



It seems to be a quieter week than last week in school when I look at last week's newsletter, but that could be down to the number of photos that were included. Apologies to anyone who prints out their copy of the newsletter to attach to the obligatory fridge door!

A massive 'thank you' to the parents who 'volunteered' to be part of the promotional video that was undertaken by the Trust yesterday. When I say 'volunteered', I really mean press-ganged as they didn't get to leave after they had turned up for our Candlemas Mass. Thank you, I really appreciate you stepping up despite having had no time to prepare your speech (or hair).

Thank you to all the parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and parishioners that joined us to celebrate Candlemas (Presentation of the Lord) Mass on Thursday. It was very well attended and I am glad that we have so many of you that were able to join us. There are a number of events that have been organised by the Holy Family Parish, including the Candlemas BBQ at St Mary's Church on Sunday 12th February. For more information about what is happening in the Holy Family Parish please follow this link: <https://sacredheart.bhcet.org.uk/parish/>

Parents Association

This afternoon, a large number of parents came along to find out what being part of a Parent's Association entails. A few biscuits were eaten and emails exchanged but most importantly, we joined together as a group, with a shared purpose. It was wonderful to be able to do this; please expect to be press-ganged by this wonderful group on the yard. Being part of the association doesn't mean that you have to be available all of the time, it can be as and when extra hands are needed. I even managed to find some volunteers to walk the choir back to school next Wednesday, which Mrs Robinson will be delighted about.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Last Friday, the children participated in Holocaust Memorial Day, the theme being 'Ordinary People'. The art work our Year 3 children produced has been used in the Holocaust Memorial Day 2023 School and Community Video. You can see the video via this link: <https://youtu.be/riAaKNMKFu0>

ClassDojo

Dojo is a wonderful way for school to keep in touch with parents and for parents to get in touch with individual staff members. Recently, staff, myself included, have received Dojos that needed to be acted upon that day. If your message is urgent please ring the school office. Teachers are not able to respond to Dojos throughout the day as they are teaching so will only pick up messages outside of their teaching time.

Parking

Please park responsibly when dropping off and collecting your child. Remember, it is illegal to park over someone's driveway. Residents are phoning school to complain that they are not able to get onto their drives as access can be fully or partially blocked. We advise the residents to take the number plate and report the offence to the police.

Conjunctivitis

We have seen a rise in children coming to school with Conjunctivitis. Please see a pharmacist and apply the necessary cream before sending your child back to school. Please click on this link for further information: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/conjunctivitis/>

Children's Mental Health Week starts next week

We are participating in Children's Mental Health Week and the children will be involved in the 5 ways to well-being.

On Monday the focus will be 'Keep Learning', Tuesday, 'Connect' and this will link to Safer Internet Day, Wednesday and Thursday will be 'Be Active' and 'Take Notice' whilst Friday, the theme will be 'Give'.

On Friday (10th February) children may come into school in their own clothes as we take part in the Dress to Express theme day. Any donations which parents may wish to give (cash) will be used to support Place2Be, which aims for a future where children do not have to face mental health struggles alone and 50% will be used by school to buy well-being books for school, resources for calm areas and help support our well-being check-ins that we have introduced across the school.

On Thursday 9th February we are holding a Mindfulness session for parents. Come along at 2pm for tea and coffee and the session, led by our very own Mindfulness expert, Mrs McNamara, will begin at 2.20pm.



Pop Up Uniform Swap Shop

Do you need some good quality uniform? We will be holding a Pop-Up Uniform Swap Shop on Wednesday 8th February from 2.40pm. Weather permitting we are hoping to set it up on the playground, otherwise it will be outside the staffroom.

Unwanted Christmas Gifts

We are still accepting any unwanted Christmas gifts. Please hand them into the school office or give to a member of staff on the gate on a morning or at the end of the school day. Thank you to everyone who has already donated.

ATTENDANCE

This week, our overall attendance was 93.5%, which isn't as good as last week's overall attendance of 95.2%. Remember, our aim is 97% every week.

Well done to Class 11 who had the best attendance this week with 96.7%.

Please remember to telephone the school office by 9.15am each day your child is absent. Any unexplained absences are recorded as 'unauthorised'.



Before Christmas we were put forward for what is known as a 'new build', that is, a new school building. Unfortunately, on this occasion we were not successful. This may happen sometime in the future but I will continue to keep you informed.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

W/b 6 th February	Children's Mental Health Week, children will be involved in different activities over the course of the week.
Monday 6 th February	Year 1 Stranger Danger training, part 1.
Tuesday 7 th February	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 8 th February	Year 4 – Year 6 Choir singing for the mayoress – details given to choir members. Year 5 Parents Meeting – St John in the Vale 5pm School Hall. Pop-up Uniform Swap Shop.
Thursday 9 th February	Mindfulness Session for parents (2pm)
Friday 10 th February	Children may wear their own clothes, for a donation.
Sunday 12 th February	First Holy Communion Preparation: 9am St Joseph's and St Patrick's, 10am St John Vianney. Candlemas BBQ
Monday 13 th February	Year 1 Stranger Danger training, part 2.
Thursday 16 th February	Parish Mass in school. 9.15am Year 4 to lead.
Friday 17 th February	School closes for half term.
Monday 27 th February	School reopens at 8.30am.
Sunday 12 th March	First Holy Communion Preparation: 9am St Joseph's and St Patrick's, 10am St John Vianney.
W/B 27 th March	Parent Consultation Evenings
Friday 31 st March	School closes for the Easter holidays.
Sunday 2 nd April	First Holy Communion Preparation: 9am St Joseph's and St Patrick's, 10am St John Vianney.
Monday 17 th April	School reopens at 8.30am.
Saturday 13 th May	Children to make their First Holy Communion: 10am St John Vianney, 12pm St Joseph's and 2pm St Patrick's.

Items in red are new this week.

Thank you for your continued support.

Headteacher

On Thursday, we celebrated Candlemas Day. The day Jesus was presented to the Temple and He met Simeon.

