NEWSLETTER

Let your light shine before others, so they see your good works and give glory to God

Matthew 5 v.16

Rooted in Christian faith, which underpins the school's ethos, we seek to enable all pupils to develop their full academic potential; discover skills and talents in art, music, sport and drama; and grow in spiritual awareness and moral character. By striving for excellence within an inclusive environment, enabling every child to develop their gifts and flourish, we seek to shine as a community, so our achievements give glory to God.

9th February 2024

Today signals the end of another half term, and also the fact that we have reached the mid-way point in the academic year, which is incredible given it seems no time at all ago that we returned to school in September!

This week, alongside Miss Milligan, Mrs Todorova and Miss Renard, I have been away with the Year 6 children visiting Treginnis Farm in Pembrokeshire. This is my sixth trip to Treginnis. Whenever I am lucky enough to visit, I am always struck by what a magical place it is. The air is so clean, the food is wholesome, having been produced and grown on the farm, and it is wonderful to be away from the distractions of technology. Obviously, I was required to bring along my laptop to enable me to produce the letter you are now reading, but it is great for the children to play board games and read books in the evening, rather than being sat in front of a screen.

Founded by Michael Morpurgo and his wife, Treginnis is one of three Farms for City Children; it welcomes approximately 3,000 children to its site every year. We have had a truly incredible week. Without exception the children have been wonderful, throwing themselves enthusiastically into whatever task they have been given to do. Whether they were asked to muck out the stables, chop fire wood, milk the goats at 7.30am or plant seeds and spread compost, every child completed each assigned task to the very best of their ability with a smile on their faces. They worked together as a team, they were polite to the farm staff, listened well to instructions and were generally a complete joy to be around. As you read this, we will be on the coach making our way home; we are all feeling very tired, but also full of happy memories and have lots of stories to tell after our week away.

Whatever you are doing for the half term break, I hope that you have a wonderful week. Please note that the children return to school on Monday 19th February.

Class Assemblies

This half term we have enjoyed two class assemblies - the first performed by Year 4 and the second by Year 1. Both class assemblies were focused upon books which the children have enjoyed reading in class.

Roald Dahl's Fantastic Mr Fox was the theme for Year 4's class assembly. The children acted out the story extremely well, delivering their lines clearly and confidently and showcasing their fabulous singing voices. The children were dressed in fantastic costumes, which helped them to fully transform into their characters. A truly incredible performance which we all really enjoyed, well done Year 4!

Yesterday, Year 1 performed the classic tale Handa's Surprise by Eileen Browne. Unfortunately, being away on the farm I missed the actual performance, but I did pop along to one of the class rehearsals

and was super impressed by the confidence of the children when delivering their lines, singing and showcasing their very creative dance moves. It was lovely to see the children having the opportunity to incorporate the musical instruments they made during DT Day into their performance. I spoke to Miss Jones and she was extremely proud of the children yesterday, she said it was like they had been performing for years! Well done Year 1.

Children's Mental Health Week

This week we have been celebrating Children's Mental Health Week. Mrs. Johnston introduced the theme for this year's event 'Your Voice Matters' during our collective worship session on Monday. Then in classes the children have been given the opportunity to reflect upon the theme, focusing on how their voices can be used to make a positive impact on the world around us. Yesterday, the charity MIND performed an assembly for the children, which focused upon mental health and well-being. The children have engaged extremely well with all of the sessions, and will hopefully finish the week armed with strategies which will help to support their well-being in the future.

Cycling Proficiency - Bikeability

Also this week, our Year 5 children have been participating in their cycling proficiency training. The children took to the road, in order to complete the Bikeability programme led by the LA. The programme is designed to help children stay safe on the roads when cycling. As always the children embraced the opportunity and all passed the programme with flying colours, well done Year 5!

PTA Discos

This week the children put on their dancing shoes to participate in discos in celebration of Valentine's Day. The children had a wonderful time and impressed the staff with their incredible dance moves and singing voices! Special thanks to our wonderful PTA team for organising this event.

Proud Places

Last week the children in Year 4 and Year 5 participated in the Leaning Woman restoration project with Proud Places. The children visited the statue, which is on the doorstep of our very own St Peter's Church, and learnt about its history and that of its sculptor, and how it came to be placed in its current location. Once they returned to school, the children collaborated with each other to create poems based upon these newly explored themes, before getting their hands on modelling clay to form their own leaning sculptures. It was an incredible opportunity for the children to get involved with the protection of our local community, and they very much look forward to continuing their involvement with the restoration project in the coming weeks and months.

Gurdwara Visit

On Tuesday 30th January the children from Year 5 and Year 6 visited the Central Gurdwara Khalsa Jatha as part of their work in Religious Education, where they have been learning about the Sikh religion. During their visit the children were told the story of Guru Nanak; they learnt about the importance of meditation and they sampled rice and dhal in the Langar kitchen. The children were incredible ambassadors for our school, asking questions and sharing their prior knowledge throughout the trip.

Synagogue Visit

Last Wednesday the children from Year 3 visited the Holland Park Synagogue to support their learning around Judaism. The children had a fascinating time looking around the beautiful synagogue. The Rabbi spoke to the children about the Jewish faith, showed them the Torah and discussed how Jews worship. The children listened carefully and showed great insight in the questions they asked. Well done Year 3.

LDBS Annual Service

On Thursday 1st February the RE ambassadors, alongside Mrs Johnston and Rev Charles, attended the annual LDBS Church Schools' Service, which was held at St. Paul's Cathedral. The theme of this year's

service was the heart of reconciliation, which was underpinned by the parable of The Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37) in which Jesus encourages people to love your neighbour as yourself. There were over 100 schools in attendance at the service and it was a very special experience for our children to be a part of.

Year 6 Shakespearean Experience

Last Friday, Year 6 visited West London Free School to watch their performance of Twelfth Night. The children enjoyed the experience and having the opportunity to see some of their former school mates performing.

STOP, LOOK and LISTEN

On Monday, the children in Year 1 and Year 2 watched a 'Stop, Look and Listen' performance, designed to teach them how to stay safe on the road. It was a fun and engaging performance, teaching the children the dangers that they may incur when being out and about on the road. The children learnt a song along with actions to help them to remember to stop, look and listen when crossing the roads.

MIND workshops

Over the past couple of weeks, Year 6 have concluded their final two MIND workshops. Their sessions have been focused upon supporting their transition to secondary school and the emotions associated with this. The children have gained a great deal from these sessions, taking away with them a number of strategies for dealing with their emotions.

Ash Wednesday

Please join us at St Peter's Church on Tuesday 20th February at 9am for a service in celebration of Ash Wednesday. We hope as many of you as possible are able to attend.

Year 6 SATS Meeting

Thank you to all of the Year 6 parents who attended the Year 6 SATs meeting on Monday 29th January. During the meeting, Miss Milligan talked parents through the timetable for SATs week, and shared examples of past papers with those in attendance. She also outlined how parents and carers can support their children at home in the run up to SATs week and during the week itself. Miss Milligan was also on hand to answer any concerns or questions raised.

Punctuality

The punctuality of all of the children is closely monitored. It is our hope that children arrive at school on time every day, although we appreciate that sometimes circumstances beyond your control prevent this from happening. Therefore, we allow up to 5 lates in an academic year before any action is taken. Unfortunately, a number of families have already breached this threshold last term.

Good punctuality is extremely important to your child's education. In addition to the fact that arriving at school late can be very distressing for your child, first thing in the morning is often a time when we run intervention support, or pre-teach concepts to those children who require some additional support with particular areas of the curriculum. Those children arriving late at school routinely miss this additional provision. Please can I ask that you all make a concerted effort to get your children to school on time. **Breakfast Club support is available from 8am every day – this provision is offered free to those in receipt of Pupil Premium funding.**

Please remember that the school gates will be opened at 8.45am for children to go straight into their classrooms in readiness for the beginning of the school day: **8.55am** for children in **Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5** and **6** and **9am** for children in **Reception**.

Please also ensure that your child is collected promptly at the end of the school day: **3.20pm** for children in **Reception**; **3.25pm** for children in **Year 1** and **Year 2** and **3.30pm** for children in **Year 3, Year 4, Year 5** and **Year 6**. Thank you for your help with this matter.

Attendance

Monitoring attendance is part of our statutory duty, we are committed to working with you all to ensure that the children are attending school on a regular basis. We recognise that at this time of year many children are affected by winter illnesses, which account for many of the absences we have seen recently. However, if there are any underlining medical conditions we need to be made aware of, or any issues we can help with which are preventing your child from attending school, please speak to us immediately. Thank you.

A copy of the term dates for this academic year and the academic year 2024 -2025 have been sent out to all parents and carers, these dates are also available to view on the school website. Please make a note of these dates and avoid booking events and holidays which mean that children are required to take time out of school. **Please note that we are unable to authorise any holidays taken during term time.**

Please see below our attendance percentages for the past two weeks:

	W/C 29th January	W/C 5th February
Reception	**96.7%**	**98.7%**
Year 1	**97.7%**	**94.7%**
Year 2	**99.3%**	**96.0%**
Year 3	**96.7%**	**99.3%**
Year 4	**99.7%**	**91.7%**
Year 5	**96.3%**	**97.0%**
Year 6	**97.0%**	**98.5%**

House Points

	House points 2/2/24	House points	Total
Cross	**457**		**1444**
Fisher	**380**		**1425**
Rock	**415**		**1346**
Keys	**329**		**1294**

Headteacher's Award

	2nd February	9th February
Reception	**Thomas & Freddie**	**Martha & Theodore**
Year 1	**Archie & Josephine**	**Rosa B and whole class for assembly**
Year 2	**Ottolie & Hunter**	**Evalyn & Dylan**
Year 3	**Orly & Rose**	**Louanne & Alicia**
Year 4	**Lucy & Bart**	**Charlotte & Olive**
Year 5	**Becky & Amelie**	**George & Edie**
Year 6	**Dominic & Eliza**	**All of Y6 at the farm**

Values Award

Children can be nominated for a Values Award by other pupils, parents and staff members. When making a nomination, we ask you to state the value/s the child has shown (***courage***, ***respect***, ***thankfulness, perseverance***, ***service*** or ***kindness)*** and how they have demonstrated this value.

2nd February – Dion (Y1), Sebi (Y2), Rio (Y3), Nujin, Eliza & Dolly (Y6)
9th February – Rosa F (Y1), Pawel (Y3), Maya (Y5) and Mrs Johnston

No nuts please!

Just a quick reminder that we are a nut-free school. Please double-check the ingredients before sending any snacks into school - particularly cereal bars - as sometimes they can contain hidden nuts which can be dangerous for other children. Thank you.

Medicines in School

If your child is required to take medicine during the school day, please ensure that it is handed in, in its original packaging, via the school office; we need parental permission in order to administer any medication. For health and safety reasons, children are not allowed to keep any medication in their bags. Our Medical Lead is Mrs Johnston; should your child have any serious medical issues that you need to share with us, please contact her via communications@stpetersce.lbhf.sch.uk

Website

Please remember to log on to our website to view your child's class page: https://www.stpetersce.lbhf.sch.uk/ This will give you information about what your child will be learning this coming half term.

Instagram

Please follow us on @stpetersschoolw6

Finally

If you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to speak, in the first instance, to your child's class teacher. We are always here to help, and believe greatly in the importance of good communication between home and school.

Kind regards,

Miss Frazer

Dates	Time	Description
WC 12/02/24		**Half Term**
19/02/24		**Children return to school**
20/02/24		Service in celebration of Ash Wednesday
26/02/24		Year 2 SATs Meeting
04/03/24	4pm – 7pm	Parents Evening
05/03/24	3.30pm – 6pm	Parents Evening
07/03/24		World Book Day (theme traditional tales from different cultures)
08/03/24		Mum's/Female Carer's breakfast
WC 11/03/24		Arts Week
WC 11/03/24		Neurodiversity Celebration Week
21/03/24		Poetry Recital in recognition of World Poetry Day
22/03/24		Arts Cafe
WC 25/03/24		Interschool competition (Gymnastics)
27/03/24		Winning House Reward

27/03/24		Easter Egg Rolling
28/03/24	9am	Easter Service in Church
28/03/24	2pm	**End of term**