



Newsletter No. 12

Fri 6th March 2025

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We have had a wonderful week celebrating all things book-related culminating in yesterday's world book day celebrations.

The children (and staff) seemed to really enjoy showcasing their night wear and having a day of alternative clothing. World Book Day was also marked with a special whole-school assembly. We had so much fun and have hopefully created school day memories for your child. A big thank you is extended to Mr Shreeves, who is in charge of English and organised all of the activities for the week.

Wednesday was Ash Wednesday, marking the start of Lent. The children have been learning about Lent as a time of prayer, sacrifice and giving as we prepare for Easter.

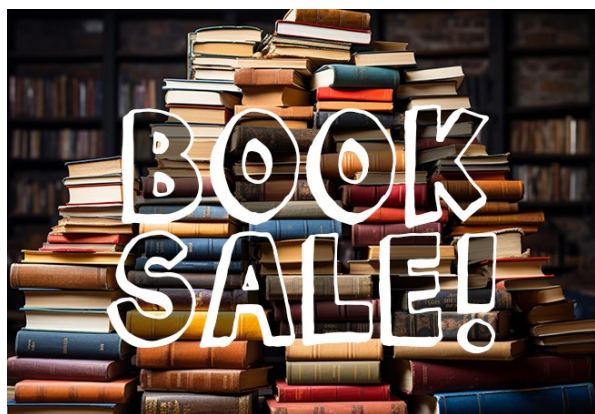
We celebrated Mass together in the church on Wednesday and I was very proud of the children and their reverent and respectful conduct in church.

In this newsletter you will find details of this year's Lenten appeal which begins this coming Monday.

Thank you to all of you who visited the school last Friday morning and took the opportunity to visit your child(ren)'s classroom. It was lovely to welcome you all and to show you how hard the children are working in the classroom setting.

As usual the newsletter has lots of news and reminders for events that are taking place over the next two weeks.

Clare Campbell



As part of the celebrations of all things book-related this week, earlier in the week we held our sale of pre-loved books. The National Literacy Trust's most recent research found that, due to increasing pressure on household budgets, parents are spending less on books. They report stated that nearly 9% of children in England do not own a single book. It was lovely therefore to see every child going home with at least one book that they could call their own.

Thank you to every parent and child that donated books - the variety and quality was incredible and the children were delighted with their hauls of books. A special thank you to the parents who gave their time to sort through the donations and organise the sale- your time and effort made this endeavour possible.

Parent Consultations

Bookings for parents evenings on Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th March went live on Monday. Please ensure you have booked your appointment as the booking system will close on Monday 17th March. Booking slots are 10 minutes per child so to help them to run to time, please knock on the classroom door when your time slot is due.

Entry and exit for all appointments is via the main entrance on Northolme Road.

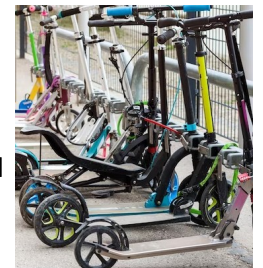
Parents of Nursery children should use the paper-based booking system available from the Nursery staff at drop off or pick up. Parents of children with an EHCP will have a separate meeting regarding their child's progress.

These meetings are a really important opportunity to share with you how your child is progressing both academically and socially so please make every effort to attend.



Bikes and Scooters

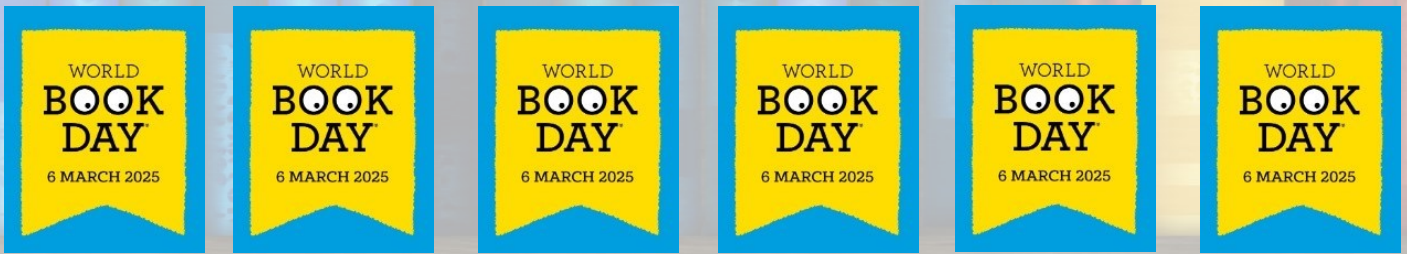
With the arrival of warmer weather, it is great to see so many of our children using bikes and scooters to travel to school. I'm sure there will be more scooters coming to school in the weeks ahead. If your child is bringing a scooter or bike to school, please remember to collect it that evening rather than leaving it on the school site. When Arsenal play at home, the playground is used for car parking and Mr Campana is having to store away up to 15 scooters on these evenings (this is why parents often report scooters missing when they have been left behind and then stored away). It would be of great help if all scooters and bikes could be collected every night. Please also remember that any bikes or scooters left on site. are left at the owner's risk.



Jumpers and Coats

With the warmer weather, children often remove their jumpers and coats when outside. Please make sure that they are labelled clearly so that, when lost, they can be reunited with their owners as soon as possible.





Inspiring a love of reading is one of the most important things we can do as a school. Thursday was World Book Day and we have filled this week with activities to support the children's passion for books.

On Thursday 6th March we launched the **2025 Readathon**, it runs until Wednesday 30th April. This is a great way to encourage our children to read and you can sponsor your child in their booklets (please check your child's bookbag) or on the Readathon website. See attached 'how to' details.

<https://sja.rallyup.com/2025/Campaign/Details>





Each day this week the teachers swapped classes to read their favourite stories with different children from across the school. We also held our preloved book sale on Tuesday which was a great success.

Yesterday, we had our traditional World Book Day celebration with the children dressing up in their dressing gowns and pyjamas. The nightwear theme was partly to encourage children to develop the habit of reading before bedtime and choosing books over screens.

Our English lead, Mr Shreeves, and the year 4 and 5 class librarians led an assembly on reading before bedtime. In the assembly the children discussed how screens before bed can often lead to a disrupted night's sleep— leaving us tired and grumpy in the morning and not able to learn well at school the next day.

The librarians shared that when we use screens before bedtime they give off 'blue light' - this tricks our brains into thinking that it's still daytime. This means that instead of getting sleepy, our brain stays wide awake, making it harder for us to fall asleep. Red light— from a sunset or a nightlight has the opposite effect and helps our brains wind down and get ready for sleep.

The children shared the following top tips to get a good night's sleep:

-  Turn off all screens **at least** one hour before bedtime
-  Keep your favourite books next to your bed so that they are waiting for you
-  Ask your adult to read to you before you sleep – they can read new and tricky books and then all you have to do is enjoy the story.
-  Don't have a screen or device in your bedroom— keep it somewhere else so you are not tempted to use it

We would encourage you all to adopt this excellent advice. Making a bedtime story part of the night-time routine is an excellent way to support a good night's sleep while also boosting your child's vocabulary, imagination and understanding of the world.



Jubilee 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope

This year is a significant year for the Church as it is the Jubilee which is celebrated every 25 years.

This year the whole school community is invited to stand in solidarity with people experiencing poverty, sharing hope that is rooted in love, deepening faith and taking action to build a better world for everyone.

So far this year at St Joan of Arc, we have had a huge clear out of old reading schemes that the school no longer use. Many of these books were in good condition so we contacted the charity Books2Africa to have the books shipped to Africa. We hope that these books will be used to support many children learning to read.

In addition to this, we are working alongside the St Vincent De Paul charity to collect for the food bank which is based at St Joan of Arc Church. This year, instead of collecting money for the CAFOD Lenten Appeal, we are hoping to collect much needed food for people living in our local community.

Starting on Monday 10th March, we invite you to bring in items from the list below to support people in need locally. As always, your generosity will be truly appreciated.



Foods to Donate:

Tinned food – fruit, vegetables, soups, meat or fish

Boxes of cereals

Pasta/rice

Jars of pasta sauce

Tea bags

Coffee

Sugar

UHT milk

Donations can be left in the boxes next to the office. Each week the Mini Vinnies will take all of the donations over to the Church. The last date for donations will be **Thursday 3rd April.**





Wellington Boot Appeal



Our Nursery are in need of wellington boots. If you have any old wellies that you no longer use, we are looking for some for the nursery so that outside can be used in all weathers. Ideally we would need wellies in sizes 6-12 (infant sizes).



Please leave donations with the office or nursery staff.



Thank you

Thinking of Selling or Letting Your Home?

Did you know we are partnering with Knight Frank Islington? Through our exclusive sponsorship, 10% of their commission will be donated directly to our school. Not only will you receive top-notch real estate services, but you'll also be contributing to a brighter future for our students.



March

Week Beginning Monday 10th

- 10th - Food Bank collection of Lent begins
- International Women's Day— PA activities for KS2
- Years 3,4,5 and 6 Tag Rugby Tournament
- Class L begin 2 week swimming programme

13th - Year 4 Trip to The British Museum

- 9am Parent/Caregiver Forum

14th - 8.30am Parent Support Network

Week Beginning Monday 17th

19th and 20th - 3.15-5.45pm – Parents evening

- 21st - 9.00am – School Mass led by 4I- Parents invited
- 8.30am—PA meeting

Week Beginning Monday 24th

27th - 8.45am Special Assembly Year 5/6 choir—parents invited

28th - 8.30am – Mother's Day Tea Party—Reception

Week Beginning Monday 31st

3rd April - Non uniform day—PA Easter Egg distribution

- Easter Passion Play—Y5 parents invited

4th - 9am End of Term Mass led by 4J—Parents invited

- **1.30pm – school closes for the Easter holidays**

