

The Lantern

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



Dear Families

We are pleased to restart publication of the weekly Lantern. Enjoy your weekend.

Gary Nott Katherine Roberts

Head teacher Deputy Head teacher

United Nations Climate Change Conference

COP26

Children and staff have been talking about the climate change conference held in Glasgow this week. You may know that the first such United Nations conference was held back in 1995. I am ashamed to say I don't remember it. How times have changed. This generation of primary school children are perhaps more attuned to the notion of **sustainability** than any that have preceded them. Both the Holy Father and Her Majesty The Queen have spoken so powerfully on the matter in the past days. I find myself in a situation where some of our older children's vocabulary with regard to the climate change debate is stronger than mine. I can learn from them and will enjoy doing so. COP27 will be held next year in Egypt's Sharm El Sheikh city. Everyone in school is hoping that the delegates will build upon the progress that has been made in Scotland.

Parent Teacher Evenings

Our teachers are looking forward to meeting parents via video call next Thursday and again on 25th November. **There will be no after school tutoring on either of these dates.** Appointments can be booked online and details of how to do this have been published. The focus for this round of meetings will be mathematics and reading– no area of the primary curriculum is more important than these two strands. I would encourage you to come with your questions to the meetings. The teachers will very much want to answer these. We are continuing with video calls rather than inviting you into school because the number of cases in Red-bridge is again rising. Although we are enjoying the return to many things, we are still required as a school to reduce risk where we can. I have again been asked if we could produce a virtual tour of the school. I would like to do this. It is very much my hope that we will be able to invite you back into school next year.

School Photographer

Our photographer is scheduled to be in school next Friday 12th November. I do hope you will welcome an opportunity to purchase a photo. It has been some time since we have been able to offer this to you.

Christmas

I know this is now approaching. This year, I know children will enjoy bringing cards in for their classmates. We ask them to wait till 1st December! Parents of children in the infant school (nursery through to Year 2) will appreciate a list of classmates first names and I will ask for these to be published on blogs After Christmas, I am happy to reintroduce the tradition of bringing a small sweet treat in on birthdays. For those parents who wish the children to give and receive such a token. I know many children have missed this.

Father Sean

We were delighted to see Father Sean introduce himself in Monday's school assembly. I have been struck by his humility and gentle manner. I am confident the children and staff will grow as they walk by his side in the weeks and months to come. We are grateful to God for bringing such an unassuming man into our lives.

Paperless School

You may recall that—where practical—we are attempting to move away from paper and on to online. Apart from the need to acknowledge the international drive to protect our planet, we can in this way become more efficient. We will now turn to the record keeping and data managements systems in school. Much of this is already computer based, but where it is not, we will be looking to make it so. This will mean, in time, more information will become available to you. We want to explore how we increase our use of apps in school. By ever increasing our use of technology, we will all save time that can be used for other things.

Final thoughts...

Mrs Roberts and I enjoyed meeting with parents last evening in our new weekly open video call forum. In addition, I enjoyed talking to Reception parents this morning, alongside Mrs Wright. I jokingly asked the parents this morning, 'What was special about today?' After telling them I was not thinking 'Bonfire Night', I could see they were stumped. When I started talking about it being the day those super Swedes Abba had released their first album of songs for forty years, I could see that many of them were bemused at my obvious excitement. On reflection, I realised I was talking with people who were probably not born when the band's last album appeared—1981!- and whose own parents may not even have been born when Abba shot to worldwide stardom in 1974 on winning the Eurovision Song Contest with 'Waterloo'! I am showing my age—again!

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| 8th November 2.45pm | 4A Class assembly, parents/carers welcome |
| 9th November | Flu vaccination, 2nd session for absentees from consenting families |
| 11th and 25th November | Virtual Parental Consultations via software (see website) - NO TUTORING |
| 12th November | School photos |