

## Newsletter ~ Term 4, Week 1



Welcome back to a new term and to signs of spring. The daffodils are already out in their pots outside our front door at school, making things look and feel a lot more cheerful! And we certainly welcome the lighter mornings and evenings.

Thank you to all parents who came to our Parents-Pupil Evenings; as ever there was an excellent turn out which shows just how supportive you are of your children's learning. Children and staff appreciate the opportunity to discuss progress and celebrate achievement as well as

informing you of 'next steps' in learning. Could we please ask that any interim reports which were taken home are returned to school by **Friday 9 March** in order for them to be photocopied and returned to you.

### **Year 4 Class Assembly Friday 2 March 10am**

Year 4 are starting the term for us with a class assembly next Friday morning and have been busy preparing dance and drama for their celebration, so please do come and join us.

### **Lent**

The season of Lent started during the school holidays this year and is one of the most solemn and important periods of the church's calendar. At school, we have planned lots of activities and events to support the children's understanding of this special time of prayer, charitable giving and reflection. Details of our Lent Fundraiser will follow and the children will be learning more about it over the course of the next couple of weeks.

The children will all have the opportunity to bring home a Prayer Bear this Lent in a bag kindly made by one of our parents, Mrs Smithson (many thanks to you!). As well as containing the bear, there will be other artefacts which might include a candle. Please be vigilant when using the candle and make sure you and your children keep themselves safe.

### **World Book Day Thursday 1 March**

Next Thursday is World Book Day and to celebrate this we are inviting children to dress up as a favourite book character. In exchange, we would ask you to give your child a small donation as a contribution towards new books for our library. In consultation with their classmates, the school council have requested that we have some updated stock for our library and we would never want to discourage children from asking for books!

We are also asking that children bring in one or two books in good condition that they no longer need and offer them into a class 'book swap'. After a bit of swapping around, everyone should come home with a lovely new read!

### **Curiosity**

We have been talking to some of the children about how the teachers can help them be better learners here at school, and one of the things they said is that they want more chances to ask really BIG questions. The teachers are trying to give children opportunities in class to be curious and let their minds soar, including in Reception, where the question of the week comes from Daisy:

*Do numbers ever stop growing?*

Wow, Daisy! That is a good question!



### **Sports News**

We are very excited to announce our new team of proud and enthusiastic School Sports' Leaders. We have already had our first meeting and they have been very helpful coming up with new ideas and offering to help with sorting out the equipment.

Look out for new activities and events, which they will be helping organise over the next few months.

Nailsea & Backwell Rugby Club are currently looking for new players. We welcome all players from year groups 1 to 6 and train / play matches on Sunday mornings from 10:30. If you are interested in trying rugby, please contact Phil Matthews ([pmatthews1999@gmail.com](mailto:pmatthews1999@gmail.com)) or pop down on a Sunday. For those interested from year 6, please contact Janice Warren on 07818 046 232 or [Janice.warren@sky.com](mailto:Janice.warren@sky.com)

Our sports coaches are offering the children in years 1-6 an orienteering session this term and next week on Thursday, it is the turn of year 2. Your child is welcome to bring some wellies or sturdier shoes into school that day, as the activities take place on the field, which is still quite muddy and wet in places.

### **'Well Done' this week to...**

Daisy, Rhian, Cristal, Alessio, Luke, Cayden, Tooni, Ronnie, Matilda, William, Claire, Jemima and Angus. They have been praised for excellent writing and hard work this week among other things!

### **A message from St Francis' Church**

We are making a collection of good used clothes, children's and adult's, suitable for summer and winter, for Nazareth House in South Africa. The nuns at Nazareth House care for disabled and abandoned/orphaned children, refugees and the elderly. If you have any unwanted clothes, including school uniform, please leave them in the church foyer or phone Paula Swift 853526 to find out more.

### **Friends' News**

We've been busy putting dates in the diary and planning future events, so here are some dates for your diaries for the rest of the term.

The next committee meeting is Wednesday 14th March, 7-8 pm at the Moorend Spout in Nailsea. Everyone is welcome to come along as we would love to hear your ideas.

Our Mother's Day Stall is on Friday 9th March, 1.30-3 pm.

Friday 23rd March: an Easter Egg Hunt for the whole school will be held during school hours followed by an Easter BBQ and Raffle. Details to follow.

Finally we are planning a 'Silver Smarties' Fundraiser. Every child will be given a tube of Smarties to take home before the Easter holidays; once the Smarties have been eaten, which I'm sure won't take long, the children can do good deeds at home to collect 20 pence coins to fill the Smarties tube and bring back to school after the holidays. The tubes will fit £1 coins as well, so if the deeds are extra good they can have an extra reward! We thought this would be something fun for the children whilst raising funds for the Friends.

## Breaking News...



At assembly this morning, the children met representatives from the two charities we are fundraising for this Lent. Charlie the Air Ambulance Bear was the undoubted hit of the morning!

*It is very important for us to know about the air ambulance and how fast it is so we know it can come to us speedily if we are in distress.*  
Freddie

*The air ambulance cars can get to us at night when the helicopter cannot fly. The bear loves to dab! Luca*

*It is important that we look after people with Dementia and that they have friends to be by their side.*  
Sarah

*It is good that we are helping people with Dementia as people can have many problems and it is good that we can contribute.* Amalie

## And Finally...

*Some words from the Pope's 2108 message for Lent, which among many other things, is plea to bring justice to a sometimes-troubled world. Our fundraising efforts help make the world a fairer place.*

*I would...like my [Lenten] invitation to extend beyond the bounds of the Catholic Church, and to reach all of you, men and women of good will, who are open to hearing God's voice. Perhaps, like ourselves, you are disturbed by the spread of iniquity in the world, you are concerned about the chill that paralyzes hearts and actions, and you see a weakening in our sense of being members of the one human family. Join us, then, in raising our plea to God, in fasting, and in offering whatever you can to our brothers and sisters in need!*