



St Ursula's Catholic Primary School

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

#8

20.01.23

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half-term is a short one and we only have three weeks left – I don't know where the time is going! We had a fantastic start to the week with our school choir singing at the O2 London Arena, where they joined the Young Voices choir, which was made up of 8,000 children from across the South East. What a spectacular place for the pupils to perform!

As well as singing, our pupils had the opportunity to listen to and watch other artists in the entertainment industry such as British soul singer and former lead vocalist of the band M People, Heather Small (one for the parents!). Street Dance Specialists Urban Strides and Anna Phoebe (violinist) also performed. Thank you the parents who came to support the children and a massive thank you to Miss Lawlor, Mrs Lawlor, Mrs Daltrey and Mrs Cook for giving up their time.



TEACHER STRIKES

You will be aware that the NEU have called their members to participate in strikes, to be held on:

- * Wednesday 1st February
- * Thursday 2nd March
- * Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March

This is as a result of the trade union having balloted their members who voted in favour of strike action.

I have now been reliably informed that there will be sufficient employees in school on the dates above, to allow the school to remain fully open to all classes, although with the possibility of different staff and a slightly amended timetable. Therefore, I would ask that you send your children to school as normal. Please be assured that the health and safety of your children will be of prime concern at all times during this day and risk assessments have been undertaken to ensure that the appropriate standards are met in this regard.

NSPCC - SPEAK OUT. STAY SAFE

Next week we will be participating in the NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.* online programme. This consists of an online assembly and supporting classroom based activities. *Speak out. Stay safe.* is a safeguarding programme that aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse in a child friendly way. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a trusted adult or via Childline.

In the online assembly, the *Speak out. Stay safe.* messages are delivered in a fun and interactive way with the help of their mascot, Buddy, as well as special guest appearances from Ant and Dec.

The programme links directly to the curriculum, focusing on relationships. We have studied the content of the materials and are extremely confident that they are appropriate for primary-school-aged children. By the end of the programme, we hope children will feel empowered – knowing how they can speak out and stay safe. If you would like to know more about the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme you can find information on the NSPCC website www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout.



Attendance

TOP FIVE - AUTUMN TERM

1	St Edmund's	100%
2	St Philomena's	99.17%
3	St Luke's	99.17%
4	St Helen's	99.14%
5	St Thomas'	98.71%
5	St Margaret's	98.28%

EXTRACURRICULAR CLUBS

We have a variety of clubs on offer at St Ursula's Catholic Primary School. Please use the link below to find out more:

<https://stursulacatholicprimary.co.uk/activities>

COFFEE MORNING

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our coffee morning on Friday, 27th January from 9.15 to 10:15am in the KS2 Hall.

During this morning we will be sharing our plans for a new PTA (Parent and Teacher Association). Mrs Said will also be joining us in her role as school PANCO (Physical and Nutrition Coordinator) and she will be on hand to discuss supporting children with healthy eating and being active.

Parents can bring their toddlers and babies. There will be lots of time to ask questions, share experiences and find out first-hand what is happening in school. Mums, Dads and extended family




















POKEMON CLUB

As part of our pupil voice, our pupils completed a Pupil Survey where they shared their thoughts and ideas about the school. A common theme was that although we have a variety of clubs, many of these are sport related and our pupils would like to see other activities, that reflect their interests and hobbies. One of the suggestions was a Pokémon Club.

I'm pleased to announce that Mr Groome (Year 5 Teacher) will be running a weekly Key Stage 2 Pokémon Club. The aim of the club is to teach children the ins and outs of competitive card games, such as deck-building, strategy, probability and resource-management. They will be looking at the way that different decks function and how participants can improve their own decks.

The club will take place each Thursday from 3:15pm to 4:30pm. A letter has been sent home with pupils who declared an interest and have been chosen.

SPRING TERM DATES

-  25th Jan – Yr4 Viking Workshop
-  27th Jan – Coffee Morning
-  3rd Feb – Reception Vision & Hearing Screening
-  6th Feb – 9th Feb – Key Stage 1 & 2 Parents' Evenings
-  7th Feb – Year 1 trip to Discovery Centre
-  10th Feb – School Inset – School Closed
-  13th Feb – 17th February – Half Term
-  22nd Feb – Ash Wednesday Mass
-  22nd Feb – New uniform shop
-  2nd March – Year 1 trip to Harold Hill Library
-  3rd March – Year 5 & 6 C.S.I Road Safety Workshop
-  17th March Science Dress-up Day
-  28th March – Easter Production
-  29th March – Yr1 & Yr2 Road Safety Workshop
-  30th March – End of Term reports sent out (KS1 & KS2)
-  30th March – Curriculum Celebration Afternoon (KS1 & KS2)
-  31st March – Whole School Mass & Easter Egg Hunt

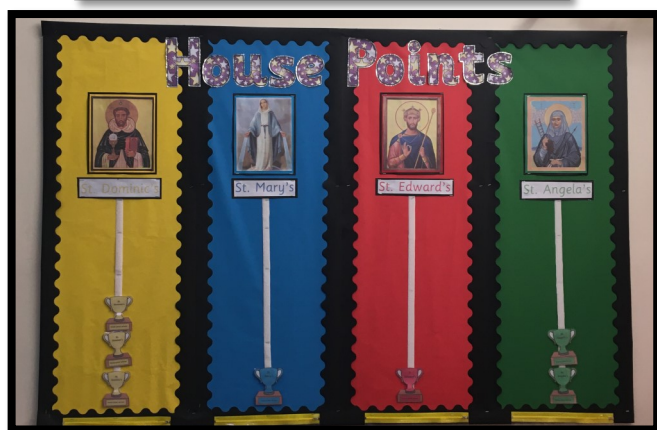
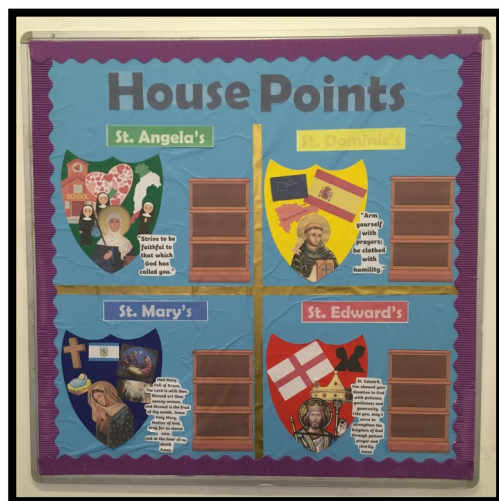
HOUSE POINT WINNERS!

ST EDWARD'S

Congratulations to pupils in St Edward's who earned the most house in Autumn Term 2. As a reward for winning, St Edward's pupils voted to have a games afternoon last Friday. They had a fun afternoon!

At St Ursula's pupils are placed into houses when they join the school. The four houses are St Angela's, St Dominic's, St Edward's and St Mary's. Each week pupils earn house points and these are collected each Friday and celebrated in our Achievement Assemblies. At the end of each half term the house with the most points are able to vote for a reward such as an own clothes day or a games afternoon.

Below are our new house point boards.



PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING—YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE

With the sudden and challenging rise in the cost of living, we want to make sure that our parents and carers are aware of the funding that may be available for their children at St Ursula's Catholic Primary School. The School receives an extra £1,345 for every eligible pupil who is registered for Pupil Premium funding.

This extra money could make a real difference to the quality of education we offer and will also support families financially as in-school costs will be subsidised. For example, if your Pupil Premium application is successful, your child will receive a £100 School Uniform Voucher; fully funded School trips and children will continue to receive free school meals up to Year 6. Based on the current cost of school trips and school dinners you could be saving £473 on average per year, per pupil.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and already receives free school meals, you should still register because we'll receive the extra pupil premium funding. You can apply for Pupil Premium funding at ANY time. Parents of children from Reception to Year 6 can apply.

A simple check can be quickly completed at school to see if your child is eligible. Come and speak with Mrs. Walsh and she will make an online application. The only information you will need to provide is your National Insurance Number and date of birth.