



# St. Philomena's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Miss V Maher

## Newsletter – 23 February 2024

### Spring Term

#### Monday 4th – Friday 8th March will be St Philomena's book week.

A letter was sent out in the week with details of our book week events, including:

- **'decorate a paper plate'** competition - the deadline for entries is Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March.
- All children are invited to come to school on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March **dressed as their favourite book character** - no high heels, mid-drifts showing or jewellery and hair should be tied back
- If you have pre-loved costumes that your child no longer needs/ fits into, please consider donating them to the school on by end of day today. Costumes will be sold on Monday after school.
- **reading breakfast** for the children on **Wednesday 6th March at 8am**. The cost of the breakfast will be £1.50 per person. Pre-school children are welcome to join us. ALL CHILDREN MUST BE SUPERVISED BY AN ADULT – THEY SHOULD NOT BE LEFT UNATTENDED. Could adults please bring along a reusable coffee cup to use
- If you have pre-loved books in good condition that you would like to add to our library, any donations would be gratefully received. A box will be in the entrance hall for book donations after half term.



Please encourage your child to read as much as possible and enjoy sharing books together throughout the year. Reading records/diaries should be signed daily by an adult to help the children get into good reading habits and develop a love of reading at home as well as in school. Fluent reading is essential for all aspects of life and will help your child fulfil their potential in all they do.

#### Our Lenten Commitment

Our amazing team of RE ambassadors took the whole school assembly on Monday of this week to share with everyone the meaning of Lent, the sacrifices we can make and our Lenten commitment to raise money for the Catholic Children's Society. We will encourage all the children to save as many coins as possible in the money boxes we sent home and thank you for your support in doing this

#### Mrs Coleman

Many of you will have noticed that Mrs Coleman has not been here this week. She broke her ankle while walking near Hadrian's Wall in half term ! I know you will join the whole school community in wishing her well and hoping she recovers soon.

In the meantime, if you need to contact the school, please ensure you use the 'ADMIN' email address.

### Faith in Action

Faith in Action 2024 has launched. This year, the hub is based just 15 minutes away, at St James the Great in Petts Wood. We are inviting all pupils in Years 5 and 6 to come along to Session 1 on Sat 23rd March 2.30-6.00pm to learn more about this nationally recognised, exciting and engaging, faith-driven awards scheme. Please scan the QR code on the flyer to register your child's attendance. This is a great opportunity to 'Come & See' what we get up to. We look forward to greeting you then.



### Open Classroom / Teacher Meetings

I saw lots of excited children leading their parents and carers into school this week so they could show off their work and their classrooms ! I hope this will help shape the conversations you will have next week at your appointments with Class Teachers. If you have not done so already, please ensure you sign up for an appointment on Monday or Tuesday after school. Working in collaboration with families is key to ensuring the best outcomes for our children.

### E-Safety – WhatsApp

You will know that the teaching of e-safety is continuous throughout the school year but we know it is helpful to share information with parents too.

This week, we have attached an information sheet regarding WhatsApp. When our E-Safety week was introduced in assembly before half term, I asked for a show of hands of children who have this on their phone, and was shocked to see the response as the app is intended for teenagers aged 16 and above !

Please do take time to read the information and be sure to monitor what your children are saying and receiving in messages.

### Pupil of the Week

*Congratulations to this week's winners!*

*Reception - Raymond*

*Year 1 - Deborah*

*Year 2 - Muna*

*Year 3 - Amelia-Ruby*

*Year 4 - Victor*

*Year 5 - Amelia*

*Year 6 - Nicolle T*



## Houses of Parliament

### School Council Trip

I was delighted to accompany our elected School Council members on a visit to the Houses of Parliament on Wednesday. The children were treated to a tour of the many beautiful buildings including the House of Lords and then took part in a workshop about how debating takes place in the House of Commons in order to create new laws for our country. At the end of the workshop, we were joined by our local MP, Gareth Bacon, for a question-and-answer session. The children asked such brilliant questions ranging from 'What do you think of ULEZ?', 'What do you think of the war in Gaza?' to 'How do you get to work?' and 'Do you get nervous?'. Needless to say, Gareth was very impressed with the curiosity and conduct of our children and he accepted an invitation to visit our school.

The children learned so much and were just so enthusiastic and interested in all aspects of the visit, including the walk to and from the station where we passed Horse Guards Parade, Downing Street and Trafalgar Square.

They will share a recount of their trip in an assembly to the whole school in the near future.

Thank you to our School Council for representing St Philomena's so brilliantly and to Mrs Heffernan for joining us to assist on the day.





## Mother's Day Breakfast



## Freddie Hughes

Freddie in Year 4 tells us about his Blue Peter Badge collection. We are always proud to celebrate the achievements of children outside of school !

'I earned my first Blue Peter badge, which is white plastic with a blue ship in the middle because I drew and coloured in a picture of the logo and sent it to the show.

I then earned my second badge. It's blue metal with a silver ship in the middle because I sent in a picture of a periscope that I had made from cardboard and straws that had been made on the show.

This badge was given to viewers who had already won an original badge, for a further achievement.

The badge was retired in 2022 in favour of the new silver badge. This means that my blue metal one will be a rare one. I am now working on my green environmental badge.'



## Orpington Library

Both sessions are accessible to book via

Eventbrite: <https://orpingtonlibrary.eventbrite.co.uk>



Come along to our Sensory Storytimes for children including those with additional needs and their parents/carers.

Sensory stories and a chance to play in our Sensory Playroom and have fun with our Magic Table (Happiness Programme)

Orpington Library  
Saturday 24th February  
Saturday 23rd March  
Ages 4-7  
10-11 am

Book by visiting our Eventbrite page:  
<https://orpingtonlibrary.eventbrite.co.uk>



## World Book Day Event

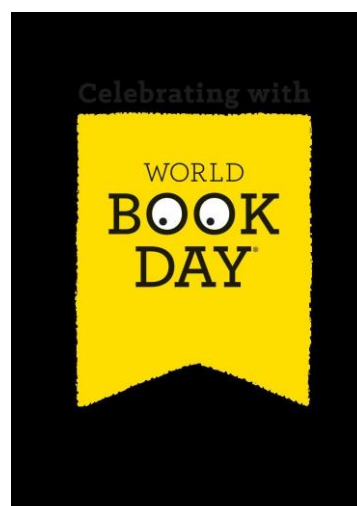
Date: Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> March

Time: 4-5pm

Event: Join us to celebrate World Book Day with stories, songs and activities

Age: 4-7s

Venue: Orpington Library





### **Parent Teacher Meetings**

On Wednesday we sent the Parents Guide to booking appointments for our February Parents Evening.

Please use the link in the message and book a ten-minute appointment with your child's teacher to discuss their progress so far this academic year.

Although appointments are booked online, all meetings will be face to face with teachers at school.

Bookings are now open and will close at Midday on Sunday 25th February.

Appointments are 3:45 - 7pm on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February and 3:45 - 6pm on Tuesday 27th February

### **Class Assembly**

Reception	29.02.24
Year 1	22.03.24
Year 3	01.03.24
Year 4	08.03.24
Year 5	27.03.24
Year 6	15.03.24

### **Attendance Race**

**2023- 2024**

**Attendance and Lateness for the week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024 :**

Class	Attendance (%)	Lates (occasions)
Reception	94	2
Year 1	85	0
Year 2	97	0
Year 3	100	0
Year 4	90	0
Year 5	95	0
Year 6	96	0

Year 3 have been on time every day this week - Well done !

### **League Table**

Year	No. of Wins
Reception	
Year 1	4
Year 2	4
Year 3	2
Year 4	3
Year 5	3
Year 6	1



**Weeks in competition: 17 (full weeks only)**

**OVERALL ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK 93.7%**



Have a wonderful weekend.

Miss Veronica Maher

### TERM DATES

#### **Spring Term 2024**

Last day of term Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

#### **Summer Term 2024:**

First day of term Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024

**Bank Holiday** **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

Half-term 27.05.24 – 31.05.2024

Last day of term Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024

**INSET DAYS** **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

### TERM DATES

#### **ACADEMIC YEARS 2024 - 2025**

#### **Autumn Term 2023:**

##### **INSET DAYS:**

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

First day back: Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Half-term 21.10.21 – 1.11.24

Last day of term Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

#### **Spring Term 2025:**

First day of term Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Half-term 17.02.25 – 21.02.25

Last day of term Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

#### **Summer Term 2025:**

First day of term Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025

**Bank Holiday** **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

Half-term 26.05.25 – 30.05.2025

Last day of term Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025

##### **INSET DAYS**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup>, Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025**