



In everything we do today, we're following Jesus and his way

School Newsletter

Newsletter 4

Summer Term 2023
Thursday 11 May

Headteacher: Mr P O'Rourke
Deputy Heads: Mrs C McGivern
Mrs S Hukowski
SENCo: Mrs J Burke

Our School Houses

St Thérèse of Lisieux

Blue

St Oscar Romero

Red

St Francis of Assisi

Yellow

St Josephine Bakhita

Green

This Week's Merits

Each week, teachers nominate children in their class to receive a special merit. This could be in recognition for working hard, achieving something particular, being a good friend, or any number of reasons that show that they are living up to the school motto - 'In everything we do today, we are following Jesus and his way.' The following children have been chosen by their teachers (CM = Class Merit):

Class	Name of children
RG	Mia, Ryan
RW	Lola, Luisa
1A	Henry, Cian
1DS	Deniz, Reece
1W	Jack, Matthew
2B	Saoirse, Aiden
2K	Isla, Klaudia
2NS	Chimnoya, Kieran
3A	Flynn, Orlaith
3F	Cressida, Jessica
3S	Levvi, Ella
4GC	Margaret, Lila
4OS	Ethan, Antoinette
4P	Ava, Hannah
6K	CM
6M	CM, Annabelle
6OT	CM

The deadline for Parent Governor voting is tomorrow, Friday 12 May at 9am. Ballot boxes at each entrance.

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Next Week in School

Friday 12 May

Year 6 maths test
Parent governor voting deadline 9am

Monday 15 May

Year 6 residential visit to Norfolk

Thursday 18 May

Ascension Day Mass 9:15am
Year 3 to London Bridge

Friday 19 May

Year 6 return from Norfolk

I hope that you all enjoyed a festive weekend including the additional bank holiday. Many of you will have attended street parties whether in Saturday's rain or Sunday's more pleasant climate. Below is a picture taken from our special coronation assembly held on Friday.

For our year 6 children it was a time of rest before embarking on their SATs this week. In years gone by I am usually saying 'well done' to them in the relevant Thursday newsletter, but with the bank holiday this year they still have a day to go. I am sure that they will enjoy letting their hair down a little when it is all over tomorrow. We pray for them also as they leave for the Kingswood Centre in Overstrand, Norfolk on Monday. It is a residential visit that will provide them with memories for a lifetime.

Finally we will be celebrating the feast of the Ascension on Thursday with Mass for the children, and a special liturgy for our reception class. We thank our wonderful parish priests for their support of all of our school's liturgical life.

Finally, my thoughts are with all of those children making their First Holy Communion around this time. I am very much looking forward to celebrating with you at our special school communion Mass on Wednesday 24 May at 9:15am.



"Ascensions into heaven are like falling leaves sad and happy all at the same time. Going away isn't really sad, especially when your going enables a new kind of presence to be born." (Ernest Hemingway)

For those of you who drive your children to school, please:

- **Drive carefully** on the roads surrounding school
- **Park considerably** to our neighbours
- Turn your **engine off**, not leave it running while parked
- Make every effort to walk all or some of the way to school if possible. It's healthy and good for the environment.



What a Load of Rubbish

On Friday 28th April, we went litter picking on the streets around our school to mark 'The Grand British Spring Clean' which is organised by Keep Britain Tidy. We picked up litter along Cheviot Close, Baker Street, Gordon Road and Halifax Road. We had two bags to put the litter in - recyclable and non-recyclable materials. It was really fun, but sad to see how much litter there was in our local area. Our work linked to the Catholic Social Teaching themes of Creation and Community and Participation. We are Stewards of Creation and it our duty to look after the incredible world that God made for us.

From the Green team



Nursery

Applications are now being accepted for our brand new nursery opening in September this year. We have set a deadline for applications which is **Friday 19 May**. This tight timescale is so parents can be informed at the earliest opportunity if they have been successful as we know that nursery places may be pending at other settings. Application forms and other information can be found on our school website:

'school information > nursery > nursery 23.24'

After a lot of planning, we are currently beginning to furnish the room ready for the September start.

Upcoming Dates

Advance warning of some key school dates. The school calendar is constantly updated on the school website, under the parents information section.

May

Fri 12th	Year 6 Maths Test (Paper 3)
Mon 15th	Year 6 school journey (Norfolk)
Thurs 18th	Ascension Day Mass and liturgies Year 3 to Tower Bridge and the Thames
Fri 19th	Year 6 return 5.30pm
Tues 23rd	Class photographs
Weds 24th	First Communion Mass in school 9:15am RW Story Café 2:30pm
Thurs 25th	RG Story Café 2:30pm
Fri 26th	Half term starts

June

Mon 5th	School reopens
Tues 6th	Year 6 football team in Leeds
Thurs 8th	Corpus Christi liturgy and procession
Sun 11th	School Fair 12 - 4
Mon 12th	Year 1 phonics screening begins Scholastic bookfair begins
Mon 19th	New Parents meeting 4pm
Tues 20th	New starters in school Year 6 to Matilda (Cambridge Theatre)
Mon 26th	Year 6 Sports Day (pm)
Tues 27th	Year 5 (am) & 4 (pm) Sports Days
Weds 28th	Year 3 (am) & 2 (pm) Sports Days
Thurs 29th	Year 1 Sports Day (pm) Mass for Ss Peter and Paul
Fri 30th	Reception Sports Day

July

Weds 5th	Year 5 secondary school taster day
Thurs 6th	Year 6 to secondary schools
Fri 7th	school closed - teacher training day
Tues 11th	Year 6 perform Matilda 2pm, 6:30pm
Weds 12th	Year 6 perform Matilda 6:30pm Year 2 to Natural History Museum, Tring
Mon 17th	Debating Club to the Houses of Parliament
Thurs 20th	Leaver's Mass
Fri 21st	School Mass

The Rosary - Come and Join Us

May is the month of the Rosary and we invite parents to come and share a decade of the Rosary with their children at the end of the school day. We will pray this special devotion in our Rosary Garden at the heart of our school.

A rota is available on the school website: 'news & events > Rosary'. The schedule for next week is:

The Sorrowful Mysteries

Mon 15 May	Jesus carries His cross	5B
Tues 16 May	Jesus dies on the cross	3A

The Glorious Mysteries

Wed 17 May	The Resurrection	3S
Thurs 18 May	The Ascension	1DS
Fri 19 May	The Coming of the Holy Spirit	3F

The Rosary takes place at **3.25pm** each day. Please enter the main hall from the junior playground and go through the doors on the right to our Rosary Garden. By starting 5 minutes before the end of the school day, parents should have plenty of time to collect any younger siblings once the Rosary has finished.



Here is a selection of photographs from Year 5's visit to the Hertfordshire Young Mariner's Base last week. Please see overleaf for two accounts of the visit. A big thank you to the year 5 team and all who supported them on this exhausting adventure.



Herts Young Mariners was a phenomenal school trip. In total, we did 6 activities, three on the first day, three on the second day. Our ventures were canoeing, sailing, bell-boating, problem solving, climbing and caving., My personal favourite was caving, but the others were still top of the list. Sailing was a favourite because it taught people a lot about teamwork. Canoeing was merry because it told us the canoes were hard to handle and taught us how to communicate with each other. Bell-boating was OK, but the way you pilot the boat was fun. Problem-solving was very sporty because, again, it taught us how to work as a team. Climbing was amazing because it gave us exercise and was fun. Caving was also incredible and exciting because you had to manoeuvre yourself through tiny holes, and there were also some epic stuff too like cave paintings and stalactites. Altogether, this was the best school trip ever.

Leo

My experience at Herts Young Mariners Base was incredible as we did rock climbing, caving, team building, sailing, bell-boating and canoeing. My favourite activity was caving as we had torches on our helmets and had to fit through claustrophobic mouseholes! My least favourite activity as my team weren't able to control our boat. The water activities were loads of fun as most people nearly fell in like I almost did. Bell-boating was great fun as we had to race against the other boat and sang 'Go bananas, go, go bananas' as we led ourselves to victory! When we did canoeing we played a game where we had to get the ball and throw it in one of the instructors boats. When we did rock climbing there was a really tall side where it was really hard to reach one of the rocks halfway up. Team building was hard as we had to complete four challenges. We did not complete the challenge where we had to detonate a fake bomb without going into the circle. This was the best school trip I have had so far!

Max