

ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE SPRING NEWSLETTER

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 22nd Jan- Whole School Retreat Day- OneLife Music
Friday 24th Jan- Whole School launch of the Year of Jubilee
Monday 27th Jan- Multicultural Week
Monday 3rd Feb- Children's Mental Health Week
Friday 7th Feb- Number Day (Number day costume and £1 donation)
Tuesday 11th Feb- Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 12th Feb- Whole school and MAC related activities on the Year of Jubilee
Friday 14th Feb- Half Term holiday

Half term Holiday

Monday 24th Feb- School closed- INSET Day
Wednesday 26th Feb- Yr6 and Reception Mass- 2:40pm in the hall- family members welcome
Thursday 27th Feb- Nursery and Reception- Road Safety Talk
Friday 28th Feb- Feast of St.David- wear yellow- donation of £1
Sunday 2nd March- Mini Vinnies cake Sale
Monday 3rd March- Good Shepherd Appeal Assembly
Wednesday 5th March- Ash Wednesday
Thursday 6th March- World Book Day
Monday 10th March- Science Week and Reception 'Get Pedalling'- (Mon-Thurs pm)
Monday 17th March- Feast of St. Patrick- wear green- donation £1
Wednesday 19th March- Reception Saints Day and Class Mass on the feast of St. Joseph (Non-uniform)
Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th March- Parent's Evening
Friday 11th April- 2:30pm finish. Easter holidays

Our Message

firstly, thank you for your generosity at Christmas. We were well and truly spoilt with cards, warm wishes and gifts. It was so lovely to see the children return back after the holidays and to see how happy they were to see their friends and teachers. They have all settled back and are now looking forward to a busy spring term. This week we enjoyed a visit from Dan and Emily from OneLife Music who shared their retreat day with us. The theme of the retreat day was '**Will we go out**' linked to the Year of Jubilee. Last week, the Reception children (whom parents consented to) had their **vision screening**. **Although this checks your child's sight**, we still recommend that you arrange an eye test at your local opticians for a more thorough eye test. Your child does not have to recognise all letters of the alphabet to be able to complete this.
Your EYFS Team

WHAT WE WILL BE LEARNING

Our topic this term is *Bears* and we will be learning through the stories '**We're Going on a Bear Hunt**' by Michael Rosen, '**Whatever Next**' and '**Peace at Last**' by Jill Murphy, as well as listening to Old Bear stories by Jane Hissey. Throughout the term, the children will retell the stories through activities and role play; sequencing pictures and using a range of story language, which they will then use in their own stories, writing and mark making.

Last week we went on a bear hunt, which the children thoroughly enjoyed and this week the children will be completing a sensory walk where they will walk bare footed through different materials from the story; such as mud, grass and water. They will then describe what it feels like! **Remember to look on 'X' for photographs** related to our learning!

We have planned additional activities across the term to support the **children's learning in all areas of our curriculum**. These activities include: Maths: Matching amounts to the correct numeral (numbers to 10), using the language of more and less, adding and taking away, positional language (next to, behind, inside etc)

Writing: Mark making, drawing bears, labels for bears

Creative: Making bear masks, mixing paints and using them to paint pictures and using different shapes and lines to draw bears as well as adding finer details such as claws and fur.

Towards the end of the Spring term, we will be planning, making and enjoying our own teddy bears picnic! We will send an email out closer to the time!

Virtues - Pupils this half term will grow to be: **Grateful and Generous**.

Pupils are growing to be **grateful** for their own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for blessings of each day; and **generous** with their gifts, both now and in the future.

Catholic Social Teaching - Stewardship of God's Creation - We will continue to look after God's creation with many more initiatives taking place this term. More work will be completed linked to the Higaonon Tree Planting project and our link with the Philippines and we thank everyone for their donations of boxes of chocolates. These will continue to be collected for the next two weeks.

Catholic Social Teaching - Rights and Responsibilities - This relates to basic human rights, which are founded on the dignity of the human person. We cannot have rights without responsibilities. Our responsibilities are rooted in Scripture. Every person has a fundamental right to life. It is this right that makes all other rights possible. Everyone has the right to food, health care, housing, education and employment. We all need to strive to secure and respect these rights for others both locally and globally. We are proud of all of our children in school who have taken on special roles and take their responsibilities within school seriously.



The Year of Jubilee is an ancient Jewish tradition that the Church now celebrates every 25 years.

It is a time of reconciliation and renewal. The theme of the Year of Jubilee is hope. We have introduced this to the children during assembly. The Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica in Rome was opened by Pope Francis on Christmas Eve, to mark the beginning of this special celebration. The Year of Jubilee, *Pilgrims of Hope* will continue throughout 2025 and will finish in January 2026. We will have our own Holy Door in school, which all children will walk through for our official launch on Friday 24th January. We will also have a special display in school which Nursery will produce a world entitled 'God's World' for and Reception will create and anchor as 'Faith is our anchor'. Across the year, there are many exciting events planned for the children to be Pilgrims of Hope. We will also have a special banner in school and at Church to remind us of the Year of Jubilee.

NSPCC Number Day: Friday 7th February 2025

As in previous years, the whole school will be taking part in the NSPCC Number Day where by the children will take part in different maths activities across the day. We ask that your child comes into school on Friday 7th February dressed in a **mathematical costume! Get as creative as you like! In the past we've had calculators, clocks, number blocks and much more!** We ask that a donation of £1 is sent in with your child on that day to raise money for the NSPCC.

Reception Parents

A reminder to encourage your child to walk down the path by themselves from either Mrs Foley or from the EYFS gate into Reception class each morning. This will help them become more independent and help with their transition into Key Stage 1 later on in the year.

Nursery Parents

If you have not done so already, please can we ask you to send in a pair of black pumps for your child to wear during their PE sessions.

READING

Reception parents - We have noticed in recent weeks that we are having to remind you to return their blue reading folders (which contains the Little Wandle reading scheme book) and the clear plastic library book folder. Please ensure they are in school on **Monday** so that we can replenish the books for other children to use. Thank you for your cooperation.

Also, please continue to listen to your child read their reading book over the weekend, and encourage them to look out for other bear stories and non-fiction texts which you can share together. A reminder to check your child's book bag each day for letters or further home learning tasks linked to their phonics learning.

Nursery parents - Children will continue to learn new rhymes linked to their Phonics learning this term. Once they have learnt a new rhyme they will bring a copy home for you to share together.

WE LOVE AND LEARN TOGETHER BY GROWING IN FRIENDSHIP WITH JESUS

As your child continues their journey with us, do send in 'WOW' cards to celebrate those special WOW moments that you see at home and we welcome sharing. There are always spare cards on the information board inside the Nursery and Reception Cloakroom, or just ask a member of staff. We also have 'Prayer Cards' for times when you may need us to pray for someone close to your child and family.

We thank you for your continued support and if you have any concerns or questions at any time, do ask a member of staff who will be able to help you.