



"I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me as you have said"  
Luke 1:38

This half term's virtues are:

Friday 04.03.22

*Intentional*

and

*Prophetic*



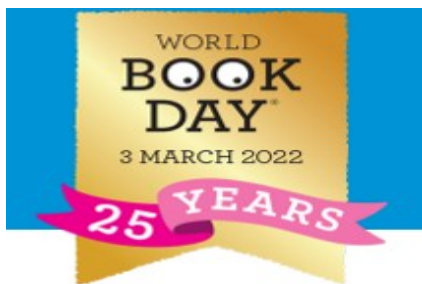
Ash Wednesday, this week, marked the beginning of Lent. However, for our school community it marked a special return to further normality.

After almost two years, we joined together in church as a whole school and parish community for the first time. You'll know that we've been celebrating Mass as joint classes for a while but due to the size and layout of our church, we've been unable to celebrate as an entire school until now.

This special Ash Wednesday Mass was also the first in two years where we could reintroduce singing. These two milestones coming together made for a very emotional experience for us all and although Lent is a time for solemn reflection, our Mass this week was truly joyous occasion.

I'm sure many of you have given something up for Lent, however as part of our almsgiving, we have a number of plans to support charities and causes both locally and further afield. One such cause will be raising money to support the people of Ukraine.

We are all witness to the terrible atrocities taking place following the Russian invasion so let's all come together as a powerful community, not just to support financially but also to pray collectively for a rapid and peaceful conclusion to this heart-breaking situation.



We have had a wonderful World Book Day with children making a great effort to dress up as book characters. Some brought in books to talk about or shared quotes from their characters.

Throughout the day there were many book-related activities with live digital events and a whole school "Incredible Story" to enjoy. This has really helped us all to support Reading for Pleasure.

The book vouchers are still valid to spend until 27<sup>th</sup> March so please make the most of them. Extreme Reading photographs can be sent in printed or digitally so try to find an unusual (but safe) place to read your book.

Have a look further along to see all the wonderful ways in which staff and children celebrated this special World Book Day!



# Class Activities - KS1

This week, Year 1 have been discussing and showing through role-play how to deal with friendship upsets. They were very sensible with their replies and actions.

The children shared what they have given up for Lent, together they made a Lenten chain to display on our class wooden cross as a reminder.

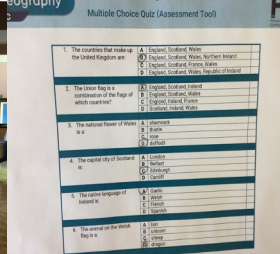
PE - Unit: Invasion Games - The children had lots of fun playing against each other in team games.

Geography - Year 1 completed their multiple choice quiz to see what they remembered from the last half term unit 'The UK'. Great results, well done!

Computing - Working in small groups, grouping data before they apply their knowledge using the laptops. We went to church for Ash Wednesday with the whole school, lovely behaviour Year 1. A lovely first week back, well done! ☺

In Year 2 this week, our new text is Hansel and Gretel. We have been retelling the traditional fairy tale and learning about how it is structured with a beginning, build-up, climax and resolution.

In PE, we have been learning basketball skills as part of our Invasion Games unit.



## Excellent Work

Teaching of Jesus	Why is it important?	How can I live out this teaching?
Praying	This is important because you could communicate with God. Also you could deepen faith.	You could try setting a x routine of prayer and meditation each day also you could pray about the rosary.
Fasting	This is important because this helps us to focus on Jesus' Sacraments. Also to remember people who are hungry as I fast.	You could start fasting from social media or food. Also to remember people who are hungry as I fast.
Almsgiving	The Lenten call to alms giving means making the needs of other people our own.	You could volunteer, donate, take part in sponsored activities.

This week's excellent work comes from Lilly-Mae M and Joseph D in Year 6, who wrote about Jesus' Lenten teaching.



## Dates for your Diary

### Friday 8th April 2022

2.00pm - Break up for Easter Holiday

### Monday 25th April

8.55am - Children return to school

### Monday 2nd May 2022

All day - May Day Bank Holiday (school closed)

### Friday 27th May

2.00pm - Break up for May half term

### Tuesday 7th June 2022

8.55am - Children return to school

### Inset Day

### Monday 6th June 2022

All day - Inset Day

## Online safety hero says...



There are lots of choices to make online, is the game suitable for my age? Should I download this? Should I talk to strangers? Remember to make choices that are respectful and safe and if you are unsure, ask a trusted adult.

*#makeagoodchoice*

*#staysafe*



## Sports Star of the Week

This week's Sports Star of the Week is Daisy-Maye W in Reception for a great lesson in dance.



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# Our Pope's Prayer Intentions

*March: A Christian Response to Bioethical Challenges*

*We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.*

## Lent - Family Activities



**WEEK 2**

**1. Mark 1:16-20 NIV**

'One day Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee. There he saw Simon and his brother Andrew. They were throwing a net into the lake. They were fishermen. 'Come and follow me,' Jesus said. 'I will send you out to fish for people.' At once they left their nets and followed him.'

4.

Find something on your walk that is safe to take home with you e.g. a leaf, a stick, a pebble, a flower.

As you are holding that thing, think about what Jesus asked Simon and Andrew to do.

Jesus wanted everyone to follow him and Simon and Andrew were going to help make that happen.

Chat about how we can follow Jesus and how we can help others follow him too.

2.

Go through the alphabet together as you walk and name things you can see for each letter.

How far will you get? Will you have to skip some of the letters? What were the easy things to spot, what were more difficult?

Why do you think Jesus 'saw' Simon and Andrew that day at the lake? Why did he notice them?

3.

Play follow my leader.

Take turns to be the leader.

Chat about why you think Andrew and Simon followed Jesus.

You can walk anywhere! Just pick a local route, and follow activities 1-4

Week 2 of our Lent family activities.

## Science Superstars



Year 3 have been investigating light and reflection, using a mirror to check how our reflection is reversed.

We wrote words and used a mirror to copy its reflection. Next, we went outside and drew lines on the floor, we could only follow the lines through the reflection in the mirror and it was tricky but lots of fun!



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# This Half Term's Catholic School Virtues

Our focus virtues for this half term are 'Intentional' and 'Prophetic'

**Intentional** in the way we live and use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience; and **prophetic** in the example we set for others.

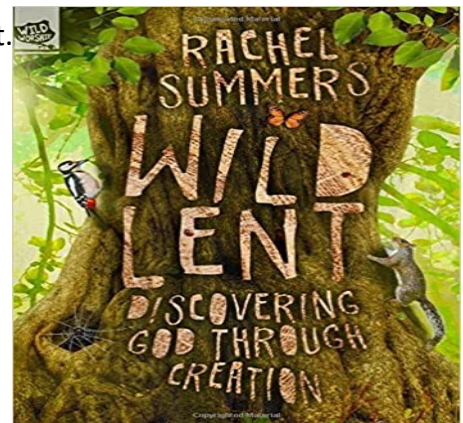
This means that as a Catholic school, we help our pupils grow by being a school community which is intentional in its way of proceeding to build up quality of life; and which is prophetic in the way it offers an alternative vision of education and the human person rooted in the gospel.

As ever, we will be supporting our children's understanding of these virtues through our assemblies and class collective worship and celebrating those who 'live' these virtues through our weekly virtues awards.

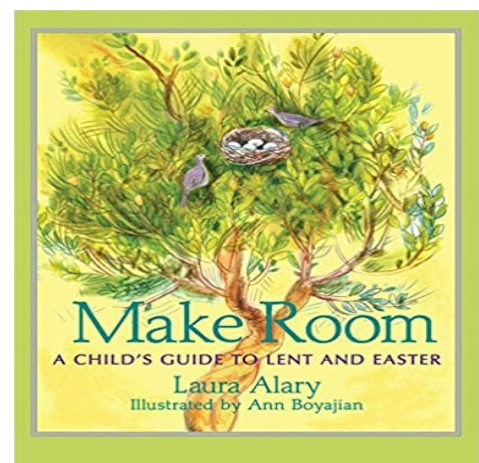
## Mr G's Recommended Reads

This week some enjoyable books to help on our Lenten journey...

*Wild Lent* will change how you experience and think about Lent. Instead of a nice cosy room and lots of discussion about the meaning of Lent, you'll be wrapping up warm and heading off into the wilds! It's time to get up close and personal with creation and make a shadow clock, have a sunrise breakfast walk, go on a giant egg hunt, hug a tree, walk barefoot... and share God's creation with others.



*Make Room* presents Lent as a special time for creating a welcoming space for God. This guide uniquely connects its projects to the story of Jesus. Simple and practical activities such as baking bread, uncluttering your room, and watching less TV become acts of justice and kindness, part of a life of following and imitating Christ, and a way to make room for God in our lives and in the world around us.





# World Book Day!

EYFS had a fantastic World Book Day! they dressed as their favourite book character and learnt about the author Jill Murphy.



Year 1 had a wonderful World Book Day on Thursday. The children dressed up as some fantastic characters, here are a few photos. Can you spot Fantastic Mr Fox?

We listened to many wonderful stories from Matilda and her friends to authors of popular books.

The children created their own book cover for their favourite book or for a new story.

Year 1 enjoyed reading to the class and sharing their favourite books with each other.



For World Book Day, Year 2 were lucky enough to be part of a digital theatre. The children joined in with the characters, responding and sharing their ideas for the 'Incredible Story'.

Year 3 really enjoyed celebrating World Book Day by dressing up as their favourite character. We also enjoyed watching the interactive performance of "The Incredible Story..." where we helped the character Ben write his own story. We liked the happy ending and joined in with the dancing!



Just a few of the fantastic World Book Day costumes in Year 3



Year 4 loved celebrating World Book Day on Thursday. We loved dressing up as our favourite book characters and got to take part in some speed sharing, trying to convince our friends to fall in love with the same books as we love!



Year 5 & Year 6 all enjoyed World Book Day. Many dressed up as book characters and then shared details of favourite books and authors to recommend to classmates. We watched videos from some WBD authors including Katherine Rundell (whose book Skysteppers we are currently reading)

Then we enjoyed "The Incredible Story" digital broadcast which was interactive and gave us lots of writing ideas.

Finally, we created our own origami bookmarks based on a book or character.





## STARS OF THE WEEK!

Congratulations to

Willow T

in Reception,

and

Devon M

in Year 6

We're all really proud of you

This week's virtues awards were given to

Rian R	Nursery
Abbasyn H	Reception
Jax R	Year 1
Chloe H	Year 2
Rosalea B	Year 3
Jaymee-Lee F & Tyler-James C	Year 4
Amelia E	Year 5
Ritchie R	Year 6

For being Intentional and Prophetic.

### Attendance



Our school strives for 100% attendance. This week the class with the highest attendance was Reception with 98.7% *Well done!*

### Ready to learn Award



Congratulations, our most punctual class this week was Nursery.

### Birthdays



Happy birthday this week to: Ava-Rose L and Harvey-James M.

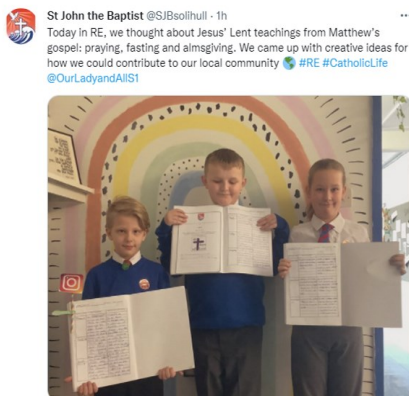


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Our fabulous tweets continue!!! Have a look at some of our most recent tweets! Please don't forget to join our tweeting community by tweeting us @SJBsolihull





## First Sunday of Lent

*God of life, your Son Jesus went out into the desert to spend time in prayer and be closer to you. Help us to draw closer to you this Lent, in our prayers and in our actions.*

In this Sunday's gospel we hear about how Jesus spent 40 days praying in the desert, to get closer to God, and to get ready for his ministry. At the end of this time he was very hungry.

**Gospel:** Luke 4:1-13

*Jesus returned from the Jordan full of the Holy Spirit and was led by the Spirit into the desert, where he was tempted by the Devil for forty days. In all that time he ate nothing, so that he was hungry when it was over.*

*The Devil said to him, "If you are God's Son, order this stone to turn into bread." But Jesus answered, "The scripture says, 'Human beings cannot live on bread alone.'"*

*Then the Devil took him up and showed him in a second all the kingdoms of the world. "I will give you all this power and all this wealth," the Devil told him. "It has all been handed over to me, and I can give it to anyone I choose. All this will be yours, then, if you worship me." Jesus answered, "The scripture says, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve only him!'"*

*Then the Devil took him to Jerusalem and set him on the highest point of the Temple, and said to him, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down from here. For the scripture says, 'God will order his angels to take good care of you.' It also says, 'They will hold you up with their hands so that not even your feet will be hurt on the stones.'" But Jesus answered, "The scripture says, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"*

*When the Devil finished tempting Jesus in every way, he left him for a while.*

Jesus went out into the desert for 40 days to be alone and to pray. He went to draw closer to God, to listen to what God was asking him to do and to find strength for his work of spreading the good news.

This weekend sees the first Sunday of Lent. Lent is a time when we try to be a bit like Jesus in the desert. We spend 40 days trying to come closer to God, so that we are ready for Easter. We try to pray more and share more. We try to think less about ourselves and more about other people – our neighbours at home and around the world.

We can be closer to God by praying, by asking for forgiveness for all the things that we have done wrong, and by trying to live the kind of life God wants us to. We can share with and care for others who need our help.



How will you pray more and share more this Lent?

*Loving God, we thank and praise you for all the gifts that you have given us. But in a world of plenty too many people go hungry. We pray that you may work through us, so our small acts of love make a big difference and everyone may have enough to eat. Amen.*

Have a lovely weekend.

*I. Gallagher*

Mr I. Gallagher  
Headteacher