

CELEBRATING THE PRECIOUS MOMENTS WE SHARE NEWSLETTER



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MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR FAMILIES

I hope you enjoy this Autumn term newsletter with lots of Christmas treats too! This Autumn term has flown by. We've had lots going on and I hope as you read this newsletter you can see what wonderful opportunities your child has experienced. This term has also been packed with events in the community and with our Parish. We are very fortunate to have such good links and we work hard to maintain these. We are very grateful for your support with the fundraising that has taken place this term. Through numerous events a large sum has been gathered which we will use carefully to ensure all children in school benefit from. Our children have worked very hard and the time is coming for a rest and recharge! This is true for staff too! The children always rise to the challenges in school and we are very pleased to watch each child progress. I am very lucky to have great teachers and staff who teach your children and who work as a super team. Many people call it a 'family'. I personally do consider St. Joseph's as a big family. I am very proud to watch their achievements as each child develops. Moments like the Nativity and bag packing just illustrate this it is a wonderful job being a head teacher even though it definitely has challenges! I would like to wish you and your family a very special Christmas and my best wishes for the New Year. I do hope you have a blessed time. Peace and goodwill to you all.

2023

DECEMBER



OUR FAITH...

The Mini Vinnies have been hard at work looking out for where they can help others. We have spent time serving our Parish after Mass for the Anointing of the Sick. We served lunch and enjoyed sharing time and talking to the parishioners and their carers.



THE MINI VINNIES

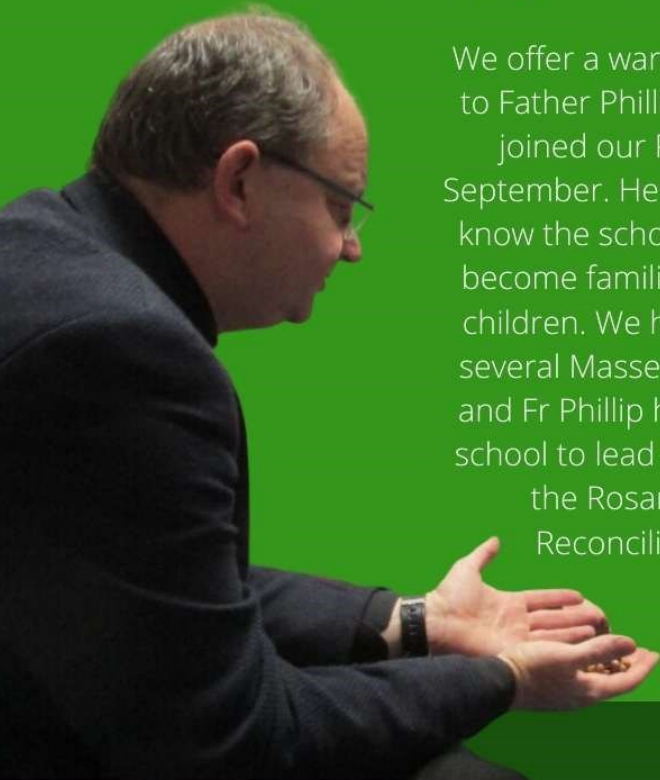
We helped our school to collect food for the local food bank and displayed it in church to give thanks for what we have. We have also supported our school in prayer and worship, by working with Father Phillip and leading the school in lunchtime Rosary. We also led our school's Advent Penitential service. We are currently making Christmas cards for people who cannot get to church during the Christmas season and a busy launching our food bank challenge to help those in need.



Confirmation

On 30th November a group of 12 Year 6 children were confirmed in St. Joseph's Church by Bishop Marcus. It was a lovely occasion for their families and our Parish. We are very grateful to the catechists who gave their time to support the children and their families during this sacramental programme.

We offer a warm welcome to Father Phillip Hall who joined our Parish in September. He is getting to know the school well and become familiar with the children. We have joined several Masses in church and Fr Phillip has been in school to lead sessions of the Rosary and Reconciliation.





GAWTHORPE HALL

The children enjoyed a fabulous morning. They moved from the present into the past. The Victorian cook showed the children the ingredients for a Christmas Pudding and the journey the ingredients had taken to arrive here. Great geography skills. In the school room the Victorian teacher made sure everyone was listening and following her instructions. Here, the children made a traditional Christmas Tree decoration. Next, it was to the parlour to sing and play parlour games like Kim's game. Finally, to the lounge to the treat of meeting Father Christmas and learn about the traditional symbolic meaning behind the items put into a stocking: coin, apple, coal and orange for wishes of wealth, health and warmth.



THANK YOU
TO OUR
KITCHEN
TEAM FOR A
WONDERFUL
CHRISTMAS
LUNCH!

CHRISTMAS LUNCH



CLASS 1 NEWS



FUN OUTDOORS

In Class 1 we like to get out, whatever the weather. In November, we made the most of that cold, frosty spell. We've just about mastered zips and gloves- but help each other if its tricky! We then ventured outside to investigate the ice- we talked about the difference between snow and frost; practised writing our sounds in the frost and made some ice cakes!

LIBRARY VISITS

Class 1 love reading and books so have made two trips to the library this term! We are always given a very warm welcome and enjoy discovering books with parents; listening to some fantastic stories and doing craft activities too.



LAUND FARM

In October Class 1 enjoyed a trip to Laund Farm. We had a wonderful day out in the fresh air and learned all about how the ewes are milked to make sheep cheese!





PUPPET MAKING!

We had lots of fun making Christmas Puppets. We designed, sewed and decorated them independently!

We have spent a lot of time preparing for our Nativity and were very proud of ourselves for telling the story so beautifully.

NATIVITY 2023



CLASS 3 NEWS

HISTORY

We have enjoyed learning about Early Civilisations, their numbers and alphabet and inventions from a thousand or more years ago that we still use today.

DT - STITCHING

The children are busy making a christmas cushion using felt fabric, templates, pins and of course sewing with a needle and thread. Watch out for the finished product – see if you can spot some cross-stitch.

ART

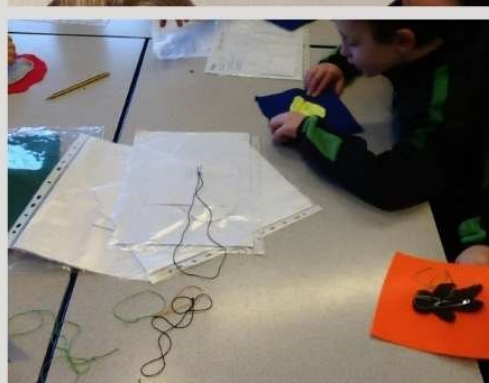
We have been perfecting our sketching skills, learning how to use a pencil in different ways to create line and texture.

GEOGRAPHY

This term in our Geography work we have been to The Lake District! The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about this relatively nearby place of outstanding beauty. Maybe worth a day out for you next year. They have enjoyed their map work and learning about the outstanding features this area offers. They have also considered the tourism and the advantages and disadvantages of it.

COMPUTING

The children have looked forward to Friday morning and using the computers to learn coding with Scratch. Scratch is available on the WWW. It may be something your child can practise more of during the Christmas break.



THE PENDLE PARTNERSHIP TWINNING PROJECT

As part of the Pendle Partnership initiative Class 3 have been preparing to meet our partner class from St. Philip's, Marsden Class. So far, we have created decorative bunting, telling them our favourite things to do, we have shared videos introducing ourselves and we have written "I am Wonder" poems. We have enjoyed receiving bunting and videos from Marsden Class. We are looking forward to a live video chat with them before we meet up together next term at Leisure Box.

CLASS 4 NEWS



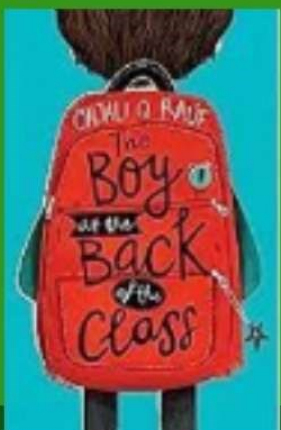
This term had been filled with enthusiasm for learning!

We started science in the stars and finished back on Earth learning all about electrical circuits and how to be safe around electricity. We applied our learning in DT by designing and making a working torch.

In RE we were excited to learn all about the Prophets and we used drama to explore how Noah and his family felt about trusting God. We have learned some fascinating facts about the Hindu faith and enjoyed finding out about their special times of year.

Ask us about division! We are all growing in confidence with our "chunking methods". We loved that you came and shared our maths workshop ...we hope that we taught you a couple of new things. Class 4 have developed their team work through PE working with coach James and have loved creating multimedia with sound in computing

We have written biographies about Nicola Tesla and created our own dreams based on the BFG. We highly recommend our class novel "the Boy at the back of the Class," by Onjali Q. Rauf. It has helped teach us about the refugee crisis, it warmed our hearts with its humour and how friendship is so important highlighting the importance of friendship and kindness in a world that doesn't always make sense.





**Make a
NOISE
about bullying**
#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

CLASS 5 NEWS

BALANCED ARGUMENTS

This half-term, Class 5 have been learning how to debate different points of view. This has linked English, PSHE and Geography together. This began with the children debating the question 'Are children having too much screen time?' They planned arguments and stood up in front of class to debate their views. We then used these skills to debate in class and write a Balanced Argument based on Deforestation of the Amazon, linked to our Geography Topic.

DEBT AWARE

Year 5 and 6 worked with the Debt Aware team to find out money management. Year 5 children worked with Mr Souter to understand the difference between needs and wants. Year 6s looked at salaries of different jobs, income tax and deliberated about what job they would like to do in the future.

PLAYGROUND LEADERS

Year 5s and 6s recapped their knowledge and skills of how to be an effective Playground Leader. They thought about what games they would like to play with the younger ones and how to adapt them to suit the needs of their players. They then work in groups, each lunchtime, to play with the younger children on the playground.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

This year's Anti-bullying Week theme was 'Make a Noise'. The week began with an assembly, led by our Wellbeing Champions. Children wore their Odd Socks, to celebrate being different and unique. Children followed up this learning, with BBC live lessons in their PSHE lessons. The children looked at vocabulary and scenarios regarding the difference between banter and bullying.





CHRISTMAS SINGALONG



CHRISTMAS FAIR



MP Andrew Stephenson visited school to award one lucky pupil a star prize for her winning Christmas Card Design. Her card will be sent to residents across Pendle along with His Majesty The King and our Prime Minister! Well done also to two other pupils who also won prizes for their Highly Commended designs!



MP CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

FIVE CLASSES... ONE FAMILY... OUR SCHOOL...



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

On Sunday 12th November, our Head boy, Head girl and Deputy Head girl represented school, by joining in the Remembrance service and parade and laying the wreath from St. Joseph's school with respect and reverence.



PLAYGROUND LEADERS

Year 5 and 6 children undertook Playground Leader training with Fiona who equips the children with the skills to lead games with the younger children and enhance communication skills in the playground!



SPORTS ROUND-UP

Alongside our popular sports clubs we run in school (KS1 club, KS2 club, netball club, boys football club and girls football club) we have also taken part in some events and competitions at other venues.

The boys have taken part in a couple of football league fixtures at Fisher More – more to follow in the New Year. The girls team in their second year have enjoyed some successes in their fixtures this term. Their confidence and teamwork has developed. Well done girls.

Two year group teams have taken part in a UV dodgeball competition. This fun, adaptation of a standard game was both enjoyable and challenging. Indoor Athletic competitions for two teams have taken place where various events based around run, jump, throw have taken place. Many individual event golds were won by our pupils. The Year 6 team won the competition overall and will compete in the next round in the New Year against other Pendle Cluster schools winners.

As always none of this is possible without the support of our parents transporting their children and our volunteer coaches that run our KS2 girls and boys football club.

Thankyou.



MORE UPDATES...

Bag packing at Morrisons in Skipton A huge thank you to all the children who attended bag packing on Saturday with myself and Mrs Hargreaves. You raised £467.10 in 2 hours! This is incredible.

School Disco! Thank you everyone who supported our school disco. The children had a fab time. A very big thank you to those families who helped buying goods, working on a stall, setting up or tidying away. You made this disco work so smoothly this time. I am sure the other families appreciate your help too. The disco raised £700! That is amazing. Very well done all :)

More Sport The year 5 children took part in neon dodgeball ball. The children were a credit to school and we were very proud. They finished with an amazing 11 points for being honest throughout the games. The year 3's had a fantastic afternoon at West craven sport centre playing neon dodgeball. All the children were fantastic sports and showed some super skills. Our girl's football team played in a tournament and worked very well has a team, in horrible cold and rainy conditions. They finished up, winning 1 game, drawing 1 game and losing 2. All the girls gave it their best. Very well done!

After School Club News Mrs Balderston had a drop-in visit without notice from the Environmental health team to inspect our After-School Club food hygiene. She scored 5 stars! Very well-done Mrs Balderston. Our club is safe and provides an excellent service for families.

New Staff We welcome two new staff members to school. We have Miss Bruder who is a teaching assistant, mainly supporting in KS2. We also have Mrs Whitley who is a business support officer in the school office. She works on Wednesday mornings, Thursdays & Fridays as Mrs Beech is now only working Monday-Wednesday each week. We also have a new cook in the kitchen who is settling in well.

Robert Windle Foundation We have received amazing support from the Robert Windle Foundation. They have donated two amounts of £300 and £500 to use in school. Some of this has been used in our school library and the rest will buy extra resources needed in school. We are very grateful for their continued support.
<https://www.facebook.com/theoldgrammarschoolearby/>

CHRISTMAS MASS DATES & TIMES

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|----------------------------|--|--|---|
| Saturday 9 th | Sacrament of Confession Weekday of Advent Baptism of Dorian Boltowicz Vigil | 9.15 a.m. 10.00 a.m. 11.15 a.m. 6.45 p.m. | Tony Russell People of the Parish |
| Sunday 10 th | Second Sunday of Advent | 9.00 a.m. (St. Pat's) 10.30 a.m. | Jack & Alice Greenhalgh Refugees |
| Monday 11 th | No Mass or Service | | |
| Tuesday 12 th | No Mass or Service | | |
| Wednesday 13 th | No Mass or Service | | |
| Thursday 14 th | St John of the Cross | 10.00 a.m. (St. Pat's) | Service of the Word and Holy Communion |
| Friday 15 th | No Mass or Service | | |
| Saturday 16 th | No <u>Morning</u> Mass or Service Vigil of 3 rd Sunday of Advent | 6.45 p.m. | People of the Parish |
| Sunday 17 th | Third Sunday of Advent | 9.00 a.m. (St Pat's) 10.30 a.m. | Those Newly Confirmed Zygmunt Dubek |

Masses Received: Susan Edmonson & Janet Nutter; Malcolm Geldard

Masses and Services for Christmas:

Sunday 24th December – Vigil Mass for Christmas 5.00 p.m. - St Joseph's
Christmas Carols 10.45 p.m. – St Patrick's
Christmas Mass 11.30 p.m. – St Patrick's

Monday, Christmas Day 25th December Mass 9.00 a.m. – St Patrick's
10.30 a.m. – St Joseph's

Tuesday 26th December – No Mass or Service

27th – 30th December, Wed to Sat, Masses are at 10.00 a.m.

DIARY DATES

School closes Wednesday
20th December at 3.20pm

School re-opens Thursday
4th January 2024 at 8.50am
(gates from 8.40am)

Reconciliation programme
for Year 3 starts Saturday
13th January 10.45am

Friday 2nd February Stay &
Play Class 1



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