

WORLD BOOK DAY 2023

Sacred Heart

This year, we linked World Book Day to our mental health and wellbeing. All the activities that took place in school that day were based around the book 'Happy' by Nicola Edwards and Katie Hickey. The children were involved in all happy things, from coming into school in clothes that make us happy, writing happy poems and having a mindfulness session with our own Mindfulness Lead, Mrs McNamara.



St Cuthbert's (Stockton)

The children had a wonderful time on World Book Day. We had visitors from Drake's Bookshop in Stockton and Stockton Library. Drake's Bookshop provided a book for all of the children to take home and they set up a stall during the week for families to access in school. Our older children had the opportunity to read with our younger children and they all thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



St Joseph's (Billingham)

We had a fantastic day celebrating World Book Day where each class had a theme linked to the 'Little People, Big Dreams' books. There was also a wonderful surprise on World Book Day, we received 400 free new books from 'World of Stories', which we are delighted about. We had a great time swapping classes to share stories with other children, and our new books made this even better. We understand the importance of reading and are working hard to organise our new books to further promote reading for pleasure in school. Our new school build starts in July, and we are excited to be designing our new school library which will be a place that can take us on many reading adventures.



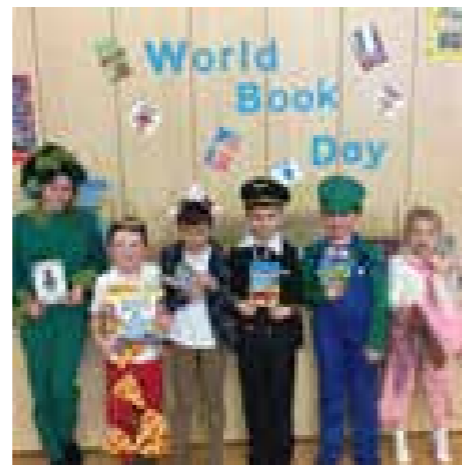
St Mary's (Barnard Castle)

For World Book Day, the children dressed up as either their favourite character or as an adjective of their choice. We had lots of fun trying to guess the adjectives and noticed we have lots of 'cosy, comfortable and sleepy' teachers and students! The children also received a wonderful surprise from our friends at Morrisons in Barnard Castle, when they delivered a book hamper for our main school library. Thank you Morrisons!



St Wilfrid's

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed World Book Day this year. Our fancy dress theme was to 'Come as a word'. We had everything from Pizza and Broccoli to Christmas and Flamingo. We had a huge book quiz and a competition to decorate a potato as a book or character. The children worked really hard and their potatoes showed amazing creativity.



FLAME 2023

On Saturday 4th March, students from all five of our Secondary schools headed to London to attend the Flame event at Wembley Arena! Our students were a part of the 8000 young people who attended the event. The event is the largest Catholic gathering for young people in England and Wales.

The students that attended from the Trust made up 2% of the total population of those who attended the event, which reflects our significance within the demographic of Young Catholics.

Our staff and students gave thanks to the life and ministry of the late Fr Dermott Donnelly who was instrumental in the setting up of the Flame Congress.



ST JOSEPH'S (NORTON)



Shining Christ's Light at St Joseph's Norton

St Joseph's Catholic Academy in Norton, were thrilled to be able to shine Christ's light on the many wonderful things that happen in their school, during their recent Catholic Schools Inspection. The Catholic Schools Inspectorate reported that St Joseph's is an 'Outstanding' school, where all are witnesses to the school's mission and are committed to following the light of Christ. The enjoyment and progress of pupils in religious education was clear for inspectors to see, as was their exemplary behaviour. Chaplaincy provision was recognised as exceptional, and the opportunities for traditional and creative prayer are a central part of school life. Pupil leadership was seen as a great strength of the school, as was the outreach work that they initiate. Christ is truly at the centre of all that St Joseph's do and recognition of this is, in itself, a wonderful achievement for the whole school family, and local community.

ST TERESA'S (DARLINGTON)



'OUTSTANDING'

This term, St Teresa's was judged to be outstanding by the Catholic Schools Inspectorate. The report highlighted the following:

"The quality of provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school is outstanding because the mission statement at St Teresa's is clear, inspiring, known, lived and witnessed throughout the school."

"Staff fully embrace inclusivity and provide exceptional support for all."

"Pupils are exemplary role models and show a clear sense of respect for others."

"Parents value the 'family feel' were everyone is welcome."

"The school celebrates and values everyone in its community without exception."

CARMEL COLLEGE

Carmel College Careers Fair

Carmel College hosted their annual careers fair for Year 9-13. We were joined by almost 400 students and their parents/carers! Our students enjoyed speaking with the many employers and educational providers who attended from around the UK. Thank you to our student helpers who made a wonderful impression too! Here are some comments from our guests...

"Thank you so much for the invite! We had a lovely evening. We found your students to be exceptionally polite and well mannered, giving us a tour to the different facilities, having a map/info on the tables and a buffet were all a great touch."

"Thank you for inviting me along to the event. It was a great evening and as always so lovely to see so many students keen to know more about their future options."

"Many thanks for having us at your event, we had some great conversations with your students!"

Faith In Action Bronze Award

We welcomed Brenda and Brian from the St Augustine's Parish SVP conference to award our Youth SVP with their Bronze Faith in Action Award.

Over 100 students from Year 8-11 received the award in recognition of their hard work putting 'concern into action.'

We gathered together for a Liturgical Prayer, reflecting on the parable of the Sheep and the Goats.

Each of their awards was moderated by parishioners and members of the Adult SVP conference. The comments written by parishioners are lovely and encouraging as our young people continue to put their faith into action each day.

We are so proud of each student who has participated and we look forward to our students receiving silver and gold awards next year!



THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

Visit from former student Rebecca Ryan

Former student and author Rebecca Ryan visited the Sixth Form. She helped with the opening of our new Sixth Form library system, enabling all students to check out books via an app. Whilst here, she delivered creative writing workshops to Year 12 English Literature and Language students. Rebecca was so impressed with ideas that the students came up with. We thank Rebecca for spending the day with us.



The Queen's Green Canopy

His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham, Sue Snowdon, visited The English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College to celebrate the planting of a tree. The school community was invited to take part in the Queen's Green Canopy initiative, whereby we were invited to plant a tree to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. A large platinum planter which commemorates the project will be placed in the main reception. Mrs Crawshaw, headteacher of EMS said: *"We were overjoyed that Mrs Snowdon could visit us to plant the tree with our students, our tree will be nurtured, and in the coming years, will flourish into a lasting memory of the late Queen for our community."*



Catenians Public Speaking Competition 2023

EMS was delighted to host the The Catenians Province 5 Public Speaking Competition. Students aged from 11 to 18 travelled to Hartlepool from across the region to deliver passionate, intelligent and compelling speeches to a large audience.



Lewis H, Ava W and Finlay B were outstanding in their performance against very strong competition. Finlay was awarded second place for his KS3 speech on 'the importance and power of reading' with EMS6 student Lewis crowned as the winner of the Post 16 competition. Lewis has been invited to represent Province 5 at the Catenian National Public Speaking Contest in Manchester in September. Sara Crawshaw, headteacher said: *"It was a real privilege to host the event at English Martyrs, all of the participants of the competition were fantastic."* *"I wish Lewis, and all of the other winners well for the National Competition."*



Pope St John Paul II Award

Charlotte, an EMS6 student, received her Pope John Paul II award. To earn this fantastic award, Charlotte has undertaken many hours of work in her local parish and has given back tremendously to her local community over the last year. It was a wonderful event with the Youth Mission Team and Bishop Emeritus Seamus present to celebrate.



The awards were presented by Adenike who also entertained us with some wonderful singing. A truly joyous celebration, well done to Charlotte and all who received their awards!

ST JOHN'S

Stockton Globe Theatre

Students from Year 10, 11 and 12 visited the Stockton Globe Theatre to watch Six the Musical, based on the wives of Henry VIII. The show was fantastic and our students were incredible ambassadors for St John's.



Addams Family

In July we will be showing the production of the Addams Family! Rehearsals have already begun and this is the biggest cast we have ever had at St John's. We can't wait to see our students talents, break a leg!

National Theatre - The Ocean at the End of the Lane

Members of our Vocal Ensemble and MADD from Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 visited Sunderland Empire to watch the National Theatre's production of The Ocean at the End of the Lane. Thanks to generous funding from Arts Council England, we received these tickets free of charge and were therefore able to reward these students for their contributions to the extra-curricular life of the school and their commitment to Performing Arts.



The show was absolutely fantastic, and as always, the students were a real credit to the school and themselves.

The Angel Trust

The Angel Trust is a charity that aims to support people in our local community. We took nine Year 10 students to volunteer at the charity for the day. The group got stuck in by helping stack shelves in the pantry, selecting and bagging essential items needed for families using the food bank, preparing meal deal baskets and peeling and chopping potatoes for corned beef pies. The group agreed that it was a truly humbling experience and the work carried out by the Angel Trust staff is inspirational.



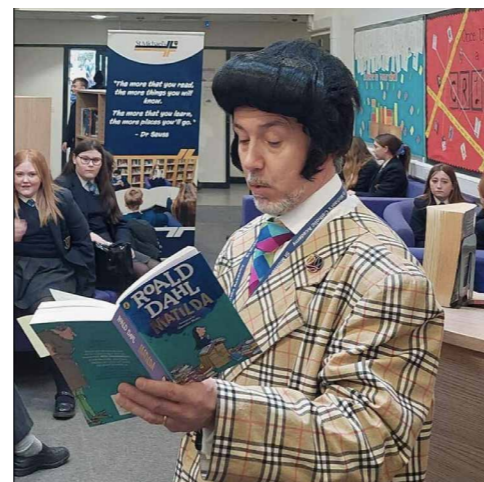
ST MICHAEL'S

Year 8 Girls Football

A huge well done to the Year 8 girls football team from St Michael's, who got all the way to Manchester in their tournament. The students won at Hartlepool Victoria Park and Sheffield, before coming 4th at Manchester.



Throughout their journey, the students got the opportunity to meet Ellie Wilson, a professional footballer from Sheffield United. The opportunity has been great for developing the profile of women's football in the North East.



The girls have represented St Michael's and BHCET unbelievably well and we couldn't be prouder of them.

Well done to Shae, Annabelle, Heidi, Jess, Hannah, Rosie, Imogen and Alivia.

Liz Million Visits St Michael's

The art department organised a visit from illustrator Liz Million who led a session to Year 8 pupils. Liz's session showcased how what is taught in the classroom can be used in a career.



Some students were given the opportunity to take part in workshops, to further develop their art skills.

The Care Home Legends

St Michael's Year 11 students were involved in a unique sporting occasion, as residents from care homes proved that age was just a number when they tackled a range of sporting events.



The pilot event was organised by Tees Active, where pupils from St Michael's led sporting activities to care home residents.

Tees Active's marketing team streamed the event live into care homes so residents who were not attending the event could cheer on their fellow residents.

OUR LADY & ST BEDE

Form Saint Masses

Thank you to all our parents, carers and Parishioners who have attended our form Masses this year. It is lovely to share these Masses as a community and to celebrate the pupils hard work in preparing the bidding prayers, artwork, prayer card, and opening and closing reflections.



Mental Health and Wellbeing Personal Development Day

Pupils had four sessions delivered by teachers throughout the day including:

1. 'Chipping away': Coping with stress.
 2. 'Create the change': Body image and self-esteem.
 3. 'Changing places': How to be a supportive friend for someone who is facing mental health challenges.
 4. 'Tackling stigma': The stigma surrounding mental health and pupil presentation of things we can do in school to support pupils in school.
- Year 7 and 8 also had a performance from Zak, a young man who tours around the country sharing his music and his passion for mental health awareness. Year 9, 10 and 11 had a session from Alliance, focusing on how we can live mentally healthy lives and the support they will offer in the near future in school.



Finals of the Cyberfirst competition

On Saturday the 4th of February, the Computer Science department took the 'Python' team to the regional final of the Cyberfirst competition at Northumbria University. The team included Amelia C, Mikhaela L, Eloise C and Keisha B. The team had to compete against nine other teams from the North-East on problem solving and cyber security challenges. Although the team didn't win, we had a great day and it was a fantastic achievement to be in the top ten teams in the North East.



Holocaust Memorial 2023

We came together as a school community to commemorate this important day. We began with a liturgy, a time of prayer and reflection. This was followed by our exhibition where every department was represented. Our departments were tasked with reflecting on the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day 2023 "ordinary people" and creating an exhibition piece which linked the theme to their subject area. However, it is important to note that this monumental achievement was not just the work of our amazing staff, but was driven by our pupils who have given up break times, lunch times and afterschool to create the fantastic pieces of art which were on show. This evening was an opportunity for us to remember the millions of people who were murdered at the hands of the Nazis and during other horrendous acts of genocide but also serve as a reminder to us all of the role we can play in ensuring we never see the likes again.



Dr Peter Vardy- Upwards Transition Talk

On Monday 23rd January, we were honoured to host a Trust event in school, led by the internationally renowned philosopher, Dr Peter Vardy, formerly of Heythrop College, University of London. The event focused on upward transition for Year 10 and 11 students and their parents. A huge thank you to Dr Peter Vardy for inspiring the Philosophers and Theologians of the future!



BLESSED JOHN DUCKETT

Mini Police

Spring term has been very busy at Blessed John Duckett. Year 4, 5 and 6 have been taking part in weekly Mini Police sessions. During their Mini Police lessons, they have learnt about anti-social behaviour and performed drama to promote good citizenship and British Values. Then as good citizens they went out into the local community to collect litter and drop off leaflets to raise awareness of anti-social behaviour.



Litter Picking

Children in Class 1 and 2 helped with litter picking in the local community. First, they had a talk from Mrs Dobson from Durham County Council then they went out to clean up the streets! They did a fantastic job!



Vikings (Forest School)

During this term, KS2 have further developed their Vikings knowledge in Forest School. They worked in teams to make Viking camps, they practiced their whittling and knife skills to make Viking boats, bows and arrows to use for target practice and weaved willow into dream catchers. The children also developed their fire safety skills and toasted marshmallows! They have been preparing our school garden for Spring by tidying the flower beds and vegetable patches, and sowing seeds.



Lent

To begin our journey through Lent, Fr Nick came into school and celebrated a beautiful Mass with us. Children from Nursery and Reception led Mass with the help from our Mini Vinnies. As part of our fundraising, our Mini Vinnies have planned and organised lots of activities. Children across school have taken part in an Easter quiz, bingo, Cafod assembly, the Big Lenten Walk and an Easter disco.

HOLY FAMILY

Fairtrade Fortnight

We have marked fairtrade fortnight by learning about fairer trading throughout the world and with a 'Perfect Pineapple Bake Off' competition. These were the winners and they received a pineapple apron and some fairtrade chocolate.



Lord Mayors Song Concert

Holy Family choir came third in the Lord Mayors Song Concert singing Goodbye Yellow Brick Road.



OUR LADY OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY

Entrance Artwork

At Holy Rosary we are delighted with our recently completed entrance area artwork! As a part of Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust we all ascribe to the Trust's Virtues and our whole school community try to live out these behaviours every day. We were lucky enough to have a local artist design our 'Tree of Virtues' to show how the virtues are each a part of what makes for a strong personal character, and that they are all rooted in the Word of God. We have already had many positive comments from visitors!



Careers Week

During careers week we were visited by the fire service, Cleveland police, a local author and a physiotherapist. We also held a West End workshop and a STEM workshop. The Cleveland police visited our early years and KS1, they explained about different roles within the police and let the children look inside the van and try on some uniforms! The STEM workshop taught students about engineering and other relevant subjects. The West End workshop showed our students how to express themselves through dance and movement. We were very grateful to all of the adults who visited in Careers Week, the children loved learning about a range of different career paths.



OUR LADY & ST THOMAS

Northern Ballet

Class 3 & 4 had a wonderful time in a Ballet Workshop with Northern Ballet. The students were fascinated to learn that stories can be told through dance. The children practiced First Position, Plié, Relevé and also danced as frogs, ducks and cats. The frog dance move was the most popular with the children and they all danced brilliantly.



Number Day

We celebrated Number Day this term. We raised money for the NSPCC and had lots of fun with maths.



Locomotion

To celebrate STEM week, KS2 went on an exciting trip to Locomotion. The students learnt all about the rocket, medicine engineering with GMK, manufactured bridges and had a chance to explore the museum itself. Everyone had a great time!



Heritage Schools Award

We earned this award for working with Northern Heartlands on their project, "Hidden Heritage," which is funded by Heritage Lottery. The fund is to encourage communities including schools to research and understand the heritage of their 'place' as there is evidence to suggest that having this understanding has a positive impact on wellbeing. From now until the end of the year we would like to work with community groups and schools in Willington and the surrounding villages to undertake research activities finding out more about the local heritage, these will then be followed by some creative activities that will feed into a big event (like The Man Engine) happening in summer 2023 which will mark the end of the project.



SACRED HEART

Letter to Prince Charles

Students in Year 2 wrote letters of sympathy to the then Prince Charles in September. We were all very excited when we received a reply from him this term.



Chinese New Year

Our Early Years children celebrated Chinese New Year.



Afternoon Tea Civic Event

Our Year 4, 5 and 6 choir attended the Mayoress, Councillor Veronica Nicholson's, Afternoon Tea Civic Event at Hartlepool Civic Centre and performed two songs for the invited guests.



Eco Committee

Our Eco Committee have been doing a lot of work around helping the environment and have produced posters to persuade the school community to walk to school.



Life Cycles

Our Nursery children were looking at Life Cycles and we had ducklings arrive from Living Eggs. Four hatched: Lucky, Happy (who hatched on World Book Day), Quacky and Rainbow were welcomed by the whole school community.

ST AUGUSTINE'S

Sporting Successes

Congratulations to the girls' football team who played superbly in the recent football competition. The girls' came back with the honesty award.



Our boys team won the annual Darlington 5 aside football competition. The team won five out of six matches displaying some excellent football skills along the way. The football event had been held for 24 years and this year was the first time that St Augustine's have taken first place. The boys team also finished second in the Darlington FC Foundation Football competition, displaying excellent football skills coupled with scoring some excellent goals! They didn't concede a goal all afternoon until the penalty shoot out in the final!



Our Year 4 dodgeball team played superbly, winning five out of six matches, returning to school proudly displaying their gold medals.



Our Year 4 tennis team had a great time representing St Augustine's, they received a certificate for demonstrating great passion.

All our children within the sporting competitions have demonstrated amazing passion, impeccable behaviour and great teamwork. Well done!

ST BEDE'S (DARLINGTON)

Mayor's Song Content

Our amazing Year 6 choir placed a very well-deserved 3rd place in the Mayor's Song Content. This is a huge annual event and there were 19 primary schools from across Darlington competing in the event. The children were fantastic and represented St Bede's wonderfully.

They showed determination, teamwork and confidence performing in front of hundreds of people. The judges said their performance was 'A superb performance full of storytelling! Gorgeous unison singing and beautiful solos'.



ST BEDE'S (STOCKTON)

How mountaineering and charity will get kids walking and talking
These boots are made for walking, and that's just what they'll do!

Nearly 60 Teesside schoolchildren are set to join world-famous mountaineer Alan Hinkes OBE for a walk on the wild side after each received their first pair of high-quality walking boots.

The first British man to climb all fourteen 8,000-foot Himalayan mountains, Alan was guest of honour at St Bede's Catholic Academy in central Stockton as the Year 4 and 5 children excitedly tried out their new boots and boot socks.

They were donated by North East charity the Walk and Talk Trust (WTT), whose volunteers will be leading the pupils, aged eight to ten, on a series of adventures that will introduce them to the joy of walking.

St Bede's headteacher Bernadette Rizzi-Allan said: "Thanks to the generosity of the WTT, this is a wonderful opportunity to not only boost our pupils' minds and bodies but show them some of the beautiful Teesside countryside."

Geoff Simpson, CEO of the WTT, added: "We're delighted to work with the team at St Bede's - encouraging their pupils to feel the benefits of being active and of connecting with others, with nature and with their environment."



Boot camp – Alan Hinkes and the Walk and Talk Trust team with the pupils at St Bede's Catholic Academy.



Fill your boots – famous mountaineer Alan Hinkes OBE (centre) is set to lead St Bede's Academy pupils up Roseberry Topping in boots donated by the Walk and Talk Trust.

Primaries

ST BEGA'S

After School Clubs

We have been very busy this term with after school clubs at St Bega's. The children loved dressing as pirates and princesses, dancing to 'Just Dance' and having a Hawaiian themed evening. We all had lots of fun.



ST CHAD'S

Sporting Events

Year 5 and 6 attended the Sports Hall Athletics Festival - the children had a great time! We have had a whole school fencing day, where the children took part in workshops to learn how to fence! Some children from Class 3 and 4 participated in a swimming gala. They swam individually and in team races: they did amazing and came 6th overall.

EYFS Dinosaurs

As part of their topic about dinosaurs, EYFS went on a trip to the Hancock Museum in Newcastle. The children had a fantastic time exploring the dinosaur exhibit, where they got to see and touch many fossils and artefacts. They identified different types of dinosaurs and fossilised eggs! The children enjoyed a stegosaurus story as well as a range of hands-on activities including fossil hunting, identification and measuring.

Forest School

In Forest School this term, Class 1 worked as a team to create hedgehog nesting and feeding stations. The children added leaves and sticks to the nesting boxes, dug a water station, added food bowls and even used a folding saw to cut a hedgehog highway through the fence. We cannot wait to see if we have any spikey visitors!

Fairtrade Coffee Morning

As part of our Lenten activities, our Mini Vinnies led a Cafod assembly as part of our Fairtrade Coffee Morning. They told parents all about the wonderful work Cafod does to support making communities sustainable in the wider world. The children thoroughly enjoyed the cake stall!



Primaries

ST CHARLES'

Adam Bushnell visits St Charles'

The children at St Charles' were delighted when an Adam Bushnell visited school in February. He talked to all classes about his stories and how reading helps our imaginations grow. The children had the opportunity to ask questions about his role as an author and how he became a writer. Each class also had a special workshop where Adam taught them how to create exciting characters for their stories. He had lots of historic artefacts to spark their imaginations!

Science Week

This month St Charles' celebrated Science week. It has been a fantastic experience for the children as they took part in different lessons to develop their scientific skills and knowledge.

Some of the lessons they took part in included:

- Becoming crime scene investigators and practising how to take fingerprints. The children looked at the different patterns these can make and identified which ones they had. This was linked to how investigators make connections to evidence to solve crimes.
- Investigating to explore how sounds travel. The children made string telephones and experienced the sound vibrations travel through the string and into a partner's ear. In Year 5, one group even managed to make a working six-way string telephone!
- Yeast growth and if the temperature of the water makes a difference.
- Learning about the eight phases of the moon including the names of each phase and created a moon dial to take home.



ST CUTHBERT'S (CROOK)

Mental Health Week

Our Early Years children enjoyed learning about the worry monster, during mental health week. They were able to talk about the way they feel with their friends through lots of different activities.

International school links

As part of our International school links we have worked with our Tanzanian friends on a project about gratitude and what we can be thankful for.

Mini Earth Science Ambassador award

Class 4 have been working hard with an Earth Science student from Durham University and have earned the 'Mini Earth Science Ambassador award'. They studied different types of rocks and developed an understanding about the world around us.



ST CUTHBERT'S (HARTLEPOOL)

Tribute to Queen Elizabeth II

Pupils from St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School joined other Hartlepool schools to make their own very special and lasting tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

A total of seventy students planted a selection of young trees on land near the Visitor Centre in Summerhill Country Park on Tuesday 14th March to create a tranquil 'green' memorial to our late beloved monarch.

Making the tribute doubly poignant, the young people also read poems and written reflections which they created in memory of Queen Elizabeth II in a creative writing project.



ST CUTHBERT'S (STOCKTON)

Bikeability

Year 5 and 6 had the opportunity to take part in Bikeability this term. The children thoroughly enjoyed the course and it was wonderful to see them develop their skills and gain the confidence to cycle safely on today's roads.

Teesside Hospice Fundraising

The children raised an amazing £820.66 for their sponsored run to raise money for Teesside Hospice.

They were presented with this cheque in February during a Teesside Hospice assembly.

Sporting Activities

Our children have taken part in many sporting activities this term. This is the Active School Festival which some of our KS2 children attended and had a fantastic time.



ST GREGORY'S

Emmaus Youth Village

In February, our Year 6 children had a fabulous three-day retreat at the Emmaus Youth Village in Consett. The Youth Ministry Team provided a truly holistic experience where the children experienced a wonderful journey in faith, exploring the adventures of St. Paul. At the heart of the experience, was the message of God's unconditional love for each one of us and the children showed great confidence, self-belief and resilience throughout the three days. They were great ambassadors of our school, sharing their own unique gifts and talents to others.



ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

First Aid Training

This term our students had first aid training delivered by CPAD Ingleby Barwick, Great North Air Ambulance and CIPHER Medical Consultancy Limited. The older children were trained in delivering CPR and the younger children in making an emergency call and how to keep themselves safe. The children were incredibly well-behaved, focused and asked lots of thoughtful questions.



Primaries

ST JOHN VIANNEY

Children from St. John Vianney School enjoy Civic Events

We commemorated Commonwealth Day earlier this month on Monday 13th March, the first celebrated with King Charles III as Head of the Commonwealth. Our children were invited to sing for the service of Proclamation & Affirmation and the raising of the Commonwealth Flag in front of Hartlepool Civic Centre. A mixed group of children from KS2 represented our school at this occasion. They enjoyed the Ceremonial Macebearer delivering the Proclamation, like a 'Town Crier' of old and then cheered as the Commonwealth Flag was hoist by the Mayor. Those attending were very complimentary, with one of the councillors saying: *"The children sang out with such joy; I wish I could still summon up such excitement."* It was good to see parents also supporting the event and hearing their children singing together. However, the part the children most enjoyed was the reception in the Council Chambers afterwards, hosted by Mayor Councillor Brian Cowie and Lady Mayoress Councillor Veronica Nicholson. The children not only had juice and chocolate but were each given a memento of the occasion – a pen . . . and all loved having a flag to take home.



As the celebrations continued during the week, two children from Year 6 represented our school at the planting of a tree – a Mountain Ash – and a 'canopy' of native species as a living memorial to the life of the late Queen Elizabeth II. The pictures show a 'before' and 'after' view of the planting and what the tree hopefully will become in the years ahead. Again, the children enjoyed getting muddy, planting trees and sharing memories of the Queen in the creative writing and artwork they shared. However, as ever with our children, the talking point on the way back to school was how much they had enjoyed the cake.



ST JOSEPH'S (BILLINGHAM)

Fairtrade Fortnight at St Joseph's Billingham

Lead by our Community Ambassadors, St Joseph's pupils enjoyed the annual Fairtrade Fortnight, February 28th-March 10th, with a green and blue day to raise money and awareness for the cause. We learnt why Fairtrade is important to the world through special lessons, assemblies and baking days. Our local Tesco was very generous, donating Fairtrade bananas to help with our baking. We have discovered climate change affects us all, but especially affects those in warmer climates where farmers are growing vital crops. Did you know that chocolate, coffee and bananas could become scarce because of the devastation caused by climate change to the farms that grow these products? Fairtrade is helping farmers overcome these problems and if you buy Fairtrade products you can help them too!



Primaries

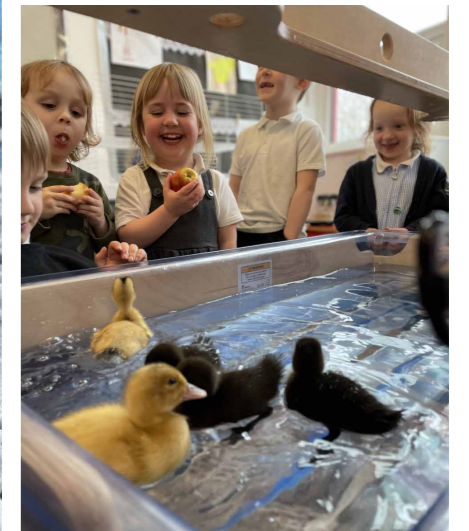
ST JOSEPH'S (COUNDON)

Ducklings

Early Years welcomed some ducklings to the unit! We watched them hatch from their eggs and we looked after them, we even took them swimming! It was wonderful to learn about the life cycle of ducklings, especially as we begin to enjoy Spring time.

Snow

And then the snow came!!! So we had fun there too!



ST JOSEPH'S (HARTLEPOOL)

Youth Village

Year 5 went on a residential visit to the Youth Village.

The children all had a fantastic time, they completed activities focusing on Cafod and Global Action, spent time outside and played interactive games. The students all had a fabulous time!

Whole School Liturgy

Year 3 and 4 led a wonderful whole school liturgy about the importance of being part of a community, where everyone is included and supports each other. They researched sign language to enable them to sign our mission statement and modelled this within the liturgy.



ST JOSEPH'S (NEWTON AYCLIFFE)

St Joseph's Feast Day

We celebrated the feast day of our patron saint, Saint Joseph, by launching our new school mission statement, motto and prayer. Staff, parents, pupils and governors were all involved in the development of our new mission statement and motto and our Mini Vinnies wrote our new school prayer. Our parish priest led us in a beautiful mass and afterwards, we had a tea party with our families. Each child received a book with the mission statement displayed inside, a prayer card and three little wooden hearts inscribed with the word love to remind them of our new motto - 'Love God, Love Learning, Love one another.'



Eco Warriors

The eco warriors have been taking part in Keep Britain Tidy's 'Great Big School Clean 2023'. The children took to the streets around their school armed with litter pickers to collect as much litter as they could. They collected eight large black bags full of rubbish over three days. Shocked by how few bins there are around school, the group wrote a letter to the ward councillors. In their letter, the children explained the damage litter causes and asked if more bins could be placed in the area. The children received speedy responses to their letter from many members of the council. Mayor Ken Robson said that the issue raised was 'one that was close to his heart and thinking' and he complimented the children on their 'public spirit'. Members of the environment team within the council have very kindly offered to meet the eco warriors to discuss the issue and to see how they can help improve it. The eco warriors are extremely grateful for the responses received from the council and look forward to working with them.



ST JOSEPH'S (NORTON)

National Careers Week

A range of professionals visited St Joseph's for National Careers week. The children met with their local PCSO, a Cardiologist, a Doctor, a Nurse, and a Lifeguard amongst others. They learned about many careers and explored the knowledge and skills that certain jobs need, whilst making links to our Trust Virtues. The highlight of the week was a visit to Stockton Globe for 'Careers in Theatre' workshops. The children had a fantastic time learning about stage direction, lighting and audio, and creating marketing materials for the theatre!



ST MARY'S (BARNARD CASTLE)

Sporting Achievements

We've had some sporting achievements for our netball team and swimming team. Our students have competed at the gala at St John's and the local cluster sports events at Newton Aycliffe. Our netball team in Year 5 and 6 came 1st and our swimmers came 3rd in the gala. Well done!



World Book Day Photos



ST MARY'S (NEWTON AYCLIFFE)

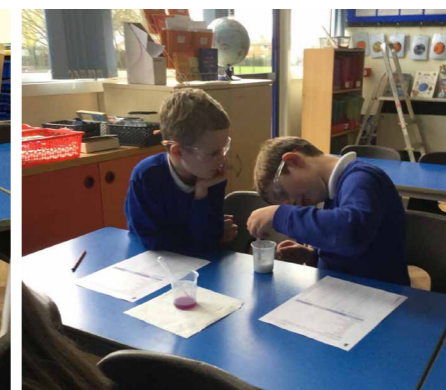
Ancient Egypt

Olivia came from Durham University to deliver a day's workshop on Ancient Egypt. The day started with the children investigating a range of artefacts from Ancient Egypt, they had to draw them, describe them and guess what they were used for. The afternoon's session focused on clay work, designing and making their own amulet or shabti. The final activity was a role play of a mummification.



Science Club

Scientists at after school science club have been using PH indicator made from red cabbage to test different substances to see if they were acidic, alkaline or neutral. They tested vinegar, lime juice, washing powder, milk, Coca Cola, bicarbonate of soda, salt solution, sugar solution, shampoo and hand sanitiser. The students were all very excited!



Primaries

ST PATRICK'S

Duck & Chicken Eggs

The school has adopted six duck eggs and six chicken eggs! Children and staff are delighted whenever any of them hatch! A Year 6 pupil is keeping a diary entry to record their progress.



Stockton Schools Finals

Well done to our Year 5 and 6 girls who won the Stockton Schools Finals football competition!



Farooq E Azam Mosque

Our Year 4 children enjoyed a visit to the Farooq E Azam Mosque in Stockton. They learnt about the five Pillars of Islam, the importance of prayer and about the different parts of the Mosque. The children behaved brilliantly and asked some very thoughtful questions during the visit.

ST PAUL'S

AfPE Quality Mark

We are delighted to be the first school in Tees Valley to be awarded the highly prestigious Association for PE (AfPE) Quality Mark with Distinction, for 'demonstrating outstanding commitment to improvement in Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity'.



The validator for this award was particularly impressed in how we have integrated the "My Personal Best" values into our school curriculum. We use these values as a tool to improve behaviour and attainment in all subjects.



Our Sport Leaders, Mrs Tattersdill and Miss Wood, proudly received the AfPE Quality Mark with Distinction.



SHINE award for 'Learning Links'

St Paul's is thrilled to have won a national competition for their Early Years home learning resource, which promotes number sense as well as language and communication skills.

The competition, sponsored by TES and run by the education charity SHINE, awards funding to teachers who have innovative ideas for helping disadvantaged students succeed in English, maths, or science.

Mrs Victoria Wilson, curriculum lead in mathematics, applied for this award; on hearing she had been successful she said, "It was an amazing feeling, because as a school we've put a lot of work into this idea and I think it will make a big difference. I was pleased that other people could recognise that as well."



We received a £5,000 grant from the Let Teachers SHINE competition, which helped to fund "Learning Links," a set of inspiring, practical home-learning resources and parental guidance aimed at supporting children's school readiness.

Primaries

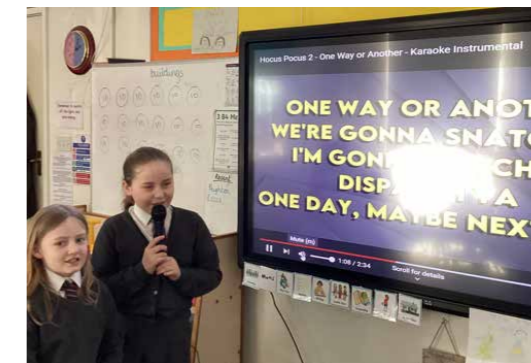
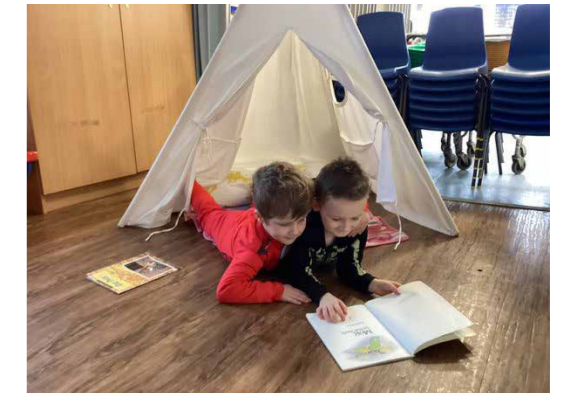
ST TERESA'S (HARTLEPOOL)

Family Groups

During the Spring Term at St Teresa's we have introduced Family Groups. All of our children were placed into a family group that represents a Saint. We have linked these with the Saints House Groups at our feeder school, The English Martyrs Catholic School & Sixth Form College.

The children can earn family beads for hard work, kindness, showing school values and many other things. It has been wonderful to see the children going the extra mile with their good manners to earn a bead, such as opening doors for adults, standing back to let adults past and showing kindness to others.

At the end of the month, the children get the reward of a family bead treat, which is chosen by the class. The rewards so far have been extra playtimes, pizza making, a movie, a karaoke and disco, a class tea party and story time in tents.



Primaries

ST WILFRID'S

Daisy Arts

Year 5 have been extremely lucky to take part in a project for Daisy Arts focussing on the theme of light. Duncan Brown from the Sage in Gateshead taught us two songs he had composed and we were able to record them.

The project is called 'The Butterfly' and will be held in Bishop Market Place on the 11th March. It will feature our pre recorded voices and is a fun filled evening for all the family.



Football League

Our football team from Year 3 and 4 have enjoyed playing in the local football league. It's wonderful being able to play at Bishop Auckland football ground.



Ullswater Outward bound Centre

Year 5 had a wonderful time at Ullswater Outward bound Centre. They spend the weekend in the Lake District, gorge walking, problem solving and going on night walks with head torches. They all enjoyed the weekend, especially kayaking across the lake and followed by a fell walk.



Chicks

Nursery and Reception are looking after some special visitors. They are looking after ten happy, healthy chicks. The children are looking after them and learning all about how eggs hatch and how we look after baby animals. When they get a bit bigger they'll go to live on a farm.

ST WILLIAM'S

Who needs numbers anyway?

Special guests were invited into St William's to talk about the importance of maths and numbers in their jobs as part of our number day earlier this term. Experts in renewable energy, cookery, medicine, cake design and postal services visited classes across the whole school to lead workshops and to help children appreciate the value of maths in different careers.



The children had a fabulous day filled with great maths activities inspired by their special guests. We'd like to thank all our experts for giving the children their valuable time, sharing their talents and making the day memorable for all!





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