

# 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. After the beautiful weather of last weekend, we have had some overcast spells and rain this week, which I know children were disappointed by.

## Ash Wednesday Service

Lent began this week and will take us up to Thursday 14th April. At our Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, Father Sean reminded us that the Church sees Lent as a joyous time—perhaps, I used the wrong term when I referred to it last week as a season of 'grief'. Father spoke eloquently of it as being a time when we could strip away the layers that we sometimes use to keep our true selves hidden from others. By this, I took him to mean that we often portray ourselves as coping, when we are not. My own experience would suggest that life gets more challenging by the day. It is hard. Most people seem to have a mixture of joy and sadness in their lives. I think the trick might be to enjoy the former to the full, and continually ask God's help with the latter. I know you will be looking to the events in the Ukraine at the moment with sadness and a sense of anxiety. It is hard to comprehend that such a war could be happening just a three hour flight away from us. In school, we are trying to ensure that the children do not become anxious about something that is outside of their control. I have referred to the conflict when talking to the children but have not gone into any detail because younger children won't need to hear what older children might find useful to discuss. Newsround have a useful presentation for children aged 9-13—<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/60417806> I would recommend children who watch such presentations do so with an adult who can answer questions they may have. It is inevitable that many of our children will be hearing words like bombing, invasion and World War Three—maybe through the television, Internet or in overheard conversations at home or in the playground. I will be talking to the children in Years 5 and 6 next week in more depth about the situation in an assembly next week. I will start with what they may know and seek to answer questions as best I can. I hope you will find that supportive.

## Does Your Child Know Their Multiplication Tables?

It has been great to see how determined many of our children are to learn their multiplication facts off by heart. In Year 3, 24 children have done this; in Y4, 50; in Y5, 42 and Y6, 51. When I was at school, knowing your multiplication tables was the single most important thing that would help you with your maths. Since that time, many things have changed. We no longer use blackboard with chalks, we use electronic interactive white boards linked to the Internet. Children now use computers in classrooms. With the Internet, the world has shrunk. Apps have changed the way we teach. Despite all this, the single most important thing that will help a child with their mathematics, is still knowing their multiplication tables off by heart. I venture to suggest, it will still be in another fifty years time! Tables are not learnt in school. They are used in school, but learnt at home. If your child is one of those who does not yet know them, they will need your help to do so. We would be very grateful if you were to support them with this. Thank you. It is the expectation that children in England know all their tables off by heart by the time they finish Y4.

## **Driving to School**

We are again asking for help from families to ensure the safety of children and families at drop offs and pick ups by doing the following:

1. please do not park on the zig zag lines outside the school gates on Canon Avenue, Bishops Avenue and staff car park;
2. please do not stop your car in the road and let your child(ren) walk across the road by themselves.

The local police were at our front gate this morning to talk to those parents who appear not to know what is expected of them. We ask for your help with this to ensure the safety of all. To this end, I would be grateful if the driver of PK65 XAO would contact me at their earliest convenience.



## **Tutoring/Clubs—snacks**

If you wish to send your child in with a snack for their after school activity, please send only one small item. Some parents are providing a full packed tea which holds up sessions from starting. Thank you for your help with this.

## **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.

## **Change of clothes—Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2**

If you have not already done so, it is important to send in a change of underwear, socks and bottoms (any kind) for your child to keep in school. This will be available for them to use if they have a toilet incident. If your child has been sent home with school spares, please wash these and return them to school. A reminder that all items should be named.



We are excited to be launching our Big GoReadathon event on World Book Day 2022!  
At St Bede's we are passionate about the power that reading at home can have on every child's future so we are proud to be running a GoReadathon event starting this week.

### **What is the GoReadathon?**

The GoReadathon is a competition that runs across all GoRead schools. You do not need to do anything other than log as much reading as you can. You can log reading from books, newspapers, comics, magazines, websites- just as long as you're reading!

### **Is it free to enter?**

Yes! This event is completely free for schools to take part in.

### **When does it start and end?**

We are kicking off the GoReadathon on World Book Day, Thursday 3rd March, until Thursday 31st March.

### **Are there any prizes?**

Yes!

First prize £250 book voucher for school

Second Prize £100 book voucher for school

Third prize £50 book voucher for school

5 x £20 vouchers for top children/parents logging reading

### **How can we keep track during the event?**

The GoRead website will include a league table where you can keep up to date with the event and our position!

## World Book Day

We had an amazing day on Thursday celebrating World Book Day in school. The children and staff had a **Vocabulary Parade**. Such effort had been put in finding their favourite words and some came dressed as their favourite book character.

We were privileged to find out about one of the world's longest words from Jeremy in 1S:

*'**Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanokoniosis** is a type of disease caused by dust and sand. It is the longest word in the English dictionary and has 45 letters.'*

Well done to Jeremy who was even about to pronounce it!



## Reading At Home

I wanted to thank those parents who are supporting their children with their reading at home. I am publishing for you below the number of parents in each class who are listening to their children read at least three times a week. Many are doing this five times a week, which is the school's hope.

1M 25 1S 23 2L 23 2D 23

3C 22 3B 22 4K 22 4A 20

5S 23 5G 21 6N 22 6C 22

**Lantern Certificates – youngest to oldest**

Uriah; Elijah; Jeremy G; Otto; Alisabel; Rose; Edward; Anshika; Jamilah; Eiren; Zachariah H; Joshua O; Jamie; Bethany; Eesa; Latisha; Danielle; Adrian; Caleb D; Oliver M; Logan; Benjamin O; Alishya; Ziva; Schalk; Arianna; Kyle C; Amila

**Head teacher Awards**

Gabriela

Have a super weekend

God Bless

Gary

## Famous Mathematicians

Did you know...

Katherine Johnson was a physicist and mathematician, remembered as the first African-American female NASA scientist. Her calculations helped launch space missions and she was crucial to the Apollo program; she won a 'Congressional Gold Medal' and a 'Presidential Medal of Freedom' for her achievements.

As a young girl, Katherine loved to count. She counted everything! She would count the number of steps she took to the road... She counted the steps into church... She even counted the forks and plates when she washed the dishes!

What Did She Do After NASA?

Katherine Johnson worked for NASA for more than 30 years; she retired in 1986. During retirement, she enjoyed travelling, playing card games, and spending time with her family and friends. She also liked to talk to students about school. She encouraged students to keep studying and to work hard. She told them to learn more about maths and science and she said to never give up on their dreams!



Mrs Roberts

## Weekly Reflection, with Mrs Mackie

This week we have celebrated two religious feasts.

Firstly, St David's Day. St David is the patron saint of Wales and is one of our House Saints. 5G led a very informative assembly about the saint and this was followed by the House mass for the saint on the actual feast day.

Our House masses give the opportunity for members of our Houses to come together and celebrate the example of their Saint.

It was interesting this week that on separate occasions, that both Mr Nott Fr Sean and Mr Nott mentioned the same thing that we can learn from St David.

St David's final words were:

'Be joyful, and keep your faith and your creed. Do the little things that you have seen me do and heard about. I will walk the path that our fathers have trod before us.'

Mr Nott and Fr Sean reflected on St David's 'little things' and how the smallest gesture can have an impact on people's lives. Fr Sean also linked this with Lent, which began yesterday with our Ash Wednesday Service.

In Nursery, the children were talking to me about their 'little things' they would do for Lent. They had some lovely ideas such as 'share' and 'have kind hands'. They were very eager to share their thoughts.

From the youngest to the oldest, our Lenten trees (a display of promises) so beautifully represent 'the little things' they are doing for this special time.

Yesterday was also a day when we were asked by the Pope to pray for peace in the world and particularly the Ukraine. We are continuing to pray in our RE lessons during this difficult time and ask you to pray together at home.

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Gentle God, we pray for peace in our world and in particular for all those who are affected by the war in the Ukraine. We ask for strength and guidance for all those who are experiencing such pain at this difficult time.  
Lord in your mercy

God Bless  
Mrs Mackie