

*Together we follow Jesus' footsteps in our living and learning.*

*Article 17: Children have the right to access information*

**31 March 2023**

Dear Families

It has been a joy to work with your children this term. They have embraced all of the opportunities that have been on offer this term, especially all of the opportunities for prayer and reflection during Lent. OPAL playground has started and the children and staff are really enjoying the transformation in play. We are all looking forward to the new zones opening after the Easter break.

Mrs Binney and Mrs Hague have started their maternity leave and we welcome Mrs Mills who joined the staff team once again to teach Year 2.

### **Curriculum News**

This term we have had Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes enjoy RE visits to our local church St Charles'. Year 4 and Year 6 visited Newcastle Central Mosque.



In D&T this term the children have enjoyed carrying out task analysis and evaluating their end products.

We all enjoyed World Book Day and the breakfast at the start of the day. The children enjoyed being read to by different staff members and enjoyed reading books and publishing their own work inspired by them. It was a great end to the day with the PTA World Book Day Disco.





Author Jenny Pearson visited Key Stage 2 and led some story telling workshops with the children. They were enjoyed by all!

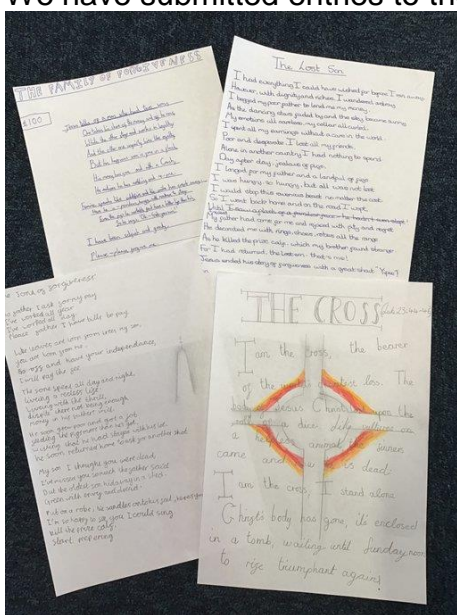
Year 6 produced some fantastic spiritual art as part of their Eucharist topic this term. Well done!



## Poetry Day – Let the Scripture Speak

We all enjoyed World Poetry Day where we looked at Let the Scripture Speak Personification Poetry Challenge. We had some fantastic poetry performances!

We have submitted entries to the competition. Good luck everyone!



World Scripture Day poems.



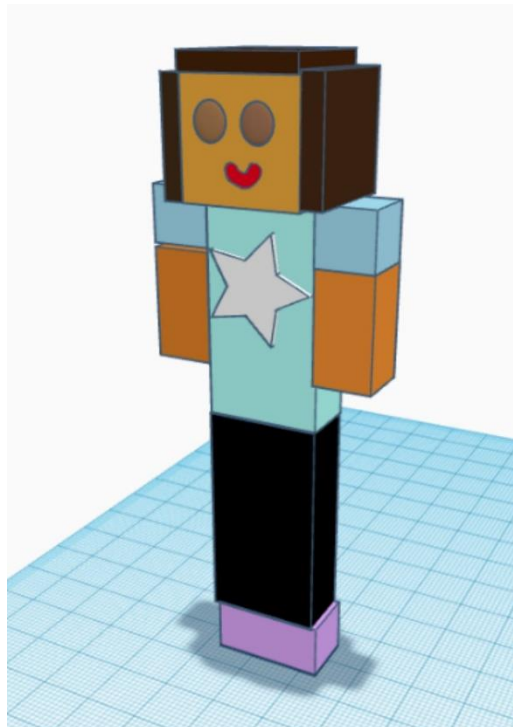
## Computing

Year 6 have enjoyed learning how to use a spreadsheet. This is a great skill to have!



## DT

Year 3 worked so hard designing and building their 3D avatars in TinkerCAD as part of their Digital Worlds DT topic. Great job Year 3!



## Music

We have all enjoyed a wonderful Rocksteady performance this afternoon. Well done to the children. It was a fantastic end to the term.

The children in school shared their musical skills and vocabulary with Mrs Nealings and Mrs Bertenshaw this week. I was impressed at the children's knowledge of musical vocabulary after visiting your lessons.



## **Sport**

It has been a busy term of football fixtures for St. Charles', despite the challenges of some poor weather! Both our boys' and girls' teams have performed admirably in every fixture. Our Year 5/6 boys' team did particularly well in finishing second in the Simpson's League, winning most of our games, despite facing many far bigger schools!

We look forward to numerous exciting sporting contests next term in the Gosforth Catholic Cup against St Oswald's. These will involve pupils across the school and will give lots of children a taste of competitive sport!

There will be a KS2 cross country running competition on 24 April. A letter with further information has been emailed to KS2 families today.

## **Safeguarding**

The staff in school responsible for safeguarding and child protection are: Mrs Nealings, Miss Thomas and Miss Micklethwaite. Mrs Devine-Wilkinson is the link safeguarding governor.

If you have any concerns, please contact them via the school office.

NSPCC workshops took place in Year 5 and Year 6 this term. The children learned about how to Speak Out and Stay Safe.



On 18 March, it was Child Exploitation Awareness Day. You can access information for parents on the link below:

[Helpful Guides - STOP CE - \(stop-ce.org\)](https://www.stop-ce.org/)

## **Parking in School Car Park**

Please do not leave your engine running, especially when you are parked in the drop off zone. This is for drop off only and no vehicles should be idling in that zone. The Safe Squad have been creating posters to make parents and carers more aware. These are on display in the car park.



## **Contact Details**

If any of your contact details change (ie address, telephone numbers, email addresses) or pupil collection arrangements change, please update us.

## **Attendance**

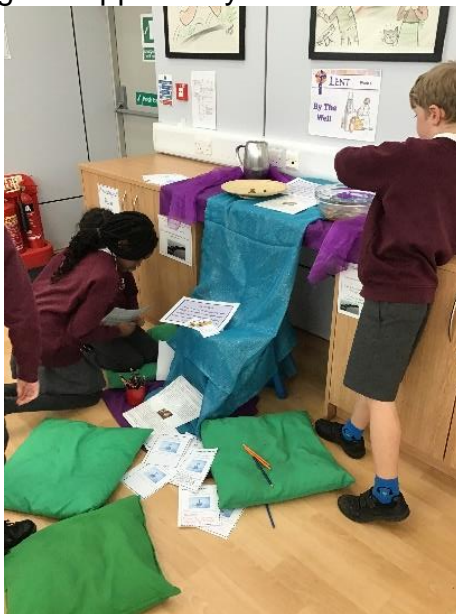
Thank you for your ongoing support with attendance and punctuality. As you know, good attendance and punctuality is something we really value at St Charles' and this can improve your child's life chances. However, we do understand that children will become unwell and when they are poorly the best place for them is at home to recover.

It is a requirement for school to monitor attendance. If you need any support with attendance, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We are aware the wording of attendance letters can be very formal due to their legal nature and they have to be sent to all parents with parental responsibility. Where possible, staff will always try and have a conversation with families, when we know there are circumstances that affect attendance.

Please be reassured that we know families value their child's education and support attendance. We understand on occasions, there are times that your child cannot attend school or may have a valid reason to be late or absent.

## **Catholic Life**

This Lent, groups in school have been setting up an area where the children can reflect and pray. The children have enjoyed having this opportunity.



Each week, the children are asked to think about how they can learn from God's word and live out a mission inspired by the Sunday Gospel reading. During Lent, the children have made God's love curtains and lanterns to let their light shine and created reflective prayers using torches to reflect how they can be the light and share God's love.

Well done to all of the children for sharing their missions this term from prayer and liturgy. It was lovely to see everyone's light shine with torch prayers. Each class created a God's love curtain at the start of Lent and they have reminded us each day how much God loves us. There have been so many ways to prayer creatively. Remember to act out your missions at home and in our community too!



Year 4 torch prayers



God's love curtain



Year 6 Balloon Prayers

The children in Year 6 have had the opportunity for reconciliation this Lent. Thank you to Fr Michael for joining us.



Reconciliation in for Year 6 pupils this Lent.

### **Holy Week**

Thank you to KS2 children for helping us reflect and join together in prayer as we prepare for Holy Week.



Year 3 Palm Sunday





Year 4 Last Supper



Year 5 Garden of Gethsemane



Year 6 Stations of the Cross

## Big Lent Walk



Mrs Binney was interviewed by Kelly Scott from BBC Radio Newcastle on Sunday 19 March to talk about the Big Lent Walk. You can listen to the interview here or find the link on our twitter page. [Kelly Scott - 19/03/2023 - BBC Sounds](#)

Well done to everyone who completed The Big Lent Walk and we have raised £385 for CAFOD this Lent. The link to add any donations is <https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/st-charles-catholic-primary-school-gosforth>



Year 4 Big Lent Walk



Year 5

### **Pupil Groups**

Thank you to the Year 6 Faith in Action group who organised selling purple wristbands and biodegradable glitter for Lent. They raised £200 for the CAFOD emergency fund to help people affected by the earthquake in Syria and Turkey.



Bible Crew and Laudato Leaders are planning their Prayer in Paradise area in the playground. We hope to have this up and running next term.

Bible Crew have been reading various scripture this term. Next term, I hope they will start leading their own Bible Crew with other children in school. More on this next half term.

### **PTA**

Thank you for organising the World Book Day Disco. The children had a great time and they raised £600.

The Easter Egg competition was a huge success this year. Some fantastic entries from all year groups. It was a very difficult decision. Thank you to the PTA for purchasing the prizes and hosting the coffee afternoon after school.



## **School News**

### **OPAL**

The children have been loving their lunch play experiences as we continue to develop our provision over lunchtimes.



Forest school provision will be opening next half term. The children will have an OPAL assembly next term so they know how to play safely in the new zones.

### **Parent Workshops**

Thank you to all of the Reception parents who attended the Maths workshop this term. We hope you found the session useful. Thank you to Miss Micklethwaite and Miss Cranney for organising and sharing their wonderful classroom with families.



## **General Notices**

### **School Closure on 8 May 2023**

The school will be closed to pupils and staff on Monday 8 May for the new King's Coronation.

### **Reception Class**

Mrs Birkbeck joins us after the Easter break as our Reception Class Teacher and Early Years Leader. Her first day with the children will be 17 April 2023. Miss Micklethwaite's last day with us will be 30 April 2023. I am sure we will all make her very welcome to our school community.



**Swimming**

Year 4 will be swimming at Gosforth pool next term. Please refer to the letter from Miss Greatrex.

**School Meals**

Remember to ensure your ParentPay account has enough funds to cover your child's school meals. Accounts should not be in debt.

Have a happy and Holy Easter break with your families.



Mrs Nealings  
Head Teacher

Newsletter 7 2022/2023

Tel: 0191 285 2553 / Email: [office@stcharlesprimary.uk](mailto:office@stcharlesprimary.uk) [www.stcharlesprimary.uk](http://www.stcharlesprimary.uk)

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## Diary Dates Summer Term 2023

Day	Date	April 2023	Class
Monday	17/4/2023	School reopens	
Monday	17/4/2023	Discovery Museum visit	Year 5
Tuesday	18/4/2023	SATs information meeting for parents/carers	Year 2 - 3.20pm
Thursday	20/4/2023	Phonics Screening information meeting for parents/carers	Year 1 3.20pm – 3.30pm
Friday	21/4/2023	Earth Day – led by Laudato Leaders	Whole school
Tuesday	25/4/2023	Scotswood Garden visit	Reception Class
Wednesday	26/4/2023	Discovery Museum visit	Year 4
Wednesday	26/4/2023	Team Challenge Day – details to follow	Year 1 and Year 2
Day	Date	May 2023	Class
Monday	1/5/2023	Bank Holiday – <b>school closed to staff and children</b>	
Tuesday	2/5/2023	2 weeks of swimming every school day from today until 12/5/2023	Year 4
Tuesday	2/5/2023	End of unit – class liturgical prayer	Year 5 - 2.55pm
Wednesday	3/5/2023	End of unit – class liturgical prayer	Year 1 - 2.55pm
Wednesday	3/5/2023	End of unit – class liturgical prayer	Year 3 - 2.55pm
Thursday	4/5/2023	End of unit – class liturgical prayer	Year 2 - 2.55pm
Thursday	4/5/2023	End of unit – class liturgical prayer	Reception - 2.55pm
Monday	8/5/2023	King Charles' II Coronation Day – <b>school closed to staff and children</b>	
ITu	8/5/2023	Year 6 SATs week	Year 6
Monday	15/5/2023	Commando Joe's Day	Year 1
Tuesday	16/5/2023	Commando Joe's Day	Reception Class
Wednesday	17/5/2023	Commando Joe's Day	Nursery
Thursday	18/5/2023	End of unit – class liturgical prayer	Year 4 - 2.55pm
Thursday	18/5/2023	End of unit – class liturgical prayer	Year 6 - 2.55pm
Thursday	18/5/2023	Commando Joe's Day	Year 2



Monday	22/5/2023	Commando Joe's Day	Year 6
Tuesday	23/5/2023	Commando Joe's Day	Year 5
Wednesday	24/5/2023	Commando Joe's Day	Year 4
Thursday	25/5/2023	Commando Joe's Day	Year 3
Thursday	25/5/2023	Lives Tales story writing at Live Theatre	Year 5
Friday	26/5/2023	Lives Tales story writing at Live Theatre	Year 6
Friday	26/5/2023	Last day of term	Whole School
<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>June 2023</b>	<b>Class</b>
Monday	5/6/2023	Staff training day – <b>school closed to all children</b>	
Tuesday	6/6/2023	School reopens	Whole School
Wednesday	7/6/2023	Laing Art Gallery visit	Year 4
Friday	9/6/2023	Lives Tales story writing at Live Theatre	Year 4
Sunday	10/6/2023	First Holy Communion at St Charles' Church	Year 4
Tuesday	13/6/2023	Celebration Assembly	Year 2 – 9.10am
Thursday	15/6/2023	Celebration Assembly	Year 1 – 9.10am
Friday	16/6/2023	Lives Tales story writing at Live Theatre	Year 3
Tuesday	20/6/2023	Celebration Assembly	Year 3 – 9.10am
Wednesday	21/6/2023	Residential at Borrowdale 21/6/2023 to 23/6/2023	Year 6
Monday	26/6/2023	Careers Week – details to follow	
Tuesday	27/6/2023	Celebration Assembly	Year 4 – 9.10am
Tuesday	27/6/2023	Early Years Welcome Meeting for NEW Nursery and Reception parents joining Sept 2023	5pm
Wednesday	28/6/2023	Cathedral Leavers Mass – <b>TBC</b>	Year 6
Thursday	29/6/2023	Discovery Museum visit	Year 3
<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>July 2023</b>	<b>Class</b>
Tuesday	4/7/2023	Celebration Assembly	Year 5 – 9.10am
Thursday	6/7/2023	Celebration Assembly	Nursery – 9.10am
Monday	10/7/2023	End of Year School Reports issued	Whole school
Tuesday	11/7/2023	Celebration Assembly	Year 6 – 9.10am

Wednesday	12/7/2023	Year 6 transition day at St Mary's, Sacred Heart and St Cuthbert's	Year 6
Wednesday	12/7/2023	Laudato Leaders beach litter pick – details to follow	
Friday	14/7/2023	Year 6 transition day at St Mary's, Sacred Heart and St Cuthbert's	Year 6
Friday	14/7/2023	Transition Day in School – Reception to Year 5 spend time with their September teachers	Reception to Year 5
Tuesday	18/7/2023	Sports Day  Reception and KS1 – 9.10am start  KS2 – 1.10pm start	Reception to Year 6
Wednesday	19/7/2023	Nursery Sports Day – 9.10am start	Nursery 9.10am
Friday	21/7/2023	Last day of term.	School closes at 3.20pm