

PUPIL POST

26th February 2023



We were all looking forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday.

Catch up here with the latest Headteacher's Blog:

[PREPARING FOR LENT 2023 \(svdpmrwhite.blogspot.com\)](https://svdpmrwhite.blogspot.com) <https://t.co/1sGTTCiFsq>

(or read it at the end of this Pupil Post)





Happy
St.
Valentine's
Day

The Sleeping St. Joseph Devotion



"So when I have a problem, a difficulty,
a little worry and I put it under
Joseph, so that he will dream of it,
would I tell him: pray for me!"

he listened.

Dare to dream like St Joseph,
When Blessed with the Word –
he cared.

Dare to dream like St Joseph,
Who raised the Precious Son –
he treasured.

Dare to dream like St Joseph,
Protecting what he loved –
he valued.

Dare to dream like St Joseph,
Unrelessly working for his family –
he adored.

to dream.



Plenty of prayers
and messages
tucked under
St Joseph's
pillow!



Reception had lots
of fun in the talent
show outside

Year 4 created
interesting
questions and
interviewed
each other.



*If you could
become an
animal, what
animal would you
transform into?*



*If you had a
superpower
what would it
be?*



*What is the most
amazing dream
you ever had?*





Learning through play

Lots of fun, comparing the mass of objects in Reception this week using the words heavier and lighter.





Year 4 are creating their own game or activity for throwing or rolling; striking or kicking; throwing or catching; these are going to be amazing!



Pancakes - YUMMY!



Find out how the tradition of
Pancake Tuesday (Shrove Tuesday)
fits into the Lenten picture

MISSION TOGETHER have produced a short film
for children:

'Why do we eat pancakes on SHROVE TUESDAY?'

Watch the film on Mission Together's Lent
webpages <https://buff.ly/3uy7ss4> @acceUK



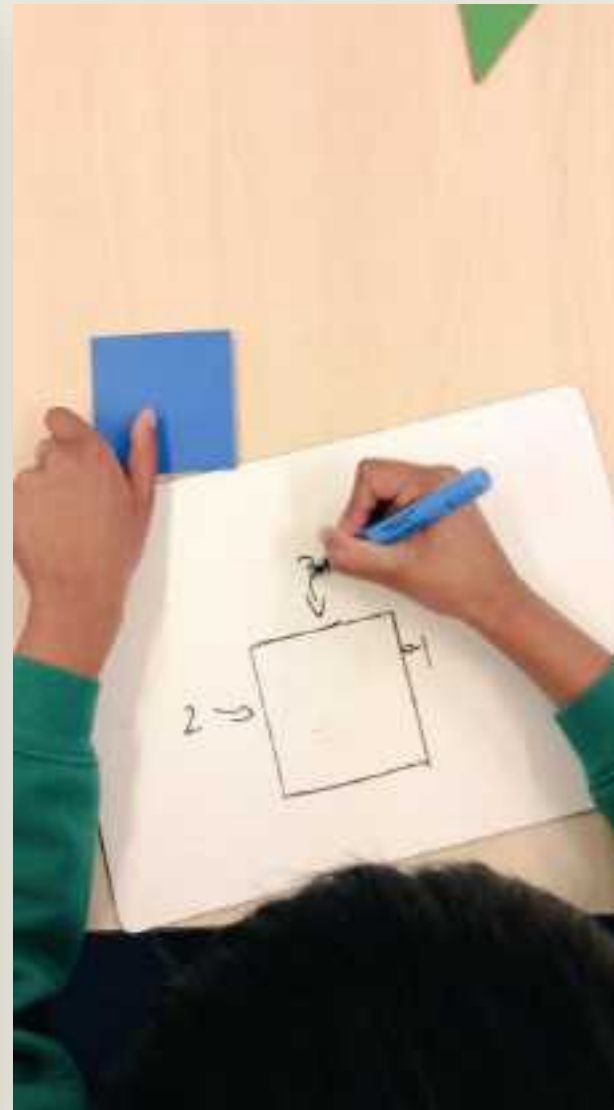
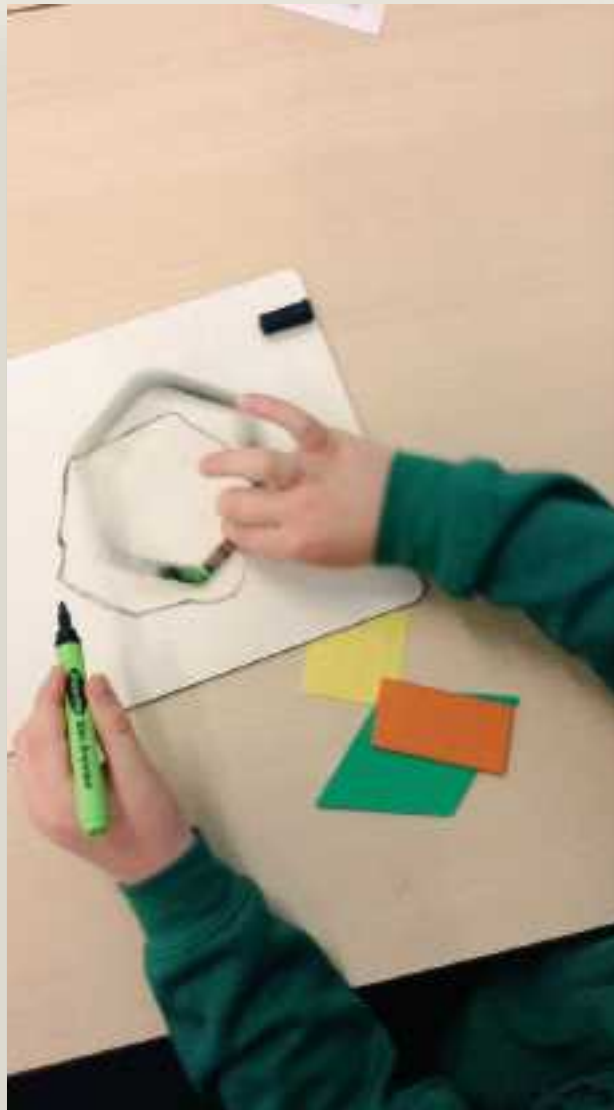
**Why do we eat pancakes
on Shrove Tuesday?**



Year 3 investigating parallel lines in 2D shapes


"Parallel lines never touch"

"Length doesn't matter; the distance between them does"





Ready to join with KS2 pupils for Mass at
St Joseph's on Wednesday;
KS1 and EYFS pupils will receive their
ASH WEDNESDAY ashes in school.
Watch out for the first image on our 'Lenten Lines'
chosen by our school Parliament members.
Families should have received information
via ParentMail to support preparations
in school and at home.
This information is also available here:
<https://t.co/D8L42CQav8>



Ash
Wednesday

Dear Lord, As we enter
this Solemn and Holy
Season, we pray that
you would send your
Holy Spirit upon us that
we might prepare ourselves
for these coming 40 days of Lent.
Even though we may no longer wear sackcloth
and ashes, we do seek to humble ourselves so
that we can understand the magnificence of Your
Love for us as You humbled Yourself and gave Your
Life on the Cross that we might receive the gift of
Eternal Glory with You. AMEN.

Prayer & Graphics from Ramblings From Ron Ministry and KLM Computer Graphic Design www.ramblingsfromron.com

Every child in the school, from nursery to Year 6, received their ashes on Wednesday, understanding that we turn to Jesus to put things right and that we are assured of his love.

Remember to look out for any updates on our Lenten Lines display at the main entrance each day.

*Read Mr. White's
ASH WEDNESDAY Headteacher's blog
here: <https://t.co/o4CAFW89Lv>
and hear us sing!*



Our youngest children's Lenten journey has begun; receiving ashes on Wednesday.



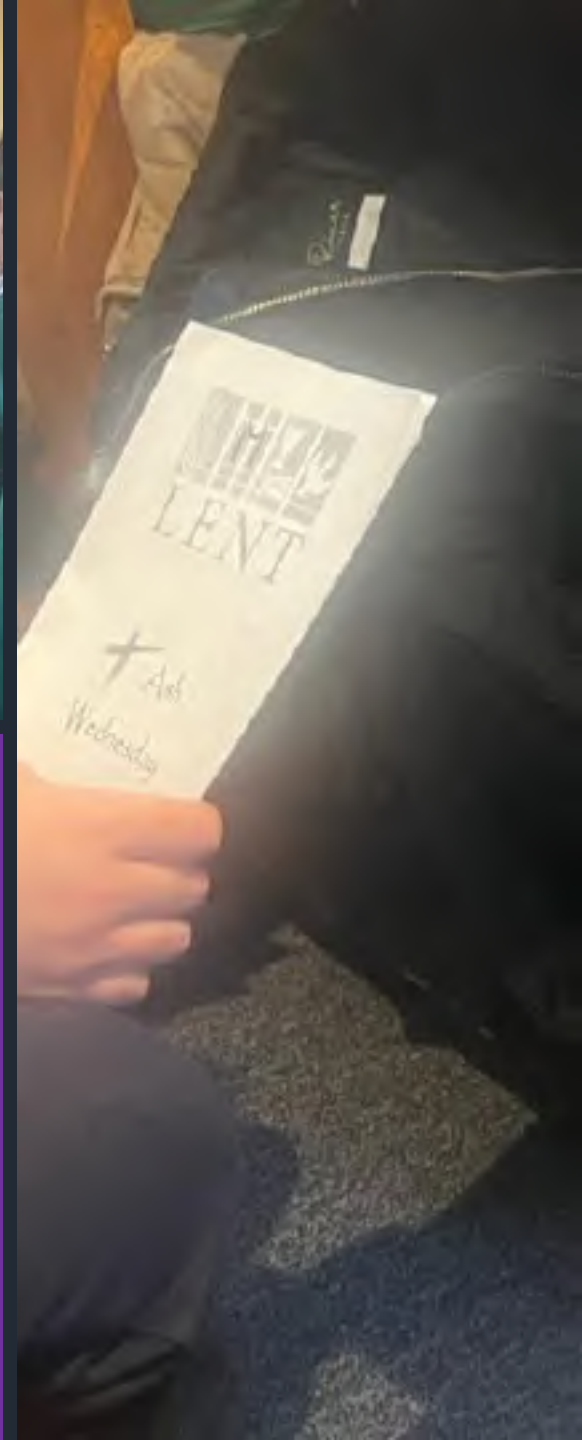
Nursery
children
receiving
ashes in
class.



Our Junior
children attended
a beautiful
ASH WEDNESDAY
Mass at
St Joseph's
with FATHER
NIGEL WOOLLEN.



It was a
beautiful
occasion
marking the
start of our
Lenten
journey.



This was a beautifully moving Mass and Father Nigel, commented on the very tangible prayerfulness of our children.

They take their liturgy seriously and are so keen to engage.

Our children in Years 5 and 6 carried out their ministry of the Word so well and with such dignity.





The singing at the end was beautiful! **'JESUS YOU CAN USE MY HANDS'** by Dan Callow (One Life Music) is fast becoming one of our favourite hymns. Thank you to our friends in Year 4 for leading us in signing this.

One Life Music lead a series of Lenten musical reflection for children which we have bought into this year. We are looking forward to using them in school.

As part of the Year 2
class worship,
"Faith" group planned
and led the class
prayers and activity.



Classroom
assistants in
Year 4,
busy preparing
their Collective
Worship

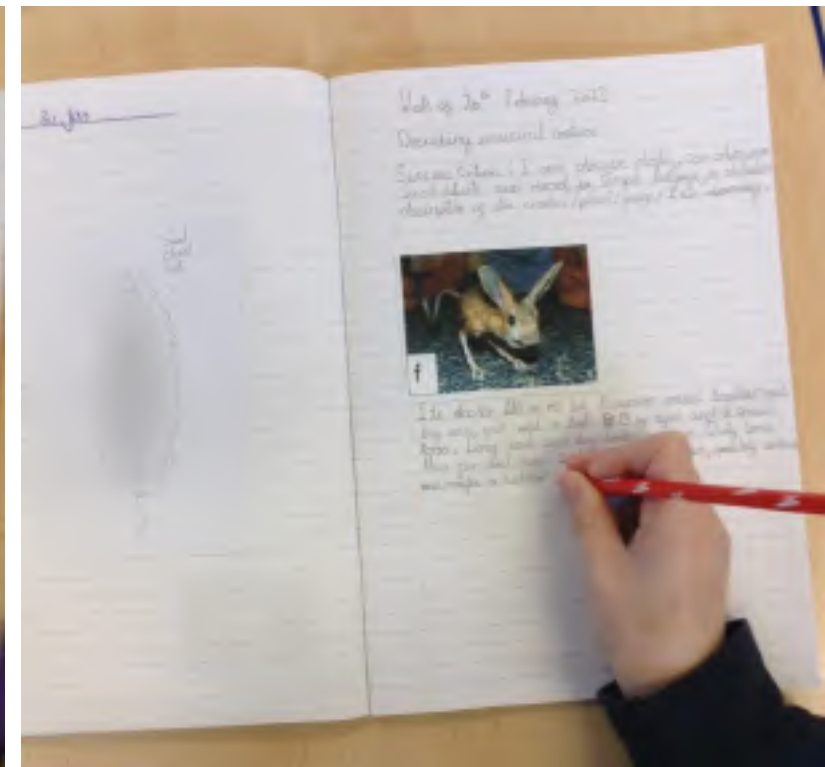
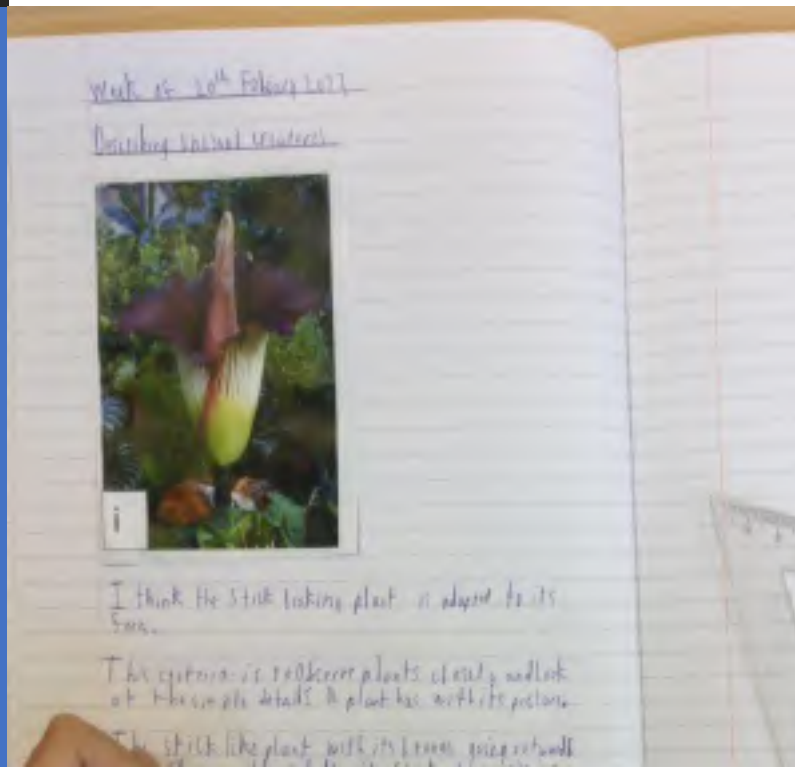


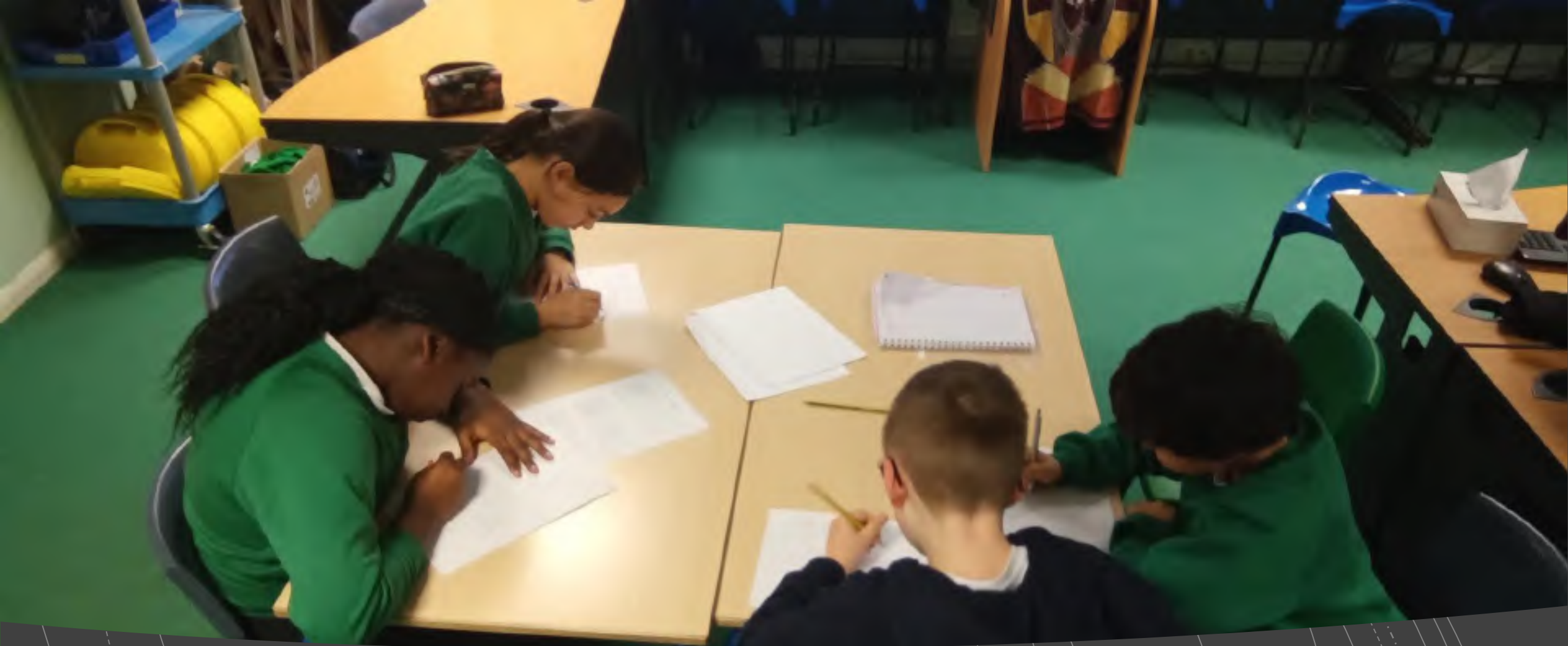


Science, evolution and unusual creatures.

Year 6 described unusual creatures.

Using observational skills, they pretended to have discovered these creatures for the first time and described them for science.





Brains hard at work, Y5 Maths Challenge Team



In Science Year 4
made and tested
string telephones to show that
sound travels through a medium



Thank you to School Parliament
members for setting up for our
Reconciliation opportunity
on Friday

We looked forward to welcoming
Father Nigel Woollen, Father
Michael Doherty and Father Frank
Leonard

*Our reconciliation preparation
materials are available on our
parent support page:*
<https://t.co/D8L42CQav8>



The Nursery children
have been observing and
measuring their seedlings.

"It's growing up!"

"It is three!"

(Which is the tallest?
Why do you say that?)

*"Actually she planted really
well. It's seven!"*

"Four more!"

Watch growth here:

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1629076080014290945>





Year 2
have been designing
front covers
for our Holy Bible.



... and children in Year 4 painted Jesus in the desert



A busy
time in
EYFS!

Our pupils prepared
beautifully for and
attended reconciliation
in school on Friday



Our parliament team shared an incredibly positive
pupil voice from their classes.



If your child is in the school choir, you should have received a link to a Google form about the chance to sing at Westminster Cathedral on Sat 11th March. Please respond a.s.a.p. If you haven't received a ParentMail and your child has been attending choir, please contact Mr. White. ***Please note that this is for the Junior Choir and is different to our Y5 Royal Albert Hall Choir!***





The **Specific Learning Difficulties team** are available on Thursdays to give advice and answer your questions, 9.30am - 12pm. 01442 453 920.

If you're worried about your child's emotional wellbeing and how this might affect their learning, the **Educational psychology advice line** is open on Wednesdays from 2pm - 4.30pm. Tel: 01992 588 574.

This half term Contact Line will operate every other week.

Speak to a specialist advisory teacher on Thursdays about any concerns you might have about your child's **speech, language, communication and autism needs** in relation to their education.

Specific Learning Difficulties advice line

01442 453 920

Thursday 9.30am - 12pm
(term time only)

Speech, language,
communication and autism
needs advice line:

01442 453 920

Tuesday and Wednesday
1.30pm - 4pm
(term time only)

Educational
Psychology
Contactline

01992 588 574

Wednesdays
2pm - 4.30pm



SENDHERTS events pages are full of SEND courses and workshops, covering topics like sleep issues, autism and ADHD, teens, anxiety and applying for an EHCP.

Most are free and many are online so you can join from the comfort of your own home.

<https://t.co/jNlaviU5M8>

ANGELS is a Hertfordshire based charity that supports families of children with Autism and/or ADHD. They work alongside parents to build understanding and provide individualised, professional expertise and advice. Check out their facebook page: <https://facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064525878242>

Thank you to everyone for supporting our recent bags2school fundraising campaign. We raised £190!!

Great news

St Vincent De Paul PSA - Herts
has been paid **£30.70** by EASY
FUNDRAISING.

Thanks to everyone who's helped make a BIG difference during this difficult time by raising donations for us.

If you're not supporting us yet, please visit:
https://easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stvincentherts/payments/4e364d/?utm_source=whatsapp&utm_medium=quarterlypaymentspage&utm_campaign=qp-feb-23...





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

Headteacher: Mr J White BEd (Hons) NPQH

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Tel: 01438 729225
Email: admin@stvincent.herts.sch.uk
www.stvincent.herts.sch.uk

20th February 2023

Dear parents and carers

Welcome back to school after the half term break. I do hope that you have all enjoyed time with families and friends over the half term and that everyone is now ready to engage with an exciting half term of learning before we break for Easter. It will be a busy half term but I know that our children will rise to the challenge as always and will immerse themselves in their learning and relationships.

Parent Consultations

Our second parent consultations of the year are planned for Monday 27th & Tuesday 28th February 2023 and will be an in-person event again. Appointments can be booked via the Arbor parent portal – you will have received a link to this before half term. If you have any difficulties, please contact staff in the school office as soon as possible. We look forward to meeting with you.

Ash Wednesday – the start of LENT

This Wednesday marks the start of our Lenten preparations. KS2 children will be attending Mass at St Joseph's at 11 am and everyone is welcome to join us. The EYFS and KS1 children will receive their ashes in a special liturgy in school on the same day. Ash Wednesday is traditionally a day when Catholics abstain from eating meat and as such our Herts Catering menu will be altered this week to enable pupils to mark this special day in a traditional way.

Lent is always a very special time of preparation in school and to help each other in these essential preparations we have produced some documents to guide families. These should help you understand the preparations taking place in school and how these can be complimented at home. I hope that you find them useful.

Throughout Lent, we have three giving projects that we hope you and your children will be able to help us with:

- **Food Bank Friday** will return! Please leave items in the trolley outside St Joseph's workshop that we can share with the **St Vincent de Paul Society** to support local families.
- Children will be sent home with a **CAFOD panny box**. Maybe they could complete jobs at home for a small fee to support overseas sustainable aid projects.
- **Easter raffle tickets** will be on sale during the last few weeks of term. Pupils can buy tickets that might earn them an Easter treat donated by the staff team. Funds raised will support Father Kakuba's **Kanyike Project** in Uganda



Dignity



Community



The poor



Work



Peace



Stewardship

Our latest
newsletter is
available here:
<https://t.co/BQW0DbU6xI>

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, turn these stones into loaves." But Jesus replied with God's word saying, "Scripture says: 'Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" The tempter then took him to the top of the Temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down; for scripture says: 'He will put you in his angels' charge and they will come to save you.'" Jesus said to him, "Scripture also says: 'You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Next, the tempter showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. "I will give you all these," he said, "if you fall at my feet and worship me." Then Jesus replied, "Be off, Satan! For scripture says: 'You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'" Then the tempter left him, and angels appeared and looked after Jesus.



Please read and
reflect together
upon this week's
gospel

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

*"LENT is a "powerful" season,
a turning point that can foster change in each of
us...a time for drawing near to Christ by
listening to the word of God and
celebrating the sacraments"*

Pope Francis





LENT



SCRIPTURE

Jesus said, "The scripture says,
'Human beings cannot live on bread alone,
but need every word that God speaks.'"

Matthew 4:4

TEACHING

Lent is a time for us to make an extra
effort to connect with God's word.



Listen to,
Learn from and
Live by
The Word of God



WORSHIP

Loving God,
Help us to work together
to **share** what we have so that
everyone has what they need.
Help us to share God's love with
everyone we meet.
Amen

LIFE

Lent a time to
Prepare for Easter



Pray

Fast

Give



OUR SCHOOL LENTEN PROJECTS



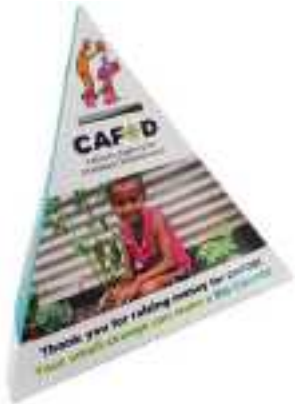
Pray



Fast



Give



Year 1

Care of creation **Stewardship**
Paper free days

Year 4

Building community & **Dignity of worker**
Linking with St. Joseph's Church

Year 2

Building community
Communication with care home

Year 5

Dignity
Dignity & respect for self and each other
Promoting positive interactions

Year 3

Building community
Communication and links with Red
Shed

Year 6

Stewardship Y6 Tolkien Litter collecting with EYFS	Stewardship Y6 Shakespeare Woodland walk habitat
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Dates for your diary

Monday, 20 February

Back to school

Wednesday, 22 February

11:00

Ash Wednesday Mass KS2 St Joseph's

Friday, 24 February

Reconciliation Opportunity Yrs 4, 5 & 6

Monday, 27 February

15:30 – 19.20

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Tuesday, 28 February

15:30 – 17.20

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Thursday, 2 March

World Book Day - optional costumes ... bring a favourite book!

Tuesday, 7 March

19:00

PSA AGM

Saturday, 11 March

15:55 – 19.00

Cathedral Choir - Westminster

Monday, 20 March – Thursday 23 March

BE SPIRITED reflections and activities

Friday, 24 March

EASTER RAFFLES

Friday, 31 March

Break for Easter holidays 2pm

Sunday, 2 April

PALM SUNDAY

Thursday, 6 April

HOLY THURSDAY

Friday, 7 April

GOOD FRIDAY

Saturday, 8 April

HOLY SATURDAY

Sunday, 9 April

Alleluia! EASTER SUNDAY.

Monday, 17 April

Back to school

Sunday, 30 April

Royal Albert Hall Gala Choir Y5

Monday, 8 May

EXTRA BANK HOLIDAY - KING'S CORONATION

Tuesday 9 May – Friday 12 May

KS2 SATs testing

Monday, 15 May – Wednesday 17 May

BOOK FAYRE

Monday, 29 May – Friday 2 June

HALF TERM HOLIDAYS

Monday 5 June

Return to school

Thursday 20 July

End of School year – 2pm close

Friday 21 July

INSET DAY (no pupils)

A date for
your diaries
... supporting
the local
Bedwell
community

Bedwell Community Group **Spring Event**



Saturday 1 April
1 — 3.30pm

Bedwell Community Centre

Free Glitter
Tattoos



Mini
Easter Egg
Hunt

Tombola

Fun for all
the family

Arts &
Crafts

Free Facepainting

Table Top
Lots of
stalls

Refreshments

For info and to book a stall (£5)

Oonagh 07702 916883



PREPARING FOR LENT 2023

Headteacher's Blog

Apologies - it has been some time since I have used the 'Blogger' facility to communicate but I am keen to re-open this channel of communication.

I hope that everyone has experienced a refreshing half term break ... or maybe even a busy one if that is what you prefer. On a personal level,

I have been to visit my eldest son at Manchester and have enjoyed some catch up TV and some audio books whilst also spending some time in the garden, sorting out the greenhouse and pond ready for the season ahead. It has been good to spend time with family, even if we are in the middle of the tensions of GCSE revision for my middle son!

Life is so busy for all of us.

And as we return, we will soon enter the liturgical season of **Lent**. The school has '**gone purple**' in preparation! Ash Wednesday (22nd Feb) marks the start of Lent. Fr Nigel has kindly agreed to put on an extra Mass so that pupils in KS2 can attend and receive their ashes (parents are all welcome at 11 am) and pupils in EYFS and KS1 will join together in a school based liturgy to receive their ashes. Ash Wednesday is a time for us all to stop in the middle of our busy schedules and take stock of where we are and what we are aiming for in life; a time to reset; to readjust; to realign. Lent can be a time of reset ... reset of heart and reset of action.

This weekend's message from Cardinal Vincent really resonated with me. Our actions ... faith in action ... are just so important. You can read Cardinal Vincent's pastoral message [here](#):



**Pastoral Letter for the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
18/19 February 2023**

On Wednesday, Lent begins. I write today to give you every possible encouragement to use these weeks of Lent to refresh and deepen your faith. As we have just heard from the Book of Leviticus: 'Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.' (Leviticus 19:2). This is a heartfelt plea. While there are so many challenges facing us all at this time, our faith underpins everything we do. The gift of faith gives our lives an enduring purpose and stability. A faith that is refreshed and deepened helps us to be gracious, steadfast and even robust in every circumstance.

I put before you today three ways of refreshing and renewing your faith. They are these: a renewed focus on Jesus; a fresh readiness to bear witness to him; and, thirdly, a conscious effort to build community and compassion wherever you may be.

Let me speak about each one.

First, during these weeks of Lent please do all you can to place Jesus at the heart of your lives. Our relationship with him is the foundation of all we strive for, our abiding strength and our source of hope and joy. Without this relationship our faith loses its heart and warmth, becoming a matter of outward observance rather than inner wonder.

There can be no friendship with our Blessed Lord unless we give him space in our hearts. We need a time of prayer every day when we can simply talk to him, bringing him our worries and our joys.

When and where you pray doesn't matter; just whatever suits you. Pray in a style that appeals to you, whatever that may be. But, please, do it! And encourage each other to do so, whether in family prayer or with friends, in each other's company or even over Zoom. Jesus is there, waiting to embrace you, to rejoice in your achievements, to comfort you in your trials. Please give him space in your day, every day. After all, St Paul reminds us: 'You belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.' (1 Corinthians 3:23).

Now the second aspect of the renewal I hope you can find is this: please let this faith, this relationship with the Lord, express itself when you are with other people.

I am certainly not asking you to find a soapbox or in any way to force your faith onto others. No. But there are many moments when speaking of the goodness of the Lord is quite appropriate. For example, when someone is sharing with you their sorrow or distress, please don't hesitate to tell them you will pray for them. Or when you come across a person who is feeling alone or neglected, please do speak to them of the love of the Lord and the consolation you find in his presence.

In the recent Synodal discussions, many people expressed concern for those who feel excluded from the Church, often because of their understanding of Church teaching. We must remember that the teachings of the Church flow from words spoken by our Blessed Lord to those striving to be close to him. Yes, they are sometimes very demanding. But they are teachings which he gives us in love, invitations which are life-giving. When we hear his voice speaking to our inmost heart, we can grasp the real meaning of those teachings. When we attend to his voice, we can hear it resonating in the voice of the Church. Only with this attentiveness to him can we truly explain to others the beauty of his teaching.

When we fix our eyes on the Lord, feelings of exclusion can be overcome. We can appreciate more deeply that we are, each of us, made in the image and likeness of God. He has an embrace for everyone. He excludes no one. He offers an invitation to each person to come and follow him. As we respond to that invitation, we become aware of a need for a change of heart and behaviour, in one area of life or another, even though each of us makes progress in his way only gradually, step by small step.

The third thing I ask of you this Lent is to refresh in your lives the way you put faith into action.

Here I want to highlight just one thing: in every circumstance, whether at home or school, at work or leisure, strive to be 'a bond of connection between persons' (St John Henry Newman). Building for others a sense of being accepted is a genuine first expression of the life that Jesus offers. When we recognise and respect the goodness in every person we meet and strive, however simply, to reach out to them, we put faith into practice. Can we echo in our actions just a little of that truth in today's Psalm that 'The Lord is compassion and love'? Building community, breaking down hostilities is doing the work of our Blessed Lord. It is a work so much needed in our troubled world. Every day will bring opportunities to do this. I hope that in the days of this Lent, each of us will make an extra effort to put our faith in the Lord into practice in this special way. This is the appeal of today's Gospel message: a generous love that overcomes hostility!

One of my favourite saints is St Francis of Assisi. There is a lovely story, or maybe a legend, about him that I want to tell. It is said that towards the end of his life, when he was near to death, he gathered his followers together. Looking round he said to them: 'Brethren, let us begin to love the Lord because so far we have made little progress!' Well, if such a great saint can say those words, so can each of us.

My appeal to you, then, is very simple. This Lent, try to make a little more progress in prayer, in speaking of Our Blessed Lord to others, and in being a bearer to others of his compassion and love.

And please pray for me, as I will most certainly pray for you.

Yours devotedly,

✦ Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster

So how do we live this out in school?

Well ... our whole RE curriculum is based upon making links between scripture, Church teaching, worship and life. Whatever our children learn has to have an impact on their daily life **AND IT DOES SO BEAUTIFULLY!**

LENT is rooted in actions of prayer, fasting and almsgiving

During this Lent your children will:

Engage with **Food Bank Friday**, leaving items in the trolley outside St Joseph's workshop that we can share with the **St Vincent de Paul Society** to support local families. You can find out more about the Society of St Vincent de Paul here: <https://www.svp.org.uk/>

LOCAL ACTION.

Be sent home with a **CAFOD penny box**. Maybe they could complete jobs at home for a small fee to support overseas sustainable aid projects. You can find out more about CAFOD projects that we are supporting here: <https://cafod.org.uk>

INTERNATIONAL ACTION.

Buy Easter raffle tickets which will be on sale during the last few weeks of term. Pupils can buy tickets that might earn them an Easter treat donated by the staff team. Funds raised will support Father Kakuba's Kanyike Project in Uganda. You can find out more about the Kanyikee project here: <https://www.kanyikeproject.org.uk/>

INTERNATIONAL ACTION.

Each day during Lent, the School Parliament team will be selecting an image to display on the '**lenten lines**' in our purple shed at the main entrance to the school. You may want to stop at this point with your child, look at the new image and say a prayer together each day.



Watch this space!

During Lent there will be many opportunities for your children to experience a response to scripture through their ACTIONS.

Lent 2023 brings with it a great opportunity for lasting change and action focused on the Common Good. As a Catholic school, rooted in these principles, we are ideally placed to promote these principles which can only serve to make our community the very best place that it can possibly be, outward looking and supportive to all. Please join us in prayer for the fruit of our mission this Lent.



The following link to our school website may support you in preparing your children during this very special season:

[Support for families](#)

Thank you for all that you do to support us in the formation of your children.
It is such a special opportunity and we take it very seriously,