

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



January

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

The month of January has whizzed by, I have been so impressed with how quickly the children settled back into the new term.

On Christmas Eve Pope Francis officially opened the Jubilee Year. A Jubilee Year only comes around once every 25 years and brings particular joy, reconciliation and hope for the world. Pope Francis has called upon us all to respond to this Jubilee's theme, to be 'Pilgrims of Hope'. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust, within us personally, within our families and within the communities we belong to.

In this month's Newsletter you will see examples of how we enrich the curriculum through hands-on practical experiences. For example, on page 3 and 4, our Early Years have been celebrating Chinese Year and exploring the tradition by making their own stir fry and taking part in an exciting dragon dance.

Reflecting upon our Franciscan Values, in particular Care for Creation, our School Eco-Council have been actively thinking about how to help the environment, through litter picking and composting. Please see page 5 for details about the Eco-Council's next exciting project and fundraising.

On page 6 you will see our Year 3 and 4 children eager to take part in their archaeology topic which involved comparing the layers and surfaces with chocolate bars!

We are very much looking forward to inviting you into the classroom for our second open afternoon, next Tuesday at 2:30pm. We hope to see many of you there.

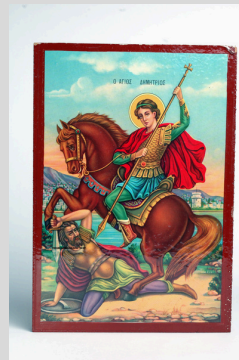
Best wishes,

Mrs Keating
Executive Head

House POINTS

ST GEORGE

260



ST PATRICK

248



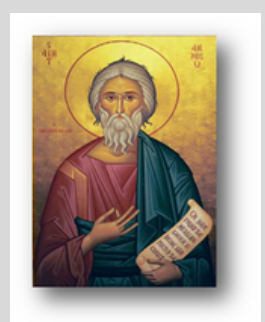
ST DAVID

247



ST ANDREW

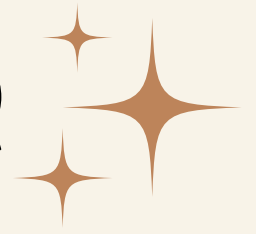
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House Points are given to children to encourage positive behaviour, promote a sense of community and to motivate them to work together towards a common good by earning points for effort, participation, and positive actions.

Catholic Life

Of the School



EPIPHANY MASS

Father John led us in an Epiphany Mass when we returned from the festive break. Before Mass, Early Years visited the Church for the first time to see the crib before the official end of the Christmas liturgical season.

JUBILEE-PILGRIMS OF HOPE

In the Jubilee Year school communities are invited to join together as pilgrims of hope, pledging to work together for God's kingdom of justice, peace and love. Over the past two weeks, we have launched the Jubilee with special assemblies and discussions and the Chaplaincy Team will be attending a Jubilee Trust Chaplaincy Retreat just before half term. Keep your eyes peeled for more Year of Hope updates!

A prayer of hope

God, our loving Father,
in this Jubilee Year,
you remind us of our call to love creation.
Help us to work together
to replant, repair, and renew.

Guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope.

Jesus, our light,
In this Jubilee Year,
you remind us of our call to love
our neighbours
and to set free those who suffer.
Help us to treat everyone with dignity;
to be fair, forgiving and kind.

Guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope.

Holy Spirit, our inspiration,
in this Jubilee Year, you remind us of our
call to grow in faith and love.
Help us to hear you in scripture, to see
Jesus in others,
and to be united as God's global family.

Guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope.

Amen

Written in
collaboration with Adasa



HAPPY
Chinese
new year

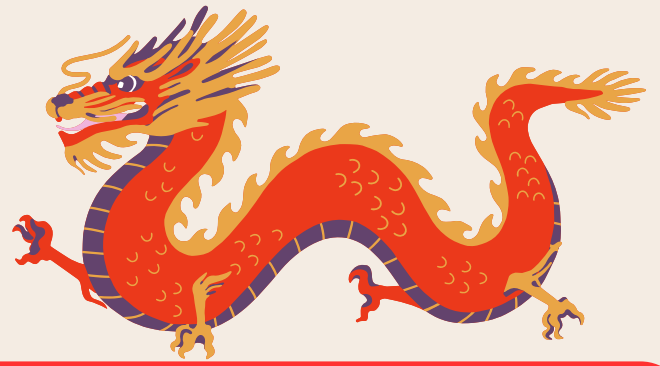
KUNG HEI FAT CHOI!
CONGRATULATIONS AND
BE PROSPEROUS!



Early Years have been celebrating the Chinese New Year. They made a delicious stir fry together!



2025

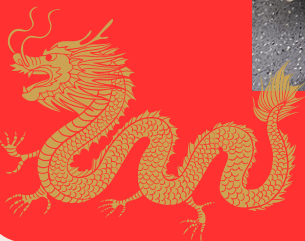


Early Years were shown the dragon dance and together they made a magnificent dragon from recycled materials!



謹賀新年

謹賀新年





SCHOOL Eco-Council



The School (Eco) Council have been thinking of ways that the school can help the environment. They have been extremely proactive - here are some of the excellent initiatives they have already put into place:

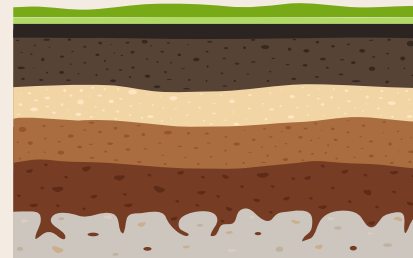
- Gathering food waste from snack and break time into a compost bin
- Collecting plastic waste to recycle
- Litter picking and encouraging the school community to place their rubbish in the bin - the school grounds are now looking super clean and tidy!
- Planning to hold a non uniform day to help raise funds to buy extra bins. Keep your eyes peeled for the date coming soon!
- Designing posters to remind everyone to turn off lights and whiteboards when not in use

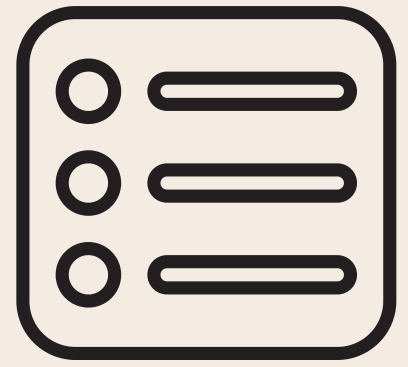
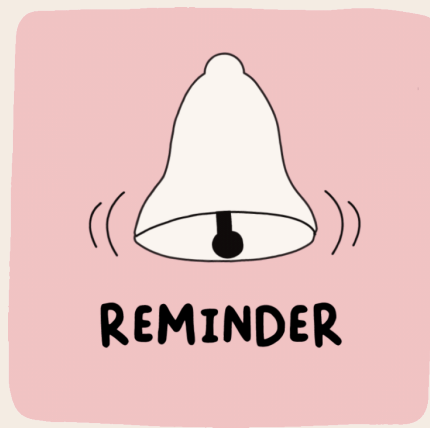
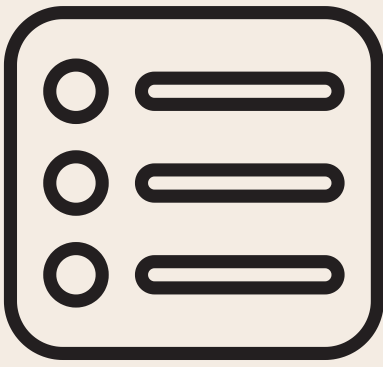


Science



Year 3 and 4 have enjoyed the start to their new Archaeology Topic! They have been learning about the rock cycle and how different rock types are formed. The class enjoyed looking at the physical properties of different rocks such as a smooth surface, gas bubbles and layers and comparing them to chocolate bars!





- Remember to check the “Next Week at a Glance” flyer every Friday for events and clubs taking place the following week.
- A date for everyone’s diary! Parents are invited to the second Open Afternoon of this Academic Year - come and share the amazing achievements of your child on **Tuesday 4th February at 14:30**
- Please remind your child to have their full PE kit in school every day

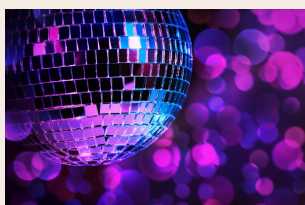
Please consider joining our PTA!
You are vital to the success of the school!

Schools are becoming more and more dependent on their PTAs for funds.

Without the funds raised by the PTA, our children would not benefit from items such as: The forest school; KS2 trim trail; KS1 play park; climbing apparatus in the hall, ipads and laptops; overhead projectors; Early Years play equipment, author visits, enrichment workshops; contributions to pantomimes and much more.

You don’t have to attend every meeting (you don’t have to attend any meeting). There are a variety of small ways you can help and be involved – from helping at an event, gathering raffle prizes or coordinating a coffee morning.

The PTA are currently busy organising a fun disco for the whole school - this will take place on Thursday 13th February after school



A PARKING REMINDER FOR ALL PARENTS!

Please park courteously and with consideration when dropping off and collecting your child. Please do not cause visibility problems for other drivers when you park (typical problem areas include the bottom of the car park ramp, the bus bay outside the school, opposite the school, along residents’ driveway). This is for everyone’s safety!

