

## Headteacher's Update – 28.3.25

Dear Parents,

Here we are almost at the end of another term. We will break up for Easter on Friday next week.

School closes for the Easter break on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 12pm**. Please ensure you collect your child promptly at this time.

School reopens on **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April** and children may return to school wearing their summer uniform.

### Big Lent Walk

Children are continuing to do laps of their playground during PE lessons, their break times and buddy times! Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Please log into your school gateway account to donate. If you would like to see where your money will be going and the impact it can have, please follow this link to find out more about CAFOD's Lent appeal: <https://cafod.org.uk/give/appeals/lent-appeal>



### Science Poster Competition

Last week in Friday's assembly I was delighted to announce the winners of the recent science poster competition. We had some great entries on the theme of adaptation and change. Here is a picture of our worthy winners and their excellent posters.



## New Eco Council

I am delighted that as a direct result of interest from our environmentally aware children, that we have held our first session with our new eco council. Some of the pupils were inspired by their science lessons when they were shocked at how much litter they collected from the school grounds. We also know that the aims of the eco council link closely with the Stewardship of Creation aspect of Catholic Social Teaching.

### Stewardship of Creation:

- This means that humans are not the absolute owners of the Earth but rather caretakers entrusted by God to care for creation.
- This responsibility includes protecting the environment, conserving resources, and ensuring its sustainability for future generations.

The council members enjoyed a session about the importance of recycling plastic and the impact it can leave. They learned about different materials like glass, cardboard and plastic, how to recycle them and what happens when they do. The meeting encouraged them all to recycle more and I know they are already thinking of ways they can spread this message with others.



### Attendance and the impact on pupil's outcomes

As we come towards the end of another term, some of you may have received or are about to receive a letter regarding your child's attendance at school and some of you may have met with Miss Sitkowski to discuss how we can work with you to improve your child's attendance. The minimum expectation for pupils is 95% and of course, we hope everyone will be aiming for 100%.

We recognise that children do get ill or have accidents and therefore missing school will be unavoidable. However, if children are just a bit 'under the weather' then please send them in as often they are able to get through the day and take part in the learning. However, I receive many requests for time off school to go on holiday. This is not considered an exceptional circumstance and will not be authorised. I do appreciate how much cheaper term time holidays can be (this is a problem all staff in school face too), but sessions missed have been shown to have an impact on children's learning.

The Government has just published a report noting the link between attendance and pupil outcomes at the end of KS2 (the end of primary school) and the end of KS4 (the end of secondary school). There is a clear link between higher attendance and better outcomes,



with children more likely to reach the expected standard if they are in school 95% or more of the time. Although some children may not see the importance of tests such as SATs as these do not influence the school they will attend (unlike the 11+), they are an important indicator as to whether children have the knowledge and skills expected of them as they enter secondary school. Gaps in learning can be difficult to fill as everyone around them moves forward, so being in school and achieving well is the best start to the next stage of their education.

Thank you to everyone who ensures their child is in school as often as possible – you are doing the best thing you can for your child’s chances of success.

### Year 2 Amazing Africa

This Monday, Year 2 celebrated their geography topic by holding an 'Amazing Africa' day. The day was filled with stories, music, artwork and drumming. The children had a great day celebrating different African traditions and cultures, especially when learning about the Djembe drum from West Africa and having a chance to play a rhythm altogether. Special thank you to parents who sent in some African items to share- it really helped bring the day to life!





## Nursery 'Stay and Play'

It was so lovely to hear that so many parents attended the Nursery stay and play session on Thursday. The children enjoyed showing them all the fun things they do. They finished the session off by singing a song to everyone. We hope the parents enjoyed their visit as much as Nursery did.



## Mother's Day

**Mothering Sunday**  
For hundreds of years, the fourth Sunday of Lent has been known as 'Mothering Sunday', when people would return home to visit their 'mother' church.

Today it is also called 'Mother's Day' and is an occasion for us all to honour our mothers and people who are like Mums to us!

**Let's pray for mothers  
around the world.**



I hope all of you who celebrate this day, have a lovely time. We know for some of our families this is a more difficult time, and our prayers are with you too.

Mrs Machin



**Nursery**

**We have been learning:** about the Police, how they help us and the important job they do in our community.

**You can help at home by:** talking to your child about the important job of the Police and other people who help us in our community.

**Reception**

**We have been learning:** about 3D shapes (cone, cylinder, cube, cuboid, sphere, pyramid.)

**You can help at home by:** taking your child on a shape hunt to find as many as you can.

**Year 1**

**We have been learning:** to spell the days of the week.

**You can help at home by:** practicing spelling the days of the week with your child.

**Year 2**

**We have been learning:** how to use a search engine online.

**You can help at home by:** asking your child to show you how to use a search engine like Google and talk about using it sensibly and safely.

**Year 3**

**We have been learning:** how to use subordinating conjunctions to add detail to our sentence.

**You can help at home by:** asking your child to identify subordinating conjunctions in the books they read and ask them to explain how these conjunctions add detail.

**Year 4**

**We have been learning:** about the Tudors at Knebworth House on our school trip.

**You can help at home by:** asking your child what they learnt!

**Year 5**

**We have been learning:** about Judas' betrayal.

**You can help at home by:** asking your child why do you think Judas may have chosen to betray Jesus?

**Year 6**

**We have been learning:** about the decline of the Ancient Maya civilisation.

**You can help at home by:** asking about the possible reasons for their decline.