



ST CLEMENT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Friday 9th February 2024

As we approach the end of another busy half term, we find ourselves at the mid-way point in the school year. It's truly remarkable how quickly the term has flown by, and it has been wonderful to watch our pupils working hard, embracing challenges and striving to be the best they can be in all aspects of school life. I am so proud of all their achievements, big and small, that have contributed to the overall success of this term.

Throughout this week, our focus at school has centred on mental health and well-being. The overarching theme guiding the activities has been 'My Voice Matters' equipping our children with the tools to express their feelings and to understand that they have a right to be listened to when talking about their feelings.

Looking ahead to the second half of the term, our school community will be embarking on our Lenten journey. Lent is a time to prepare, reflect, pray and give to charity. By fostering a mindset of empathy and thinking about the needs of others, we are putting out faith into action as a school community.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support and encouragement which alongside the dedication and hard work of the staff contributes to building a nurturing educational community.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

With warm wishes

Mrs Chappell

Dear God,

May the sunlight and the rain be reminders that You are at work
renewing the earth.

As a God of renewal, You are ever at work in our lives, too.

Open our eyes and lives to the needed changes in our lives at this
time of year.

Awaken us to new life and perspective, for we pray in Jesus'
name.

Amen.

THE YOUNG SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

On Wednesday 17th January, Year 5 and 6 were lucky enough to watch four wonderful actors from The Young Shakespeare Company perform the enchanting comic tale 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' in a fast-moving fully-costumed interactive production. The play was brought vividly to life for the children, at times including the whole audience to create such enchanting scenes as the wood full of mysterious fairies and sprites.

Throughout the performance, the children become actively involved in the play through a carefully structured range of drama and language activities. They were encouraged to explore the motives, thoughts and feelings of the characters, exploring in detail how Hermia and her friends feel at every twist and turn of their confused night in the forest. Volunteers from among the children were also chosen to become individual characters in the story and all the children had the opportunity to speak and enjoy Shakespeare's words in short, accessible sections.

As always, this was a brilliant opportunity for the children to experience the work of Shakespeare in a fun and accessible way. The actors brought each character from A Midsummer Night's dream to life and Year 6 have gone on to produce some superb writing based on the play and hopefully, have ignited a spark of interest in every child in Years 5 and 6!

The children were mesmerised!



YEAR 3 & 4 CLASS MASS

The Year 3 and 4 children celebrated mass on the 30th January with Father Graham. The theme was Talents. The children took an active role in the mass; reading beautifully and bringing offertory gifts that represented the bonds shared within our classroom. Every child participated with great reverence and thoughtfulness and we were very proud of them, and their talents. It was a real joy to celebrate mass alongside Father Graham and we are very grateful to him for being part of our Year 3 & 4 worship.



SAFER INTERNET DAY

On **Tuesday 6th February** we took part in the nationwide **Safer Internet Day 2024**. This event is a global campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology online and in the real world. Throughout the school, children took part in activities exploring the wonders of technology and how to remain safe and happy online. This year's focus was what to do if an aspect of their online experience changes. Whether it's making sure new friends are who they say they are; a website's information can be trusted or how to keep data safe; children should be one step closer to be feeling confident and secure: Tell an adult, report it, block it, talk about it. Moreover, the children's future school or home design really pushed the limits of what we can look forward to in the future!



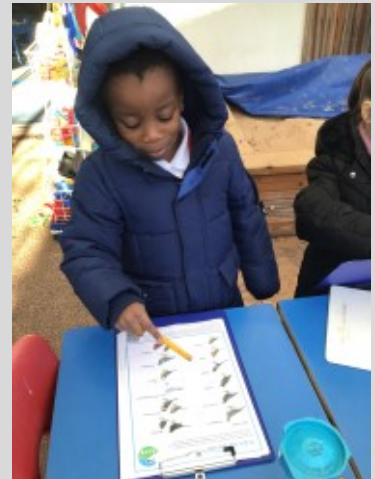
ECO COMMITTEE WORKSHOP HOGSMILL RIVER

On Wednesday 6th February the children enjoyed being Junior River Rangers as they travelled on an interactive journey along the Hogsmill River from its source at Bourne Hall to its mouth where it joins the River Thames. The children recognized lots of local landmarks as they travelled along the Hogsmill River and learnt about the history of the river and the use of watermills. They were introduced to the wildlife that live in and around the river- eels, kingfisher, stickleback fish, ducks and herons and learnt some catchy ways to remember their names- knock kneed heron. They also found out about the threat that face the animals that have made the river their home.



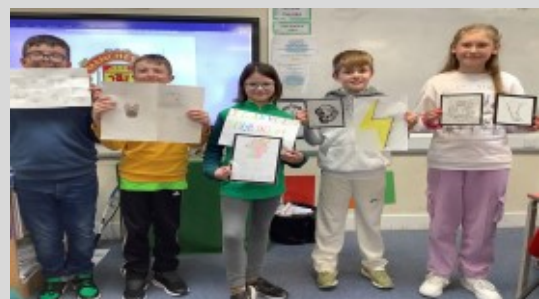
THE BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH

On Friday 26th January, the children of St Clement's took part in The Big Garden Birdwatch in collaboration with the RSPB. They made an hour of time count by joining hundreds of thousands of people across the UK who took part in this national survey. The nature and climate emergency threatens even our most familiar birds, which means every bird that they counted matters. By taking part in The Big Garden Birdwatch, the children helped the RSPB to understand how our garden birds are doing, taking action to help wildlife thrive for generations to come. We believe the children had a fantastic hour with nature, spotting many different species of birds across the grounds of St Clement's. Thank you to all the staff who made this possible and the children for taking part.



EXPRESS YOURSELF DAY

St Clement's was awash with colour on our celebration day 'Express Yourself' as part of Children's Mental Health Week 2024. The week, run by Place2Be, exists to empower, equip and give a voice to every child in the UK. This year's theme was 'My Voice Matters'. 1 in 6 children and young people now have a diagnosable mental health condition so by taking part in Children's Mental Health Week 2024, we helped to ensure that children and young people across the UK feel listened to, and know that they're not alone. 'Express Yourself' allows children and young people to celebrate what makes them unique with an incredibly fun dress-up day and taking part in many activities. A big thankyou to all parents, staff and the children for contributing to our special event in some way and to those who have very generously donated to this worthy cause through our Just Giving page. Well done St Clement's!



OVER AND ABOVE

On Wednesday 7th February, Mrs Chappell and Mrs Roberts shared afternoon tea with children who had been chosen from each class who have gone 'over and above'. The children had been chosen because they had gone "over and above" in showing good behaviour, a positive attitude to learning, showing perseverance when finding activities challenging, being a really good friend, being helpful, actively living out the Gospel values or consistently being "the best they can be this" term. The chosen children this half-term were Louis (Reception), Ada (Year 1), Ania (Year 2), Darcie (Year 3), Leon (Year 4), Camilla (Year 5) and Amelia (Year 6). During the afternoon, they tucked into some cupcakes, chocolate mini-rolls and a glass of squash. They made for delightful company. We chatted about their plans for half term, told some funny stories and played "Guess Who" about the class teachers. These children should feel very proud of themselves!



ANCHOR AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the following children who received awards at our Anchor Assembly this half term:

Year 6 Jocelyn, Clara Da Silva, Owen, Alex, Imoh and Aaliyah
Year 5 Isabella A, Eliana, Alex, Isabella V-C, Ariadne and Adam
Year 4 Elsie, Dawid, Ava, Emily H-S, Imogen and Quinn
Year 3 Penny, Mason, Darcie, Anton, Lucas and Eti
Year 2 Oliver, Mia, Sophia, Raphael, Austin and Niamh
Year 1 Leon, Xander, William, Lyra, Laura and Keira
Reception Gabriella, David, Cohen, Remy-Ray, Mia and Ntsako

Anchor Assembly takes place every two weeks on a Friday afternoon. Please return Anchor badges to your child's class teacher on the morning of the next Anchor Assembly.

VALUES AND VIRTUES AWARD

This half term we have spent time as a whole school working on being a good role model for others in reflecting on how we have lived the virtues of Faith and Simplicity. We have thought about how we see these virtues in action in our lives and in the lives of others. We have also thought about how we can work to encapsulate these values in the way we speak to and treat others. Well done to those children who received our Values and Virtues award at the Anchor Assemblies this half term:

Year 6 Clara, Erin and Hannah
Year 5 Jemima, Isabella A and Victor
Year 4 Leon, Emily and Kamila
Year 3 Ted, Jagoda and Penny
Year 2 Maëlie, Erin and Ted
Year 1 Laura, Alex and William
Reception Serayah and Logan

HOUSE POINTS

This half term winners are St Clare!

Well done St Clare!

House	Points
St Benedict	3839
St Francis	4096
St Clare	4213
St Margaret	3938

ATTENDANCE AWARD



The overall attendance award this half term has gone to Year 2 with 97.5% .

Well done!

LUNCH COSTS

The cost of school lunches for the next half term is £78.30 for Years 3, 4, 5 & 6.

Any changes for the next half term from packed lunch to school dinners or vice versa requires a week's notice to the School Office.

School breaks up today for Half Term and opens again at the usual time on Monday 19th February.

We wish everyone a happy and restful week.

IMPORTANT DATES

SPRING TERM 2024

DATE	YEAR	EVENT
Friday 9th February	All	INSET Day—School closed for all pupils and beginning of half term
Friday 9th February - Friday 16th February	All	Half term
Monday 19th February	All	Children return to school
Wednesday 21st February	Year 6	Junior Citizenship Event am
Wednesday 21st—Friday 23rd February	Year 4	Bikeability Year 4
Tuesday 27th February	Year 5 & 6	Class Mass in Hall 2.15pm
Friday 23rd February	All	Foodbank Mufti
Wednesday 28th February	Year 2	Freshwater Theatre -Oceans and Continents
Thursday 29th February	Year 1	Freshwater Theatre -Toys
Thursday 7th March	All	World Book Day
Friday 8th March	All Year 5 & 6	Science Week begins until the 15th March 'Who Cares' NHS Healthcare presentation
Wednesday 20th March	Years 2,5 & 6	NSPCC workshops
Thursday 21st March	All	World Poetry Day
Monday 25th March	R, Y1 & Y2	Drama 4 All workshops am
Wednesday 27th March	All	Easter service 9.15am
Thursday 28th March	All	School finishes for the Easter holidays at 1.30p.m.