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Our Lady and All Saints
Catholic Multi Academy Company

Strong in Faith

St Anthony's Catholic Primary School

Fordbridge Road,

Kingshurst,

Birmingham

B37 6LW

Friday 23rd February 2024

*This half term, we are growing to be more faith-filled in our beliefs;
and hopeful for the future.*






*Hope is being able to see that there is
light despite all of the darkness.*

Desmond Tutu – Anglican Bishop



It was wonderful to welcome our pupils back to school this week after a well-deserved half term.

We are now in the season of Lent and in assembly this week, the children were reminded of their

mission to pray , fast  and give  from now until Easter.

One way that we are hoping to 'give' at St. Anthony's is through the children completing sponsored events. EYFS and KS1 will take part in a sponsored 'Bunny Hop' in aid of the Birmingham Hospice; whilst KS2 pupils will be trying to raise money by taking part in CAFOD's 'Big Lent Walk'.



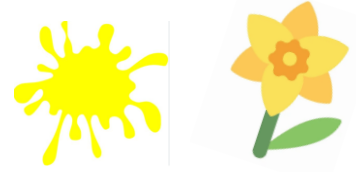
The children will soon bring home their sponsorship forms and we are hopeful that we will be able to live out the Catholic Social Teaching of showing love towards the poor and vulnerable through your generous donations.

Another way we are living out this teaching is through joining the 'Higaonon Seeds of Change' tree growing project. As a school we are working together with the Columban Missionaries to grow trees in The Philippines – a country which is suffering hugely as a result of the climate crisis. On the last Friday of half term, some of our Stewards of Creation visited the Columbans and planted trees as a symbol of our mission; and this week the children have learnt all about what an amazing country the Philippines is. We are even learning to make the Sign of the Cross in the Cebuano language!



When they returned this week, the children in **Tiny Ants** were very excited to find that the daffodils that they'd planted had finally flowered over half term!

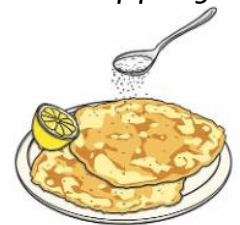
We observed how they had changed and were now yellow: we have been learning all about this colour this week.



The children got very creative by snipping, tearing and gluing yellow tissue paper to make their own daffodil pictures



We were also lucky enough to have some of the nursery children come to play with us and we learnt all about Shrove Tuesday. The children got to enjoy pancakes and choose if they wanted jam or lemon as their topping.



Billy turned 3 during the half term break and the children wanted to sing "Happy Birthday" to him with our cake. The children then made their own cupcakes in playdough and counted out candles that they then added to their dough.





TINY ANTS

TINY ANTS – NEW FUNDING FOR PLACES FROM EASTER

Do you have a child who will have turned two by Easter this year (31st March 2024)? If so, due to changes to the Government's childcare support, they should be eligible for 15 hours free childcare from Easter. If they turn two during the Summer term, they will be eligible for 15 hours free child care from September.

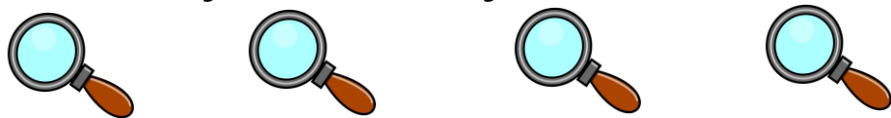
Following this new funding announcement, we are already receiving applications for places in Tiny Ants for the Summer term (beginning after the Easter holidays) and for September.

*If you are interested in securing a place in Tiny Ants for your child, we would ask you to contact us **immediately** as we expect a high demand and we have a limited number of places.*

Nursery have had a fabulous first week back! We have introduced our new special time of Lent. We created actions to remind us to pray, fast and give. We have started to learn a new song which hopefully we can perform soon 😊

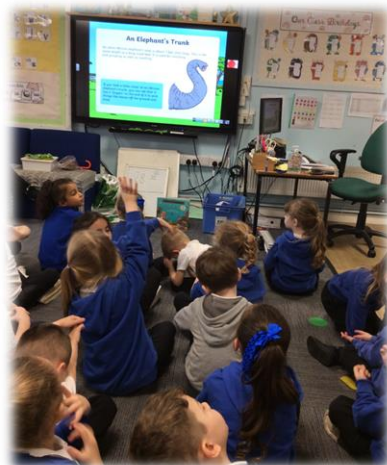


This week in **Reception** we have started our new topic. We will be exploring **'What made that noise?'** during this half term. Our focus this week was learning all about elephants. We have learnt lots of interesting facts about them, such as what they eat, where they live and listened to the noise that they make.



The children loved using magnifying glasses to look closely at the detail on an elephant and then created their own drawing of an elephant that included the detail they saw.

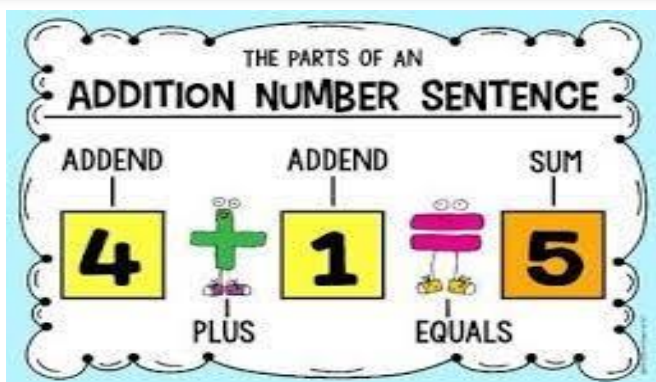
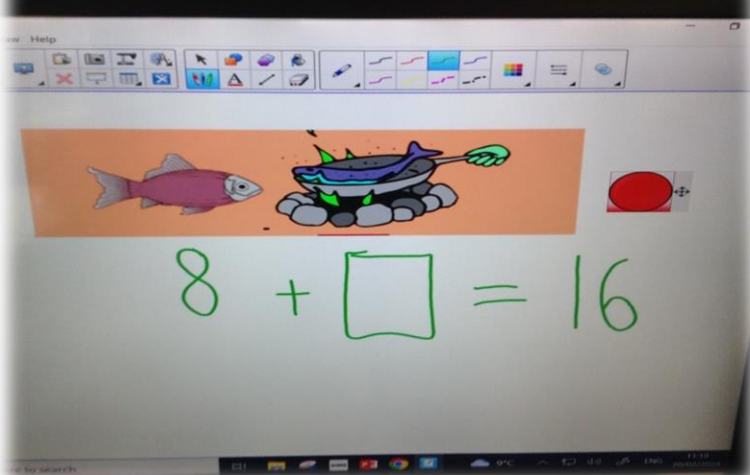
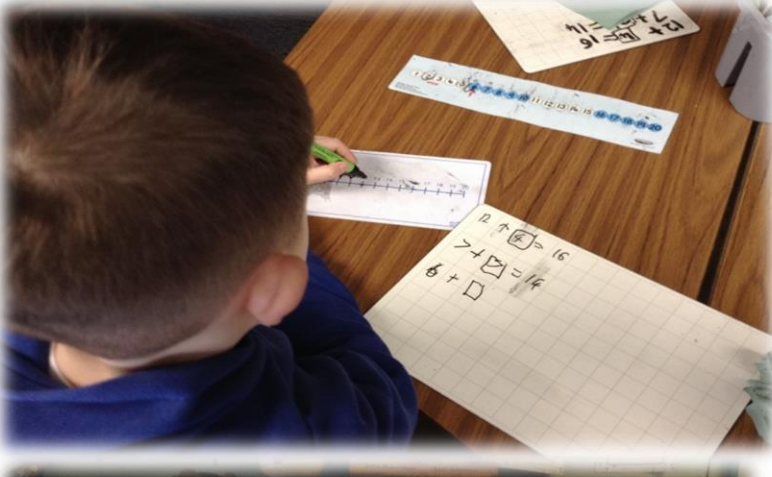
The children made some very beautiful pictures that we were all proud of.



In Maths, we have been measuring length using cubes. 'Mystery Mouse' gave us an important mission: we had to investigate which superhero left footprints by measuring them with cubes and checking how big the superhero's feet were! Well done, Reception 😊



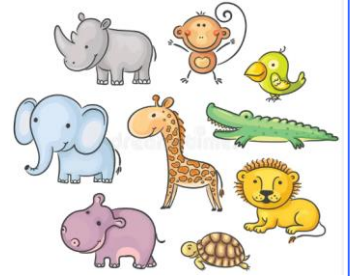
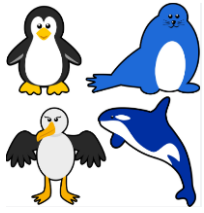
In Maths **Year 1** have been working on finding the missing number in an addition number sentence. They have used lots of concrete resources and number lines to support their learning. They have worked so hard this week - well done Year 1.



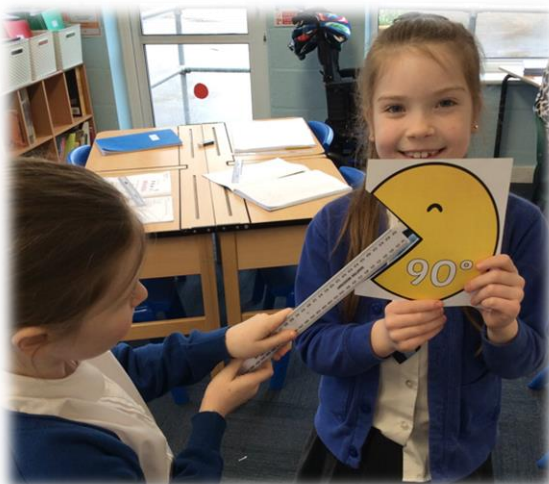
Year 3 have kicked off the half term with some exciting lessons! In Science we planted flowers, and we are ready to see how they grow over the next few weeks.

In RE we have started learning about Lent.

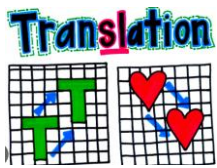
In English we have been researching lots of cool facts about animals from Antarctica and Africa and in Global Learning we have learned how animals to adapt so they can survive extreme conditions.



We have particularly enjoyed Maths this week, where we went on the hunt for right angles and made 3D shapes using marshmallows and spaghetti! 😊



Year 4 have had a brilliant first week back. We began the week with some tricky maths - plotting coordinates and translating shapes. The children worked in Kagan groups to solve tricky problems and reveal hidden puzzles using their knowledge of coordinates.



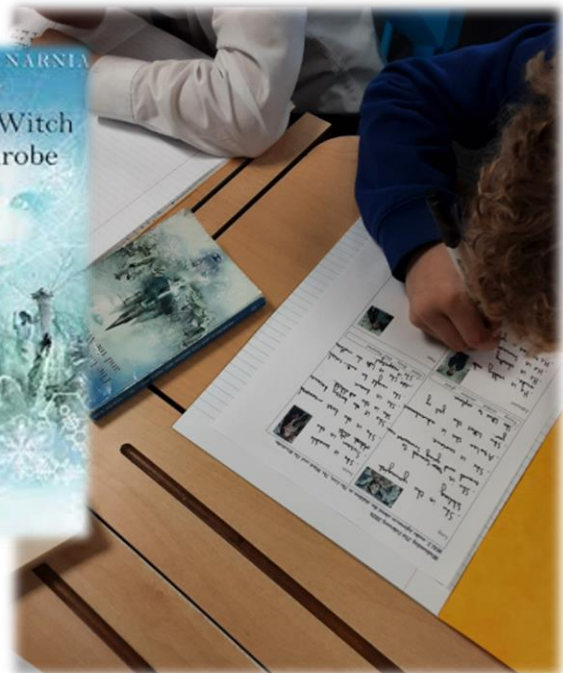
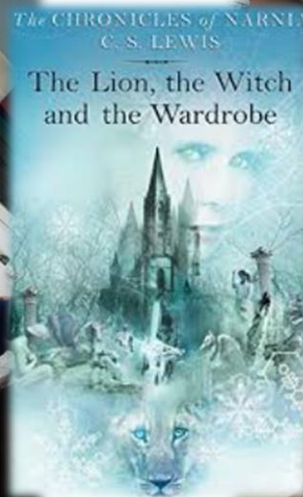
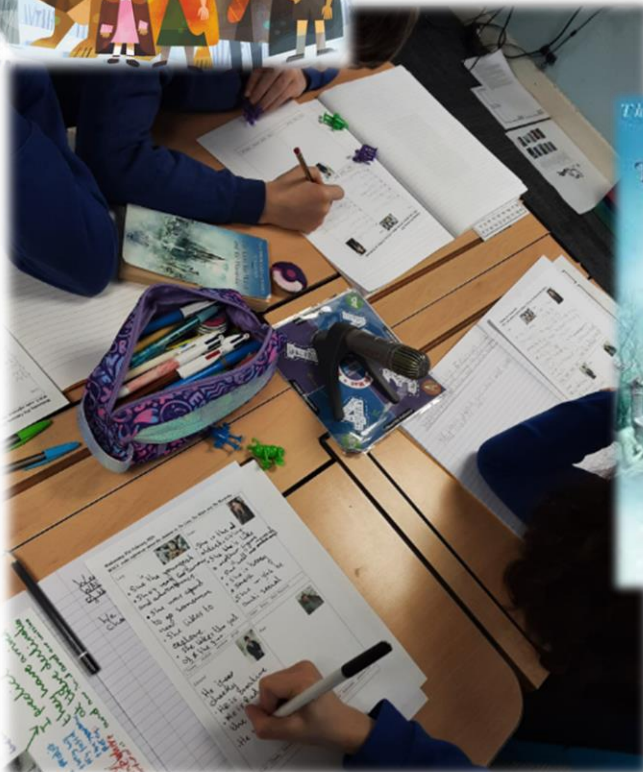
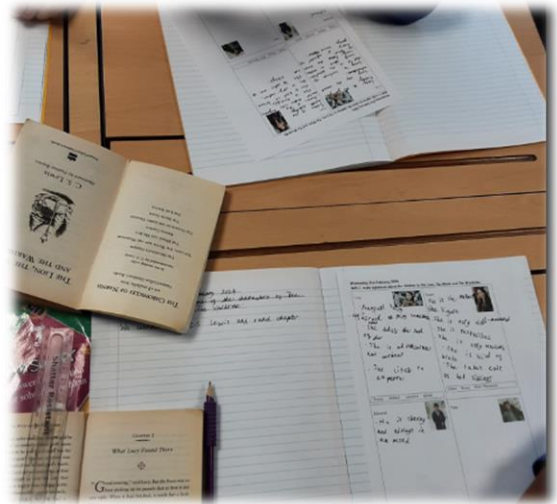
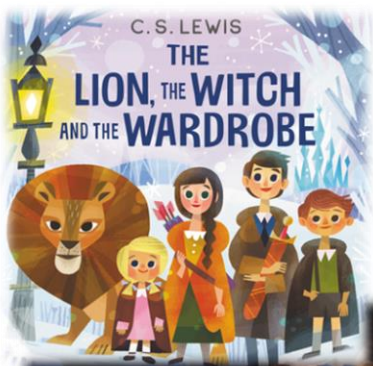
In our assembly this week we looked at the Philippines. To celebrate the Philippines, we had a look at *banig* (a type of weaving). The children made their own *banig* out of paper using weaving techniques and explored repeated patterns.



What a great first week back it has been for **Year 5** – all of the pupils have returned to school rested and happy.



We kick started our new book 'The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe' this week in English. We are only at the end of Chapter 1 but we are really enjoying it so far! 😊





The new TTRS battle has now begun and it's a whole school battle between the **girls** and the **boys**. The score is currently 1-1 with both the boys and girls having won one battle each. Who will be victorious this week? Find out in next week's newsletter!



NUMBOTS



Congratulations to **Andrew** and **Kacie-Leigh** in Year 1 who have completed the next stage of their story map this week.



Attendance Matters



The winner of this week's attendance raffle is **Ciaran** in **Year 5**

This week's online safety support...

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents and carers with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with their children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. For further guides, hints and tips please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips on Supporting Children with SELF-REGULATION

Children need to learn to understand and recognise their emotions, while finding healthy ways to process them. Emotional self-regulation, however, depends heavily on age and development. While very young ones or children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) may find it particularly challenging to self-regulate, nurturing these important skills can be hugely beneficial. Here are ten top tips for supporting children with their self-regulation.

1. DESIGNATE A TRUSTED ADULT



It's vital that children feel safe and know that there's someone they can always go to for help if they need it. Schedule consistent times for the child to develop a relationship with this person – ideally through play and games – allowing trust to grow and ensuring that the child is more likely to come forward if anything is wrong, rather than hiding their emotions.

2. MEET CHILDREN HALFWAY

Unless you know where a child is developmentally and tailor your approach to their needs, you're less likely to have an impact. In particular, younger ones and children with SEND can struggle to self-regulate and instead rely on others to help them. We call this 'co-regulation'. Rather than offering strategies for self-regulation, it could be better to start co-regulating with a trusted adult first.

3. FACTOR IN THEIR BASIC NEEDS



Remember that for a child to develop emotional regulation skills, their basic needs must be met first. Children who are hungry, tired, cold and so on – as well as those who have experienced adverse childhood experiences – may struggle to self-regulate. Before you develop strategies with any child, make sure they feel safe, secure and comfortable in themselves.

4. REMAIN PATIENT



If a child is struggling with their emotions, it can often become difficult to stay calm. Remember that dysregulation is beyond their control, so a display of frustration or anger could negatively impact the situation. Instead, children need to be met with comfort and understanding to help them manage these problematic feelings.

5. BE 'A DYSREGULATION DETECTIVE'



While some children can tell you why they become dysregulated, many others can't. You could investigate potential triggers by observing the child and talking to their family. When the child becomes dysregulated, note down details like the time, what they're doing and who they're with – the trigger may be someone they sit near, an unmet sensory need or something else entirely. Once we identify some triggers, we can help to avoid or overcome them.

6. USE SUITABLE LITERATURE



There are some wonderful books that can help you teach self-regulation to children. Reading these with a child can be especially powerful. Take time to discuss the content: ask questions about what feelings the characters had, why they felt that way and what strategies helped them. It can also be useful to refer back to snippets of these books at appropriate moments.

7. TRY SENSORY RESOURCES



An overlap between sensory needs and emotional regulation is possible. Children may struggle to self-regulate if they're experiencing sensory overload (a noisy classroom, for example). Positive sensory input can help calm them down. Use resources such as weighted blankets and fibre-optic lights. Of course, what works for one child might not work for another – so it's important to offer a choice of resources to discover which they prefer.

8. NURTURE INDEPENDENCE



If you feel it's appropriate, let children try out these strategies alone. Always offer them a choice: they could listen to music when they're feeling stressed, for example, or they could write down their worries or draw something to represent how they feel. This may take time for the child to get used to, so be patient. Encourage them to share any helpful strategies with a trusted adult.

9. MODEL GENUINE FEELINGS



Children learn a lot just from watching grown-ups. Don't be afraid to show your own emotions and self-regulation strategies. While you'll obviously want to avoid sharing anything too personal with children, they should still see us experiencing and handling our own feelings. Tell them how you are feeling, then show them how to respond in a healthy manner.

10. FORMULATE A PLAN



As much as we try to prevent children from experiencing dysregulation, it's always wise to have an appropriate plan for when it *does* happen. Discuss this strategy with the child (if appropriate) and their family. The best approach for an individual child is often a bespoke one: it's hugely important to know in advance what might help and what could worsen the situation.

Meet Our Expert

Georgina Durrant is an author, former teacher, Special Educational Needs Coordinator and the founder of the award-winning SEN Resources Blog, where she shares activities, advice and recommendations for parents and teachers of children with SEND.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®



PARENT WORKSHOPS



A reminder that *Reading* workshops for an adult to work with their child will take place on the following days:

Reception	Thursday 18 th April 9am
Year 1	Thursday 21 st March 9am
Year 2	Thursday 25 th April 9am DATE CHANGE
Year 3	Thursday 11 th April 9am
Year 5	Thursday 14 th March 9am

Please pray for our **Year 6** children who are due to receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation** on **Wednesday 28th February at 7pm**. We look forward to welcoming Bishop David Evans back to St. Anthony's for this occasion.



The first of our Spring term reading masses will be led by **Year 5** and will take place on **Wednesday 6th March at 9:30am**

Followed by an end of term mass led by the Faith Ambassadors on **Friday 22nd March at 9:30am**

Parents / family members from all year groups are most welcome to join us.

On **Saturday 13th April at 4:30pm** at St. Anthony's church, there will be a commitment mass for children in **Year 3** who are due to make their First Holy Communion. All children are expected to attend.



Can your child swim?

Swimming and Water Safety Breakfast Club

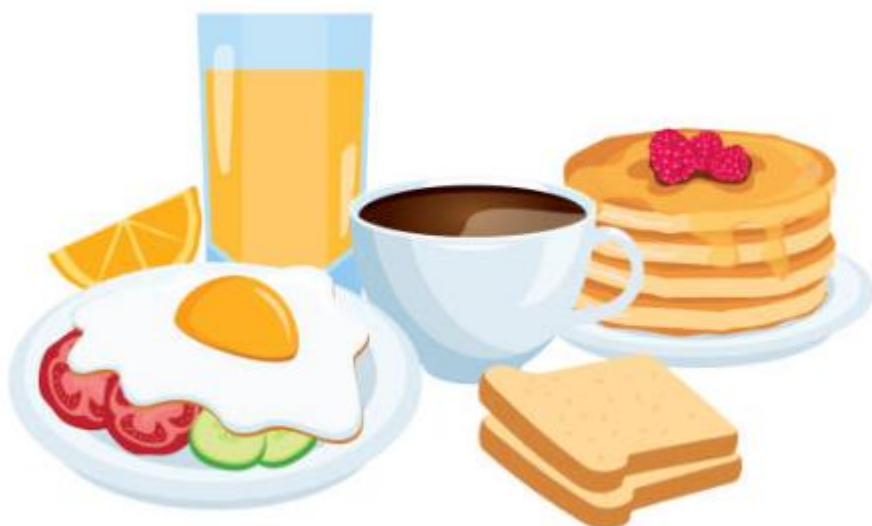
Free swimming lessons and free
breakfast before school.

21 February – 20 March 2024

North Solihull Leisure Centre, Thursdays 7:30am-8:00am.

If your child is a non-swimmer and is in Years 2-6, bring them to this session and they can benefit from a free breakfast too!

Email northsolihullactivities@everyoneactive.com
or visit reception to book your child's space



Looking to learn new skills or begin a career
in construction?

Kingshurst Village Centre Regeneration

Creating hands-on training opportunities in Kingshurst

Those looking to take their first steps into the construction industry can now benefit from free local training.

Find out how the [Kingshurst Construction Training Hub](https://yourvoicesolihull.uk/engagementhq.com/kingshurst-training) is offering local residents the chance to access high quality hands-on training with the aim of opening the door to future employment in the industry.

To register your interest today

visit: <https://yourvoicesolihull.uk/engagementhq.com/kingshurst-training>



Exciting opportunities in the Summer term...



Stratford-upon-Avon
College



Free and fun

St Anthony's have joined up with Solihull College to offer parents a number of free courses that we will hold onsite in the outside classroom. No bus fare, works around school drop off and pick up times, no cost.

Parent and Grandparents.

Storysacks-2 hours/5 weeks

Create a story sack full of fun activities.

Parents and grandparents of children in Y1 to Y6

All About Grammar-2 hours /4 weeks.

A really interesting and fun way for parents, carers and grandparents to learn more about the grammar their children or loved ones are learning at school.

Helping Your Child with English and Maths- 2 hours/10 weeks.

Come and join other parents in a relaxed and friendly environment to build your own confidence in supporting your child's learning at home. Fun and free resources.

Parents and grandparents of children in Y3 to Y6

Keeping Up with your children-2 hours for 12 weeks.

Learn more about the key skills that children need to develop. Explore ways to support your child in reading, writing and maths with other parents who are interested in helping their children too.

We are looking to start after Easter perhaps the 8th of April. We will send out a google form to see which course will be held first which will depend on how many parents and carers respond to the form.

Other courses may be available and can be discussed with college staff.

We would really like you to join in.

Primary School Menu

WEEK TWO

Fresh

Dates: 13th November, 4th December, 8th January, 29th January
26th February, 18th March

Monday

Chicken Bites
Sliced Potatoes
Baked Beans

Vegetable Nuggets
Sliced Potatoes
Baked Beans

Homebake -
Chocolate Surprise
Cake with Chocolate
Custard

Fresh Fruit Platter
Yogurts

Tuesday

BBQ Pulled Pork Pitta
Mixed Salad
Herb Diced Potatoes

Macaroni Cheese
Mixed Salad

Homebake - Lemon
Drizzle Cake

Fresh Fruit Platter
Yogurts

Wednesday

Roast Chicken
Roast Potatoes
Broccoli & Cauliflower

Vegan Sausage Roll
Roast Potatoes
Broccoli & Cauliflower

Chocolate Ice Cream
Sponge

Fresh Fruit Platter
Yogurts

Thursday

Chilli & Rice

Cheese & Potato Pie
Baked Beans

Homebake - Vanilla
Cookie

Fresh Fruit Platter
Yogurts

Friday

Cod Fish Stars
Chips
Peas

Cheese & Tomato
Pizza, Chips
Peas

Homebake - Fairy
Cakes

Fresh Fruit Platter
Yogurts

Available Daily

Home Baked Bread
Seasonal Salads



MBC-C-54995



Solihull
METROPOLITAN
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

Good attendance means...

being in school at least 95% of the time or 180 to 190 days



Good attendance and punctuality are vital for success at school and to establish positive habits that are necessary for future success.

Through regular attendance pupils can:

- Build friendships
- Develop life skills
- Engage in essential learning and achieve their full potential

All parents / carers should promote good attendance and punctuality and work in partnership with the school.

Please note that unless we have a valid reason, we cannot authorise an absence. A specific reason as to why your child is absent is required. If leaving a voicemail or sending an email, please ensure that you give as much detail as possible as this allows us to code the absence correctly. Going forward, we will not accept reasons such as 'feeling under the weather' or 'they are not 100%' etc., we need specifics. Absence is monitored by on a weekly basis by Miss Watkins and an external agency and persistent absences will be addressed.



Diary Dates



These dates will updated each week and newly added events / any changes will be highlighted in yellow.

Date and time	Year group	Event
Weds 28 th Feb	Year 6	Year 6 Confirmation 7pm
Thurs 29 th Feb	Year 2 parents	Reading workshop – 9am in the school hall POSTPONED
Friday 1 st March	Year 4	Trip to Blakesley Hall
Mon 4 th March	Tiny Ants & Nursery parents	Collective Worship - 11am in the school hall
Weds 6 th March 9:30am	R – Y6	Whole school Mass – Year 5 leading
Thurs 7 th March	Whole school	World Book Day (pupils to dress as a character from a book)
Fri 8 th March	Reception parents	Collective Worship - 2:45pm in the school hall
Monday 11 th March	Year 6	Visit to Harvington Hall
Weds 13 th March 9 - 11am	Parents	Coffee morning for parents of pupils with ASD or those with pupils on waiting lists / completing referrals (INVITE ONLY)
Thurs 14 th March	Year 5 parents	Reading parent workshop – 9am in the school hall
Thurs 21 st March	Year 1 parents	Reading parent workshop – 9am in the school hall
Fri 22 nd March 9:30 am	R – Y6	Whole school Mass – Faith Ambassadors leading
Fri 22 nd March	Whole school	Break up for Easter holidays
<u>Easter holidays</u> Mon 25 th Mar – Fri 5 th Apr		
Mon 8 th Apr	Whole school	Return to school
Thurs 11 th Apr	Year 3 parents	Reading parent workshop – 9am in the school hall
Sat 13 th Apr	Year 3	Commitment Mass for First Holy Communion 4:30pm at St. Anthony's Church
Mon 15 th Apr 9:30am	R – Y6	Whole school Mass – Year 4 leading
Thurs 18 th April	Reception parents	Reading parent workshop – 9am in the school hall



Diary Dates



Date and Time	Year Group	Event
Thurs 25 th April	Year 2 parents	Reading parent workshop – 9am in the school hall
Mon 6 th May	MAY BANK HOLIDAY (SCHOOL CLOSED)	
Fri 24 th May	Whole school	Break up for half term
Mon 13 th – Thurs 16 th May	Year 6	SATs week
<u>Half Term</u> Mon 27 th May – Fri 31 st May		
Mon 3 rd June	Whole school	Return to school
Weds 5 th – Fri 7 th June	Year 6	Alton Castle residential retreat
Mon 17 th June	Year 6	Visit to Oscott College
Thurs 20 th June am	Year 6	Visit NEC for Big Bang show
Sat 8 th June	Year 3	First Holy Communion Mass 11am
Fri 19 th July	Whole school	End of school year for pupils
Mon 22 nd July	INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS	

Please read carefully as the PE days can change from week to week.

Week beginning Monday 26th February:

- Reception – **Thursday**
- Y1 – **Monday and Tuesday**
- Y2 – **Wednesday and Friday**
- Y3 – **Swimming on Tuesday, PE on Friday**
- Y4 – **Tuesday**
- Y5 – **Monday and Thursday**
- Y6 – **Wednesday**

PE days



Please remember that pupils need to come into school in their PE kits on these days, and they should be plain white t shirts (or those with the school badge on) and **PLAIN** black shorts/tracksuit bottoms/leggings.

Head Teacher's Awards



Congratulations!

Reception – Maja – For creating a beautiful and detailed observational drawing of an elephant.

Year 1 – Alice – For always trying your best and for being a pleasure to teach.

Year 2 – Vivienne – For trying your best in every subject this week!

Year 3 – Eve – For being a wonderful asset to Year 3 and a pleasure to teach! 😊

Year 4 – Joaquin – For giving 100% effort and never shying away from challenges.

Year 5 – Cole – For being a joy to have in the class – always willing to participate in lessons!

Year 6 – Julia – For having a great attitude and brightening the class with her smile.

Mr K Scanlon, Head of School

