



St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery Weekly Newsletter



Friday 4th March 2022

This week, Lent has begun with Ash Wednesday. In school, we have written our own Lent promises. It can sometimes be challenging to keep our Lenten promises, but we ask for God's strength. We also remember that he is a merciful God who always forgives us when we say sorry.



Loving Father,
As we begin the holy time of Lent, help us to come closer to you and to open our hearts to your love, by praying more, by loving one another, by giving up something we enjoy.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.



Many of our pupils are understandably feeling very anxious about current events in the news. As part of World Day of Prayer in school, the children have been sharing prayers for peace in the world.

Loving God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.

We pray for the world
that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways
so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of
Ukraine
and for all the world.

Amen.

If your child is feeling worried about the situation in Ukraine, or about any thing else that they have seen in the news, you may want to use these resources from the BBC parents' toolkit to help. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zvpvbqt>

You could also watch the CAFOD children's prayer for peace as a family. <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Children-s-prayers/Peace-children-s-prayer>

Learning in Early Years this Week

This week has been a very busy week in the Early Years. The week began by learning about the meaning of Lent. We learnt all about what happens on Ash Wednesday and afterwards, the children made their own Lenten Promises, thinking not only about things they could give up, but also things they could do for others.





On Tuesday, we celebrated Shrove Tuesday! The children enjoyed pancakes with their friends and chose their own toppings. Lots of children made fantastic pancakes at home too! We talked about why people eat pancakes just before Lent and also how the Shrove Tuesday is celebrated in different parts of the United Kingdom.

On Ash Wednesday, the children received ashes on their forehead to mark the beginning of Lent. For many children this was the first time of receiving ashes and they were all very respectful and sensible.



On Thursday, we celebrated World Book Day. The children were so excited to dress up as their favourite characters. They all took part in a fantastic parade in the early year's playground and got to show off their amazing costumes to all their friends. We read lots of interesting books on this day and reinforced the love of reading within our school.





In other news, as part of our new topic, 'Off on an Adventure', the children were very excited to explore their brand new role-play areas. In Nursery, the children have been using their backpacks and binoculars around the campfire. In Class RM, the children have been astronauts, using their spaceship to travel to different planets. In Class RC, the children have been suiting up to save the day as Superheroes!



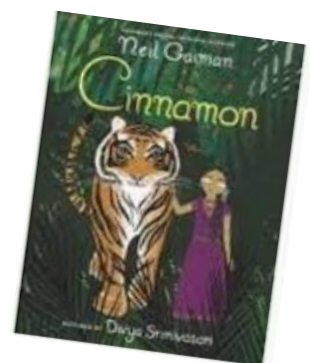
On Thursday, our school took part in World Book Day. This special day celebrates the joy of books and reading. The children came dressed as a myriad of book characters including Harry Potter, and multiple princesses across the year groups, we also had Willy Wonka, Anne of Green Gables, Harry Potter, Where's Wally, Gangsta Granny, and the Cat in the Hat, amongst many others. They all looked fantastic!

KS1 based their work around the **Paddington** books. The children made marmalade sandwiches, crowns, book marks and models of Paddington.



Lower KS2 based their work around **King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table**. They painted stones, wrote potions, created comic strips and wrote about book characters.

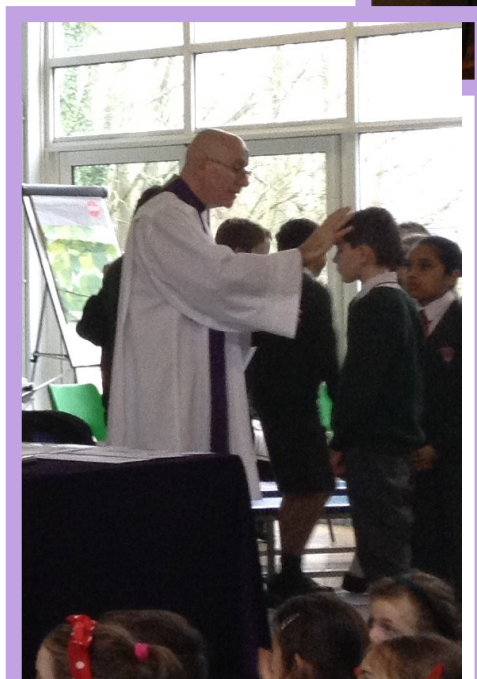
Upper KS2 looked at the book **Our Queen Elizabeth**. They imagined what it would be like to be a king or queen for the day and they painted portraits of the Queen. They also read the poem **Cinnamon** by Neil Gaiman and wrote diamante poems choosing the language for effect to create the shape of diamond. They also enjoyed writing limericks!



Ash Wednesday

On Ash Wednesday, our parish priests Father Michael and Father Andrew came to school to lead two Ash Wednesday services, one on the upper and one on the lower site. Our wonderful Pupil Chaplains from Years 5 and 6 led the prayers and readings. After presenting their class Lenten promises to be blessed, all of those children who wished to received an ash cross on their foreheads to symbolise repentance.

The service was a prayerful, reflective occasion and was enhanced by the children's beautiful singing of 'The Servant King', 'Once Again', and 'Thank you for Loving Me'.





CCS Lenten Appeal: One Community

On Monday, Emily Mundon visited school to present an assembly about the Catholic Children's Society's Lenten appeal. This year's appeal is inspired by Pope Francis's call to support everyone's mental health by building a 'culture of community'. Every penny raised will support the charity's work with local disadvantaged children and families. After the assembly, every child took home a collection box. This should be returned to school by the end of term. Thank you all for your continuing support for our charity appeals.



Parish News

Reminder: Everyone is welcome to take part in our Lenten CAFOD fast day homemade soup and bread lunch at noon on Saturday 12th March in the Church Hall. This will be followed around 1pm by the film *The Star (U)* - a cartoon version of the Christmas Story with an unusual twist. It is a FREE event with the opportunity to make a donation to CAFOD on the day. Organised by the Parish Justice and Peace group.