



St. Philomena's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Miss V Maher

Newsletter – 4 March 2022 Spring Term

Ash Wednesday

It was wonderful to be able to join the Parish Congregation at Our Lady of the Crays on Wednesday, to mark the start of the important season of Lent. The children behaved impeccably – prompting comments from parishioners and an email to school to comment on their respectful behaviour. Thank you to all the parents who helped accompany the children and to the children for making the Mass so special.

In assemblies, the children have been learning about the three pillars of Lent. They have learned about 'Looking to God' through prayer, 'Looking to Ourselves' through reflection and penance and 'Looking to Others' in terms of charity and kindness.

With this in mind, I know that our CAFOD Club children will be announcing our Lenten appeal in assembly next Monday. More details next week....



Art Week Dance Workshop

Each child is invited to take part in an international dance workshop, on Friday 25th March, which will offer the perfect opportunity to experience the many wonderful, colourful, flamboyant and creative dances that originate from countries around the world.

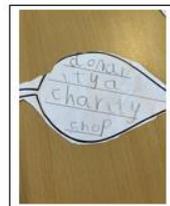
Reception

Reception class – writing their notes on how to understand that we should try to be kind and reflect on ways to help others!

- Understand that we should try to be kind and not hurt others
- Reflect on ways to be kind and helpful to others
- CAL Explain lent and discuss ways to be kind to others
- L Write a sentence read by myself and others



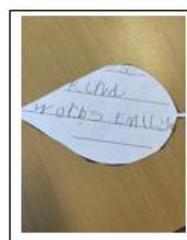
We thought about how to be kind, and wrote 40 ways to be kind during lent. We will choose one for each day of Lent to help us be kind.



"Being kind means treating people nicely so they are happy" Hazel

"If you hurt someone ask for forgiveness" Josiah

"Whatever you like, that's what you should do to other people" Ollie



Book Week

What a fabulous week of reading based activities this week. The children have taken part in lots of class based work around 'The Bear and the Piano' and we cannot forget our amazing dressing up day on Tuesday ! I think the costumes this year were so imaginative and I know this takes a lot of work from parents so thank you – but the children and staff enjoy the day so much.

We loved welcoming Mr Wheeler back today, to lead every class with a session of poetry.

Well done too, to the enterprising Year 6 children for running the book sale. They chose to have the funds raised donated to those in need in Ukraine and we will be sending this off to a national appeal.

Thank you to Mrs Williams, our English subject leader, for organising another very successful Book Week.



Parent/Teacher Meetings

The teachers have really enjoyed catching up with parents and carers this week. Working together to support your children is key to their success.

Ukraine Donations

We have been inundated with such generous donations in response to the request from Mrs Fila on behalf of the Polish Church in Balham. Thank you all so much for your kindness and to Mrs Fila and the other parents who are going to take it to Balham for us. I know you will continue to keep the people living in Ukraine, those who have been forced to flee and family members here in the UK in your prayers as this terrible conflict continues.

Ukraine appeal

We just wanted to say a huge thank you to the St Philomenas community! We have been overwhelmed by your generosity and all donations. What we've collected was beyond our expectations and there were so many donations that we couldn't fit them all in our car. Thankfully Mrs Andasei volunteered to take the rest of the donations to Balham. We did two trips with fully packed cars and dropped off all of your donations to the White Eagle club. From the bottom of our heart thank you for your generosity and willingness to help.

Patricia & Andrew Fila



Football Match

Well done to our school football team that won against Farnborough this week – the score was 4-2 !



Parking !

I am really sorry to have to include this in our newsletter again, but this week I had a complaint from a neighbour in Derry Downs as parents were parking on the double yellow lines at the junction with Chelsfield Rd. This makes it extremely difficult for drivers to see when exiting Derry Downs and therefore causes a significant hazard to the children arriving at and leaving school. The same applies to the corner of Stanton Close and Finucane Drive. Please, please, park safely and respectfully when dropping off and picking up. Thank you.



Orpington Library

The digital programme of Meet The Author once a month which is shown across all the Facebook Pages of GLL libraries around the UK tomorrow at 11.am on Bromley Libraries Facebook Page: <https://m.facebook.com/BromleyLibraries> Jasmine Richards, children's author and Creative Producer talks about her books and what inspires her to write, she then shares a couple of creative writing exercises which start with a specific object. I'm sure you have some aspiring writers and this is a fascinating exercise!

Here is a short bio:

Jasmine Richards has written over a dozen books for children. Her most recent books are Lucas Dives Deep, and the Aziza's Secret Fairy Door series, which she has co-written with Tola Okogwu, under the pen name Lola Morayo. She features in the Happy Here anthology and her new novel, The Unmorrow Curse, comes out in May 2022. She is also the series creator of Granny Jinks and Future Hero. Jasmine is the founder of Storymix, a children's book incubator with a social purpose. Storymix focuses on putting children of colour front and centre in stories with inclusive casts of characters, through its creative projects. She is always seeking to work with new voices to offer an apprenticeship for minoritized writers and illustrators and create a pathway to being published.

Orpington Library
Bromley Partnership
01689 831551
<http://www.better.org.uk/library/london/bromley>

Lost Mobile Phone

We have an Apple mobile phone in the office that were handed in a few weeks ago – if you have lost a mobile recently please contact the school office.

Year 3 - Mini Vinnies

Here are the Mini Vinnies working hard, thinking about people who need our help, what we could do, what Christ would do and what we need in order to make a difference. Each Friday we meet at 1:45pm. Unsurprisingly Year 3 felt very strongly about wanting to pray for the people of Ukraine and all those who are doing what they can to support them.



The attendance rates have not been affected by any absence due to Covid-19 (isolation/symptoms or testing).

Attendance and Lateness for the week beginning 21st February 2022:

Class	Attendance (%)	Lates (occasions)
Reception	93	0
Year 1	95	0
Year 2	98	1
Year 3	98	2
Year 4	99	1
Year 5	95	2
Year 6	98	5

Year 4 are the winners again this week. Well done !

League Table

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

Weeks in competition: 21 (full weeks only)

OVERALL ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK 96.8%



TERM DATES

Spring Term 2022:

Last day of term Friday 1st April 2022

(Good Friday 15th April 2022 and Easter Monday 18th April 2022)

Summer Term 2022:

First day of term Tuesday 19th April 2022

Bank Holiday 02.05.22

Half-term 30.05.22 – 03.06.22

Bank Holiday 15.06.22

Last day of term Thursday 21st July 2022

***Staff Training Day Friday 22nd July**

ACADEMIC YEARS 2022 – 2023

TERM DATES

Autumn Term 2022:

Inset Days: Tuesday 30 August

Wednesday 31st August 2022

First day back: Thursday 1st September

Half-term 17.10.22 – 28.10.22

Last day of term Wednesday 21st December

Spring Term 2023:

First day of term Tuesday 3rd January 2023

Half-term 13.02.23 – 17.02.23

Last day of term Friday 31st March 2023

Summer Term 2023:

First day of term Monday 17th April 2023

Bank Holiday 01.05.23

Half-term 29.05.23 – 02.06.2023

Last day of term Friday 21 July 2023

Have a wonderful weekend!

Miss Veronica Maher
Head Teacher

