

#### St. John the Baptist Catholic Primary School

We will prepare the way by loving, living and learning with the Lord

"Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice" Proverbs 16:8

#### This half term's virtues are:

Eloquent

and

Truthful

Friday 10.02.23

Newsletter

Catholic Social Teaching Focus

#### The Dignity of Work (linking with Fairtrade Fortnight 21.02-06.03)

Everyone's work is of value. There are many kinds of work. In each job, workers deserve to be treated with respect; work safely; work reasonable hours, and earn fair wages. They deserve this because they are made by God. Our work gives us the means to live, but it is also a chance to use the talents God gives us. Our work is our way of cooperating with God to help create a better world.

Focus Hymns – 'Lord of the Dance' and 'You are my Brother'







We've had a very busy time celebrating our latest school mission week. This year's 'Loving Week' has coincided with 'Random Acts of Kindness Week' and our Catholic Social Teaching focus has come at a very opportune time, as we have prayed for and raised money for people in Turkey and Syria, after the devastating earthquake that occurred there recently. Each class has been very busy organising their own fundraising activities (thank you Year Six for choosing to charge people to throw a sponge at the Headteacher in the middle of February!)

Other activities have included penalty shoot outs and biscuit sales, so thank you to all of our children for their effort and ingenuity.

As you'll be aware we've celebrated 'Random Acts of Kindness Day' today (Friday) and again it's been a pleasure to see so many simple acts that have resulted in so many smiles! Our aim is that every day should be full of kindness and consideration for all.

As mentioned above, we have been raising funds for people of Turkey and Syria following the devastating earthquake, we raised in a total £1066,41! I am so, so proud that given the current climate, all our families have donated so generously, it really has been an act of kindness. Thank you to all of you, these funds will of course assist those who now, more than ever need to feel love, kindness and support.



Please remember that next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and therefore the start of the season of Lent. It's unfortunate that we're unable to mark the occasion together but please do try to visit your closest church as a family to acknowledge this holy day of prayer and fasting.

In the meantime, I wish you a very pleasant half term break. Enjoy your pancakes on Tuesday, when I'm sure you'll all have a favourite topping - mine's 'old school' lemon juice and sugar!





# **Class Activities - KS1**

Year 1 completed their windmills for DT this week, adding mechanical structures for the turbines to move. They had lots of fun in science, role-playing a weather person explaining the weather forecast for the UK and how to prepare for the weather conditions. This session is linked with geography. Art, the children have been learning about architecture. They created their own gargoyles, out of clay and then painted them. These are features on old buildings to drain away water (rain).

Well done Year 1 for a fantastic end to this half-term.











We have had a wonderful Loving Week in Year 2. We enjoyed sharing the love by giving friendship bracelets to each other. We have shown a love for ourselves through creating self-portraits and further developed a love for art by learning about Cubism. We also created our own piece of Cubist art.

We had our last cricket session this week. Thank you to Shaz for teaching us bowling, batting, catching and fielding skills. We have also been working hard in English, writing our own stories based on a similar theme to The Bear and the Piano.













# **Fundraising Activities**

We have had plenty of fundraising activities taking place this week. Friendship bracelet sales, penalty shoot outs, biscuit sales, sponsored walks and much more! A big thank you and well done to all of our children and teachers for their effort !



























# Science Superstars

This half term we have been investigating living things and their habitats. During this topic, we have studied many different life cycles, dissected flowers to understand their reproductive system and written letters to David Attenborough.



Well done Year 5!







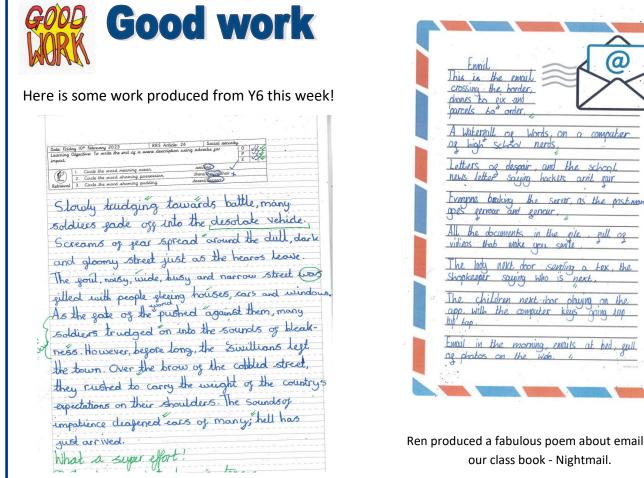


## **School Dinner Menu**

Strong in Faith		NEEK ON		
MONDAY	TUESDAY	September, 17 October, 14 November	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Surger in a Bun with <u>Home.made.</u> Ketchup	Chicken Korma	Roast Loin of Pork & Gravy	<℃ Beef Lasagne	Oven Baked Fish Fingers
Tomato & Basil Pasta Bake with Garlic Bread	Cheese Whirl (V)	Fresh Vegetable Stir Fry Noodles (V)	Vegetable Packed Lasagne (V) or Quorn Nugget Wrap (V)	Cheese & Tomato Pizza (V)
Herb Diced Potatoes Vegetable Sticks Mixed Salad of the Season Garlic Bread	Fluffy Rice 1/2 Jacket Potato Broccoli Florets Silced Carrots Mixed Salad of the Season Tomato Bread	Roast Potatoes Shredded Spring Cabbage Peas & Sweetcorn Mixed Salad of the Season Wholemeal Bread	Oven Baked Potato Wedges Baked Beans Sweetcorn Mixed Salad of the Season Twin Bread	Chunky Chips Potato Cake Baked Beans Peas Mixed Salad of the Season White Bread
Strawberry Mousse	Chocolate Beet Cake & Chocolate Sauce	Capple Eves Sponge & Custard	Cookies	C Iced Sponge
Fruit Yoghurt Seasonal Fresh Fruit Platter.	Fruit Yoghurt Seasonal Fresh Fruit Platter	Fruit Yoghurt Seasonal Fresh Fruit Platter	Fruit Yoghurt Seasonal Fresh Fruit Platter	Fruit Yoghurt Seasonal Fresh Fruit Platter
Seasonal Fr		AVAILABLE DAILY cd Potato Bar/Cold Sandwiches and Bag d Breads and Freshly Made Yoghurts av	uettes ailable daily in addition to the above Mo	enu offering.



We are very excited to announce that we will be running a sponsored read between **27th February to** 5th March 2023, as part of our plans for World Book Day. All of the money raised will go towards brand new books for our school and in addition to the sponsorship money, Usborne books will donate up to 60% of the total raised in EXTRA FREE BOOKS to the school. The child who raises the most money will receive a gift voucher. Please look out for more information that will be sent out with your child, along with their sponsorship form. Happy Reading!



Kalem produced a powerful scene description for **Rose Blanche** 

Ren produced a fabulous poem about email from our class book - Nightmail.

## **Reminder - School Photographs**

Have you ordered your school photos yet? A polite reminder that the closing date for free delivery back to school is Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023. Order through the Tempest website using your unique link or visit www.tempest-orders.co.uk

If you need any assistance in ordering your photos, feel free to contact Tempest on 01736 751555 (option 3).



# **National Online Safety**

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) SOLUTIONS



At National Online St is is needed. This

### ROOM FOR

Al solutions, such as language models, generate their responses purely based on the data they've been trained on, which often comes from sources on the internet. Whist questions will often lificit relevant responses, if some of the information they've been 'fed' is incorrect, it follows that the answers too may contain factual errors or inaccuracies.

#### **REINFORCING BIAS**

Al solutions, such as those

generating content of images, can perpetuate existing biases present in the data they were trained, whether through the algorithms written by humans or the content taken from the web. This could easily lead to biased responses and potentially reinforce existing stereotypes, such as those provide marker area or dischildly

#### IRRELEVANT INFORMATION

Al solutions don't have the ability to understand the context or meaning behind a question or a user request. Although highly advanced, the Al relies entirely on the data it's been exposed to and is devoid of independent thought or reasoning, which could lead to irrelevant or even nonsensical responses to queries

#### Al solutions are becoming increasingly popular. Trained on vast datasets of text (such as books, articles and websites) in order to learn patterns and relationships, Al solutions can generate text, images, audio, video, code or synthetic data, and can be used for things such as crafting poems or books, creating digital imagery or delivering video content. Recently there's been significant discussion in relation to the benefits and risks of Alsolutions, with many undecided on whether it will be a force for good or potentially reduce the need for some job roles.

#### LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY



99

undamentally, Al solutions are machines or technology programmes that don't have the ability to take responsibility for the esponses they generate. This coul ead to confusion or misunderstandings in certain case if the answers are taken as given.

h their children, should they feel ides, hints and tips for adults.

STIFLING CREATIVITY

One of the potential risks of children and young people continually using Al solutions for things (such as their homework) is that eventually, they might become reliant on it. In the long term, this could potentially impact their development and hamper their ability to think creatively or solve problems independently without the aid of an Al tool.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

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#### CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If possible, try to be around when your child uses any type of A solution and employ content filters to try and reduce the chance of profanity or age-inappropriote subjects appearing in responses. As with any kind of technology, it's important to ensure that children are using AI solutions responsibly and to be there to enable opportunities to discuss their use as part of a safe environment.

#### ENCOURAGE HUMAN INTERACTION

Not only should children supplement any use of software like Al with additional resources such as books and reputable internet sites, but they also should remember what they can learn from interaction with other people. Discussing things with teachers, relatives and friends isn't just an important and other invaluable aspect of learning – it's an essential part of life, too.

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#### Meet Our Expert

Gory Henderson is the Director of T and Jarge boarding school in the UK, having pervised y taught in schools and ad logos in Britain and the Widdle taut. Write a period an interest in digital citizennike and cytoe security, ha believen it is essential that adults and children allow become more source a the risk a cascinder with the challer and children allow become more source to the risk and sourced with the challer and children allow become more source a the risk and sourced with the challer and children allow become more to the risk and sourced with the challer and children allow become more to the risk and sourced with the challer and children allow become more to the risk and sourced with the challer and children and the risk and the source to a source the source of the risk and the source of the risk and the source of the source

#### PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Explain to your child that AI solutions can be used as one of many tools to help them research and learn, but that they shouldn't simply accept the responses they receive as the truth. Encourage them to question, verify and think critically about the information they get back - all of which apply equally to any website or platform they use.

#### DISCUSS BIAS

Tak to your child about the potential biases that me be present in the data that Alsolutions are trained a and how these viewpoints might find their way into the responses that Algenerates. Again, with many things children might read online, it's healthy for them to consider whether the information is factual and presented failty.



#### CHECK SCHOOL RULES

spla

Make yoursell aware of any rules or guidance your child's school might have about the use of Al solutions. Most software is still extremely new, so many schools may not yet have a policy, however, it's important to make sure your child is aware of how to use it appropriately and will be using it for the right reasons.





faith-filled generous of grateful eloquent discerning intentional compassionate



Congratulations to Tennessee D in Year 1 and Amari H-P in Year 5 We're all really proud of you!

This week's virtues awards were given to

Niamh W	Nursery		
Remi-May A	Reception		
Daisy W	Year 1		
Lyla K	Year 2		
Chloe H	Year 3		
Freya M	Year 4		
Bailey K	Year 5		
Kloe G	Year 6		

#### For being Eloquent and Truthful



#### **Ready to learn Award**

Congratulations, our most punctual classes this week were Year 4

#### Attendance



Our school strives for 100% attendance. This week the class with the highest attendance was Year 3 and Year 4 both with 94.6% *Well done!* 



#### **Birthdays**

Happy birthday this week to: Isla K, Eva- Rose H, Rio-George M, Hope M, Carter H, Pathirana R



#### **Dates for your Diary**

Friday 17th February 2023 All day - Non-Uniform Day (Loving Week) 3.15pm - Break up for February Half Term **Tuesday 28th February 2023** 8.55am - Children return to school Thursday 2nd March 2023 World Book Day - Children can dress up as their favourite book character Thursday 22nd March 2023 Parent/ Carer consultation evening **Thursday 30th March** Easter Bonnet Parade (EYFS & KS1) Decorate an egg competition (KS2) Friday 31st March 2023 3.15pm - Break up for Easter Holiday Monday 17th April 2023 8.55am - Children return to school Friday 26th May 2023 3.15pm - Break up for May Half Term **Tuesday 6th June 2023** 8.55am - Children return to school

#### Inset days 2022 - 2023

Monday 27th February 2023 Monday 5th June 2023



## **Our Pope's Prayer Intentions**

#### February - For parishes

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.



# February Half Term Activities

Gardens open EVERYDAY February 18th to 26th.

Come for a run round, do the Percy Trails, explore the mud kitchen

> PLUS BOOKABLE SESSIONS Percy the Park Keeper and his friends are having a brand new adventure in the Gardens.

Come and join in the fun. Storytime with Percy himself, games, craft and nature activities February 22nd, 23rd and 24th SCAN TO BOOK ONLINE



Wild Child Den Building Wednesday 22nd, 2pm







## Are **you** or someone you know **struggling to pay** energy bills?

# HELP AND SUPPORT with energy bills

Act on Energy is administering the **Household Support Fund\*** on behalf of Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, so if you are a **family**, a **state** 



free

pensioner or vulnerable to the cold,

and on a low income apply online NOW at:

## www.actonenergy.org.uk/project

## We can help with:

- Free energy vouchers
- > Energy bill payments
- > Debt relief
- Free repairs/replacement of broken heating systems



or call our free line

0800 988 2881

sive money and the environment

\*Household Support Fund is a scheme funded by the Department for Work and Pensions

Lauriston Business Park, Pitchill, Salford Priors, Warwickshire, WR11 8SN Registered charity number 1075679

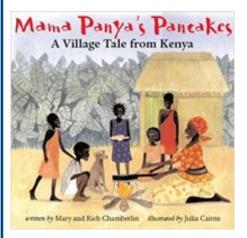


# **Mr G's Recommended Reads**

I think it's quite obvious where I took my inspiration from this week.

For our younger readers...

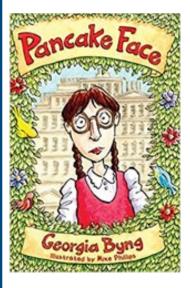
'Mama Panya's Pancakes' by Mary and Rich Chamberlin



On market day, Mama Panya's son Adika invites everyone he sees to a pancake dinner. How will Mama Panya ever feed them all? This clever and heart-warming story about Kenyan village life teaches the importance of sharing, even when you have little to give.

For our older readers...

'Pancake Face' by Georgia Byng



Alice Peasbody has no nose. People point and stare. Only the birds in the garden are Alice's friends. She tries to hide away, but it's hard to hide a pancake face for ever ... A brilliantly accessible short story which tackles the themes of loneliness and body image.



#### Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Generous God, you share all that you have made with us. Help us to love each other and to share all that you have given us.

In this Sunday's gospel, Jesus asks us to love our neighbours and to share generously all that we have.

#### Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' But now I tell you: do not take revenge on someone who wrongs you. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, let him slap your left cheek too. And if someone takes you to court to sue you for your shirt, let him have your coat as well. And if one of the occupation troops forces you to carry his pack one kilometre, carry it two kilometres. When someone asks you for something, give it to him; when someone wants to borrow something, lend it to him.

"You have heard it said, 'Love your friends, hate your enemies.' But now I tell you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may become the children of your Father in heaven. For he makes his sun to shine on bad and good people alike, and gives rain to those who do good and to those who do evil. Why should God reward you if you love only the people who love you? Even the tax collectors do that! And if you speak only to your friends, have you done anything out of the ordinary? Even the pagans do that! You must be perfect – just as your Father in heaven is perfect!"

Jesus is asking us to share generously with other people by not just lending them what they ask for, but by giving them even more than they need.

He tells us that we should love everyone, not just our friends and family. It is easy to love the people we like and who are nice to us. But we are also asked to love those people we find difficult, the people who annoy us, and who aren't always so nice. This is how God loves us. Even when we have made the wrong choices, God loves and cares for us. God never stops loving us and wants us to love all the other members of our global family.

God calls us to share with each other so that the world is a fairer and better place for everybody, so that everyone has enough to eat and drink, a safe place to live and can go to school.



God of love, help us to share generously with all those who do not have enough in our world, to love one another wherever we may be, and to make the world a fairer place for everyone. Amen.

Have a pleasant and safe half term.



Our Lady and All Saints Catholic Multi Academy Company Strong in Faith I. Gallagher Mr I. Gallagher

Headteacher

