

The Lantern

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



Dear Everyone

I hope you have had a good week.

The past few days have certainly been eventful both at home and on the world stage.

We have seen the government update its approach to the management of COVID within communities. Whilst those suffering with COVID are no longer required by law to isolate, as a school we are continuing to ask children and staff who test positive to isolate for at least five days; if on the fifth day they test negative, they can return on the following day. If they do not, they must continue to isolate until they test negative on two consecutive days or a further five days have elapsed (making 10 in total). I do not expect to continue in this way indefinitely.

There is now no requirement for close contacts to isolate or test daily.

Everything else that we have in place to contain the spread of COVID will continue for the remainder of this term, but then stop. Next term, the school will return to its normal cleaning schedules. There will be other changes then too, but I will outline these in a revised risk assessment.

Further afield, we have in recent days seen violent conflict erupt in Eastern Europe. We will 'touch' upon this with our older children, but at their age I would not want them to worry. This is a conflict that will ultimately be resolved. We will invite children to pray for peace, but we do not want them to be troubled.

As we approach Lent, Mrs Mackie tells us how Pope Francis has said we should approach this season of grief. It is thought provoking. I will be putting the Holy Father's list by my bedside in order to keep it close as we make our way to the celebration that is Easter.

Maths Workshops

We will be holding Maths workshops for each year group on the following dates:

- Year 1 - 3rd March - 5:00 p.m.
- Nursery - 10th March - 4:00 p.m.
- Reception - 10th March - 4:30 p.m.
- Year 2 - 10th March - 5:00 p.m.
- Year 3 - 17th March - 4:30 p.m.
- Year 4 - 17th March - 5:00 p.m.
- Year 5 - 17th March - 4:00 p.m.
- Year 6 - 10th March - 5:30 p.m.

These workshops will take place via Google Classroom. A reminder that there is a link on the school website for access. You will need to sign out of any other Google account in order to gain access via your child's sign on. Please check you have your child's sign on prior to the workshop.

Spring Term Assessments

These will take place for the majority of our pupils in the week beginning 21st March. Results will be shared with parents at Consultation Evenings on April 21st or 28th. In future, such parents' evening will always come after the children's autumn and spring assessments, not before.

Junior families—School Lunch Credit

If your child would like a school lunch, please check credit on their account before confirming this to your child. We have a growing number of families who the office have to contact each day regarding their child's account not having credit. If you think your child might be eligible for free school meals, thus enabling them to have a funded lunch each day, please see our website for further information.

Lantern Certificates – youngest to oldest

Joshua A; Ezra; Keagan; Drew; Oliver C; Jeremy G; Mark; Frederick; Maya C; Philippa; Brianna; Daniel B; Alexander; Chimamanda; Tharani; Indiya-Rose; Olivia M; Ethan M; Emmanuel; Leah; Ian; Jeremiah Y; Amani; Chidi; Kavina; Abigail D; Luke R; Teniola; Mosiah; Zuzanna; Danielle; Oliver L; Divine; Ruel; Lainey; Ryan A; Aurelia; Eden; Shaye; Amelie; Jeniyah-May; Dumebi; Ikechukwu; Francesca; Lota; Obinna A; Piotr; Thomas; Kyle H; Joshua M; Lois; Sofia M

Head teacher Awards

Zachariah H; Oliver M; Kamsi A; Victoria G; Dumebi; Santana; Uyiosa; Catherine

School Council

The children are looking to raise money so that we can purchase an outdoor table tennis, or ping pong, table! The idea was suggested by a classmate. To date, they have raised £359. If you know of a local business that might like to make a contribution to the purchase of such a table, please do contact Mrs Roberts or Mrs Dayson at the school.

Bring and Buy Sale

It is some time since we had one of these in school. We know the children like them. They are a great way of raising pennies and of course they are part of the whole recycling drive. We plan to have one in April. On this occasion, we will be raising money to help those living in poverty in Sir Lanka. Again, this was a suggestion of two of our pupils.

Penny Drop Challenge

The PA had the pleasurable task of counting all the coins from the recent penny drop challenge. The amazing amount of £543.55 was raised. Here are the totals collected and the classes that collected the most in their Phase Group highlighted in yellow:

Penny Drop Challenge Totals	
Class	Amount
Nursery	£ 0.64
RB	£ 7.47
RW	£ 39.88
1M	£ 12.00
1S	£ 24.60
2D	£ 33.10
2LS	£ 44.56
3C	£ 20.35
3B	£ 32.03
4A	£ 56.17
4K	£ 20.49
5G	£ 24.04
5S	£ 26.15
6C	£ 43.64
6N	£ 51.97

The PA told us the following:

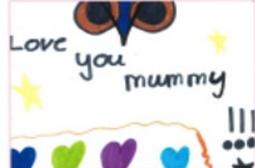
Every class took part and we hope that the children – and teachers – enjoyed this challenge. Thank you so much to the children, parents and teachers for their contributions to this fundraising event which will go a long way towards helping fund future projects within the school. The winning class from each phase group will have 15 minutes extra play and a sweet treat from the PA. Each class will receive a certificate with the amounts raised.

Parents' Association Mother's Day Gift Ordering

We have sent home codes for those children who submitted artwork so that their gifts can be ordered online. We have one piece of artwork that was submitted without a name. Please let the office know asap if your child submitted the following so that we can pass their code on to them:

Order ID: 819000	We try to record every child's name and class correctly but mistakes sometimes happen. If we have got any details wrong please make any changes when you place your order online. Please note if you do not make any changes your order will be printed as per how it is submitted.
Child's Name: NO NAME	
Child's Class: NO CLASS	

Raise funds for your school and PTA by purchasing your child's artwork on a variety of products and keepakes to celebrate Mother's Day. Tote bags, mugs, water bottles, magnets and cards can all be purchased (please see the reverse for details).



To place your order visit your school's online shop using the web link below
sforders.co.uk
 To view your child's design please use your personalised pin code
YYAA-WPPN-YMCY
 Alternatively use your mobile phone to scan the code to be taken directly to the online shop

The online shop will close on: **2ND MARCH**
 Please place ALL orders by this date.
 All orders will be sent to school upto 2 weeks after this date.

PA Coffee Morning—27th February 2022

The PA are holding a coffee morning after mass in St Bede's church on Sunday 7th March. Donations of cakes would be very welcome. There will also be a uniform sale. A warm welcome awaits you.

New Weekly Feature—Famous Mathematicians

We have an exciting new weekly feature. Mrs Roberts, as Lead Teacher for Maths, will share with you the brief story of a famous mathematician. Please see our first famous mathematician at the end of the newsletter. If you have any famous mathematicians you would like us to feature, please get in touch. Please also remember that you can view our Maths Calculations Policy on our website.

World Book Day – 3rd March 2022

This year we celebrate the 25th annual World Book Day. What are books full of? WORDS!! Do you have a favourite word or can you use the dictionary to find an unusual or very descriptive word? Have you found a brilliant new word in a book you have been reading?

This year we are having **A VOCABULARY PARADE!**

Please come displaying an extraordinarily amazing word. Your child can come in uniform and could make a sign, decorate a badge/label to wear or wear a hat with the word on. Alternatively, they can dress up as the word or as their favourite book character. If your child is not dressing up as a word or a character, they should come to school in their uniform with their chosen word. Here are some examples but your family can find lots of examples on-line:



If your child's PE day is on 3rd March, please bear this mind if they come dressed up as they will need to be in appropriate footwear and attire to be able to participate in their PE session.

Reminder—Speaking With Teachers

If you wish to speak to a member of the teaching staff, please do not hesitate to phone the school office. Your name and contact details will be taken and you will be invited to give us an idea of what it is you would like help with. The teacher will phone you as soon as they can. Please do bear in mind that a teacher's day is an exceptionally full one and if you do not get an immediate response, it does not mean you have been overlooked. If the matter is important and urgent, then please let the office staff member know, who will then put you through to Mrs Roberts or me if we are available.

The weather today has been glorious—sunny with a moderate breeze. Such a contrast to yesterday morning's rain. The good news that the weekend is also set to be sunny. Is it too early I wonder to start thinking of spring!

God Bless

Gary

Weekly Reflection, with Mrs Mackie

It seems that we have only just been celebrating Christmas and yet we will begin the season of Lent next Wednesday. Throughout the school, we have been preparing our promises for our Lenten trees.

Lent is the period of time when we remember Jesus' time in the desert, before he began his three years of ministry. During this time of sacrifice, he was tempted three times but never succumbed.

We tend to associate Lent with fasting: giving up something we like, so that in a very small way we too sacrifice. In school, however, we have explored a different way of thinking about fasting.

Pope Francis said that fasting should be about looking at ourselves and reflecting on how we can change:

Fast from hurting words and say kind words
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
Fast from anger and be filled with patience
Fast from worries and have trust in God.
Fast from pressures and be prayerful
Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.

The children have reflected on this message and have created personal promises that they hope will not only lead them to change in Lent but will be a beginning that they will adopt for the rest of their life. Maybe you could create your own promises based on Pope Francis' message?

While we are thinking about Lent our minds are also drawn towards what is happening in the Ukraine. At this time we particularly think of anyone in our school community who have family and friends in the country. Pope Francis has also asked us to make Ash Wednesday a day of prayer for peace.

Dear Father

We pray for peace in the Ukraine and the whole world.

God of peace, you come to us in quiet and stillness; help us to know that you are there

May your gentleness surround those who are afraid

Amen

God bless

Mrs Mackie

Famous Mathematicians

Did you know...

Elbert Frank Cox was born in Evansville, Indiana, in December 1895. He earned the baccalaureate degree from the University of Indiana in 1917 with a major in mathematics. After serving in the US Army in France during World War I, he returned to pursue a career in teaching. Before enrolling in the graduate mathematics program at Cornell University in September 1922, he taught mathematics in the public schools in Henderson, Kentucky and later at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina. In 1925, he was awarded the 'Doctor of Philosophy' degree in mathematics from Cornell and thus, he is the first black person to receive the Ph.D. in Mathematics in the world.



Mrs Roberts