

## Ursuline's November Newsletter

*Following in Jesus' footsteps we love, learn and grow together.*

### Reception

Reception welcomed three special visitors to school as part of our learning in our Come and See Religious Education topic called "Baptism: Welcome". Our visitors included two young babies who have been recently baptised. We were shown photographs of their special days, as well as special artefacts including the white shawl, candle and a lovely book from their Godparent which beautifully explained the important role a Godparent has. Maybe the children have asked you about their own baptism? We would love to see photographs of their special day if you would like to send them in.

We have also started to prepare for our Christmas Nativity by learning some of our songs. Please save the date Wednesday 13th December at 1.30pm!



## Year 1

In Year 1, we've started the new term with an exciting new design and technology topic. Over the next few weeks, we'll be delving into the world of cardboard sliders and levers, using them to create mesmerizing moving pictures. It's a hands-on adventure that promises to ignite the children's creativity and develop their design and making skills. Meanwhile, our history lessons are taking us on a fascinating journey into the past, as we delve into the topic of toys and leisure in bygone eras. We've had great fun exploring toys from the past and how they might be similar or different to those we play with today. We encourage families to join the conversation at home and perhaps share their own childhood memories of toys and games. And if that's not exciting enough, rehearsals for our Year 1 and 2 Christmas concert are just around the corner, featuring some brand-new songs that promise to bring warmth and festive cheer to the festive season. It's going to be a wonderful journey for our Year 1 students, and we can't wait to see all they'll achieve this term.



## Year 2

Year 2 have been busy scientists sorting and exploring different materials and then describing their properties. They have also loved exploring the story of the Dragon Machine, using role play to explore language such as 'overlooked', 'unseen' and 'unnoticed'. Year 2 led the whole school in a Prayer and Liturgy service for Remembrance Day. They led us in thoughtful prayer and reflection. Many thanks to Father Martin and Joan Palmer for joining us on this special occasion.



### Year 3

Year 3 have enjoyed beginning their new science topic of 'Rocks and Fossils'. We looked at the 3 types of rocks through a wonderful experiment using chocolate! The children were all hooked by this and were very excited to see chocolate in different forms.

We have also been using our wonderful new orienteering control points to help us with our Outdoor Adventurous Activities unit in PE and the children have enjoyed starting gymnastics in their indoor PE lesson where they have had the opportunity to practise rolls and balances and creating small sequences in groups. We have a wonderful DT project to come and our exciting Christmas rehearsals will be beginning soon so keep your eyes peeled! We certainly can't wait to see what the rest of the term has to offer!



### Year 4

We have begun our new history topic on the Romans and have really enjoyed invading our neighbouring Year 3 classes to understand the concept of invasion. We are looking forward to learning about the Romans and their impact on Britain this term. Keep your eyes peeled for details about an upcoming trip to Chester to explore and deepen our knowledge.

In maths, we have begun to develop our understanding of subtraction and used lots of concrete apparatus to consolidate the concept of exchanging. We have loved using the orienteering control points that have recently been installed around our school grounds. They enjoyed racing around the yard to find the information to help solve subtraction calculations. It really was maths in action. We are continuing our drumming lessons this term and have invited Year 4 families to a showcase of our drumming work in December.





## Year 5

What a fabulous start to the half term we have had! Our residential to Condoover Hall was an exciting adventure for all. We were able to experience activities such as aerial trek, abseiling, climbing, laser maze and grid of stones - to name just a few. Our team building skills developed and many personal challenges were conquered!



Moving forward this term, we are looking forward to learning about Britain's settlement by the Anglo-Saxons and Scots, exploring the 'Blues' in Music and getting festive with Ebenezer Scrooge in a Christmas Carol as our new text in English. We will be continuing with Military School every Thursday which will also include our PE of Dodgeball and Outdoor adventurous Activities. Please ensure that the children have suitable outdoor PE kit every Thursday with the weather being so unpredictable! We also have an exciting DT project coming soon. Watch this space 😊👉

## Year 6



Year 6 have been very busy so far this half-term as we have started our new topics of Anglo-Saxons & Vikings and Cooking in History and Design & Technology respectively. We have been completing timelines of British History to understand the historical chronology and we have also enjoyed sampling different types of stew as we prepare to make our own towards the end of the topic - the children were **very** keen to try out the different dishes! 😊

In Maths, we have been exploring decimals in more detail by multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1,000 and we are so excited to continue 'Anglo-Saxon Boy', our English

class text written by Tony Bradman. Please ensure your child has a suitable outdoor PE kit on a Monday (especially with the ever-changing weather!) and a full swimming kit on a Wednesday.



## **Sporting News**

Since our last Newsletter we have had two fantastic performances from our boys and girls football teams at tournaments. The boys finished a narrow 2<sup>nd</sup> but it was a superb effort not to concede a goal throughout the whole tournament and shows how much they are improving with every game.

The girls managed to go one better and won their tournament at Chesterfield High School on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November. They were fantastic with some fantastic performances from all of the children. Both of our teams have represented the school fantastically and we look forward to taking them to further games soon. Keep up the good work!

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November we participated in the Year 6 swimming gala. The children were fantastic and managed to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> place which is a wonderful achievement. We are so proud of all the children who took part and look forward to the next gala.

We have also had the opportunity to take some of our other children to a festival of sport where 12 of our pupils had the opportunity to go up against other schools and try sports that they haven't tried before. They also represented the school fantastically well. More opportunities will be coming up for children to represent our school so keep your eyes peeled.

## **Wednesday Word**

Don't forget to access this wonderful resource to support the sharing of the Gospel at home. Follow the link below to access our prayer resources page where you will find, amongst other resources, The Wednesday Word.

[Family Prayer Resource](#)



## **World Food Day**

Our whole school took part in World Food Day. We hosted Key Stage assemblies listening to 'The Feeding of the 5000' gospel as a great example of how Jesus showed his care and compassion to help those who were hungry and is the only miracle performed by Jesus which is recorded in all four Gospels Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:31-44, Luke 9:12-17 and John 6:1-14.

Special thanks to Denise Cottrell-Boyce (CAFOD parish volunteer) and Sr Anne Darwin (Our Parish Support Sister) then led each year group in a beautiful way of prayer session.





### All Saints Day & All Souls Day

Our classes from Years 1 and 2 joined parishioners for mass at St Joseph's Church to celebrate 2000 years of Saints in the church and to remember family members who have died.

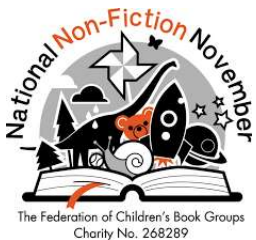
### Book of Remembrance

During the month of November, our Book of Remembrance is available in the outer foyer for all to add to as a lasting testament to the memory of your loved one. Our loved ones will be remembered in our daily Prayer and Liturgy time.



### Rosary Club

Joan Palmer (parish catechist) continues to lead us in the Rosary on Thursdays. It is wonderful to see our pupils making their own rosary beads to use to pray with their families.



Join in our **Non-fiction November** (and beyond!) celebrations at home.

Encourage your child(ren) to read for knowledge and facts as well as enjoyment.

During November, each class will read and explore non-fiction in class Book Club time or as a read-aloud.

Send in a 'Bookselfie' of your child(ren) reading a **non-fiction** text, magazine, newspaper, subtitles on a TV programme to [ks1work@ursulineprimary.co.uk](mailto:ks1work@ursulineprimary.co.uk) or [ks2work@ursulineprimary.co.uk](mailto:ks2work@ursulineprimary.co.uk)

Your child(ren) can share their new learning in class Book Gossips.

Visit your local library to choose from an abundance of non-fiction reading.

Non-fiction book recommendations can also be found on many websites including National Literacy Trust, BookTrust, TheReadingAgency and LoveReading4Kids.

## 500 Words

Well done to all our 'Wicked Writers' who have entered the 500 Words Writing Competition. It is truly fantastic to read your entries. Good luck to all!



## Book Fair

Big thanks to all for supporting our latest book fair and a special thank you to our Reading Ambassadors for promoting their love of reading by recommending books at the fair and managing the sales. We raised around £500 in commission to spend on books for our Reading for Pleasure book spine.



## Author Visit

Frank Cottrell-Boyce dropped into Y6 to read from his book 'The Unforgotten Coat' and share his fun in writing 'Paddington and Queen Elizabeth 11.'

*'Thank you for everything Frank.'*





## Wouldn't it be wonderful if we were all to apply for a Blue Peter Book badge

Introducing the exciting new Book badge, designed by one of the UK's best known illustrators, Sir Quentin Blake; who you might know from bringing to life characters such as Roald Dahl's BFG and Matilda! To earn your badge, you just share your love of books by clicking the link below and completing the form [www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/findoutmore/blue-peter-apply-for-a-book-badge](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/findoutmore/blue-peter-apply-for-a-book-badge)



Complete the form by talking about a book you have read and what you think about it. Maybe you liked the characters, or perhaps you enjoyed going on exciting adventures in faraway places. Upload your illustration of a character or a scene from the story. This could be a drawing, painting or even digital artwork. Let them know what other books and authors you have enjoyed reading and why.

So, what are you waiting for? Pick up a book, explore our school library, or become a member of your local library and you could be on your way to earning your very own Book badge! If you need help from school, please please ask a member of staff or your class Reading Ambassador.

## Healthy Lunchboxes

We encourage all our parents/carers who provide a packed lunch for their child to provide a balanced meal. Government guidelines recommend that a packed lunch should include:

- One portion of fruit or vegetables each day.
- Meat, fish or another source of non-dairy protein each day (e.g. lentils, beans, pulses, falafel).
- A starchy food each day e.g. rice, potatoes, pasta, noodles, couscous, cereals.
- A dairy food each day e.g. milk, cheese, yoghurt, fromage frais.
- An oily fish at least once every three weeks.

Children are not allowed to bring in fizzy drinks or energy drinks as part of their packed lunch. For further information on healthy lunchboxes please follow the link below.



<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>



### **Healthy Snacks**

All children in the infants are provided with fruit or vegetables at breaktime. Children in KS1 and KS2 can bring in a healthy snack to have at breaktime. Children should not bring in crisps, chocolate and biscuits to have as a snack.

### **PE Kits**

On PE days, please ensure your child is wearing their school PE kit:

- House team coloured T-shirt with school logo (red, yellow, green or blue)
- Navy Blue shorts/skorts
- Black jogging bottoms (If weather is cold)
- Black sweatshirt (If weather is cold)
- Velcro fastening or pull-on pumps or trainers

**Football kits or multicoloured hoodies/sweatshirts should not be worn. Please let school know if you have any difficulties purchasing the correct PE Kit.**

### **Curriculum information**

Don't forget that our website contains information about the curriculum for all subjects. Visit our class pages for up-to-date information about what is happening in each of our year groups.

### **Holiday requests**

School has recently received a number of term time holiday requests. As a reminder, we are unable to authorise term time holidays (apart from some exceptional circumstances). Holidays taken during school time may incur a fine.

**Some dates for your diary:**

15.11.23	Reception Open Evening for Prospective Families 2024-2025
16.11.23	Whole School Flu Vaccination Programme
30.11.23	Reception Open Evening for Prospective Families 2024-2025
1.12.23	Santa Dash
6.12.23	Book Look for Families 3:30pm-5:30pm
11.12.23	Christmas Performance for Year 3 Families 1:30pm
12.12.23	Christmas Performance for Year 4 Families 1:30pm
13.12.23	Christmas Performance for Reception Families 1:30pm
14.12.23	Christmas Performance for Year 1 Families 1:30pm
15.12.23	Christmas Performance for Year 2 Families 1:30pm
19.12.23	Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day
20.12.23	Year 5 & Year 6 Carol Concert St Joseph's Church 6:30pm
21.12.23	Christmas Party Day
22.12.23	School Closes for Christmas 2pm