

ST CLARE'S R.C.P NEWSLETTER

Guided by Jesus Christ, our teacher, we journey together learning to dream, believe and achieve.

Friday 4th March 2022



Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to a new half term. We are half-way through the school year now. On Thursday, the whole school celebrated World Book Day. The children looked amazing in their costumes and they enjoyed doing activities linked to books. We want to instil in our children a love of reading. The children rotated between classrooms to carry out a variety of activities including making umbrellas, treasure boxes, writing stories and poems and creating artwork to name but a few. We even had a visit from a dinosaur 'Tinasaurus' who agreed to have photographs taken in return for a contribution to the Ukrainian fund. This alone raised £66.25!

On the same morning, our musicians visited the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester and were treated to a performance by the Halle orchestra. They played three pieces for the children relating to diversity and then involved them through actions and singing in the session.

Reception have started reading Jack and the Beanstalk in their English lessons. They were asked to think about what could be at the top of the beanstalk and there were some very interesting answers including a forest, a magical rainbow house full of money, tomatoes and Candyfloss land. Meanwhile, in Year 2, the children have been learning about the properties of 2d and 3d shapes including the number of vertices. Year 4 have been reading the blurb and analysing the front cover of their new book, The River Boy, to make predictions about the storyline. Some children thought that the river is magical and River Boy is the guardian of it; others thought grandpa has been re-incarnated as River Boy. Year 4 have been extremely creative over the holidays making models of different habitats. Their work is amazing and the children clearly enjoyed the home learning project. In Year 6, the children have been researching holidays in South America. They are going to make a holiday brochure to persuade you to visit.

Mrs Kath Wilkinson

I am very saddened to inform you of the passing of a former teacher here, Kath Wilkinson, yesterday. Mrs Wilkinson taught at St Clare's for twenty-two years and had a massive impact on the lives of so many children and families. The staff here can not talk highly enough of her and what a truly unique, special and passionate teacher she was. She had the ability to make every child in her class feel that they were her favourite, despite there being thirty children. One member of staff reported that her son, who is now twenty-seven, still believes that he was her favourite pupil, such was her talent. We send our heartfelt condolences to Kath's husband, Paul, and to all her family at this very sad time. Please remember them in your prayers.

As Mrs Wilkinson was such a huge part of St Clare's for so long, we are holding a short **prayer service for her on Wednesday 9th March at 3.25pm** in the Key Stage 2 hall. Anyone who knew Mrs Wilkinson (parents or past pupils) are welcome to come and join us in prayer.

Assembly

'Your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.' **Matthew 6: 1 – 6, 16 – 18**

This week we went on a virtual pilgrimage to Lent. We spoke about the significance of this special time in the Church's year and how we can use it to get to know God better, to look at ourselves and our behaviours and how we may support others. We spoke of how it is a time to pray more, think of others and help them, and go without something or do something extra. It is a time for our faith in God to grow.

On Wednesday we celebrated our Ash Wednesday Mass with Father Jeremiah signifying the season of Lent.

Pupil certificates

	Pupil of the week	Achievement
N	Elijah for great listening and joining in with group times.	Ollie for brilliant pancake subitising!
RH	Olivia M for completing all of the challenges to a high standard	Jacob G for coming into school with an excellent attitude this half term
RC	Jamie for always using his manners and being such an amazing role model within class	Bryan for using her imagination and writing an amazing sentence
Y1S	Ronnie for making extra effort this week to contribute to lessons with super answers!	Elizabeth for trying her hardest and not giving up when we were counting in 2s this week!
Y1D	Rory for coming back to school with a positive attitude.	Michael for his fantastic understanding in Maths when counting in 2's and 5's.
Y2M	Elsie for doing a wonderful reading during this week's Mass for Ash Wednesday	Eseosa for trying really hard in all her learning even when she finds things tricky.
Y2L	Phaedra for trying hard in all her learning this week and showing enthusiasm.	Harry for producing wonderful, detailed written work on Holy Communion in RE.
Y3M	Kyle for a great improvement in his attitude towards reading! Keep it up!	Nneoma for having a can do attitude to all of her lessons. She never gives up, and when she gets stuck, she tries and tries until she masters her skill!
Y3G	Poppy C for always applying herself 100% to every subject.	Alvaro for his imaginative ideas about his potential class dragon!
Y4RW	Rosalie for always having a fantastic attitude towards her work, giving 100% effort and never giving up when she finds something difficult.	Oliver for a fantastic analysis of a book cover and blurb, making great predictions about the story.
Y4S	Ikemba for working really hard in everything he does and always producing fantastic work.	Lennon for sharing lots of great ideas in lessons this week.
Y5OH	Emilia for showing great skills and control in our first PE lesson on hockey	Izabelle for creating a wonderful guide to Mass based on the consecration this week!
Y5K	Elizabeth for always trying her best and conducting herself in an amazing way in class.	Bailey for coping very well with some tricky fractions work in Maths this week!
Y5H	Zayn for using some excellent fronted adverbials and always having a positive attitude to learning.	Tyler for trying really hard in his fractions work this week.
Y6F	Riley has been trying really hard to improve his presentation and it has shown this week. Keep it up!	Danny for being a brilliant talk partner and trying his best in lessons since he came back.
Y6H	Marley for always having lovely manners and behaving respectfully in class.	Aidan for making an amazing quiz about WW2 and delivering it to the class- he was an amazing quiz master!
Y6S	Pierce for always putting 100% into everything that he does! He has such a positive attitude.	Billy for working hard in maths this week solving tricky algebra equations.

Headteacher's Awards:

Luca and Oscar in RC for great singing at our Ash Wednesday service.

Carter H in RM for knowing number bonds to 10 off by heart.

Phoebe C in 1S for enthusiastic counting in 5s.

Joris in 2L for always working so hard in every lesson.

Ryan in 3G for answering so many questions in assembly about Lent.

Khadijah in 3M for thinking of beautiful items to put in her treasure box on World Book Day.

Elian in 5OH for fully engaging in the morning at Bridgewater Hall with the Halle.

Isabelle in 6S for great artwork, a great costume and engaging fully in the World Book Day activities.

Ukraine

We are all deeply saddened to see events unfold in the Ukraine and have prayed in school and church for peace. Today, we asked that children brought in a donation which will be sent to support the people in the Ukraine. In return, the children were given a sunflower seed, the national flower of the Ukraine, to plant in their garden at home. The idea is to fill the world with beauty whilst showing solidarity with the people of the Ukraine. Thank you so much for your generosity in sending money in for the sunflower seeds. We have collected £144 so far. If you have not contributed yet, you are still able to on the payment system on the school app. Please keep the people of the Ukraine in your thoughts and pray for peace.

Next **Friday, 11th March**, we are holding **an own clothes day** to support the people in the Ukraine. We are going to wear 'sunflower' colours or Ukrainian flag colours in return for a donation to the fund. Thank you for your support in these matters.

The parish are praying the **Holy Rosary every Tuesday night at 6.30pm** before Mass to pray for peace in the Ukraine. Everyone is invited to join in

St Joseph's penny

I'm sure that you remember the St Joseph's penny boxes during Lent from your childhood. The idea being that you put your loose change in the box and the money goes to support families in our diocese.

This year, we are asked to do the same, but we are encouraged to **create our own boxes** out of recycled material at home. It does not have to be fancy, it can be as simple as an old cereal box. Throughout Lent, please fill your box with spare loose change and return it to school at Easter.

On 25th March, we will hold a 'crazy' hair fundraiser with the money being sent to St Joseph's penny.

Do you want to see less of our Chair of Governors?

Mr Collins, our Chair of Governors, has set a challenge to see less of him and each other. He is hoping to lose weight during Lent. For every pound of weight he loses, he will donate £1 to St Joseph's penny. His starting weight is 15 stone and 3 pounds. Mr Collins wants staff and parents to join him in this fundraiser. You do not have to tell anyone your weight, just donate £1 for every pound you lose. If you wish to join us, please send your weight loss donations via payments on the school app. This will be set up next week.

Attendance

Whole school attendance this week has improved to 94.3%. Well done everyone! The best class for attendance this week is 6F with 100%. Great attendance 6F

Miss Conway

Today we say goodbye to Miss Conway as she begins her maternity leave. Next time we see her she will be the proud mum of a beautiful baby. We wish her a safe delivery and enjoyable maternity leave.

Access road

Please do NOT walk down the access road in between the school and the church. It is a road and cars are frequently coming in and out of the car park. Access is via the front Key Stage 2 playground – follow the markings on the floor and the zebra crossing that are there to show the route. We would not walk our children down the middle of the road on Victoria Avenue, so please do not walk on this side road. We want to teach the children road safety and keep them safe. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Covid 19

As you know, all legal Covid restrictions have now been lifted. We are however, continuing to encourage the children to wash / sanitise their hands frequently, keeping up our daytime cleaning regime and keeping our rooms well ventilated.

Should your child display any of the three main symptoms of Covid in school, they will still be sent home and advised to take a PCR test. If your child tests positive for Covid, they will not be allowed into school. You may carry out lateral

flow tests on days five and six and if they are negative, your child may return to school. This is in line with current guidance. Although restrictions have been lifted in most areas of life, we do still have a responsibility to keep our pupils and staff safe.

Support

We know that families may experience difficult times and difficult situations throughout a year. As a school, we are part of the local community along with our church. We are here primarily to educate and support our children, but that extends to their families too. We are here to support you in any way we can - should you need it. If you are experiencing any financial or other worries, please do not suffer alone, get in touch. If we are unable to help you, we may know of a group who can help. Please contact Mrs Sylvester at school for a discrete conversation if you require some support.

Upcoming dates

Monday 7th March – Individual school photographs

Thursday 10th March – RM trip to Smithills farm

Friday 11th March – RC trip to Smithills farm

Wednesday 6th April – Parents' evening

Mrs Howe.