

Friday 19th January

Dear Everyone

A busy week in school. Only the one day's play spoilt by rain.

God Bless

Gary

St. Boniface said of St. Bede that 'he shone forth like a lantern.'



The Lantern

Review of Progress Made In The Autumn Term

We are now in a position to identify those hotspots across the school that are causing concern—maths in Y4 and writing and maths in Y2 are areas where we need to see real progress this term. The teachers are working their socks off to bring about such improvements. In the vast majority of cases children are working hard too. Please do keep the conversation going with your child as to what they are doing in school each day. It helps them to know that you are supporting them in what they do.

It's Good To Talk

Parents often ask me what they can do to support their child's reading. Hearing them read is obviously important but so is reading *to* them. They are never too old to be read to.

Talking to your child in a way that will extend their vocabularies is also crucial. Some parents make the mistake of talking to their child in simple language. There are times for simple language—when giving instructions, for example. However, the more words a child hears you use in everyday conversation, the more words they will start to use themselves. The trick is to use harder words and then naturally within your speech follow up with a simpler word that means the same thing—so the child hears more difficult language and comes to understand it. I like to call this the reinforcement technique.

For example, you might say to a child

Did you ***comprehend, understand,*** me?

In saying this you will be teaching them a new word effortlessly. Think of it as translating on the go.

When they then encounter these harder words in their reading, they also are more likely then to understand them.

Please do not park over our neighbours' drives.

We and they would be so grateful.

Dates for The Diary

Wednesday 24th January 4.35-5.30

Reception Parents Phonics Drop-In

Thursday 25th January 6.00pm

Y2 Reading Parents' Workshop

Friday 26th January 2.45 pm

3L Class Assembly

Friday 2nd February 2.45 pm

Class 2BP Class Assembly

Thursday 8th February 6.00pm

Y1 Phonics Parents' Workshop

Friday 9th February

STAFF INSET School Closed

Monday 12th February—Friday 16th February

Half-term

Monday 19th February

Children return to school

Workshops

We are hoping the Y2 workshops will be well attended. Coming to these sessions shows your child that you are supporting them. If you understand more closely what they are being asked to do in school, then homework tasks become that much easier to support—as does learning known facts and spellings.

Thought for The Week

Why did Jesus Choose Peter?

In last week's Gospel, we saw Jesus encounter Peter for the first time:

'You are Simon, John's son—but you shall be called Peter—The Rock!'

This encounter was to change Peter's life; up until that point he had been a simple fisherman. The Gospels show him to be impulsive and enthusiastic, even a little clumsy on occasions with what he said and did. Yet it was Peter—this simple fisherman—who was the first disciple to recognize Jesus as the true Christ. Peter was the only one who when seeing Jesus walking across the water stepped out to walk towards him. Although Peter lost courage, he reached out in childlike faith to Jesus, who held him from going under. And it is in this childlike love for and faith in Jesus, that we find Peter. He is a man who makes mistakes but he repents and is forgiven by the Lord—no more strongly so than when he denies Jesus three times before the cock crows.

Jesus chose Peter in the same way that he chooses us. It is what is in our hearts that matters not in the daily toil of life where mistakes will be made and lessons learned. God isn't keeping score of the times when we go wrong. It is enough that we greet each new day with hope and the desire to do good.

Vacancies

We currently have three vacancies for additional midday assistants. The posts are advertised on our website.

Head Teacher's Award

Ben Spinks, Tolu Owoyemi, Olive Mba, Gia Mathew, Talia Lubin, Grace Jacobs, Uyi Obazee, Teshan Hayden, Ella-Rae Filtness and Ashton Udhin.

Lantern Certificates—very well done!

Ruby Chukwuma; Klaudia Dubanowska; Keiron German; Caden Ibidapo; Nivain Jayawardana; Kehinde Lawal; Kammalunna Onyekonwu; Liana Perera; Ryan Altham; Eden Butcher; Daniel Feshanets; Victoria Garote; Zaine Gould; Raphael Oseruonabhen Inedia; Amelie Jackson-Brown; Gabriela Kowalski; Louisa Kwarteng; Ikechukwu Obi; Eadie O'Brien; Francesca Ojo; Lota Okonkwo; Micah Castillo; George Eadon; Kyle Hutchinson; Jayden Joseph; Dermique Roserie; Oluwotobi Sanusi; Cleo Simon; Arianna Suthakar; Joy Felix; Sofia Muriithi; Andrew Osei-Mensah; Jacob Osibote; Tolu Owoyemi; Barney Perkins; Fiona Rwigema; Diya Gill; Chloe Igere; Maggie Maxwell; Nwanneka Okonji; David Okoye; Janelle Salcedo; Michaela Alcid; Samaya Alexander; Krystal Baidoo; Olivia Biggins; Sean Coady; Tessa Jacob; Marian Jardeleza; Elizabeth Joseph; Isabel Ogbeide-Ihama; Lennon St Pier

Phonics continue to be taught to pupils once they leave Reception and move to Year 1. Some of our Year 1 parents have been invited to meet with Miss Brock on Monday 22 January 2018 to discuss their child's phonics learning. The individual meetings will provide parents with further information on how to support their child with phonics in order to help them pass the phonics screening test in the Summer Term. This test is taken annually by all Year 1 pupils. Please note there is a Phonics workshop taking place on 8 February 2018 to which all year 1 parents are invited.