

PUPIL POST

3rd April 2022

BE SPIRITED WEEK



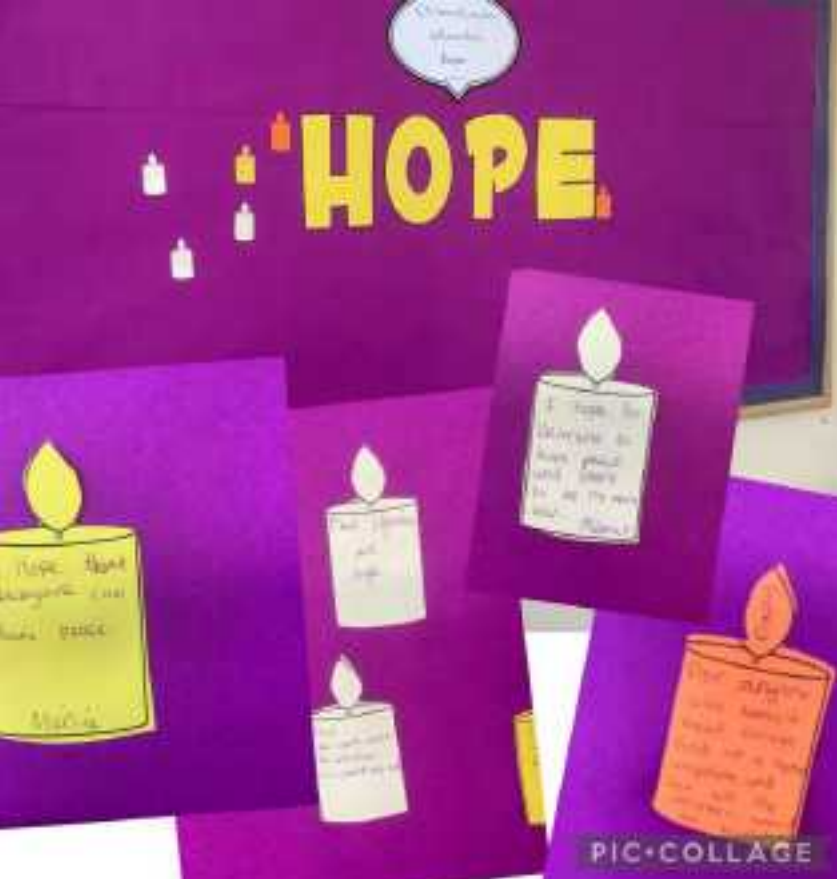
On Mothering Sunday
we wished all mums
associated with the
school a very happy day
and were thinking of
those who were unable
to be with mum on the
day too.





Our values for Be Spirited this year were Forgiveness, Faith, Hope and Love.

Our children led themselves calmly through their sessions, engaging beautifully with their faith.



Year 5 started their week in a very special way -
“Be Spirited” – a special time to connect with our faith

https://twitter.com/svdp_school/status/1508348664124784640

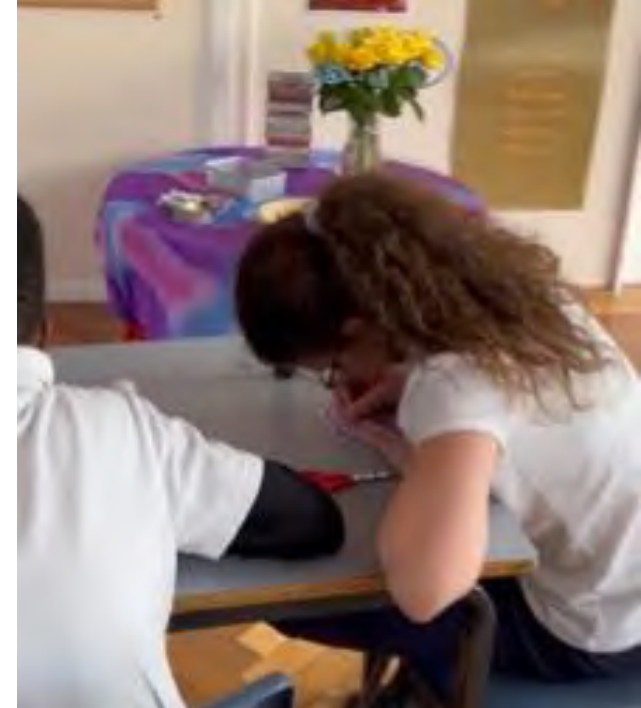


BE SPIRITED WEEK

Year 6 reflecting at a host of different stations in our Be Spirited activity.

Watch them here:

https://twitter.com/svdp_school/status/1508420040768782341





'Be Spirited' in Year 4 - a calm, purposeful and reflective experience where everyone had time and space to connect with faith





The excitement was mounting as the children in EYFS and KS1 waited for the raffle to begin!

Reception continued
to practise their
throwing and
accuracy in PE!





Reception have been listening to the Easter story and made their own crosses as they thought of Jesus.

**... and Year 4
used art to
show their
interpretation
of Jesus, the
Lamb of God.**





Beautiful inspired paintings from Year 5 after their reflective session in Be Spirited; wonderful individual responses

Having fun preparing for Easter in Nursery!





We are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus as we build, love and grow together

Headteacher: Mr J White, MEd (HMC) BPSG

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17 April 2022

Dear parents and carers

I have to begin this newsletter with a message of sincere thanks to amazing pupils, supportive families and a dedicated staff team. I have been a teacher for 27 years, including 11 years as Headteacher and never have I experienced such a challenging term as the one that we have all just journeyed through. However, we have reached the light at the end of the tunnel and are all ready for a well-deserved break before the Summer Term.



Staffing – covid impact

After an initial rise in Covid cases for our pupils, things settled down and Covid related staff absences began to lessen in early March. Over the past three weeks M&A observed a picture of 'To Jane' (one of the team) and have been at 10 (one sixth of the team) at the lowest point recently. With up to one quarter of the staff team being out, this has impacted on daily operations and has led to us reaching to cover to suitably for two days and move to online learning for Reception for two days. It is amazing, however, that despite having up to a quarter of the staff absent for three weeks, we have only needed to reduce numbers in school for 4 days. This is because the wider school staff stepped up, extending hours, completing roles (played) their usual role and being incredibly flexible in their response. Without this, different classes would have needed to close for a seven-day period at least. I extend a sincere thank you to our team for their resilience, determination, commitment and passion for the school which has enabled us to operate safely, despite significant challenges. I have been equally grateful to all many of our parents for their offers of support and for their daily support during this difficult period. May I take this opportunity to thank parents for their support at times when a teacher has changed at short notice or when the usual opportunities have not been available. This has been greatly appreciated.

School development visits

Despite absences, we have continued to engage with our usual programme of school improvement and development. This week we have hosted a visit from our Herbs Improvement Partner, Mrs Chesworth, who enjoyed visiting children and seeing each classroom to find out all that we have been practising in terms of learning and wellbeing. Mrs Chesworth was impressed by the pupils' resilience, the inclusive nature of our work and the opportunities afforded to our children. We also hosted a visit from Mr Murphy, our Diocesan R&A Advisor, where we explored standards, Catholic life, study and wellbeing. Mr Murphy was impressed by the pupils' resilience in terms of the academic

and committed for their ideas and enthusiasm and to our parent body for supporting with generous donations.



Farewell and Good Luck

This term we say farewell to Mrs Davies and Miss Marshall, both of whom have given so much to our community over their time with us. We look forward to meeting at their future exciting adventures and thank them for all that they have gifted us during their time with us.

Welcome to Mrs Whitty

We also welcome Mrs Alex Whitty to our community, who will join us as our Deputy Headteacher after the Easter break. I know that you will all join me in welcoming Mrs Whitty and wishing her well at home upon her arrival. Please do introduce yourself to Mrs Whitty when you see her on the playground before and after school next term. We are very pleased to have her join us to complete our Senior Leadership Team and she looks forward to meeting you all.

Return to school after Easter term Tuesday 19th April 2022

Easter

I wish you all a reflective Holy Week and a peaceful Easter when it arrives. My prayer for you and your families is one of peace, happiness and love. My joy at the joy of the season and the love of the community at this time.



May God bless you and those near dear to you.

Jon White (Headteacher)

experiences, the spiritual corruption and the Catholic social outreach that he witnessed. It is great to have our work affirmed as we plan our next steps.

Letter story

Last two weeks a focus time of social action at school. Our children have engaged with work to find Bank Holiday offers and have shared their needs with their local community, supporting vulnerable families. In addition, pastoral support has been sent to the Ukraine in the form of foodbank and food parcels. A not-uniform day raised £445 for the Ukraine Disaster Relief Fund and £280 was raised through Easter sales for Father Robert's Ukrainian mission project. Thank you for your amazing generosity – this is our mission statement being lived out locally, nationally and internationally in such a beautiful manner. Thank you!



Prayers for the Ukraine

Pupils have been keen to support both physically and spiritually refugees and victims in the Ukraine and those in surrounding areas. I have been impressed with the maturity of the pupils in KS2 who were keen to convert our Divine to Our Lady in the hall into a Peace ark. In this ark, pupils have focused their prayers on the people of the Ukraine and of Russia, with a sincere hope for peace and justice for all. Needless to say, our prayers continue.



Be Spoken

Our Letter propositions celebrated this week in a special Be Spoken week where pupils across the school had the opportunity to engage in virtual activities that enabled them to prepare themselves to approach new ideas. Children have reflected on Gospel values in all Key Stages and have thought carefully about how they are ready to meet the new world of school. Our Be Spoken events have been beautiful opportunities for the children simply to be and to connect spiritually with the world around them. Both our Partnership Improvement Partner and our Diocesan Advisor experienced these sessions and commented on the children's joyful and reflective nature.



WhatsApp groups

I understand that some WhatsApp groups can be useful to keep everyone in touch with things that are happening in school relevant to your child's year group. These groups, however, are optional and are not controlled or moderated by the school. Please could I ask that everyone is very careful about what is shared on them. There are some issues that are better explored via contact with class teachers who will be able to see a fuller picture. If we are not aware of an issue, it cannot be dealt with – please do keep us informed rather than attempting to resolve sensitive issues via a public forum. Parents, such events have caused difficulties in several classes. Please do contact us if there is an issue before reverting to social media – we may already have information that will put your mind at ease and, if not, will do our very best to resolve an issue sensitively and swiftly, keeping you informed.

After school procedures

Please could I ask that children do not play with school equipment (including balls and hoops etc) after school. The school equipment have recently consulted with classes and are ready to relocate the green playtime tables with existing equipment. This has been a considerable financial cost, and we want to ensure that the equipment is protected. Please do not allow your children to access these items at the end of the day. Please could I also ask that you ensure that children (including younger siblings) do not ride scooters or bikes on the school grounds as this presents an extra hazard on a busy site.

Parent consultations

We are hoping to hold face to face parent consultations shortly after we return from Easter. Watch out for details and dates to follow.

PSA fundraising

Thank you to our lovely friend PSA team this term. It has been wonderful to have a number of in-person events spending this term. A successful Year 2 cake sale raised a record breaking £353 and the mother's day gift sale was a huge success story, raising an amazing £175. Yesterday was a popular environmentally friendly year school uniform sale which raised £328. Our next steps for school collection will take place shortly after we return from Easter so if you are clearing out over the holidays, please keep this in mind. Collection bags will be shared when we return. Thank you to our

The Easter Newsletter has been sent by Parentmail.

Move their bodies

at free camps across Hertfordshire

School aged children eligible for benefits related free school meals, can enjoy **free food**, **free sports** and **free craft activities** this Easter!

Get your unique **HAPpy Booking Code** from your child's school now, to access all this and more!

Book your child's camp at
sportinherts.org.uk/booking



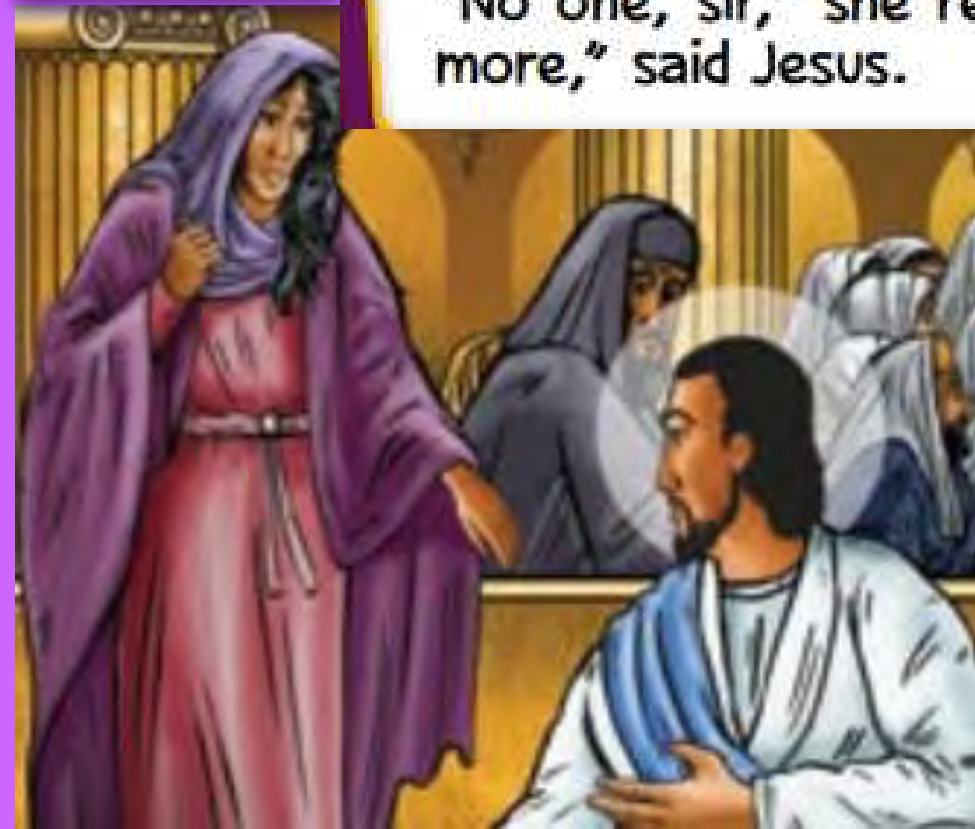
Bookings for HAPpy Camps are open for [#Stevenage!](https://www.stevenage.gov.uk/parentmail)

If your children are eligible but you haven't had your code yet, please check Parentmail from the school office.

Camps are free to school aged children in receipt of benefits-related free school meals.
<http://sportinherts.org.uk/booking>

Making a New Start

Jesus was teaching in the Temple when the teachers of the Law brought a woman to him who had broken the Law. They said to Jesus, "Master, this woman has broken the Law and should be stoned to death. What have you to say?" Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, "If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." When they heard this they went away quietly, one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman. Then Jesus asked the woman, "Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she replied. "Neither do I. Go, but do not sin any more," said Jesus.



God is always ready to welcome changes we make to ourselves; what changes might you try to make?

How can you fix mistakes you might have made with each other and with God?



NEW START



SCRIPTURE

“Go,
but do not sin any more,”
said Jesus

John 8:11



TEACHING

Each day we are given an opportunity
to make a new start.
Jesus just waits for us with the gentleness
and patience of God.



WORSHIP

Dear Lord Jesus,
please help us to be more understanding and
always ready to make a new start with you
and with each other.

Amen.



LIFE

We all sometimes do wrong things ,
God still loves us and will always give us the
strength to make a new start with him and
with each other.

Active April 2022

MONDAY



4 Eat healthy and natural food today and drink lots of water

TUESDAY



5 Turn a regular activity into a playful game today

WEDNESDAY



6 Do a body-scan meditation and really notice how your body feels

THURSDAY



7 Get natural light early in the day. Dim the lights in the evening

FRIDAY

1 Commit to being more active this month, starting today

SATURDAY

2 Spend as much time as possible outdoors today

SUNDAY

3 Listen to your body and be grateful for what it can do

11 Set yourself an exercise goal or sign up to an activity challenge

12 Move as much as possible, even if you're stuck inside

13 Make sleep a priority and go to bed in good time

14 Relax your body & mind with yoga, tai chi or meditation

15 Get active by singing today (even if you think you can't sing!)

16 Go exploring around your local area and notice new things

17 Be active outside. Dig up weeds or plant some seeds

18 Try a new online exercise, activity or dance class

19 Spend less time sitting today. Get up and move more often

20 Focus on 'eating a rainbow' of multi-coloured vegetables today

21 Regularly pause to stretch and breathe during the day

22 Enjoy moving to your favourite music. Really go for it

23 Go out and do an errand for a loved one or neighbour

24 Get active in nature. Feed the birds or go wildlife-spotting

25 Have a 'no screens' night and take time to recharge yourself

26 Take an extra break in your day and walk outside for 15 minutes

27 Find a fun exercise to do while waiting for the kettle to boil

28 Meet a friend outside for a walk and a chat

29 Become an activist for a cause you really believe in

30 Make time to run, swim, dance, cycle or stretch today



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

