



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST



St. Thomas of Canterbury

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Dear Parents,

This half term had an exciting start with a visit from Ofsted last Tuesday and Wednesday! Thank you to all the parents who completed the Parent View Questionnaire and any parents who spoke directly to an Inspector. The inspection evidence is going through a Quality Assurance process and we anticipate our final report and judgment should be ready to share by the end of term. Thank you for your patience.

Feeling Good Week

During the week before half term, the children and staff very much enjoyed our Feeling Good Week and learnt the importance of being kind and connecting with others, see highlights and photographs on pages 3 to 5.

Catholic Life of the School

In preparation for Lent, last Tuesday all the children participated in our annual Pancake Races and great fun was had by all (see photos on page 2). On Ash Wednesday we were delighted to welcome Bishop Paul McAleenan who celebrated Mass and administered Ashes to the children, staff and governors (see page 2). It was a very special reflective moment to celebrate a Mass in school, the children were in awe of the Bishop, particularly when he delivered the Eucharistic Prayer in sign language!

National World Book Day

A reminder this Thursday 2nd March is National World Book Day. This day highlights the importance of reading and the love of books. This year we invite all children to come to school dressed in their favourite book character and to share their favourite book - please do not buy anything especially for this occasion, children are encouraged to utilise clothes and props they already have at home and to use their imagination and creativity! There will be prizes for each class and all children will receive a £1 book token on this day. The children will have many opportunities throughout the day to get involved in book related activities. We are still looking for a parent volunteer to read to Year 5/6, please contact the Office if this is of interest. Thank you to parents who have been in contact to read lower down the school.

Parent Consultations

I look forward to seeing many of you at our scheduled face to face Parent Consultations, if you have not yet made an appointment, please contact the School Office as soon as possible.

And finally thank you for your continued support.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Keating

HOUSE POINTS:

A Liturgy for Peace in Ukraine



Almighty Father, we come before you with heavy hearts as we hear of a violent invasion of Ukraine. Remembering your will to restore all things, and trusting in your power to accomplish the same through the Cross of Christ, we join with you whole church in praying for peace. Amen

St David

237



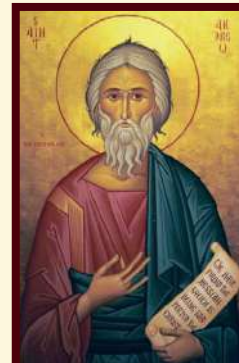
St George

210



St Andrew

157



St Patrick

201



Catholic Life of the School

We started our preparations for Lent on Shrove Tuesday with our Pancake Races.

Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday, is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent – the 40 days leading up to Easter – was a time of fasting and always falls 47 days before Easter Sunday. Shrove Tuesday was the last opportunity to use up eggs and fats before embarking on the Lenten fast.



On Ash Wednesday, we were delighted to welcome Bishop Paul McAleenan to our school to celebrate a very special Mass with us. Bishop Paul administered Ashes to children, staff and governors.



Feeling Good, Feeling Safe



During the week of 6th February, we recognised Hertfordshire's **Feeling Good Week**, the theme being "Be Kind and Connect". The purpose of this was to highlight the importance of physical and emotional wellbeing and the children took part in activities during the week including Forest School, Cheer Leading and Dance.



Forest School Feeling Good Activities!



Forest School Feeling Good Activities!



NOTICES

STAFFING:

We welcome two new Learning Support Assistants who have joined us this term:

Mr Gooding:

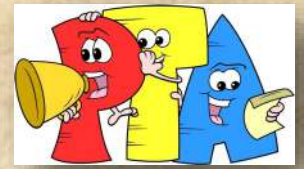


and Mrs Nelson:



Mrs Scher will be commencing her maternity leave at the end of term. We will update you in due course with her maternity cover.

After twelve years of service to St Thomas' school, Mr Hill has been offered a promotion with the Music Service and will be leaving at the end of term. This will be a huge loss to the school and we wish Mr Hill every success in his new venture. We have recruited Mrs Earl who will be delivering music every Tuesday throughout the school. We very much look forward to welcoming her.



The PTA continue to lead successful fund raising events. The recent Movie Night and Disco raised over £500, a huge achievement! Forthcoming events include an Easter Egg painting competition and a House Easter Quiz, further details to follow!

MSA VACANCY

St Thomas of Canterbury School are looking to recruit an MSA for 2 days per week (1.25 hours per day). The grade is HA 2 (approximately £9.50 per hour). Safeguarding and pre-appointment checks will be undertaken as part of our safer recruitment process. Please contact Mrs Sellers, Office Manager (01920 821450 or admin@stcanterbury.herts.sch.uk) if you are interested in applying.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday 1st March 09:15	Year 1/2 Assembly - parents welcome
Wednesday 1st March	Parent Consultations (re-scheduled Yr 1/2 bookings)
Thursday 2nd March	World Book Day
Thursday 2nd March	Parent Consultations
Friday 3rd March 15:30	Thomas Tigers Match - away at Christchurch, Ware
Wednesday 8th March	Parent Consultations (Year 6 and re-scheduled Yr 1/2 bookings)
Tuesday 14th March 19:00	Local Governing Body Meeting
Friday 17th March 09:15	Early Years Assembly - parents welcome
Tuesday 21st March 18:30	Premises & Finance Governors' Meeting
Thursday 23rd March 09:15	Year 5/6 Assembly - parents welcome
Thursday 23rd March 15:15	PTA House Easter Children's Quiz
Thursday 30th March 09:15	Year 3/4 Assembly - parents welcome
Friday 31st March 09:15	Awards Assembly
Friday 31st March 13:30	Break up for Easter