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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 9th February 2024

This half term, we are growing to be more **compassionate** towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate; and **loving** by our actions and forgiving words.



Compassion begins at home. It is not about how much we do but about how much love we put into what we do. Do not think that **love** has to be extraordinary. What we need, is to **love** without getting tired.

Saint Teresa of Calcutta

It is hard to believe that we are now halfway through this school year!

It has been a short but busy half term and this week has been no exception:

On **Monday** we had a special assembly to kick off **Children's Mental Health Week**, Year 6 went to John Henry Newman School to watch a performance

of High School Musical and some of our Y5 and 6 children came 2nd in a local Maths competition.

Tuesday was **Safer Internet Day** and the children joined in with a virtual assembly. Some Y3 children represented us at a gymnastics competition and Nursery parents enjoyed a communication and language workshop.

On **Wednesday** the Faith Ambassadors had a training day with Mrs Potter and did a fabulous job monitoring the Catholic Life of our school.

Thursday began with Year 4's Reading workshop which was attended by an incredible 25/30 parents! We also welcomed some dentists into school to visit Reception.

Last but not least, on **Friday** some of our Stewards of Creation braved the weather and began our tree growing project, planting trees to support our friends in Higaonon in the Philippines!

Oh and EYFS enjoyed a '**red**' day to celebrate Chinese New Year!



When we return, we will be in the season of **Lent** as Ash Wednesday takes place on **Wednesday 14th February**. Whilst we are not in school on this day, it would be lovely to hear about the children's experiences of receiving their ashes at mass.



We wish you all a happy and safe half term holiday!



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.

This week in **Tiny Ants** we have been focusing on the colour red. We participated in lots of fun activities associated with red. We got to make jelly, love potions, love heart paintings, pain our feet, explore a jelly bath and even look at frozen love hearts.



The children have also learnt the Makaton sign for Red - so make sure you ask them at home. The children thought about all the people they love; and during prayer time we thought of our loved ones.



Isla shared "I love all my family. They love me"



We also got time in the hall to practice our balancing and jumping skills.



Billy said "I love Mommy, Daddy, Marley and Billy".

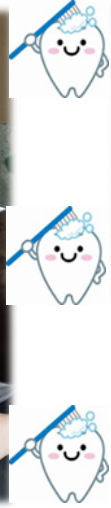
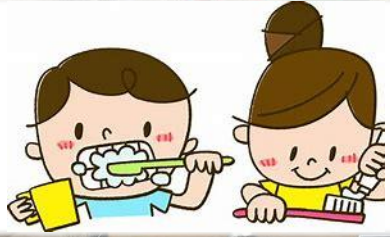
On Friday we learnt about the Chinese New Year and got to make dragon masks and have a party! The children loved tasting new foods. We hope you all have a lovely half term and stay safe.



Nursery were thrilled to welcome the dentists into the classroom this week. We decided as a group, which foods were good for our teeth and which foods were bad. We spoke about how we brush our teeth and for how long.

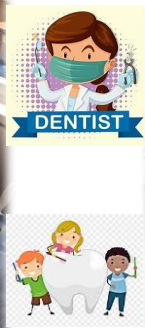


The dentists gave us each a special present to help us brush our teeth at home. Nursery are grateful to all of the lovely visitors who have come in to explain how they help us daily.





In **Reception** this week, we have discussed that our local area is Kingshurst and have been exploring our local area on Google Earth. The children were so excited to see some familiar things such as our school, our church, the bus stops, the post office and some local shops. We were amazed at how different it looked when we zoomed in, compared to a map of Kingshurst. The children were then very busy creating their own map of Kingshurst and we had some beautiful drawings.



Also this week, we were very lucky to have some dentists come to visit us! They taught us how to brush our teeth properly and the importance of brushing twice a day for 2 minutes. We loved role playing and completing the activities and I'm sure we have some future dentists in the making! Well done, Reception.



This week in science, the **Year 1** children had a range of pictures and objects to work with. They worked with their partners to decide on what different categories the materials could be sorted in to. I have set the children a challenge to do the same thing at home by looking at different objects and grouping them depending on what they are made from.



Tuesday was Safer Internet Day. The children started the day by watching an assembly where they had to answer many questions about how to keep safe on the internet. They then completed lots of tasks and talked about what to do if they saw something online they were unsure of. We discussed the phrase **STOP** (stop what you are doing), **CLOSE** (close the cover or lid on the device) and **TELL** (tell an adult).

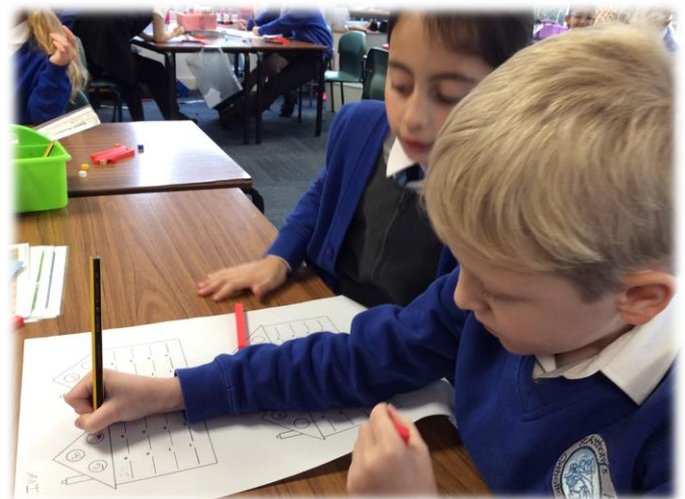


Year 2 have had a brilliant term.

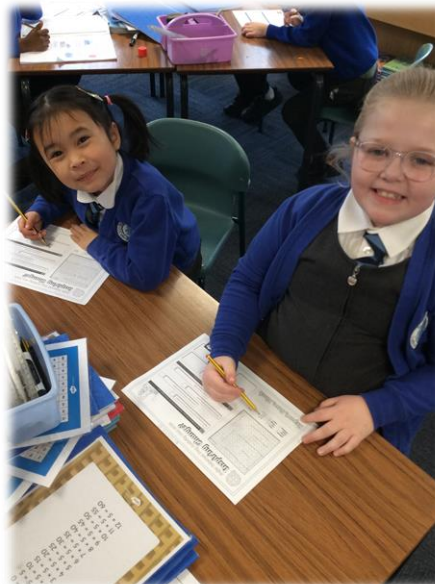
We have enjoyed gymnastics and dance in PE which everyone has been so enthusiastic about.



This week we watched the Safer Internet Day assembly and discussed how we can stay safe on the internet. Then, we completed some activities on how we can stay safe on the internet.



In our Collective Worship this week we learnt about The Rosary. We spoke about which prayer is said on each bead and had a go at designing some of our own Rosary beads.



Have a well-deserved break over half term
Year 2 😊



Year 3 have had a fabulous week and a fabulous term that has been full of

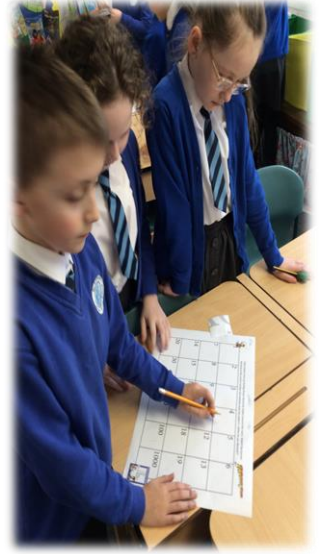
fun

We have enjoyed swimming, ukulele, computing, art, all of our writing with the quiet critters; and we can't wait for a well-deserved break and to be back next term to continue the fun!



Year 4 were really busy this week!

In maths, we went on an adventure with explorer Indiana Jones. Working in Kagan groups, we used our knowledge of Roman numerals to crack the code!



In art we finished our topic 'colour' exploring and critiquing the work of Monet and creating a landscape inspired by 'Sunset in Venice'.



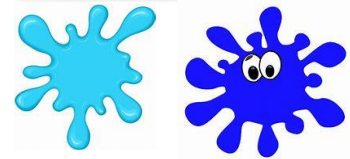
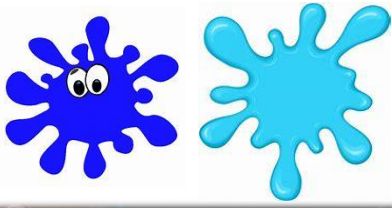
We finished the week with a brilliant reading workshop.



Thank you to all family members for attending.



This week in **Year 5** we have been working hard in art, using various shades of blue to make different effects.



On Tuesday 6th Feb it was Internet Safety Day. We joined a live stream and learnt all about how we can be safe online.





THE GREATEST SHOWMAN



In their PE lessons, **Year 6** have been creating dances based on *The Greatest Showman*.





In this week's battles, the boys from Y2,4 and 6 worked together to beat the girls; but the girls in Y3 and 5 beat the boys in their year groups!
Well done to the 'Most Valuable Players' (MVPs) in each battle:

	MVP	2 nd MVP	3 rd MVP
Year 2, 4, 6 boys	Joaquin Y4	Karson Y4	Freddie Y6
Year 2, 4, 6 girls	Ngoc-Anh Y2	Ivy Y2	Edie-Pearl Y4
Year 3 & 5 girls	Lois Y5	Gracie Y5	Hope K Y5
Year 3 & 5 boys	Nyle Y5	Ciaran Y5	Harrie Y5

There will be no battle during half term but we look forward to seeing how many children have improved their 'rock star status' in their time away from school.



Congratulations to **Lainey, Kade, Kallum** and **Milia** in Year 1 who have completed the next stage of their story map this week.



The winner of this week's attendance raffle is **Harley** in Year 3.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about PERSUASIVE DESIGN ONLINE

'Persuasive design' refers to the techniques that companies employ to influence our thoughts and behaviours when we're on the internet. These approaches can be spotted on websites, in apps and even as part of some video games. Persuasive design means that this content has been deliberately presented in a way that's intended to encourage you to spend your time or money (or both). These methods often prove highly effective at keeping people engaged and invested for longer than we might expect.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

POTENTIAL ADDICTION

In the digital world, persuasive design can make certain activities more addictive and harder to walk away from: some people may begin to feel anxious or irritated without access to their device or their favourite app, for example. It can also often leave users feeling isolated, as – if they spend most of their time on social media – they may start to find it difficult to talk to other people in real life.

MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS

Scrolling online or gaming without regular breaks is proven to be harmful to our mental health. The constant bombardment of news stories (many of them negative), images and influencers' posts can create sensations of unease, uncertainty and FOMO (fear of missing out). Young people can get so immersed in this environment that they become less likely to spot misleading posts.

PROLONGED SCROLLING

Social media can draw any of us – regardless of age – into a continuous pattern of refreshing our screen, following posts and links down rabbit holes or reading countless comments made by others. This aimless scrolling can eat up time which could have been spent on more productive activities. It could also lead younger users into areas of the online world which aren't age appropriate.

SENSORY OVERLOAD

Repetitively scrolling, clicking on links or playing games can create an unending stream of new information and visual stimuli. Put it this way: social media isn't exactly renowned as a carefree, chilled-out environment. Such overstimulation can become too much for young people to handle, resulting in sensory overload and causing them to feel stressed, overwhelmed and exhausted.

COSTLY ADDITIONS

Video games sometimes display offers for downloadable content or loot boxes which can be bought with real money. While these 'microtransactions' temptingly promise to improve a player's gaming experience, most of the time they are money sinks. Young people in particular, excited by the chance of enhancing their game, could spend quite a sizeable sum very quickly indeed.

PHYSICAL CONSEQUENCES

Hours spent sitting and scrolling means far less time moving around and getting exercise: hardly ideal for a young person's physical health. Additionally, prolonged exposure to the light given off by a phone's screen can lead to eye fatigue and discomfort, especially if viewing it in the dark. Extended phone use before bed can also impact on sleep quality, affecting mood and energy levels over the following days.

KEEP SCROLLING

WIN TO WIN

27 new posts

Advice for Parents & Carers

ESTABLISH LIMITS

Talk to your child about setting some time limits on how long they can use their phone, tablet or console in the evenings or at weekends – or perhaps how often they can go on a specific app, game or website. You could also decide to involve the whole family in creating this shared screen time agreement, making things fair (and healthier) for everyone.

NIX NOTIFICATIONS

Stop knee-jerk responses at the source by turning off push notifications and alerts. Whether it's a gaming notification or a social media update, these not-so-gentle reminders are designed to catch our attention and lure us back to our device. Switching them off – or even deleting any particularly intrusive apps – can help prevent your child from being reeled back into the online world.

ENCOURAGE MINDFULNESS

Acknowledging any addiction is key in overcoming it – and compulsive scrolling is no different. If anything mentioned in this guide sounds familiar, it could help to have an honest, open chat with your child about how much time they spend online. Get them to think about how often they scroll through social media aimlessly or habitually open it up whenever they have a spare moment.

MAKE A CHECKLIST

Considering a list of relevant questions can be an effective way of helping children figure out why they're scrolling on certain sites or consuming particular pieces of content. A checklist can prompt young people to ask themselves if they're learning anything or benefiting from this activity – or if they're wasting their time. Taking a step back can sometimes help us to see things more clearly.

Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings has more than 20 years' experience in the field of relationships, law and health education (RHE), as well as delivering workshops and training for young people, parents and schools. She is also a subject matter expert on RHE for the Department of Education.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



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 29 th February 9am
Year 3	Thursday 11 th April 9am
Year 5	Thursday 14 th March 9am

Parents' Evening will take place on **Wednesday 21st** and **Thursday 22nd February**.

The next of our Spring term reading masses will be led by **Year 5** and will take place on **Wednesday 6th 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.



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 ONE

Fresh

Dates: 6th November, 27th November, 18th December, 22nd January, 19th February
11th March

Monday

Pasta Bolognaise
Garlic Slice

BBQ Quorn Pitta
Pockets

Fruit Smoothie

Fresh Fruit Platter
Yogurts

Tuesday

BBQ Chicken Wrap
Potato Wedges
Sweetcorn

Roasted Vegetable
Savoury Rice

Fruit Pie & Custard

Fresh Fruit Platter
Yogurts

Wednesday

Roasted Gammon
Roast Potatoes
Carrots, Peas

Veggie Sausages
Roast Potatoes
Carrots/Peas

Iced Sponge

Fresh Fruit Platter
Yogurts

Thursday

Mini Sausage
Yorkshires
Mashed Potatoes
Vegetable Medley

Vegetable Curry
& Rice

Homebake - Frosted
Carrot Cake

Fresh Fruit Platter
Yogurts

Friday

Fish Fingers
Chips
Baked Beans

Cheese & Tomato
Pizza
Chips
Baked Beans

Homebake -
Chocolate Cookies

Fresh Fruit Platter
Yogurts

Available Daily

Home Baked Bread
Seasonal Salads



MSC-C-54995



Solihull
METROPOLITAN
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Head Teacher's Awards



Congratulations!

Reception – Freya – For always being a ray of sunshine and brightening everyone's day.

Year 1 – Riley – For trying in all lessons this week 😊.

Year 2 – Leoni – For your incredible progress in Reading! Keep up the hard work.

Year 3 – Sophia – For her superb subject knowledge and outstanding work throughout every single subject.

Year 4 – Poppy – For being a fun-loving friend and working hard in all lessons.

Year 5 – Nyle – For representing the school in your Maths competition and being a fantastic ambassador.

Year 5 – Ciaran – For representing the school in your Maths competition and being a fantastic ambassador.

Year 6 – Alexie – For having a fantastic attitude and always giving 100%.

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.

2024

Half term

Mon 12th Feb – Friday 16th Feb

Date and time	Year group	Event
Mon 19 th Feb	INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS	
Tues 20 th Feb	Whole school	Return to school
Weds 21 st and Thurs 22 nd Feb	All parents	Parents Evening
Weds 28 th Feb	Year 6	Year 6 Confirmation 7pm
Thurs 29 th Feb	Year 2 parents	Reading workshop – 9am in the school hall
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
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



Diary Dates



Date and Time	Year Group	Event
<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
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
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 Tuesday 20th February:

Reception – **Thursday**

Y1 – **Tuesday**

Y2 – **Friday**

Y3 – **Swimming on Tuesday**

Y4 – **Tuesday**

Y5 – **Wednesday**

Y6 – **Friday**

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.

Please ensure you have responded to the **Microsoft Form** sent out regarding the **MMR** vaccinations that your child has received.



As you will be aware, there has been an increase in the number of measles cases locally, therefore it is vital that our records are up to date so that we can keep our children as safe and protected as possible.

Mr K Scanlon, Head of School

