



# NEWSLETTER

Headteacher: Mrs Maria Whitehead



Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Parents,

The season of Lent has begun and the snowdrops and daffodils remind us that we have much to be thankful for, and much to look forward to.

Years 4, 5 and 6 walked to St Mary Magdalene's on Wednesday for an Ash Wednesday service with children from St Mary Magdalene's school. It was lovely to be able to mix with them in church again after 2 years of Covid restrictions.

We had a visitor on Monday from the charity CAFOD who spoke to the children about the Walk against Hunger, which is our Lenten charity. The children brought home sponsor forms on Wednesday and we will log the daily mile during Lent for sponsorship. The money raised will help starving children all over the world.

Lent is a time to think of others and in assembly I talked to the children about the need to pray for others during Lent; the need to consider their actions and always choose to be kind in Lent; and to consider giving something up in Lent as a sign of fellowship with other children around the world who have much, much less than them.

During Lent we say the Lenten Fast prayer to remind us of how we should behave:

Kind regards

Mrs Whitehead



## *A Special Lenten Fast*

*Give up unkind words and use kind ones  
Give up anger and be gentle and patient  
Give up worrying and trust in God  
Give up complaining and value what you have  
Give up being unforgiving and learn to forgive  
Give up selfishness and think of others  
Give up sadness and fill your heart with joy  
Give up words and listen to others  
Give up noise and action and be still*

## Family Friendly Friday

Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who joined us last Friday for coffee, cake and a chat followed by time in class with the children. Everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves; there were lots of smiling faces and we received some lovely feedback. Look out for the next Family Friendly Friday next term!

We received £175 in donations for the coffee and cake, and we raised £179 for the raffle. This is amazing and all goes into the PTA funds.

A big thank you must go to Mrs Ahmed, mother of Daneen and Hamza, who donated all the lovely Bodyshop toiletries for the raffle hamper. Mr Jones, father of Florence in Y3, was the happy winner.

Thank you all so much for your generosity.



## Scholastic Book Club

Don't forget that our latest Scholastic Book Club is now online at <https://shop.scholastic.co.uk/schools/st-josephs-parkhill/digital-book-club>. There are hundreds of fantastic children's books to choose from, and every £1 you spend on this month's Book Club will earn 20p for our school in Scholastic Rewards. Please place your order online by March 11th, 2022.

## Covid-19

As you are all aware, the government recently announced the lifting of most Covid restrictions. Although it is no longer a legal requirement, we feel it is sensible that if your child is unwell and displaying the main symptoms of Covid that they stay at home, that you test them and they return after 2 negative lateral flow results on days 5 and 6. In this way, we can protect staff and children and hopefully minimise the disruption that is caused by this illness. We had more cases of Covid in the staff and children in December and January than ever before, but thankfully we have no positive cases at the moment. It has been quite difficult to manage in school so we are happy with spring coming that Covid infections will decrease as the temperature rises. If you suspect that your child may have symptoms of Covid, then please ring the office and we will advise what to do.

## Ian Bland - Poet's Visit

Local poet, Ian Bland, came in last Wednesday and we all had a fabulous time listening to his poetry then writing poetry with him. The day ended with an assembly when all the children performed their poems. The children had the opportunity to buy one of his poetry books and have it signed by him. This event was organised by Mrs Haasbroek to enthuse the children about poetry in the run up to World Book Day which was on Thursday. The children are all writing poetry in their English lessons this week and we are compiling a school poetry book which will contain a poem written by every child in school. Watch this space!



## Arty-Fact theatre

The children enjoyed 'Calamity Climate Change' on Tuesday this week which was a funny and entertaining performance teaching the children about caring for the environment. This was instead of the planned Christmas performance in December which was cancelled due to the actors having Covid. It was certainly worth the wait!

Arthur, in Year 1, said after the show, " That was so funny! I loved it!"

## Poetry Vanguard and ESB examinations

The children in years 3 and 4 are busy learning their poems and practising them in preparation for their Poetry Vanguard exam on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The children in years 5 and 6 are also busy preparing for English Speaking Board exams on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Both of these are nationally recognised examinations which help our pupils gain confidence in public speaking and presenting. Our pupils have always excelled in this area so we are looking forward to another great set of results.

## Cake Sale

We had a wonderful week of playtime cake sales last week. Thank you to everyone who baked or bought cakes for us to sell. Thank you to the year 6 Faith Ambassadors for giving up their playtimes to man the stall and sell the cakes. We raised an amazing £244 for Pendleside Hospice. They will be thrilled by your generosity.

## Quiz and Movie Night - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Tickets will be on sale from next week for the Adults Quiz Night and Children's Movie Night. Tickets £10 for the Adults's Quiz (incl. supper) and £5 for Movie Night (incl. Pizza and Popcorn). Thank you for your support.



## KS1 Sportshall Athletics

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March the Infants Athletics team competed against 5 other schools in their first Athletics competition. They went to Spirit of Sport and had to do running, throwing and jumping events. They all performed brilliantly and thoroughly enjoyed the competition. A big thank you to Miss Grillo and Mrs Barker, and also Mrs Eddy and Mr Pilkington for help with transport.

