

Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Newsletter: March 2024

As the Spring term draws to a close, we welcome early signs of new life and warmer, brighter days. Lent is a time of reflection and renewal. As we reflect on the accomplishments of our school community, moments of joy and laughter and the strong sense of togetherness, displayed by all of our staff and children, we are grateful for our school family. We hope you will enjoy our 'renewed' newsletter and welcome any positive feedback or ideas about topics you would like covered.

Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

Psalm 27:14

Dates for your Diary:

- Monday 15th April – Start of the Summer Term
- Friday 19th April – Year 2 – Marwell Zoo trip
- Thursday 2nd May – Year 2 Mass (parents invited)
- Monday 6th May - School Closed for Early May Bank Holiday
- Monday 13th May – Thursday 16th May – Year 6 SATS
- Tuesday 21st May - Sports Day
- Friday, 24th May - Where's Wally Fun Run (information to follow)
- Monday 27th May - Friday 29th May - Half term
- Monday 3rd June 2024 & Tuesday 4th June 2024 - Inset Days
- Wednesday 5th June – Friday 14th June Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check
- Monday 10th June – Friday 14th June – Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
- Wednesday 11th June - Scholastic Summer Book Fair
- Thursday 20th June – Year 1 Mass (parents invited)
- Monday 8th - Friday 12th July – Year 6 Skern Lodge Residential
- Friday 24th July - Last day of term (Non Uniform Day)



Worship at Holy Family



“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that Everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life” *John 3:1*

Dear Lord,

During this season of Lent we ask You to remind us of what is important and what is not; of where we are wondering away and what we need to change; so that by Easter, we will be renewed and strengthened for Your service in the world.

Amen.

During this half term, our Year 5 and 6 pupils made the journey to Holy Family Church to join the parishioners in celebrating Mass. We also celebrated Mass together as a school for the Feast of St Joseph, who is one of our house Saints. Some of the children from St Joseph house were responsible for leading the readings and bidding prayers.

Finally, during Holy Week, the children participated in Lenten Liturgies, reflecting on the Easter story and the Stations of the Cross.

During the season of Lent, the children have been reflecting in their RE lessons on how we are all called to give alms to the poor and vulnerable. Jesus teaches us ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

We also took part in a CAFOD ‘Big Lent Walk’, helping to raise money for our global neighbours, whilst reflecting on the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert.

Congratulations to all of our Mission Statement Heroes throughout the month of March. You have all been exemplary examples of showing ‘God in your Hearts, Love in your Words, Family in your Actions’.

1P - George & Lincoln
1H - Elijah & Nevada
2C - Kemi & Jossiah
2S - Olivia & Francis
2A - Ivy & Mcfarrel

3NP - Emanuel & Reuben
3L - Jacob & Ella-Rae
3P - Godswill & Ella
4H - Tehila & Louie
4B - Ben & Temperance

5B - Eldho
5S - Hollie
6C - Georgio & Maciej
6A - Thomas

Curriculum Enrichment at Holy Family



World Book Day

Every corner of our school was alive with the magic of storytelling as children and teachers dressed up; inspired by their favourite characters. From the whimsical wonder of Alice in Wonderland to the daring adventures of pirates, each costume was a testament to the power of imagination and creativity. Throughout the day, creativity flowed freely as children engaged in a variety of book-themed activities. From writing their own short stories to designing book covers for imaginary tales, every activity sparked the flames of imagination and inspired a love for literature.

Year 2 Ducklings

Excitement filled the air in the Year 2 corridors as the children embarked on an extraordinary journey witnessing the miracle of life first-hand. Over a few days, the children eagerly monitored the duck eggs as part of their captivating science topic, exploring the life cycle of animals. After 4 days the eggs had hatched... not 1, not 2, but 5 little ducklings joined the cohort of Year 2. The children named, cuddled, fed and watered the little ducklings. A true learning opportunity we hope the children remember for years to come.

Year 4 Welsh National Opera

Year 4 were very fortunate this half term, when they were visited by some of the members of the Welsh National Opera who ran an interactive workshop for the children. The children had the opportunity to dig deep into the Opera "Carmen". They explored the key story of this opera and even got to learn some of the songs, using their bodies to provide percussion. The children took on the role of both the prisoners and the soldiers, singing in the role and showing their emotions through their actions. They then got to show off their acting skills even further through the use of freeze frames. The children were divided into smaller groups and had to create a freeze frame showing what they predicted the ending of the opera would be, and what would happen to the characters they had been introduced to. The staff and children were all incredibly impressed by this workshop and are now keen to learn even more about different operas.

School Council at Holy Family



This term our School Council members have been as busy as ever. We have been continuing to think about how we can continue to be good stewards of God's creation. As part of this, councilors were keen to walk the school grounds and do a litter pick. All of the School Council enjoyed doing this and have requested to do this more frequently. They were all proud to make a difference and have been delighted to see that they have inspired other members of the school to want to help out too! Over the coming weeks, we will be looking at some key British values, in particular democracy and the rule of law and how this impacts on us. Children will be taking part in 'The Big Legal Lesson' and learning about key laws that shape their daily lives. We will be learning about who has the power to make laws and thinking about what laws we would like to see in the future. We look forward to sharing our learning with our classmates and teachers.

In Gardening club we have been exploring the benefits of a permaculture garden. This is a concept based on principles of sustainability and working in alignment with the natural world. We are experimenting with Companion Planting, which can enhance growing conditions, attract pollinators and control pests without using any pesticides or chemical fertilisers. We are going to plant a bed using the Three Sisters method which was developed thousands of years ago by Native American tribes. This is where sweetcorn, beans and squashes are planted together, all facilitating the growth of the other crops -the squashes shade the soil and retain moisture, the sweetcorn provides a climbing support for the beans and the beans fix nitrogen into the soil which enhances the growth of the other two crops .

A big thank you to all the families who have given so generously this term; every single donation we receive makes a difference. Throughout Lent, the children have either walked around the school grounds or to Holy Family church and back to raise money for CAFOD, as part of The Big Lent Walk. Donations are still being accepted via our Justgiving page. All of our charities are chosen by the School Council. They research and consider each charity and then vote on which one they think is most worthy.



Year 1

Niya A , Toby , Grace & Sophia

Year 2

Maya , Beanie, Adam , Ella , Sophie & Zain

Year 3

Esther , Ella , Sonny , Grace , Alfie & Aishia

Year 4

Lylah - Rose , Dexter & Eliza Rae

Year 5

Georgie , Alfonso , Jace & Joanna

Year 6

Mati , Martha, Johanna & Nel

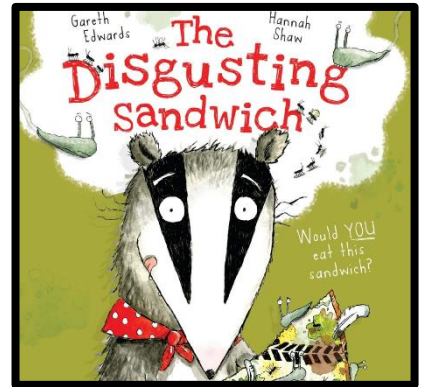


In the Spotlight

Writing

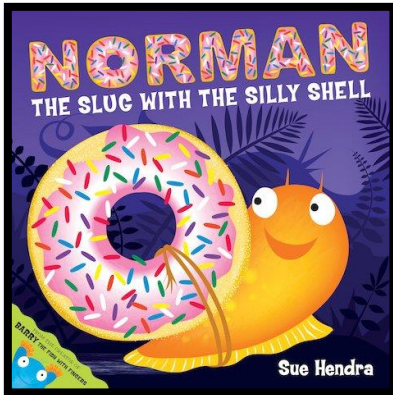
YR Writing:

A disgusting sandwich but for who? Me or you? Well, we can tell you. In Year R we have been busy retelling stories. We love to add our own actions and share them with intonation and excitement. The disgusting sandwich must be our favourite. We used this to then write instructions for how to make one of our very own.



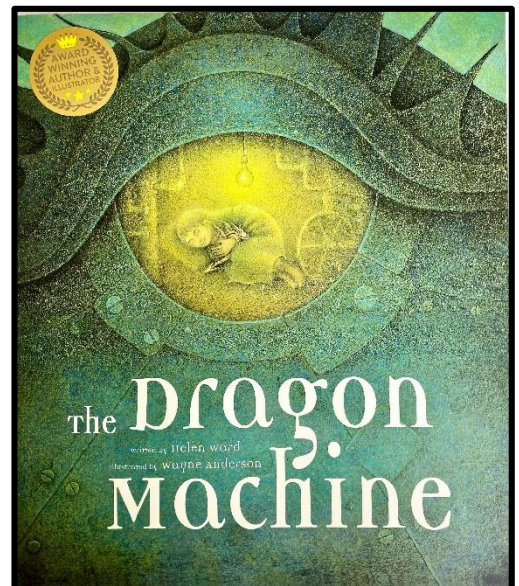
Y1 Writing:

Is it a bird? NO! Is it a plane? NO! It's Norman the slug who wants to be a snail! Halfway through the term we were sent a news report but not just any old news report! We were told Norman has been spotted flying through the sky in a pair of underpants. It was our job to write a Newspaper report to share this unique news. We used our knowledge of adjectives and verbs to describe what had been witnessed. We even use exclamations and questions in our writing.



Y2 Writing

We have had ducklings but things have just got a little bit more interesting! Now don't be too surprised but the children have been writing stories about the secret dragons they keep as pets however these dragons have been a little mischievous. They snuck into the children's book bags, knocked over pencil pots with their tails and even hid Miss Spencer-Turner's marking pens. The children had to use their imagination to make these creative ideas come to life. They have used a range of skills in their writing, including adjectives, verbs, adverbs and subordinating and co-ordinating conjunctions. For our publishing, we bound our stories into a class chapter book.

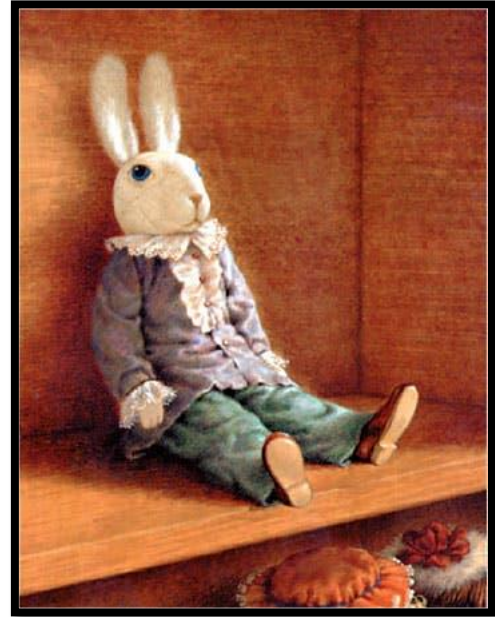


In the Spotlight

Writing

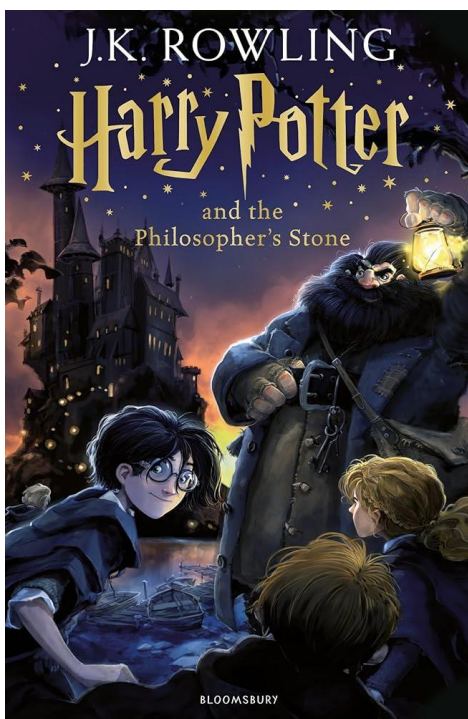
Y3 Writing

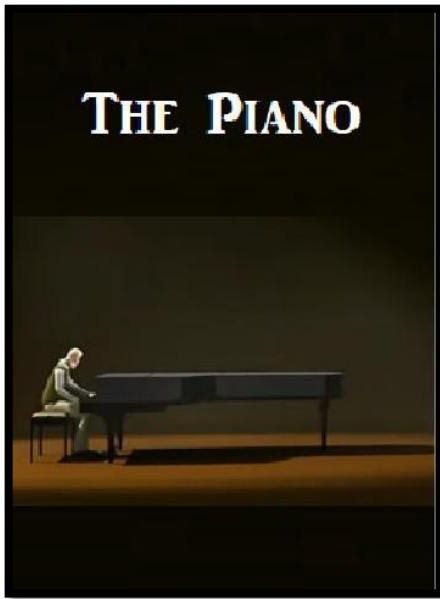
In writing, we have been focusing on a book called Edward Tulane. In the book, a pompous, selfish rabbit made of china gets thrown overboard and goes on a miraculous adventure to find his owner (Abilene) again. Along the way, he makes lots of new friends and learns how to feel love. First, the children wrote a diary entry from the perspective of Edward when he was thrown over the side of the boat. The children had to think about how to write in the role of Edward and pretend to be posh, sophisticated rabbits. Next, the children planned and wrote a journey narrative with a spooky twist. As Edward walked through an eerie wood, he encountered many scary things. The children had to think about how they would build tension throughout the story through the use of figurative language (adverbs, similes, personification etc). At the end of their narrative, Edward is finally reunited with Abilene. The children have really enjoyed the book this half term, especially meeting all the wonderful people that Edward spends time with throughout his journey.



Y4 Writing

For this writing unit the children will be writing in the role of Hagrid from Harry Potter. We will be challenging them to write a diary entry from Hagrid's perspective, considering his reflections in the moment and after the event. For the unit we are focusing on the children writing in 1st person and past tense, thinking carefully about the pronouns they are using to avoid repetition. We are really looking forward to reading their final pieces and seeing how they manage to achieve their "Hagridisms" through their use of characterisation, spelling and use of apostrophes for contractions. Children have had the opportunity to ask Hagrid questions, and to get a deeper understanding of who Hagrid is and the way he would behave.





Y5 Writing

Year 5 have worked very hard on their flashback narrative. We have been super impressed with the quality of their work. In particular, they have focused on the effect on the reader and on varying adverbial phrases. Additionally, they have deepened their understanding of characterisation using STEAL (speech, thoughts, emotions, actions, looks). The children have been able to apply their previous learning about building tension, and have worked on changing the pace from slow to fast, which shows a shift in atmosphere. Fantastic effort and engagement from all throughout the whole unit! We can't wait to see the final piece published.

Y6 Writing

What does it mean to be a survivor? Surviving has been a theme that Year 6 have been focusing on in their writing. Using the book 'Explorer' by Katherine Rundell, the children have been taking inspiration in writing an action packed narrative about children who are lost and trying to survive. They have integrated dialogue into their writing to show the different characters that are in their story alongside applying a balance of action and description. Everyone has enjoyed displaying their creative flare through their writing and illustrations of their final piece.

