ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER SUMMER II



Welcome to the Summer II edition of our St John Fisher Catholic Primary School Half-Termly Newsletter.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus reminds us: "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21).

As we reach the end of the academic year, this edition celebrates the progress, achievements and growth of our pupils across St John Fisher School, highlighting how they have continued to live out our LIGHT values in all aspects of school life.

On 22 June, we came together as a school community to celebrate the Feast of our patron saint, St John Fisher, with a whole-school Mass on faith, courage and commitment to truth. Throughout the day, each class explored his life and legacy, and their learning is now displayed in our entrance area for visitors to see.

"We stand united in faith with the courage to build a loving world of truth, justice, peace and wisdom." Guided by our LIGHT values - Love, Integrity, Growth, Hope and Togetherness - we are proud of a community where children flourish across school life.

I hope you enjoy reading the learning captured in this edition and feel proud of pupil achievements as we bring the academic year to a close. Thank you for your continued support, and I wish all families a safe, restful summer break.

Love. Learn. Shine.

Mrs. Garrett

Reception





We have been learning about travelling around the world and how we get from one place to another. We made passports and boarding passes to travel with and in our role play we have been packing and going to the departure lounge to get ready to fly! We have made postcards to send home and tell everyone about our trips. We have also talked about which animals we might see in a hot or cold country. We have been working well together to build homes with the construction materials.

In phonics, we have become more fluent readers and the children have been eager to show that they can decode longer words. We have also been practising forming all the letters correctly in our writing.

In Maths, we have been practising addition and subtraction, recognising coins and other forms of money (to pay for our trips!) and measuring by weight, capacity and length. It has been a very hot half term and the children have enjoyed lots of water play with the new water wall and the exciting new music wall. Our new reading shed is a great way to relax.

This half term at forest school, we have been drawing pictures of the trees, leaves, feathers and many more things. We have made pictures with natural materials and we really enjoy using the binoculars and magnifiers. We have picked the strawberries that have been growing in the planters and got to taste them too! We released our butterflies this half term and we are hoping that these painted ladies will come back next year!

Of course, we also had a great celebration for St John Fisher Day. Thank you Reception for a great year and for all the progress you have made with your hard work!

Year 1



Year 1 have had a fantastic and busy half term filled with exciting learning experiences!

We are incredibly proud of the children's hard work and determination during their phonics screening check, where they have shown growing confidence in recognising sounds, blending words and applying their phonics knowledge in reading and writing.

In Science, the children became investigators as they carried out a scientific enquiry around our local area to discover which material was commonly found in litter. During this enquiry, they also explored different playgrounds, evaluating their features and thinking creatively about what they would like to include when deisgning and building their own 3D playground models at the end of the half term.

In Maths, our focus on money came to life through hands-on experiences, including a real-life shop where the children could spend money on their wants, followed by a memorable school day where they had to budget for their needs, such as playtime, lunch and even using the toilet. This gave the children an enriching experience on the valuable lessons of wants versus needs.

In History, the children worked collaboratively to compare old and new toys, developing their enquiry skills as they explored how toys have changed over time.

It has been a wonderful half term, and we are so proud of all the enthusiasm, curiosity and resilience Year 1 have shown.

Year 2



This term in English, we enjoyed reading 'The Owl and the Pussy-cat' by Edward Lear. We explored AABB and ABAB rhyming patterns before collecting rhyming words to create our own imaginative poem stories about the adventures of two animals. We also visited the Polka Theatre to watch The Rapping Princess, where the children helped the actors create and perform a rhyming song. To celebrate our Poetry writing, we held a Publishing Party with awards for outstanding work. Congratulations to Lolade and Emmanuel (Most Consistent Flow of Rhyme), Harerta and Joshua (Excellent Vocabulary), Margaret and Esther (Neatest Handwriting) and Mikail (Most Interesting Storyline).

In Maths, we completed our learning on telling the time. The children made their own clocks to take home and practise reading the time, focusing on minutes past and minutes to the next hour.

In Science, we learnt about inspiring scientists and inventors, including Louis Pasteur, discovering how germs spread and why hand-washing is so important. One of the children's favourite activities was using glitter to demonstrate how easily germs spread from person to person. They were amazed to see how quickly the glitter travelled and learnt why washing our hands regularly helps keep us clean and healthy. We also visited Kew Gardens, where we became botanists like Jane Colden, and enjoyed an exciting trip to the Natural History Museum, taking part in pond dipping and an Ocean Habitat Show.

We are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved this term and throughout Year 2. Thank you for your continued support. We wish all our children every success, happiness and confidence as they begin their exciting journey into Year 3!

Year 3





This term in English, we have enjoyed reading How to Live Forever. The children explored whether living forever would be a blessing or a danger, considering the thoughts and motivations of the main character throughout his journey. They also learned to use inverted commas correctly for direct speech. To finish the unit, the children wrote a prequel to the story, using inference to explore characters' feelings, thoughts and motives while supporting their ideas with evidence from the text.

In Maths, we have focused on money and telling the time. These have been challenging topics, but through practical activities, a range of strategies and plenty of perseverance, the children have developed their confidence and understanding.

In Science, we learned about inspiring scientists and inventors whose discoveries have shaped our world. These included George Washington Carver, Marie Curie, William Smith and Inge Lehmann. The children enjoyed discovering how each person made a significant contribution to science, and we hope this has inspired some budding young scientists.

In Design and Technology, the children explored pneumatic systems before designing and creating their own moving monsters. They showed great creativity and problem-solving skills throughout the project.

To conclude our History topic on how transport has changed the local area of Abbey Wood, the children visited the London Transport Museum in Covent Garden. This exciting trip helped to bring their learning to life as they discovered how transportation in London has developed over the years.

Year 4



Year 4 Year 4 has had an amazing term!

In English, we have been reading the book The Crown, the theme of the book is how our attitude to rubbish now, will impact on children of the future. As a result of reading the book we researched animals in the world and created our own Book of Wonders with tips on how to take care of the planet. In maths, we have been learning about time, shapes, statistics, position and direction.

In Geography, we have continued to learn about human and physical features. We have been making comparisons between Whitby and Abbey Wood. In history, we have consolidated our learning on migration and comparing the similarities and differences between people's reasons for migration. In DT, we have made our night lights from our designs. In ICT, we have been learning about AI and how to be a responsible citizen when using it as a tool.

In Science, we have been learning about different scientists and their inventions. We have created our own solar powered oven to understand how the energy of the sun can be used. We have carried out an experiment on deforestation to understand why it is dangerous to animals.
Enrichment Opportunities.

This term we went to the London Miraetheum to learn about how archeologists uncover history and use artefacts as clues to make sense of history and draw conclusions. We took part in a cricket tournament. We are very proud that one of our teams made it to the semi-finals.

Year 5





This term has been filled with exciting learning opportunities and memorable experiences for Year 5. Our visit to the Royal Courts of Justice gave the children the chance to take part in an interactive workshop, where they enjoyed stepping into different courtroom roles and learning about how the justice system works. During the trip, they also saw the entrance to the Savoy Hotel and the famous Kaspar statue, creating a wonderful link to our English class text, Kaspar: Prince of Cats. Inspired by the novel, the children have produced a range of engaging writing, including diary entries, letters and newspaper reports based on the dramatic events surrounding the sinking of the Titanic.

The children also enjoyed taking part in a workshop led by Crossness Pumping Station. They learned about the Victorian school that was once located on the site and discovered more about a new exhibition that is due to open soon. This was a fascinating opportunity to explore local history and deepen their understanding of the area's heritage.

To celebrate St John Fisher Day, Year 5 worked alongside Year 6 on a variety of collaborative activities. They created informative double-page spreads, wrote diary entries in role, produced detailed artwork of the Bell Tower at the Tower of London, and designed thoughtful prayer books.

Year 5 have also played an important role in supporting the Year 6 production. They have worked hard learning songs and actions, with many pupils confidently taking on additional acting roles. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm, resilience and teamwork throughout the term.

Year 6



Year 6 have worked incredibly hard this term and should be extremely proud of everything they have achieved. They have completed a range of writing tasks, spending time editing, improving and refining their work to produce their very best writing. It has been wonderful to see the progress they have made and the pride they have taken in their learning.

During St John Fisher Day, the children created beautiful watercolour paintings of the Tower of London, researched the life of St John Fisher, and produced physical timelines to show the key events in his life. They also enjoyed working collaboratively with Year 5 on a variety of activities throughout the week, demonstrating excellent teamwork and creativity.

The children have shown great commitment while preparing for their end-of-year production. They have worked hard to learn their lines, develop their characters and practise their performances, showing increasing confidence and enthusiasm.

To celebrate the end of a fantastic year, Year 6 enjoyed an exciting trip to Oxygen, where they had great fun exploring the trampolines and adventure courses. They have been excellent role models and a real asset to our school community. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved and wish them every success and happiness as they begin the next stage of their journey.

MINI VINNIES



The Mini Vinnies went on a pilgrimage to Aylesford, following in the footsteps of the many pilgrims who have travelled there in faith over hundreds of years. During the visit, the children took part in an Act of Worship led by Cannon Victor. As part of the worship, the children respectfully carried a candle to the altar, reminding everyone that Jesus is the light of the world and that we are called to shine His light through our actions.

The Mini Vinnies also enjoyed making their own crosses and coasters, which helped them reflect on the meaning of their pilgrimage and the importance of faith in their daily lives. They learnt that just as we prepare carefully before going on holiday or starting any journey, we must also prepare spiritually when going on a journey to meet God. We can do this through prayer, worship, reflection and by showing love and kindness to others.

The pilgrimage also linked closely to Catholic Social Teaching, especially the principle of the dignity of the human person and the call to community and participation. The children were reminded that every person is valued by God and that we are all called to support, respect, and care for one another as members of God's family. Through shared prayer and worship, the children strengthened both their faith and their friendships.

When they returned to school, the children were excited to share their experience with their fellow peers. It was an incredible experience.

SCHOOL COUNCIL



What a fantastic year it has been for our School Council! Our councillors have worked incredibly hard to make a positive difference to our school community.

This term, the children planned and delivered a successful Wellbeing Day for the whole school. They created informative posters to help everyone understand the importance of looking after our physical, mental and social wellbeing before leading an engaging and interactive assembly. Everyone came together wearing yellow, a bright and cheerful colour chosen to remind us of sunshine and happiness. Pupils also donated £1, raising money to purchase a selection of exciting new books for classrooms to enjoy from September.

This has been a wonderful final project for our School Council. Throughout the year they have proudly represented their classes by meeting our local MP, Abena Oppong-Asare, organising a festive Candy Cane Day, planning and leading World Book Day, and finishing the year with a fantastic Wellbeing Day.

We would like to thank every School Council member for their commitment, enthusiasm and leadership. They were chosen by their classmates to represent their voices, and they have done so with kindness, confidence and dedication. They should be incredibly proud of everything they have achieved. As one group of School Councillors takes their final bow, we look forward to welcoming a new team in September. We can't wait to see the fresh ideas, exciting projects and positive changes that our future councillors will bring as they continue to make our school an even better place for everyone.

ACHIEVEMENTS



Our children have truly excelled themselves this term, earning medals, certificates, badges, and trophies across a wide range of activities. We are incredibly proud of their hard work, determination, and commitment, both in and out of school.

In Year 6, Chimdi was awarded a medal for swimming 25 metres. In Year 5, Ibitoye successfully completed a 200-metre swim, while Florence achieved an incredible 400-metre swim. Chiebube and Chidubem, alongside their football team, also secured first place in a competition. In Year 4, Elisha and Ivy-Grace proudly represented their club in a gymnastics competition, while Donald was recognised as Most Improved Footballer. During a cricket competition, Ameer was awarded Best Bowler and Gideon received the Best Batsman award. Iyana was awarded a trophy for her contribution to street dance and Joey received Man of the Match for his football team.

In Year 3, Jayden was named Player of the Week by his football coach, Elyse earned her 10-metre swimming badge, and Adepero received a writing certificate, after entering the BBC 500 Words Story Competition. In Year 2, Angel achieved her 5-metre swimming badge, while Rhya proudly earned her 10-metre badge. In Year 1, Xavier received a trophy for his participation in a cheerleading competition. Shiloh Louise, Malachi, and Enosaruna also celebrated success by earning their 5-metre swimming badges. Alfie won a St John Ambulance award for his great attitude.

Congratulations to Kamsi, Chinaza, Chimdi and Ann for taking their first Holy Communion.

Well done to all of our children for their fantastic achievements this term. Your enthusiasm, perseverance, and willingness to challenge yourselves continue to inspire us all.

PARENT MORNINGS

Next year, we will be hosting a Parent Morning every half-term to share our approach. Each session will be led by the SENCo and designed to offer practical support, guidance and community.

Our sessions will cover:

- What SEN looks like in our school - looking at the graduated approach, interventions we use to support pupils and SEN Support Plans
- Sensory needs in the classroom - looking at what a sensory circuit is and how it is used in school, movement breaks and regulation strategies, individualised work stations and personalised set ups.
- Supporting communication and social interaction - looking at visual supports (including Widgit), social stories and how they are used, reducing communication pressures for children.
- Parent round table - A supportive informal session where parents can share things they find difficult at home, discuss strategies that work well and be signposted to helpful local resources.
- ASD Advisory team visit - the Autism Advisory Team will join us to offer guidance, answer questions and share practical strategies for home and school.
- Bexley Voice visit - Representatives from Bexley Voice will explain the support they provide for families, local services available and how parents can access advice and advocacy

All parents and carers are warmly welcome.

Come for the coffee, stay for the connection, and leave with practical ideas to support your child.

Key Dates



Please find below the key dates for the upcoming term. These include important school events, term dates, and other key reminders to help you plan ahead.

2nd, 3rd & 4th September - INSET Days - Staff Training
6th September - Sunday Mass at St Benet's at 11am - Staff attending
7th September - Children Return to School (Years 1-6)
7th & 8th September - Home Visits for Reception
9th September - Reception in School
9th September - Year 1 Meet the Teacher at 2.45pm - Parents to attend
10th September - Year 2 Meet the Teacher at 2.45pm - Parents to attend
11th September - Year 3 Meet the Teacher at 2.45pm - Parents to attend
14th September - Year 4 Meet the Teacher at 2.45pm - Parents to attend
15th September - International Day of Democracy - New School Councillors Appointed
16th September - Whole School Mass - Parents Welcome
16th September - Year 5 Meet the Teacher at 2.45pm - Parents to attend
18th September - Year 6 Meet the Teacher at 2.45pm - Parents to attend
22nd September - Parent Coffee Morning - What does SEND look like in our school?
25th September - Beginning of Year Mass at St George's Cathedral - Faith Leaders
2nd October - Year 6 attending Mass at St Benet's at 8.30am
4th October - Sunday Mass at St Benet's at 11am - Staff attending
6th October - Movie Night for Years 1-3 until 5.30pm
8th October - Movie Night for Years 4-6 until 5.30pm
9th October - Year 5 attending Mass at St Benet's at 8.30am
15th October - Mini Vinnies' Assembly at 10.15am
20th October - Year 2 Educational Visit - Tump 53
22ndOctober - Black History Celebration at 9am - Parents Welcome
23rd October - Wear Your Own Clothes Day - £1

Educational Visits for Year 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 - TBC