



The Season of Lent

We are now in the season of Lent. As part of our celebration of Lent in school, we are gathering for a short liturgy each Friday morning at 9:15am – we began with Year 4 this morning. The liturgies are fairly short, about 15 minutes, but are a good opportunity for a bit of reflection at the end of the week. A different class will lead each week, with Year 3 taking the lead next Friday morning. All are welcome!

Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to two new families who have recently joined St Agnes'. Ailbhe Drumm-Pickard has joined Year 2 and Luca Cairns has joined Year 6. Both have settled into the school very quickly; we hope they will be very happy here.

World Book Day – next Thursday

A reminder that next Thursday, 1st March, is World Book Day. We hope that everyone will join in by dressing up as a book character for the day.

Sports News

Well done to the large number of Year 1 and 2 pupils who have been involved in multi-skill festivals in recent weeks. They took part with great enthusiasm and showed super teamwork skills. Year 2 are currently working on their skipping skills in preparation for their Skipping Festival on Thursday 15th March; we are still awaiting confirmation of exact timings and the venue. Year 4 will receive their first skipping workshop this coming Wednesday.

Year 5 and 6 enjoyed a visit from the Newcastle Eagles as part of the Hoops 4 Health programme; Year 5 will be taking part in the Hoops 4 Health Festival on Tuesday 20th March at Gateshead Stadium. Durham Cricket Club will be visiting school on Wednesday 7th March to run cricket workshops with Years 1-6. Meanwhile, Year 2 are receiving a weekly tennis session with Ian Pearson from Gateshead Tennis and Reception continue to receive their weekly Little Kickers session with Coach Connor.

Changes to Homework

Following feedback and sharing good practice, some classes are making slight changes to how/when homework should be completed. Part of the rationale is about giving children the chance to select pieces of homework from a "menu" which includes a range of tasks. Class teachers will explain further at next week's Parent/Teacher meetings.

Reading Matters

As many of you will know, we have been reinforcing the importance of children's individual reading, and have re-introduced Reading Diaries into some classes. Thank you all for your help and support with this really important area; we are delighted with the progress that many of the children are making. Continued thanks must go to our army of volunteer helpers who are supporting a number of our children with their reading on Monday - Thursday mornings. This is having a tremendous impact and the support and encouragement given is very much appreciated. As well as this, Miss Woods and Miss Young are leading the staff on revisiting our teaching of reading skills, for example, inference and deduction. We are also organising our Guided Reading sessions differently, as well as trying out some interesting new strategies.

Meanwhile, Year 6 are also trialling a new resource "Reader Plus" which is an adaptive online tool, specifically designed to improve fluency and comprehension. The initial assessment of this is extremely positive.

Staring into Space

Year 2 enjoyed a fantastic visit to Kielder Observatory last night. The visit had been rescheduled from before half-term, when it was postponed due to bad weather. The children were given a tour of the observatory by three astronomers, and enjoyed fantastic views of the moon, as well as examining samples of meteorites and even samples of rock from Mars.

As ever, the children's behaviour and attentiveness during the visit were exemplary!



Work in the Grounds

You may have noticed that some new trees and shrubs have been planted in the grounds. This has been carried out on behalf of Story Homes, who are replacing trees, as promised, that were removed during the Summer. They will be doing more work in the coming months, helping us to create a "quiet garden" in the grounds.

Diary of Events

FEBRUARY

Mon 26th/Tues 27th Parent/Teacher Consultations (please book online via the website)
Wed 28th Skipping Workshop with Chris Corcoran, Year 4.

MARCH

Thurs 1st World Book Day (dressing up as book characters)
Fri 2nd Lent liturgy led by Year 3, 9:15am.
Wed 7th Cricket Workshop with Durham CC. (Years 1-6)
Fri 9th Lent Liturgy led by Reception Class, 9:15am.
Year 5 attend Hoops 4 Health Festival, Gateshead Stadium
Wed 14th Mass in St Agnes' Church, 10:00. All welcome.
Thurs 15th Year 2 Skipping Festival, pm (details tbc.)
Fri 16th Lent Liturgy led by Year 1, 9:15am.
Mon 19th Choir attend the Spring Sing @ The Sage, am
Tues 20th Dance Festival @ The Sage Gateshead, 6:00pm. Ticket only.
Fri 23rd Lent Liturgy led by Year 2, 9:15am.
Mon 26th Presentation by STM for Year 5 parents, 5:00pm.
Wed 28th Stations of the Cross (jointly with St Joseph's, Highfield),
Years 5 and 6 in St Agnes' Church, 1:30pm.
Thurs 29th Holy Week & Easter Liturgies: 9:15am, 1:15am and 2:30pm.
TERM ENDS



Statements to live by....



Over the next few weeks the children will be working together to...

'To know that everything has the capacity to reveal God's presence and in the light of this develop effective and satisfying relationships'

Please take the opportunity to discuss with your child at home and support them as they learn about....

- ⇒ I listen to what you say. I show that I am listening to you
- ⇒ I co-operate with others in work and play
- ⇒ I try to use words that make the world a better place
- ⇒ I try to appreciate the beauty and wonder in the world around me

Which words can we use at home that make the world a better place?