



Dear SSAS parents and carers,

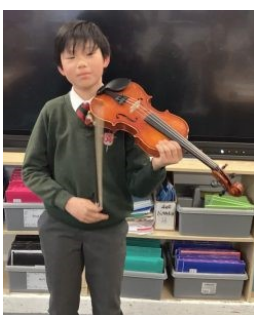
Last half term was very busy and exciting with lots of valuable learning experiences taking place. Year 4 attended swimming lessons every morning for two weeks. One teacher commented, "I couldn't believe the progress that the children made in such a short time. By the end, they were all so confident in the water!" Thank you to the PTA for paying for the cost of the coach to swimming. Many Year 5 pupils took part in the Bikeability programme, which teaches cycling proficiency on the roads. Despite freezing and wet conditions, most pupils were able to cycle safely around the local area and are now ready to set out on their bikes to school as the warmer weather approaches.

Maths came to the forefront during Maths Week. The NSPCC Number day was great fun, with everyone dressing up in numbered or patterned clothing and taking part in jelly-bean themed maths activities based around the book 'How Many Jellybeans?' We raised nearly £200 for the NSPCC.

It was also a good half term for Music, with Year 5 performing a range of songs including the Matilda Medley in the Young Voices concert at Wembley Arena watched by families and friends. A Year 5 pupil said, 'It was the best day ever! I never thought I would be performing at Wembley.'

During Mental Health and Wellbeing Week, pupils thought about how it is important to express yourself, and they learnt that their voice matters. In an excellent example of pupil voice, Neve, Aida and Orlaith from Year 5 gathered dozens of names on a petition to have a school talent show. Their efforts culminated in 'Express Your Voice' class shows in which everyone who wanted to could express themselves through singing, playing an instrument, dance, gymnastics, poetry, rapping, drama monologues and sketches and even clowning! It was wonderful to see the confidence of those children who performed and the support given to them by their classmates. Thank you to everyone who donated over £140 for our chosen children's mental health charity, Place2Be.

Other exciting events across the school last half-term included an Egyptian-themed day for Year 3, Chinese New Year celebrations in Nursery, Reception and Year 2, and a visit from an Easyjet film crew for Willow Year 2 Class. The half term ended in style with Year 1's fabulous curriculum assembly, in which they showcased their musical talents and all of their learning.



## Catholic Life



Lent began with an Ash Wednesday liturgy led by the Pupil Chaplaincy Team. Fr Michael and Fr John marked an ash cross on all of our foreheads to represent our repentance. Each class wrote their Lent promises and these were brought up to the front during the liturgy.

Father Michael worked with our Prayer Leaders earlier in the half term to teach them about the importance of Lent. They will be leading prayer throughout Lent using the Stations of the Cross.

Our Catholic Social Teaching theme this half term has been ‘Solidarity and Peace’. Classes created different artwork to encourage everyone to live in peace and harmony. In assemblies and pupil-led prayer and liturgy, we reflected on the Bible verse Matthew 5:9 -

*Blessed are the peacemakers,*

*for they will be called sons and daughters of God.'*



The Year 5 and 6 Squabble Squashers, who were trained by the charity Herts Mediation last term, have been hard at work every lunchtime helping their peers to resolve minor squabbles. On average, at least two squabbles are being squashed every single lunchtime! The wonderful Squabble Squashers are living out the Catholic Social Teaching principle of 'Solidarity and Peace'.



## Online Safety

During E-safety Day in February, everyone across the school had a special day learning about how to keep themselves safe online. You can read more about the work that the children did and see a range of helpful information sources for parents in the e-safety newsletter sent out by Mr Miller, our Computing Lead, and on our website: <https://www.ssas.herts.sch.uk/school-information/e-safety/>

## Reminders

Spring is finally just around the corner! Although we hope for some warmer weather soon, please continue to send your child in wearing the winter uniform and a warm coat until the end of term .

Events coming up this term include the PTA Quiz (March 1st), World Book Day (March 7th), Science & Engineering Week (March 11th -15th), our Year 5 Easter Passion Play (March 26th) and Parent Consultations (March 27th School closed 1-7pm). We look forward to welcoming you into school to share in these occasions.



With best wishes,

Ms Hackett

Head of School

