

St. Laurence News



**SPRING 2
2025**

**YOUR HALF-TERMLY NEWSLETTER ABOUT
OUR SCHOOL!**

ST. LAURENCE TEAM

Wrens - Mrs. Chalklin
Skylarks - Miss Gomez
Kingfishers - Miss Tanvir
Swallows - Miss Ward
Doves - Mrs. Groves
Owls - Miss Corcoran
Magpies - Mrs. Prokop
Kestrels - Mrs. Khan-Blacker

Pastoral Lead - Mrs O'Dell
SENCo - Mrs. Harvey
Assistant Headteacher - Mrs. Chalklin
Headteacher - Mrs. McGhee Wallace

UPCOMING EVENTS

Free breakfast club,
for all, starting on
22/04/25.
8.20 a.m. in the
school hall.

AFTER SCHOOL WITH *SUPERSTAR* SPORTS

Cricket after-school
club to begin in
Summer 1.

REMINDER

KS1 - Doors open
at 8.55 a.m.

KS2 - Doors open
at 9 a.m.

**VISIT THE
CLASS ONLINE
PAGES**

<https://www.stlaurence.cambs.sch.uk/page/?title=Class+Pages&pid=60>

VOICE FROM THE VATICAN



LET US #PRAYTOGETHER THAT THE USE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES WILL NOT REPLACE HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS. MAY IT RESPECT THE DIGNITY OF THE PERSON, AND HELP US FACE THE CRISES OF OUR TIMES.

Let us join together in prayer

THE JUBILEE PRAYER

FATHER IN HEAVEN,
MAY THE FAITH YOU HAVE GIVEN US
IN YOUR SON, JESUS CHRIST, OUR BROTHER,
AND THE FLAME OF CHARITY ENKINDLED
IN OUR HEARTS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT,
REAWAKEN IN US THE BLESSED HOPE
FOR THE COMING OF YOUR KINGDOM.

MAY YOUR GRACE TRANSFORM US
INTO TIRELESS CULTIVATORS OF THE SEEDS OF THE
GOSPEL.
MAY THOSE SEEDS TRANSFORM FROM WITHIN BOTH
HUMANITY AND THE WHOLE COSMOS
IN THE SURE EXPECTATION
OF A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH,
WHEN, WITH THE POWERS OF EVIL VANQUISHED,
YOUR GLORY WILL SHINE ETERNALLY.

MAY THE GRACE OF THE JUBILEE
REAWAKEN IN US, PILGRIMS OF HOPE,
A YEARNING FOR THE TREASURES OF HEAVEN.
MAY THAT SAME GRACE SPREAD
THE JOY AND PEACE OF OUR REDEEMER
THROUGHOUT THE EARTH.
TO YOU OUR GOD, ETERNALLY BLESSED,
BE GLORY AND PRAISE FOR EVER.

AMEN



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our fourth newsletter, of this year.

Spring has most definitely sprung and the children are delighted to be back on the field, for sports, at lunchtimes. We welcome the sun!

After Easter, I will take up my new post as Exec Head, over St. Laurence and St. Alban's. It's an exciting time for both schools. At St. Laurence, Mrs. Chalklin will be Head of School and will continue to teach, part-time, in Wrens as well as being responsible for the day to day running of the school. I will still be at St. Laurence on most days and look forward to greeting you, when I can.

Our universal, free breakfast club, from 8.20 a.m. each day, will also be launching after Easter. Please use the Arbor app to book your children in, before the new term starts.

I wish you all a very happy Easter, when it arrives, and a wonderful break with your children.

**Here is a link to the Trust Newsletter:
<https://anyflip.com/wzmdk/krib/>**

Mrs. McGhee Wallace and the St. Laurence Team



Conversation card questions

Share a gift or talent God has given you and how you have used it this Lent

Conversation card questions

Share a hope you have for our global family

Conversation card questions

Share something from the Bible that is especially meaningful for you right now

Conversation card questions

Share a happy memory

Conversation card questions

Share someone that you admire and why

Conversation card questions

Share your favourite time of day

Conversation card questions

Blank card with horizontal dashed lines for writing.

Conversation card questions

Blank card with horizontal dashed lines for writing.

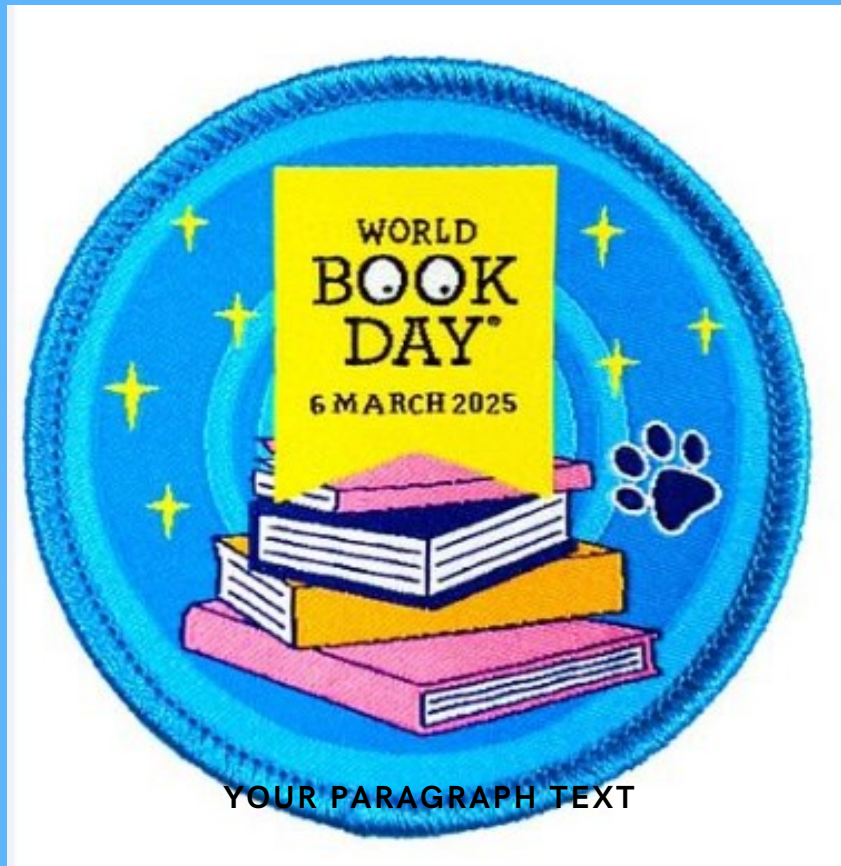
Conversation card questions

Blank card with horizontal dashed lines for writing.



THANK YOU TO PARENTS AND CARERS FOR SUPPORTING US DURING EQUALITIES WEEK. IT WAS EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL AND WILL NOW FEATURE, ANNUALLY, ON THE ST. LAURENCE CALENDAR.

**THANK YOU TO MISS
TANVIR FOR ORGANISING A
RANGE OF ACTIVITIES, TO
CELEBRATE WORLD BOOK
DAY AT ST. LAURENCE.**



YOUR PARAGRAPH TEXT

**THIS YEAR, WE WERE
LUCKY TO HAVE NOT
ONE BUT TWO AUTHORS,
VISITING OUR SCHOOL
AND WE HAVE ONE MORE
PLANNED FOR UKS2.**



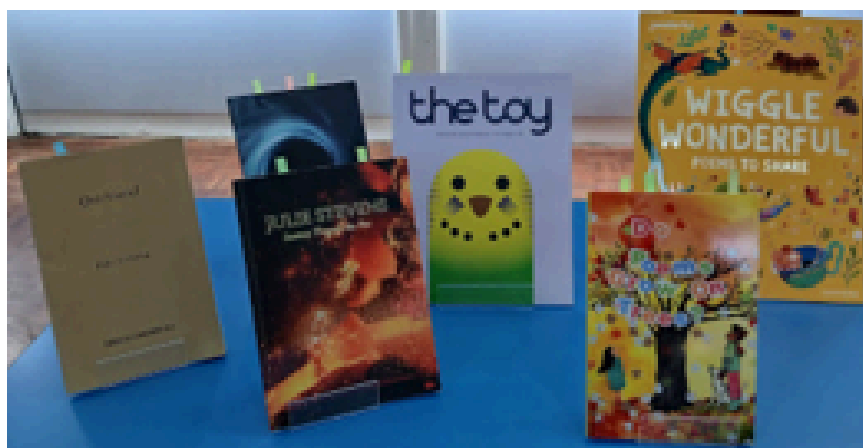
On our school's World Book Day, we had the delight of meeting local poet Julie Stevens, who ran poetry workshops with every class across the school. Not only did she capture our imaginations with her fun poems, but she also provided inspirational starting points for the children's own poetic musings.

Julie's pen-name is 'Jumping Jules'. She explained to the children that, although she has multiple sclerosis, the words do the jumping for her! Following her visit, Julie said "Hearing the children (at St Laurence) talk about disability in such a mature way, using my poems and their own knowledge was very special."

You can read samples of Julie's poetry here: [Dirigible Balloon - Poetry for Children](#). 'Hey Tiger' was a runaway hit with the younger children:

Hey tiger!
Lend me those paws,
just for today I promise,
lie there and watch
as I sprint and dash,
racing the wind beside me.

Julie invites us to read more of her poetry or to make donations to Multiple Sclerosis Trust.



It was Equalities Week, in St. Laurence, from 14th March. We started the week with our pupils coming to school in their national dress or the colours of their flag.

To support their understanding of equality, each class read a beautiful book by Benjamin Zephaniah - People Need People.

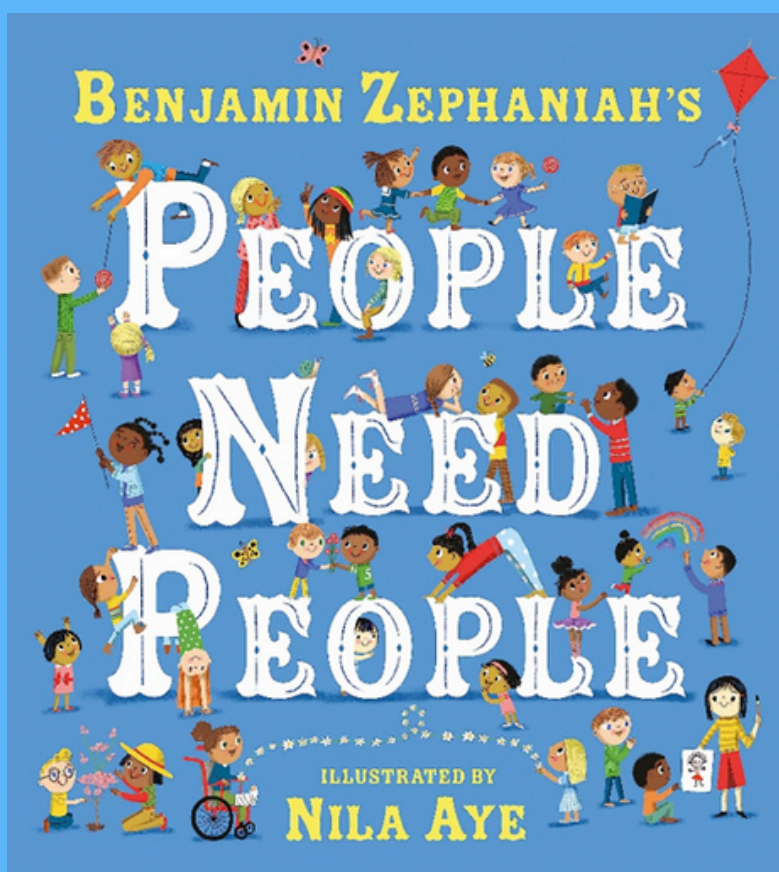
We finished the week by having 'bread day'. The children were encouraged to share the bread which is common to their culture.

Here is an account from Y5 teacher, Mrs. Prokop:

"It was an amazing opportunity for the children to celebrate our diverse school community, and they truly enjoyed the experience.

The bread tasting sparked fantastic conversations!

The children spoke confidently about the origins and flavours of the different types of bread, and it was wonderful to see their enthusiasm for learning in such a hands-on way."







Spring term in Wrens

What a lovely time of year!



Wrens have been learning about how the natural world changes and grows during early spring. We have also reflected on how we all grow and change during Lent, as we grow closer to Jesus through our prayers and actions in the lead up to Easter.

Growing and Changing



We all enjoyed our class trip to the University Botanic Garden.



We learnt about many different types of trees and explored the natural habitats of both the UK and tropical countries.



We have also written our own Lenten pledges and renewed these each week as we move closer to Jesus through our actions and prayers.

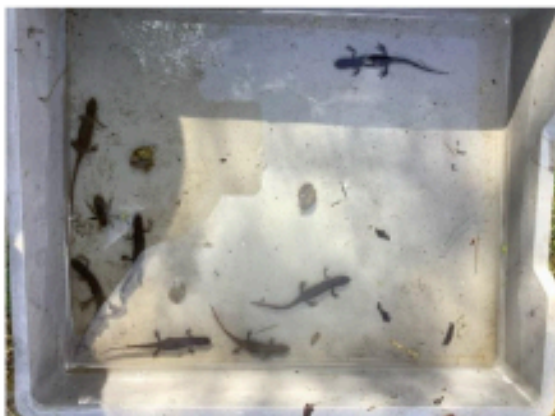
During this last week in school, we have prayed the Stations of the Cross on the school field as well as considering why people eat Hot Cross buns!



We planted seeds and cared for them to symbolise how we grow in love during Lent. We are growing our Easter Gardens to help us recall the Easter Story and to share with our families this Easter.

Pond dipping

As part of our understanding of how the natural world grows and changes, we have also been pond dipping this week. We managed to catch several newts who were all safely returned to their own habitat.



Happy Easter from Wrens

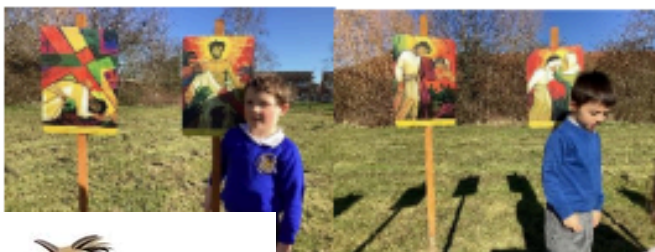
What an exciting and eventful Spring 2 it has been in year 1! From important elections to beautiful moments of reflection and discovery, our class has truly made the most of the season.

First thing, we had the thrilling task of selecting our school council members. It was such an exciting time! The class worked hard on writing reasons why they would be the best fit for the role. This gave us all a chance to sharpen our writing skills and reflect on what it means to be a good leader. It was wonderful to see so many of us stepping up with big ideas and a desire to help make our school even better.

As part of our spring journey, we also had the privilege of walking alongside Jesus during his Lenten journey. We took part in the stations of the cross, praying together in the field while enjoying the warmth of the sun. It was beautiful, peaceful time for us to reflect on kindness, promises and the importance of helping others.

And, of course, what would be a spring without a little adventure? Our class had an amazing trip to Fitzwilliam Museum, where we linked our history, art, reading and writing lessons. We explored how to tell stories through art by sketching, which allowed us to blend our creativity with the things we have been learning. The trip was the perfect way to bring our studies to life.

What a fantastic spring it has been in year 1, full of learning reflection and fun memories! We can't wait to see what the next term holds!



Kingfishers have had an exciting, learning-filled spring term. We have been such busy bees!

Our core texts this half term have been 'The Rhythm of the Rain' and 'The Street Beneath Our Feet'. The children enjoyed reading these non-fiction texts which are set out using story language. The children have also learnt to write a recount and a formal invitation. They have developed their descriptive writing techniques and are becoming very expressive writers.

In history, Kingfishers have been fascinated by the Tudors. I have been amazed with their ability to remember the facts about the five Tudor Monarchs and I have really enjoyed seeing their opinions develop about what life would have been like during this time.

In science, children have really enjoyed learning about plants. They have explored the school environment, planted their own seeds and had a very exciting day out at Anglesey Abbey. The children behaved beautifully and were very engaged and cheerful all day long.



Wishing you all a very happy Easter and a relaxing break. Looking forward to seeing you in the summer term!



Swallows News Letter



Dear All,

PE

As a class teacher, I am very proud of the class. I get compliments from the sports coaches every week about how the pupils listen to the instructions and are ready to learn.

In swimming, the pupils have all gained confidence in the pool. There are many pupils who have become fantastic swimmers. The stamina has grown and the pupils are able to do more work for longer. We also practiced a rescue, so hopefully the pupils can help anyone if needed.



DT and Art

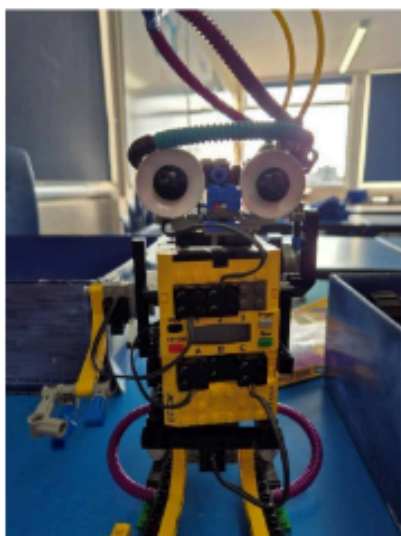
Over the last half term, all of the pupils have completed art and DT. They have all made a playground. The playground included gears, which the pupils enjoyed experimenting with. Most of them included bars and a swing. A few even had trampolines. One of the art projects has come home and this was a layered picture using card to show depth and a vanishing point.

Geography

We have been learning about Europe, which most pupils enjoyed, especially as we have pupils from various countries. This allowed them the opportunity to work with atlas' and enhance their geographical skills as well.

Passion Play

Year 4's have been working hard on the Passion play. Whilst the pupils do not speak (the narrators do all of the work), Many have shown some great skills in listening, acting, singing, without music and being part of a very special play, that only they get to do. The Year 3's have had the opportunity to watch and learn, ready for next year. We have some talented performers, within the Year 4's and I hope you enjoy watching them take on the passion play, which will end the school term of Lent.



Lego Robot made in Lego Club

Doves Spring Term 2 Newsletter

Doves Class really enjoyed celebrating Equalities Week. Children brought in bread to share from Portugal, Poland, Ghana, Sicily, Romania and Ireland. We even got to taste sugarcane, which is the raw material used to make sugar in most of Africa.

The class also enjoyed listening to stories from different countries and a real treat was listening to a Sicilian retell legends from Sicily. This tied in with our recent learning in geography around the active volcano in Sicily (Mount Etna) but it also tied in with our World Book day explorations into the Epic Poem of The Odyssey. Odysseus sails through the sea between Sicily and Italy, fighting off the Scylla monsters – one of the many perils he faces on his journey home after The Trojan War.



Dear Parents,

As we conclude the Spring term, I would like to share some key learning experiences from Year 5 Owls Class. Here's a quick overview of our highlights over the past six weeks.

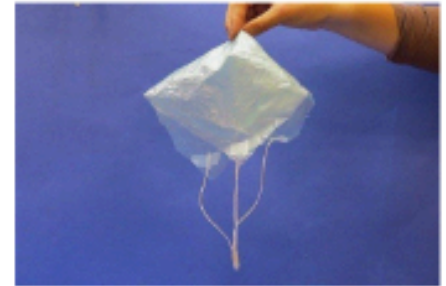


English:

This term, students have been focused on writing biographies, drawing inspiration from Mae Jemison, the first African-American woman in space. They have researched her life and achievements, planned, written and edited some really excellent biographies.

Science:

In Science, we have explored the concept of forces. Students conducted an investigation to determine how the surface area of a parachute influences its falling speed. Additionally, we enjoyed a trip to AstraZeneca, where the students learned about various careers in the STEM field and participated in related activities.

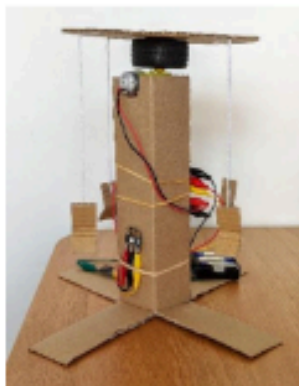


Religious Education:

In RE, students have engaged in the Stations of the Cross and have been preparing for Lenten activities. This reflection has allowed them to explore the significance of this period in a meaningful way.

Design Technology:

In Design Technology, the children designed and constructed their own CAM mechanism toys. They also wrote persuasive letters to encourage potential investors to support their toy projects, demonstrating their developing skills in persuasive writing.



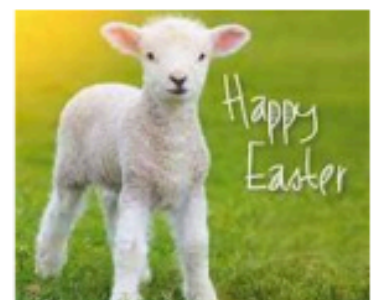
Computing:

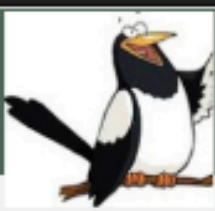
In Computing, students have been using Crumbles to write code for a fairground ride. This hands-on experience has allowed them to understand the principles of programming and electronics while developing the skills of resilience and collaboration.

Thank you for your continued support. I wish you and your families all a pleasant Easter break.

With warm regards,

Miss Corcoran





Magpies Class Newsletter

ENGLISH – BIOGRAPHY OF MAE JEMISON

Our focus in English this term was biographies, and we learned about the incredible life and achievements of Mae Jemison, the first African American woman in space. The children explored her journey, contributions to science, and the impact of her work, developing their writing skills to create their own biographies.

MATHS – DECIMALS AND FRACTIONS

In Maths, we delved into decimals and fractions, building on our understanding of how they relate to one another. The children developed confidence in comparing, ordering, and calculating with fractions and decimals, applying these skills in problem-solving activities.

SCIENCE – FORCES

Our Science topic this term was Forces. We investigated how forces such as gravity, friction, and air resistance affect movement. Through practical experiments, the children explored how different forces work in everyday life.

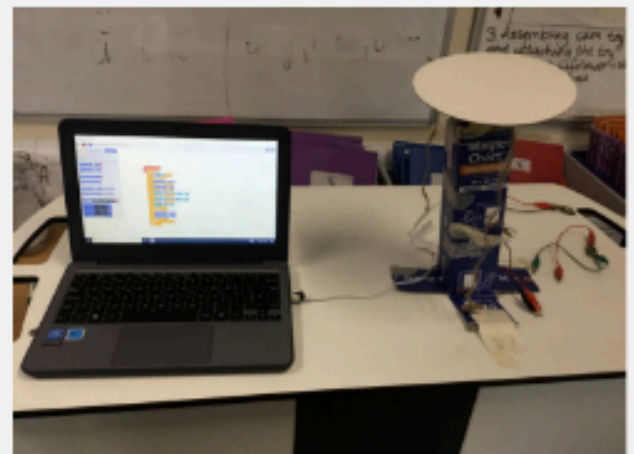
Dear Parents and Carers,
We had an exciting and busy half-term in Magpies Class!
Here's what we covered this term:

RE – FROM DESERT TO GARDEN

In RE, the children studied scripture, focusing on Jesus' temptation in the desert. They explored the concept of the narrow and wide paths, reflecting on the importance of making the right choices during Lent to grow closer to God. Finally, they examined the practice of conscience reflection, the significance of reconciliation, and how Jesus' ultimate sacrifice granted us the freedom to follow him to Heaven.

COMPUTING – CODING WITH CRUMBLE MICROCONTROLLER

In Computing, we explored coding using the Crumble microcontroller. The children programmed simple circuits, developing their understanding of coding concepts and how they can be applied to real-world technology.



Highlights of the term:



PANCAKE RACE

We marked the beginning of Lent with a fun and competitive pancake race.

ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY

The children took part in a reflective liturgy to begin the Lenten season.



WORLD BOOK DAY

We had a wonderful poetry workshop led by a published poet, inspiring creativity and a love for literature.



ASTRAZENECA TRIP

The children had the opportunity to work as scientists, gaining insight into research and the medicine development process.



DIVERSITY WEEK

We celebrated different cultures with a special cultural dress day and a Bread Day, where we explored different types of bread from around the world.

LENTEN CRAFT DAY

The children worked with their house peers to make money boxes and plant peas, demonstrating great resilience, kindness, and teamwork.

DT DAY

The children showed great perseverance, curiosity, and designing skills while working on creative projects.

*It has been a fantastic half-term of learning and discovery!
Thank you for your continued support,
Wishing all our families a happy, peaceful, and blessed Easter
Mrs. Prokop*



Kestrels Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. As we approach the end of another busy term, I would like to share some updates on our Year 6 activities and achievements.

Our pupils have been diligently preparing for their upcoming SATs through mock examinations. These practice sessions are proving invaluable, helping our pupils familiarise themselves with the exam format and build confidence in their abilities. We are pleased with their dedication and focus during this crucial period. Please note SATS tests dates for this year –

Date	Paper	Duration
Monday 12 th May 2025	English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS) Papers 1 and 2	45 minutes (GPS) Approx. 15 minutes (Spelling)
Tuesday 13 th May 2025	English reading	1 hour
Wednesday 14 th May 2025	Mathematics Paper 1 (Arithmetic) and Paper 2 (Reasoning)	30 minutes (Paper 1) 40 minutes (Paper 2)
Thursday 15 th May 2025	Mathematics Paper 3: Reasoning	40 minutes

I am pleased to report that our Year 6 cohort has consistently demonstrated a positive and mature attitude towards their learning. They have embraced their role as the senior-most year group, setting an excellent example for younger pupils. Their commitment to their studies and their support for one another is commendable.

To provide an enriching experience for our Science topic 'Light', we had the opportunity to visit the Whipple Museum of the History of Science. This excursion complemented our science unit, providing our pupils with hands-on experiences and historical context to their learning. The trip was both educational and engaging, allowing our pupils to see real-world applications of the concepts they've been studying in class.



World Book Day was a highlight of our literary calendar. We were fortunate to host poet Julie Stevens, who inspired our pupils to explore their creativity through poetry. The enthusiasm and talent displayed by our young writers were truly impressive, and it was wonderful to see their passion for literature ignited.



In our history curriculum, we have been studying the suffragettes.



This topic has sparked a genuine interest in historical inquiry among our pupils. It has been gratifying to observe them engage critically with this important subject and draw connections to contemporary issues.



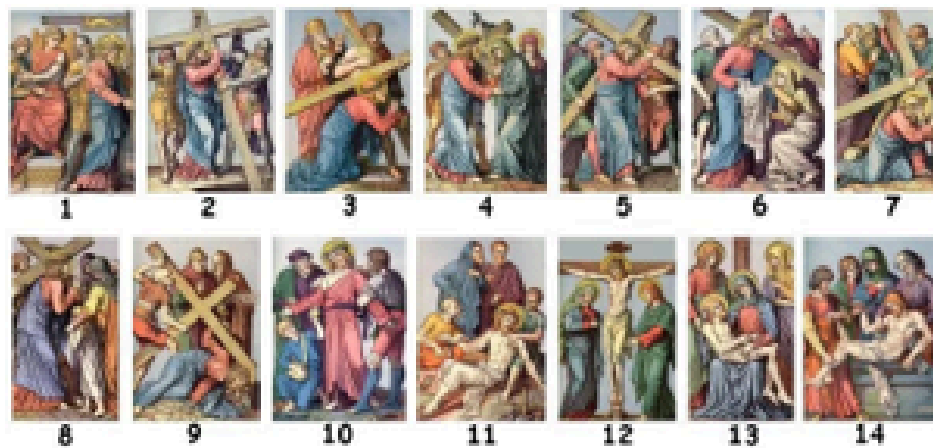
MILLCENT FAWCETT



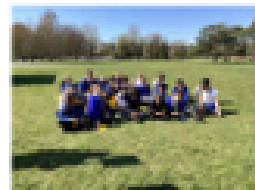
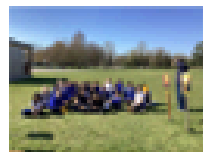
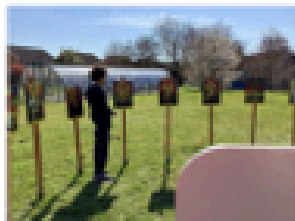
EMMILINE PANKHURST

Our mathematics curriculum has focused on decimals and percentages, while in English, pupils have been crafting adventure narratives with fantasy settings. These units have challenged our pupils to apply their skills in new and exciting ways, fostering both creativity and analytical thinking.

Kestrels class participated in a reflective session on the Stations of the Cross. This activity provided our pupils with a valuable opportunity to deepen their understanding of this significant aspect of our faith. The pupils demonstrated remarkable maturity and thoughtfulness as they considered each station, reflecting on its meaning and relevance to their own lives.



The Stations of the Cross are an important part of our Catholic tradition, particularly during the Lenten season. Through this exercise, our pupils were able to engage with the narrative of Christ's passion in a tangible and personal way. They were encouraged to think critically about the themes of sacrifice, compassion, and redemption that are central to this story.



Monday 3rd March 2025

The station of the cross

10th station - Jesus is laid in the tomb

After Jesus died, the soldiers placed his body in the tomb in a nearby garden. The soldiers didn't want anyone to see that Jesus was dead, so they rolled a huge boulder and sealed the entrance.

In this station, Jesus's friends and families thought that they would be lost. But God's plan would still continue, even through the cruelty of human sin, when Jesus died, God raised him from the dead, showing that God had defeated death.

We should share God's love and go that brings life, and learn that death is not the end because God's love can bring life. Even though it would not bring back a person back to life ~~physically~~, he does it spiritually.

The 5th station is where Simon helps Jesus carry the cross.

This is an act of kindness because Simon came out from the crowd to help Jesus carry the cross. If you look at lots of the 14 stations of the cross then I think you would have noticed that most of them are about doing the right thing and not sinning. For example, asking to play with people you don't always play with. Or, it could be playing someone else's opinion instead of yours.

Monday 3rd March 2025

For the 11th station:

After Jesus' death, his friend carried carried his body on a stone in a garden that was close by. After Jesus' friend, laid down the body, soldiers came and carried the body away with a heavy big rock. This is because Jesus and soldiers did not want Jesus' body to be seen by others. This is teaching us that God love is so amazing that not even death can. Because a Jew's come back from his death.

The 1st station of the cross is when Veronica wipes Jesus' face.

Now imagine a Queen funeral procession and there are crowds that if the situation Veronica was in, she chose to help Jesus; she went out of her way because she saw Jesus in pain. For example, to follow Veronica's example we can look out for people and go and help them.

I was particularly impressed by the level of engagement shown by our pupils during this activity. They asked insightful questions, shared thoughtful observations, and demonstrated a genuine interest in deepening their spiritual understanding. This kind of reflection is crucial for their personal and spiritual growth, and it aligns perfectly with our school's mission to nurture both the academic and spiritual development of our pupils.

To support your child's learning at home, CGP books have been sent home. I encourage you to set aside 10 minutes each day for your child to review concepts learned at school. This regular practice will help reinforce their understanding and boost their confidence as we approach the SATs. **Children must bring these books back to school after Easter Break.**



On behalf of the entire Year 6 team, I wish you all a peaceful and rejuvenating Easter break. We look forward to welcoming our pupils back for what promises to be an exciting and productive summer term.

Kind regards,

Mrs Khan-Blacker
Kestrels Class Teacher





SEND NEWS
from
Mrs. Harvey



Education Inclusion Family Advisor Team Countywide Online Workshop Offer

The EIFA team would like to present our newly updated workshops on a variety of parenting and family issues.

Please ensure you book onto each workshop individually by clicking on the link or scanning the QR code and completing the registration form.

Sibling Rivalry	Wednesday, 23 April 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or	
Understanding and Responding to Challenging Behaviours	Tuesday, 29 April 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or	
Sleep	Thursday, 1 May 2025, 12:00-13:00	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or	
Online & Digital Safety	Tuesday, 20 May 2025, 12:00-13:00	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or	

If you have any questions about our workshops or the EIFA service in general, please contact earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

