

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

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

**May 2023**

Dear Families

It has been a really busy Summer term with lots of wonderful things happening across school. The children have settled back beautifully into routine and it is lovely to see happy children around school. There have been lots of trips and visits. Thank you to all of the parents and grandparents who have volunteered on these trips. Without your help they could not go ahead.

We have all been following our new footsteps and today Safe Squad awarded children across school who have been following these new footsteps and who are role models to others. They were really proud of their friends, well done Safe Squad.

Next half term some of our Year 4 children will make their First Holy Communion and we will keep them and their families in our prayers. We are all really excited to see some of our children's art in the Discovery Museum as part of Bishop Bewick Art Exhibition. Each class will have their celebration assembly and it will be a pleasure to welcome you into school to celebrate with the children. Year 6 are getting ready for their end of year performance and there are many exciting curriculum opportunities still to come.

### **Curriculum News**

#### **Nursery**

This half term, the Gingerbread Man has been causing trouble in Nursery! The Gingerbread Man ran away from Mr and Mrs Baker and ended up at St Charles'! After creating a terrible mess in the nursery classroom, he continued to run away so the children were left with the task of catching him and sending him back home! They created wanted posters, interviewed story characters and followed clues until they finally caught up with him! He was very sorry for running away and apologised by baking us our own gingerbread biscuits.



## Reception



Reception have been learning about famous inventors. They have enjoyed learning about Alexander Graham Bell and his invention, the telephone. In class, they had fun looking at and exploring a range of phones from the past. They discussed how phones have changed over time and how they are different to the phones we use today. The children then became inventors and created telephones using paper cups, paper clips and string. With a friend, they tested their invention to see if it worked. It was very exciting! The children are looking forward to learning about another famous inventor, George Stephenson.

## Year 1



This half term Year 1 have enjoyed learning about Significant Women in History, looking closely at Victorian nurses. We have looked at the similarities and differences of past and present hospitals, they have really enjoyed looking at lots of photographs. One nurse the children have learnt about is Florence Nightingale; they had lots of fun making a timeline of her life to see all of her accomplishments and why she was so significant.

## Year 2



This half term Year 2 have been reading the book 'The Princess and the White Bear King'. They were left clues in the Forest School garden and then they started to receive lots of letters from one of the characters in the story which they found out to be the Troll Queen, they were then able to write the story from her point of view. She even asked them to make her some sleeping draughts in their maths lesson, they had lots of fun measuring some very strange ingredients.

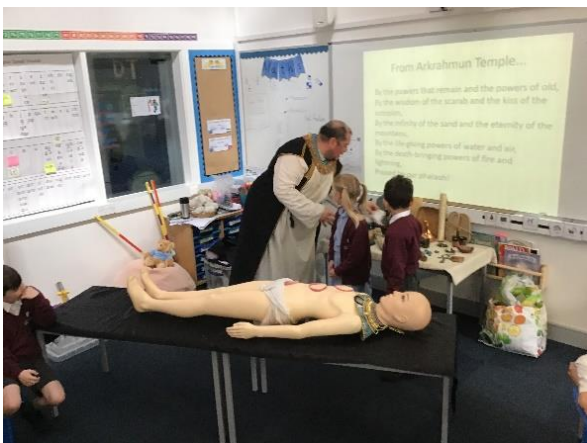


## Year 3



Throughout the term, Year 3 have delved into the world of digital photography. Our budding photographers have been honing their composition skills, discovering the art of framing creative shots. They have explored various techniques to create visually striking images, learning to edit and enhance their photographs using digital tools. Moreover, our creative learners have also developed their critical thinking abilities by evaluating the skills they have used, reflecting on the impact of their choices.

Year 3 have also enjoyed a visit from That History Bloke as part of their Ancient Egypt topic this term.

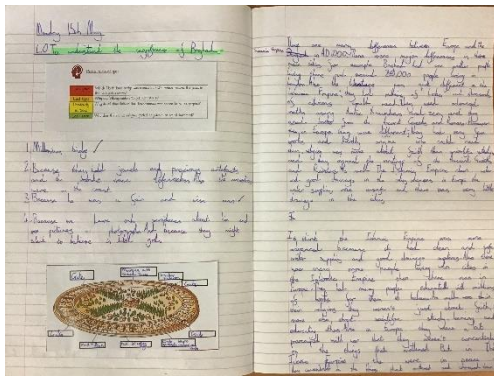


## Year 4

This half term Year 4 had an amazing time exploring sheep organs as part of last term's Science topic on Humans and Other Animals. It was fascinating to see the inside of a real organ including the muscles and blood vessels. We all enjoyed confidently, enthusiastically and safely exploring the organs in what was an unforgettable lesson!



## Year 5

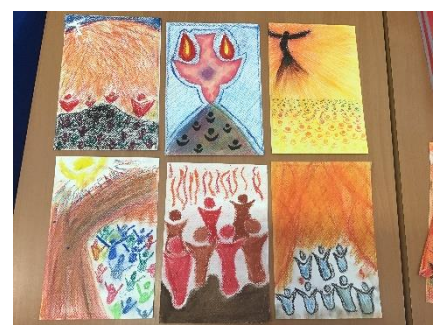
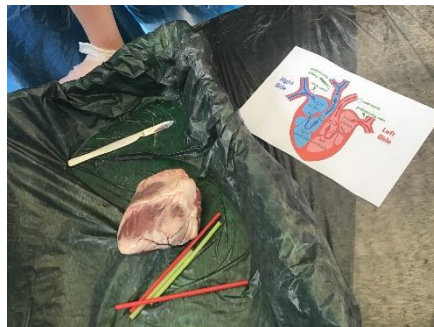


Year 5 have enjoyed learning about why the Early Islamic Civilisation was a significant turning point in History this half term. It is a subject that most of the children had very little prior knowledge about, so they have found it fascinating!

## Year 6

This half-term, Year 6 have been learning about Pentecost in RE. The children produced some beautiful spiritual art and chose from the selection of Scripture quotes as inspiration to create an abstract piece relating to being witnesses to the Holy Spirit. Throughout the topic, the children have learnt what it means to be a witness and have recounted the Ascension of Jesus from different perspectives. The children have also developed an understanding of the life and work of key figures in the history of the People of God and have written biographies with key facts about St Stephen showing understanding of why he is significant in Christian history.

In Science this half-term, Year 6 have been developing their understanding of, 'Animals Including Humans.' Within this topic the children have built upon their understanding of the human skeleton and muscular system; described the functions of the human digestive system; described the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood and have been working as Scientists when dissecting hearts to identify key parts. The children considered why dissections take place and were able to draw conclusions based on their scientific enquiry.



## Art – BBCET

This half term, all year groups have been involved in the first Bishop Bewick Art Project. The theme of the project was 'Stronger Together' and after learning all about our Trust and the values it upholds, we worked in phases to create spectacular pieces of artwork which represented strength and unity. The end products have spectacular and include digital photography, painting and collage work. Our artwork is going to be displayed in the Discovery Museum from June 8 until June 10.





## English – trips

This week Year 5 and Year 6 children have visited the Live Theatre to take part in creative writing workshops. They enjoyed the visits and Year 4 are looking forward to their workshop after half term.

## PE - Sport Update

It has been another busy half term for PE at St Charles'. Year 3 enjoyed an afternoon out for some skipping coaching and the Gosforth Catholic Cup competition has been hotting up, with football, cross country and netball competitions. The cross country was a particularly exciting contest, with our KS2 team winning overall by only one point!

We have had Key Stage 1 Healthy Active Lifestyle this term. The children really enjoyed the fun challenges. We love to get moving!



## Safeguarding



Just a reminder that Mrs Nealings and Miss Thomas are the designated persons for child protection and safeguarding. Our photographs are on the notice board outside of school for your reference.

Attached is information for parents about Artificial intelligence from the national online safety hub.

Next half term, Safe Squad are planning an assembly on water safety and sun safety. Each week they will be sharing messages in their class how to stay safe online.

## Attendance

School attendance up to 3 May this year is currently 95.34%. Good attendance will support your child to make good progress in their learning and support them maintain relationships with their peers. If your child is unwell, they should not be in school until they are recovered.

95%	=	<b>47 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days
90%	=	<b>95 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day
85%	=	<b>142 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days
80%	=	<b>190 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days

**BE SMART BE THERE!**

Percentages based on 190 academic days

## **ATTENDANCE MATTERS**

**WHAT DO YOUR ATTENDANCE FIGURES ACTUALLY MEAN?**

If you need support or are concerned you could seek support from a health visitor or the school nurse. Contact details are in the parent section of the school website.

## Catholic Life

We are proud to be a member of Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust.

This is our Trust prayer:

**Almighty God,**

May Christ be at the centre and the root of everything we do.

May all of us know our worth and use it to serve our communities.

May the uniqueness of each person be encouraged so that we discover and reach our full potential.

May our ethos and spirituality be built on Gospel values.

May our schools be places of discovery, learning, belonging and love.

May we be instruments and vessels of the living God.

May God be our source, our anchor and our guide.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

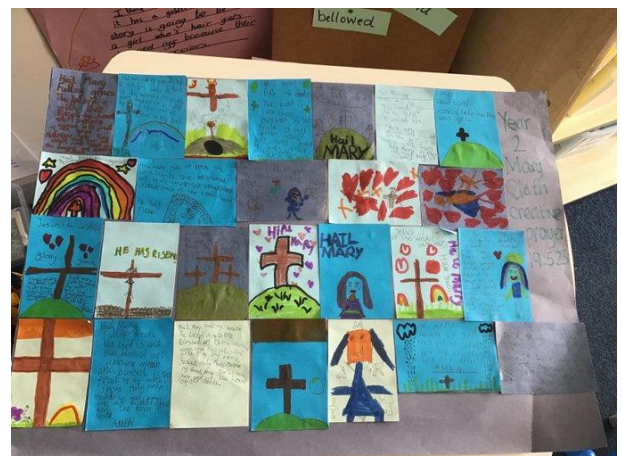
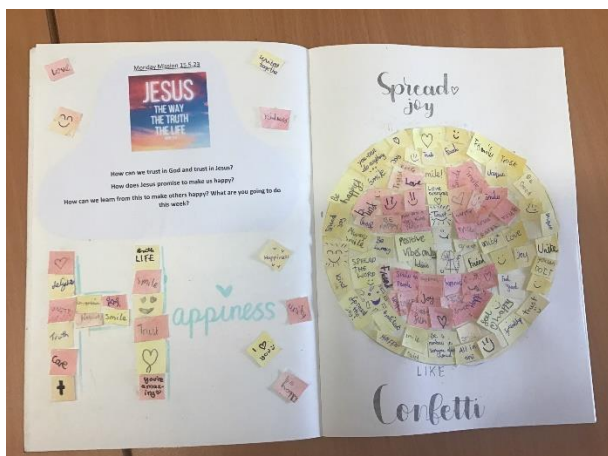
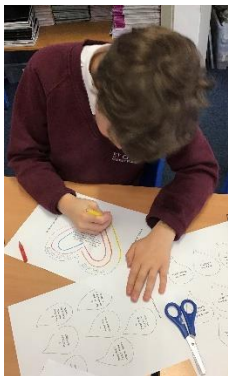
**Amen**

This term we pray for all schools in our Trust as they say goodbye to students at the end of their school journey and prepare to welcome new children at the start of their journey in September.

It has been lovely to welcome so many of you into school to join each class for their child led liturgical prayer to end their RE units. The children have planned these acts of worship themselves.

Thank you for your support and we hope you have enjoyed the opportunity to pray with us this year.

The children are really enjoying creative prayer this year. They have all thought about how they can make a difference by living out our Monday missions.



## **Kenton Foodbank**

Our local foodbank is located at Kirkwood Drive in Kenton.

If you need support from a foodbank you can visit the following website to see if you would be eligible:

[How to get help | Newcastle West End Foodbank](#)

## **What's on in the Local Area**

### Pop-up Coffee Morning

Drop in for a cuppa, chat and find out what we do!  
10.00 – 11.30am



Gosforth Library Regent Farm Road, NE3 3HD.
Wednesday 7th June
Wednesday 19th July



North Locality

### Coffee & Crafts

Drop in for a cuppa, chat and join in with craft activities.  
9 – 11.30am



Fawdon Children's Centre	The Haven, (Mountfield School) Kenton
Monday 17 April	Monday 24 April
Monday 15 May	Monday 22 May
Monday 5 June	Monday 12 June

Then alternation weeks at each venue starting at Fawdon Children's Centre on Monday 18 June



North Locality



Mrs Phillips sent out a booklet this week with information about events this Summer in our local area. If you need a paper copy, just ask at the school office.

## **Tenten Newsletter for parents**

We are in the full flow of Eastertide celebrations and the blossoming of Springtime flowers echoes the hope and joy of the Resurrection of Jesus. We look forward in hope and anticipation for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, marking the birthday of the Church and a renewal of our mission as followers of Jesus.

May is also traditionally the Month of Mary, with Marian feast days, May processions and a focus on the Rosary. Mary is the mother of Jesus and our mother too, and like a good mum who prays for her children, Mary prays for us. She accompanies us in our prayers and is there to walk alongside and encourage us, always leading us to her Son, Jesus.

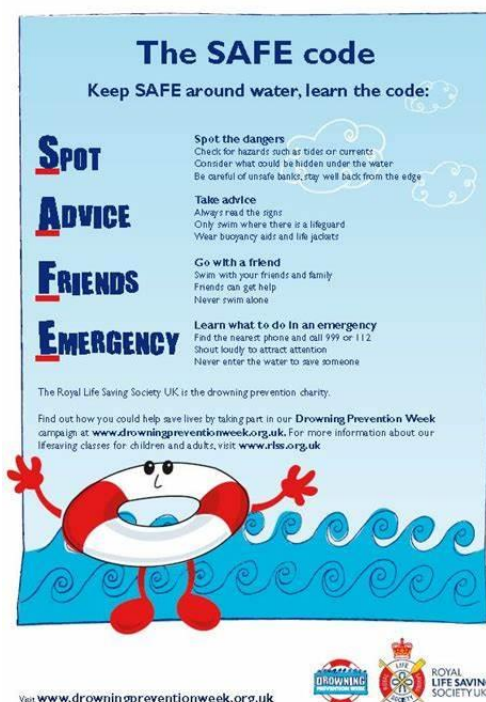
May is a busy time in the church and it's a busy time in school too! Already children and staff will be starting to evaluate and assess the year and take the first steps to prepare for the coming of a new school year. It's certainly a time for Jesus' Easter gifts of joy, hope, peace and love!

This newsletter shares some of the content children will experience in school throughout May and suggests ways to support your family prayer times.



## Pupil Groups

The Safe Squad have met this term and want to share the following water safety message with families:



## Forest School



The children have been loving the Forest School extra-curricular club. KS1 children enjoyed making dens, using clay to create forest spirits and their favourite activity was getting to drink hot chocolate. Children in Year 5 and Year 6 all successfully lit a fire using flint and steel and enjoyed eating smores in their final session. Children in Year 3 and Year 4 are very excited for their turn in Summer 2 and have been suggesting activities that they would like to do including some crafts and more den building.



## **OPAL**



Lunchtime now at St. Charles' is full of various activities such as reading, small world play, wheeled play using scooters and body boards. The children are loving having access to den building and the Forest School. Please remember to send in either old trainers or wellingtons for the children to change into on wet days. We need some more resources so if you are having a clear out over the half term then we would welcome any donations of board games, dressing up clothes, cars and creatures for our small world and any old bedding or blankets for the den building or our new praying paradise area. Miss Salter and Mrs McCabe went to visit another school to see how they are managing OPAL and were very impressed with how our children have adapted to our new lunchtime routines with OPAL. It has been wonderful to see everyone enjoying playing across the year groups and exploring new friendships, as well as challenging themselves with being more creative and independent in their own play options.

## **Laudato Leaders**

The Laudato Leaders have been busy with Miss Salter who is leading until Mrs Binney returns. The children lead a fantastic Earth Day assembly and have been encouraging everyone in school to be more conscious and look after our planet. They were all very excited when the greenhouse was built and have been busy planting some herbs for a sensory space and some flowers to help look after the wildlife. They are busy working on a recycling project using all the bottle tops the school collected and are planning a trip to the beach where they will litter pick rubbish to help keep our oceans clean.



## **PTA**

See newsletter with information regarding their Summer Fair.

## **School News**

Mrs Binney has welcomed a beautiful daughter Penny last month and Mrs Hague has welcomed a gorgeous son Alfie. Congratulations to both families. We are all delighted that everyone is safe and well.

## **Class Organisation for 2023-2024**

Congratulations to Mrs Mills who has been appointed as a permanent member of the team (she is currently covering Year 2 maternity and last year worked in Year 5 during Spring term). Thank you to Mr Smart who will be leaving us at the end of this academic year.

Year group	Teacher	Notes
Nursery	Miss Salter	
Reception	Mrs Birkbeck	
Year 1	Miss Cowan	
Year 2	Mrs Hague (currently on maternity leave)	Autumn class teacher TBC
Year 3	Mr Gray	
Year 4	Miss Greatrex	
Year 5	Mrs Mills	
Year 6	Miss Thomas	

Mrs Bertenshaw will be non-class based and on maternity leave next academic year.  
Mrs Binney will be returning from maternity leave in the Autumn term.

## **King Charles III Coronation**

It was a lovely day in school celebrating with the children. They enjoyed a whole school quiz, did some fantastic portraits of King Charles and enjoyed a party in the hall.





## General Notices

### Pass it on Parents



#### About Pass It On Parents

We are parents of children with disability. We help families with a disabled child to find and create mutual support. We do this through social media and by meeting up. We help families find all the information that they need in order to have the best possible family life as full members of their communities. We believe that parent to parent support is really important. We are a wide network. We want to support all parents of disabled children in Inverclyde including those who have an individual or personal budget. We organise a range of coffee mornings, catch up, chats and informal meetings where parents can drop in and socialise, offer or seek advice and support from other parents.

We have some paid workers who support this parental voice group and help keep everyone informed, particularly using social media.

Pass it on Parents  
Facebook

Pass it on Parents  
Twitter

Pass it on Parents  
Instagram

This is a group of parents on social media who help families with disabled children and offer mutual support. If your child has additional needs you may find this group useful.

Further information can be found at:

[Pass it on Parents - Learning Disability Matters Learning Disability Matters](#)

### Car Park

The drop off zone is for drop off only. Please do not park in the drop off zone or on the yellow lines.

Have a lovely half term break with your families.

Please remember that school reopens on **Tuesday 6 June for all children.**

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)

Follow us on Twitter: [@StCharlesPrimNE](https://twitter.com/StCharlesPrimNE)

Day	Date	June 2023	Class
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
Thursday	8/6/2023	Visit to BBCET Art Exhibition at Discovery Museum	Year 3 and Year 4
Friday	9/6/2023	Visit to BBCET Art Exhibition at Discovery Museum	Year 5 and Year 6
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
Wednesday	14/6/2023	PTA Non-Uniform Day	Whole School
Wednesday	14/6/2023	Action for Children 'Ways to Wellbeing' Workshop for parents	Whole School (Parents)
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
Thursday	22/6/2023	Celebration Assembly	Reception - 9.10am
Friday	23/6/2023	Celebration Assembly	Year 5 – 9.10am
Monday	26/6/2023	Careers Week	Whole School
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 September 2023	5.00pm
Wednesday	28/6/2023	Cathedral Leavers Mass	Year 6 1.30pm
Thursday	29/6/2023	Discovery Museum visit	Year 3
Thursday	29/6/2023	ZooLab Workshop	Nursery - 9.15am
Friday	30/6/2023	PTA Quiz at St Charles Church	Whole School
Day	Date	July 2023	Class
Wednesday	5/7/2023	Y6 Performance	Year 6 – 5.00pm



Thursday	6/7/2023	Celebration Assembly	Nursery – 9.10am
Thursday	6/7/2023	Just.Is Day Year 5	
Thursday	6/7/2023	Gosforth Nature Reserve Trip	Year1 – 9.30
Friday	7/7/2023	PTA Summer Fair	Whole School
Monday	10/7/2023	End of Year School Reports issued	Whole school
Monday	10/7/2023	Water Safety Talks by Canal and River Trust	Year 1 – Year 6
Tuesday	11/7/2023	Celebration Assembly	Year 6 – 9.10am
Tuesday	11/7/2023	Online Safety Workshops for Parents – details to follow	Whole School
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	
Thursday	13/7/2023	Tynemouth Geography Field Study – details to follow	Year 5
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