

Attendance target: 95% Actual Attendance: [↑]93.6%



St Laurence Catholic Primary School



Summer 1 Newsletter - March 2024

Through God's grace, a community growing in knowledge and understanding.

Ten:Ten Newsletter



Pope Francis
@Pontifex

“With child-like hearts, we consecrate to you our lives, forever. To you, we consecrate the Church and the world, especially those countries at war. Obtain peace for us. 5 Aug 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

The sun is shining and we're off on another break. How quickly they come around!

This half-term has been action-packed with SATs preparation, SATs week and our visit from Ofsted. A huge thank you goes out to all of the members of the St. Laurence community, for their support and best wishes. We couldn't do it without you.

In the last half-term, we will be even busier with Arts Week, class trips (day and residential) and sports days. This year, we're having two separate sports days. We're doing this so that our children don't have to wait around as much and so that the younger children, in particular, have the time they need. Please look out for more details after half-term.

Enjoy the half-term break with your family and friends!

Mrs McGhee Wallace and the St. Laurence Team

Committed to the words of Christ and the Gospel Values.



Head of School

Mrs McGhee Wallace

Assistant Head

Mrs Chalklin

SENCo/Inclusion

Mrs Harvey

Our Classes

Wrens Mrs Chalklin

Skylarks Miss Armstrong
- Mortlock

Kingfishers Miss Tanvir/
Mrs Thompson (Friday)

Quails Mrs Kitagawa

Swallows Miss Corcoran

Doves Mrs Groves

Magpies Miss Ward

Owls Mrs Watson

Kestrels Mrs Prokop



For yours and your children's safety, please do not enter the car park unless you have permission to do so, in your car.

TERM DATES

Half Term

27th May

Summer 2

Begins 3rd June

School finishes for summer

18th July

Administrative Officer

Mrs Rokitnicka

Administrative Assistant

Miss Tu

Caretaker

Mr. Tapp

ATTENDANCE

Why is attendance so important?



EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS!

Children are required by law to attend 190 school days per year. The Government states that every pupil's attendance should be at least 95%.

HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP?

| Attendance | Days Absent | Weeks Absent | Lessons Missed |
|------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| 95% | 9 Days | 2 Weeks | 50 Lessons |
| 90% | 19 Days | 4 Weeks | 100 lessons |
| 85% | 29 Days | 6 Weeks | 150 lessons |
| 80% | 38 Days | 8 Weeks | 200 lessons |
| 75% | 48 Days | 10 Weeks | 250 lessons |
| 70% | 57 Days | 11.5 Weeks | 290 lessons |
| 65% | 67 Days | 13.5 Weeks | 340 lessons |

89% and below
Drastic effect on academic achievement



95% - 90%
Cause for concern



100% - 96%
Excellent





Summer term in Wrens

Making the most of the rainy days

It seems to have rained quite a lot this half term but Wrens have enjoyed making the most of the rain as well as the sunshine!



Kings and Queens

We enjoyed our class trip to Kings College Chapel.



Mrs Quail kindly offered to join us for the day and shared her



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/ 2



We enjoyed learning about the amazing architecture and recognising many of the biblical stories illustrated on the beautiful stained-glass windows.



Waving from Kings College bridge



In the afternoon we enjoyed a picnic in the park and problem solved to create a wet weather cover to protect us from the rain at the end of a wonderful day.

Have a lovely half term

Skylark Class

Year One have had another busy and joyful half-term, and we have been making the most of the sunshine! Our English has focused around "There's a Rang-Tan in my bedroom", a great book which has led us to many discussions about palm oil and protecting our planet. We have written some amazing setting descriptions of the rainforest before and after it was damaged.

In science, we have learned about what plants need to grow, and the children enjoyed seeing how our cress seeds germinated (or didn't) when they were put in different places with different conditions. They have really developed their scientific vocabulary well.



In our art lessons, we have looked at "The Graham Children", with lots of different activities, including colour matching, posing for a photograph, drawing a small section and working on sketch skills to draw figures of children playing. The children have shown so much interest in the history of children in the past, and how their play is both similar and different.

Everybody is doing so well with their reading! We have been reviewing lots of sounds from our previous phonics lessons. I am so impressed with Year One's great attitude to their learning, and their super sentence reading.



Kingfishers have had a wonderful half term of learning. Our core reading texts have been 'Little People, Big Dreams: David Attenborough' and 'Fantastically Great Women Who Changed the World'. The children have been fascinated by the impact these remarkable individuals have had on our world and it has been lovely to see the children be inspired and think about what they might like to do in the future.

In our writing lessons, children learnt about the features of recount writing and enjoyed writing a recount of last term's school trip. They then wrote non-chronological reports all about plants. We have had such an improvement in our hand writing across Year 2 lately. Well done Kingfishers!

In science, our topic had been Materials and Matter. It has been particularly interesting learning about materials under the microscope and experimenting to see which solids can turn into liquids (especially eating the melted chocolate).

Kingfishers have also enjoyed learning about Northern Europe in geography. They can locate the five Nordic countries on a map and enjoyed learning about the Sami people and the climate they need to adapt to. It was very exciting when the Northern Lights were visible here in Cambridge (a very well timed event for Kingfishers). We also learnt about the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen- the first captain to sail through the North West Passage. I have been so impressed by the level of interest and engagement from all children!

Finally, the children have enjoyed exploring the forest, especially now that the weather is improving! They have been showing real maturity and kindness and we are very proud. Well done Kingfishers.



DT day – Pop-up books

On our first day back from Easter holidays, we had our DT day. This time, children made their own pop-up books about plants. They were very excited about it and enjoyed their final project. Some even had time to make a second book on a theme of their own choice.



Science

Quails class studied rocks, fossils and soil this half term. They were especially interested in fossils and, thanks to our TA Ms. Thompson, had the opportunity to see, touch and draw real fossils besides being able to see her opening a fossil right in front of them.

Art

In art, children studied architecture and learnt about many stunning buildings such as: the Parthenon, the Sagrada Familia and the St Paul's Cathedral. They made their own clay tiles with in relief sculptures. They created very nice designs and managed to paint them beautifully. After making their tiles, they made a mosaic.

English

Our class worked on two kinds of texts this half term: third person narrative stories with animal characters and formal letters of complaint. I was very impressed with the quality of their writing and was especially proud of their stories about a predator and a prey of their choice. They wrote very creative stories using expanded noun phrases, metaphors and similes. I am certain you are all going to be very pleased as well when you have the chance to read your children's writing.



We hope you enjoy your half term!

Highlights from Summer 1 in Swallows Class



Science

Swallow class studied rocks, fossils and soil this half term. They have become very knowledgeable about the types of rocks and how fossils are formed. They even handed some fossils and some rocks over 3 billion years old.

Art and DT

Children enjoyed as part of their DT day making Pop up books. In their art lessons they have been learning all about Architecture. They looked at how the Parthenon contrasts with focus on the work of Gaudi. They have made mosaics and clay relief tiles.

English

Our class worked on two kinds of texts this half term: third person narrative stories with animal characters and formal letters of complaint. They wrote very exciting predator and prey stories using a range of literacy devices including similes and metaphors.

Summer Term 1 in Doves Class

Doves class have enjoyed RE this term. Our topic has been: *To the Ends of the Earth*. We have looked at the gospel writers (Matthew and Luke), the Acts of the Apostles (written by Luke) and 1 Corinthians (written by Saint Paul). Students are able to explain what the Trinity is and The Great Commission. They enjoyed making these bookmarks below, which helped them to understand the Gospel.



Another highlight this term, in PE lessons, has been learning some of the skills needed to play Tag Rugby. It has been challenging to learn to pass backwards and to throw a ball that is not round!

Magpies



Over the last few weeks, the pupils have been busy. In Pe, we have been learning how to dance the haka. This dance was chosen, as it links to our Geography topic, which is New Zealand. In science we have been learning about the BIG Bang and the pupils really enjoyed the balloon experiment. The class were lucky enough to be able to take part in a STEM workshop, with the emphasis on DNA.

In English the pupils have been writing a narrative on a myth. The pupils always enjoy this text, as they can be imaginative. In reading we have been reading "The Explorer" and "The boy in the tower". The idea of being able to explore without adults has intrigued the pupils and the pupils have enjoyed theorising what the bluchers will do next.

Finally, in Maths we have studied decimals, fractions and measure. The y are difficult topics and I am really proud of how hard the pupils have worked. History has made the pupils realise how lucky they are. We have been learning about the industrial revolution and the working conditions of the children.

Owls Class Newsletter – Summer 2024

In **English** we have been writing our own myth stories, based on ancient Greek Myths. We have been reading 'Explorer' which follows a group of children who are stranded in the Amazon rainforest and need to find their way back to civilisation.

Science has been Physics based this term. Learning about the phases of the moon, the planets in our solar system and the universe. We have enjoyed learning about how far away our nearest star is. Earlier in the term we were lucky enough to have a STEM visit; we extracted the DNA from strawberries which was fascinating.



In **art** we have been making our own animal plaques based on the Benin Bronzes.



Kestrels Class Summer 1 Newsletter



This half term was filled with SATs preparations! During SATs week, the children all showed amazing resilience and focus, trying their best in each test. They also each morning attended a special breakfast, where they were able to relax before the day. On Friday, the children celebrated with their buddies from reception, who made them special 'Well Done' biscuits. In the afternoon, we had a big picnic in the park!

Junior Maths Challenge



A group of students from our class took part in the Junior Maths Challenge, organised by UKTM. Everyone received a participation certificate and 6 children won Bronze, Silver or Gold awards, with one pupil winning the overall award, meaning they will represent the school in the Junior Kangaroo Challenge in June. I am so proud of everyone who took part and of all of their achievements.

Science

This term, we had visitors from a research company who led an exciting session all about DNA. The children had the opportunity to do an experiment, where they extracted the DNA from strawberries and learnt about different careers in STEM.

As the weather gets warmer, I wish everyone a well-deserved break after such an intensive half term!



MARY'S MONTH

BLUE SKIES
 BLUE WATERS
 BLUE AS MARY'S EYES
 GOD SCATTERS
 WITH A LAVISH HAND
 ON EVERY LAND
 STILL NIGHT
 MADE LOVELY WITH SOFT
 SILVER LIGHT
 GOD WRAPS ABOUT
 THE WORLD WHEN DAY
 HAS SLIPPED AWAY
 EACH FIELD
 HOLDS UP A
 GOLDEN-FLOWERED SHIELD
 AGAINST THE SHINING
 SHAFTS OF SUN
 YET EACH IS WON
 BRIGHT RAIN
 GOD SPILLS
 TO BRING
 TO EARTH AGAIN
 NEW FRESHNESS
 THEN LIKE SUDDEN TEARS
 IT DISAPPEARS
 GREEN TREES
 THE VAGABONDING
 SUMMER BREEZE
 THE GOLDEN DAYS
 AND SILVER NIGHTS
 HIS WILL UNITES
 IN ONE
 AND WHEN HIS WORK OF LOVE IS DONE
 HIS WILL DECREES A HOLIDAY
 THE MONTH OF MAY
 AND WHY?
 THAT SHE, AS PURE AS SUMMER SKY
 WHO FOUND WITHIN AN EARTH-BORN BOY
 WHAT EARTH CONTAINED OF JOY AND PAIN
 MIGHT FIND HER FULL CONTENT OF JOY
 ON EARTH AGAIN.

BY FR DENNIS JOHN BURNS
 (1928-2009)

St. Joseph 1/23