



Newsletter

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Welcome Back!

Happy New Year and welcome back to school. We have enjoyed seeing the children in school this week and they have loved being back learning with their friends.

Things are still incredibly difficult with high numbers of staff absence and many children also being sick.

I would like to thank you for your understanding in these difficult times. I know that we will continue to work together to ensure our children have the very best education.

Diocesan Fund

Payment of the Diocesan Fund is now due. This amount has gone up for the first time in many years. This is only £20 for one child and £30 per family per term. This money goes towards the upkeep of our school building. Please pay this on the School Gateway as soon as possible.

INSET Day!

The staff had a fantastic day of learning on Tuesday.

Many of our support staff updated their First Aid Certificate and they thoroughly enjoyed this session.

The teachers focussed on reading and the importance of it as well as going through ways of effectively teaching comprehension skills. Our reading lessons will be based around high quality texts and these are listed on the next page of the newsletter. We will follow the Pie Corbett reading spine and this can be found on our website.

Islam Week

This week as part of our learning for other faiths, we have been learning about Islam.

The children have enjoyed learning more about this religion and many of the beliefs and traditions and have compared it to their knowledge of Christianity.

Armani in Y1: *'Allah has 99 different names!'*

Ivy-Rayne in Y1: *'One of his Allah's names is Most Loving.'*

Abigail in Y1: *'Muslims believe that Allah made everything.'*

We learnt about mosques and we got to draw our own mosque with our friends. A mosque is where Muslims pray. They also use a prayer mat when they pray.' Rayan in Y2

Chelsea in Y4: *'During Ramadan, Muslims design their hands with henna, decorate their houses and go to the mosque to pray.'*

Jhed in Y4: *'During Ramadan, Muslims who fast don't eat between sunrise and sunset to remember the less fortunate and reflect on their actions.'*

Ethan in Y4: *'The Shahada is a belief for all Muslims, they say 'There is no God but Allah. Muhammad is his messenger.'*

Mohammed in Y5 put together a presentation today to share in assembly. He taught the children about Mecca, the prayer mat and the prayer beads and many other parts of his faith. We were all so impressed with his confidence, his knowledge and his initiative to share his faith with us.



Class Novels

The children have really enjoyed reading their class book this week. It's not too late to purchase this for your child to use in class. The list of books for each year group is below.

Y1	The Tiger who came to Tea
Y2	Fantastic Mr Fox
Y3	The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
Y4	Charlotte's Web
Y5	Street Child
Y6	Clockwork



Friendship

Our value for this half term is friendship. We read a story in assembly this morning and the Y1 class created a potion with all the qualities needed to be a good friend. Then the children were sprinkled with a little bit of this potion!



Books!

Many thanks to those of you who have been able to purchase books for each year group. Please log onto the link below if you would like to purchase a book:

Year 6:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/13ATQ59DR48HP?ref_=wl_share

Year 5:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/B1QCR30WGUHM?ref_=wl_share

Year 4:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/275OJJZQRD53D?ref_=wl_share

Year 3:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/K2G4APUDOZ65?ref_=wl_share

Year 2:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3Q90EITDWU50M?ref_=wl_share

Year 1:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2HYCWOSZJA1RJ?ref_=wl_share

Reception:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/J6S96JYO1G3H?ref_=wl_share

Nursery:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3RBIYKKJANM4G?ref_=wl_share



After School Clubs

These will start next week. A letter was distributed today outlining the clubs on offer. Please book your child's place onto these as soon as possible.

You will never speak to anyone more than you speak to yourself in your head, be kind to yourself.



Dates to Remember:

Fri 21st Jan: Y6 class assembly
Fri 28th Jan: Y5&6 Athletics Day
Tues 1st Feb: Y3&4 Athletics Day
Fri 4th Feb: Y3 class assembly
WB 7th Feb: Children's Mental Health Week
Fri 11th Feb: Y4 class assembly
Fri 11th Feb: 2pm: Football match v's Kenmont
Fri 11th Feb: 3:15pm: School closes for the half term break

*With every blessing,
Miss Robina Maher
and the staff of
St Mary's*