

Ursuline's February Newsletter

Following in Jesus' footsteps we love, learn and grow together.

Reception



Reception have had such a busy February! We continue to progress well in our phonics, enabling us to become more confident readers and writers. Our key texts, *Dinosaur Roar* and *Stomp Chomp Big Roar* inspired some fabulous guided group and child-initiated writing, not to mention maths (looking at groups of dinosaurs and deciding if we could spot a group of 6 or not), *Understanding the World* and *Expressive Arts and Design*. We were palaeontologists digging for dinosaur bones and became masters of drawing and labelling dinosaurs by the end of the topic.

Our new text, *Pet Cat, Big Cat* is a non-fiction text and we are working towards creating our own non-fiction books and animal fact files this term. We have looked at what makes suitable pet and talked a lot about unsuitable pets. We are very excited that our class pets (don't worry - they are very 'suitable') will be visiting your homes over the next few months.



Here are some pictures of our *Understanding the World* learning on Chinese New Year. The children loved learning all about the lucky colour red, making lanterns, cutting out spiral dragons, eating noodles and dancing in our dragon costumes.



Year 1

Year 1 have certainly enjoyed a busy February! The children have loved working with BeeBot to follow and create routes as simple algorithms. We even began to debug errors in different algorithms. We took inspiration from the outside to use leaves, twigs and other natural materials in our artwork. We also worked outside in the eco-garden to design gnome shelters by making use of our knowledge of materials from our science work. In our maths lessons, we have loved applying subtraction in different contexts, even trying out some tricky puzzles and games. The children are making great use of ten frames and number tracks to support their subtraction. We have begun our design and technology topic about sandwiches and enjoyed analysing and tasting different types of breads and wraps. Our new English text 'Nibbles, the book monster' has really captured our imaginations. Watch out though - you never know which book Nibbles might break into next!



Year 2

Year 2 have made a fantastic start to Spring Term 2. We started our learning in History with a visit from the Teeny Tiny Theatre company. They helped us to imagine what it would have been like in London in 1666 when the Great Fire of London started in Pudding Lane. The children worked together to recreate the scene and show why the fire spread so quickly. In maths we are working hard on learning our 2, 5 and 10 times tables. All the children have taken home their login details for Times Tables Rockstars. Please encourage your child to login in at home at practise their tables. Coming up this half term the children will be developing their cooking skills in DT. They will be learning how to make different dips! Maybe they will try out some of their new cooking skills at home.



Year 3

We have had a wonderful start to our Spring 2 term. Lots of exploring of our new topics and new story book for English. The children are going to enjoy going back in time and discover how transport has changed. We had a great start back to our drumming sessions and the children had remembered lots from before half term.

We have been working hard on our Maths with the children working together to create their own bar charts after collecting the data from our classes. They had to think about how they were going to present the information using only the cubes, flip chart paper and a pen. They all worked well together and presented their findings at the end.



Year 4

We have been working hard over the last few weeks and have enjoyed beginning to learn about the Titanic disaster as part of our English and History work. We were fascinated to discover the ship's many links to Liverpool. As part of our science work, we have begun to explore electricity. We were set a challenge to light a bulb by only using 1 wire, a battery and a bulb. After a bit of trial and error, we all managed to make a complete circuit and light the bulb. We have begun our new music unit which explores musical motifs. We have loved using the glockenspiels to perform our own rhythm patterns alongside our class song.



Year 5

We have had a lovely start to the second half of the Spring term. We have lots of new topics that we are excited to learn, especially WWII! Our new text, Carrie's War has us hooked and wondering what it was that Carrie described as, "The worst thing I've done in my life!"

In Maths, we are exploring the wonderful world of fractions, especially improper fractions and equivalent fractions before moving on to decimals, percentages and position and direction.

As the weather has been kind, we were lucky enough to get outside for our first cricket lesson and show off our skills! Coming up we have a D&T cooking unit to look forward to which will involve some tasting.

We had a wonderful fun day at the baths to bring our swimming to an end for now. It has been wonderful to see how much progress we have made.



Year 6

We have had a great start to the Spring 2 term in Y6. We have been enjoying lots of new topics from Pop Art in Music to learning about Slavery in History. The children enjoyed creating their own variations of music, discussing how different instruments change this and how the variations made them feel. Our new text in English is the poem 'The Lady of Shalott' which the children have loved reading. The children have enjoyed analysing the poetry. In Maths, we have been working on the link between fractions, percentages and decimals and have been tackling word problems in statistics looking at pie charts, bar charts and line graphs. We have continued with Military School this half term and the children have been designing and creating their own karts. They even got to test out their designs on the playground!



Wednesday Word

Don't forget to access this wonderful resource to support the sharing of the Gospel at home. Follow the link below to access our prayer resources page where you will find, amongst other resources, The Wednesday Word.

[Family Prayer Resource](#)



Sporting News

We have had a busy time in the last few weeks starting with a group of children going to Chesterfield High School to represent the school in a multi-sports competition. The children represented the school fantastically and had a wonderful time.

The Year 4 boys have also been to Chesterfield participating in a football tournament. I am pleased to say that all 10 boys performed wonderfully and came 1st in the tournament. Well done to all of you.

Finally, we had a Year 3 and 4 Gymnastics competition. The children all enjoyed competing in this and represented the school fantastically.

We have many more opportunities planned so keep on the lookout for more updates!

'Tell a Fairy Tale Day'

"Once upon a time in a busy school hall, a magical evening happened."

Many many thanks to our amazing families for sharing in the wonder of our fairytale day. We were overwhelmed with the response to our project making throughout school. Thank you for sharing in the awe and wondrous tales and bringing storytelling alive in such creative ways.



Family Book Buzz

We all love a good Book Gossip and our families created a real buzz as you shared in the joy of reading with us in school at our latest Book Buzz.

Further Family Book Buzz dates;

Friday 22nd March 2024 9.00-9.30

Friday 10th May 2024 9.00-9.30

Friday 12th July 2024 9.00-9.30



Healthy Lunchboxes

We encourage all our parents/carers who provide a packed lunch for their child to provide a balanced meal. Government guidelines recommend that a packed lunch should include:

- One portion of fruit or vegetables each day.
- Meat, fish or another source of non-dairy protein each day (e.g. lentils, beans, pulses, falafel).
- A starchy food each day e.g. rice, potatoes, pasta, noodles, couscous, cereals.
- A dairy food each day e.g. milk, cheese, yoghurt, fromage frais.
- An oily fish at least once every three weeks.

Children are not allowed to bring in fizzy drinks or energy drinks as part of their packed lunch. For further information on healthy lunchboxes please follow the link below.

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>



Healthy Snacks

All children in the infants are provided with fruit or vegetables at breaktime. Children in KS1 and KS2 can bring in a healthy snack to have at breaktime. Children should not bring in crisps, chocolate and biscuits to have as a snack.

All pupils are invited to bring a water bottle to school. We are struggling to find space to store large and/or wide water bottles. Please encourage your child to bring a small bottle that can easily be fitted into our class bottle crates. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Have you got the rhythm?

Many of our families joined in performing in a spring concert which took place at Sacred Heart Catholic Academy. The concert took a 'workshop' format, where performers from both junior and adult choirs rehearsed selected pieces on the day and performed in the evening. What a sound!





We are thrilled to share that one of our pupils from Year 2 is one of the top 50 finalists in the 500 Words Writing Competition. Be prepared for laughter, tears and joy as you can read or listen to all the finalists' stories on the 500 words website.

The winners will be revealed on a special 500 Words programme with The One Show on World Book Day, 7 March at 7pm.



You are invited to share a prayer in Lent.
Take a moment of shared peace and trust led by Denise Cottrell-Boyce
Every Tuesday at 2.45pm to 3.05pm in school.

PE Kits

On PE days, please ensure your child is wearing their school PE kit:

- House team coloured T-shirt with school logo (red, yellow, green or blue)
- Navy Blue shorts/skorts
- Black jogging bottoms (If weather is cold)
- Black sweatshirt (If weather is cold)
- Velcro fastening or pull-on pumps or trainers

Football kits or multicoloured hoodies/sweatshirts should not be worn. Please let school know if you have any difficulties purchasing the correct PE Kit.

Curriculum information

Don't forget that our website contains information about the curriculum for all subjects. Visit our class pages for up-to-date information about what is happening in each of our year groups.

Holiday requests

School has recently received a number of term time holiday requests. As a reminder, we are unable to authorise term time holidays (apart from some exceptional circumstances). Holidays taken during school time may incur a fine.

Some dates for your diary:

4.3.24-8.3.24	Book Fair after School- see image below
7.3.24	World Book Day- see flyer attached
7.3.24	Diversity Concert
8.3.24	Get Growing Day- all parent/carers welcome- see flyer attached
22.3.24	Family Book Buzz 9am-9:30am
28.3.24	Easter Hat Parade/Design an Egg
28.3.24	Term Ends 2pm
15.4.24	Summer Term Begins
15.4.24-17.4.24	Year 6 Residential
15.4.24	He is Risen Celebration Day
1.5.24	Book Look for Families 3:30pm-5:30pm
10.5.24	Family Book Buzz 9am-9:30am
13.5.24-16.5.24	Year 6 SATs Week
24.5.24	INSET Day School closed for all pupils



JOIN OUR BEE HIGHWAY!



We're buzzing with excitement to let you know that bee friendly wildflower seeds will be on sale at our book fair. They are on sale for £1 a packet and will help support reading throughout school.



Come and see one of our worker bees at the book fair. It's open after school from Monday 4th March to Friday 8th March.