

February 2024



English Martyrs'
Catholic Primary School
Loving Jesus, Loving Learning, Loving Life

Part of the Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust



Spring Term 2a Newsletter



A Message from Miss Elliott

It only seems like yesterday since I wrote to you at Christmas!

The year is passing quickly and school has been very busy this half term.

We continue to strive to provide our pupils with lots of fun, exciting and memorable opportunities to grow and develop, and we hope our newsletter this half term gives you a snapshot of what the children have been doing.

Thank you to all those parents who have joined us in school for Parents Meetings over the last two week. I'm sure you were all very proud of your children and enjoyed looking at the lovely work in their books.

The season of Lent began on Wednesday – when we celebrated Ash Wednesday. The children brought home a Lenten calendar which gives them daily activities that you could do as a family during half term.

I wish you all a happy, enjoyable and safe Half Term!

Miss Elliott

Lent

'A time for growth and renewal'



Mass in School



We celebrate Mass, in school on the first Friday of each month. All of our English Martyrs' parish and school community are most welcome to join us. There are refreshments served by our pupils available after Mass.

Parents Meetings

It was lovely to welcome so many of our Y1 to Y6 parents/carers to our Parents Meetings.

Parents of our Nursery and Reception children will be invited into school after half term to meet the teachers and discuss their child's progress.



Ash Wednesday



Upper Key Stage 2 celebrated the beginning of Lent in church. Mr Kennedy led the rest of the school in a special Ash Wednesday liturgy.



Lenten Reflections



Lenten preparations are well underway in school and pupils have been asked to 'reflect' this Lent. During Lent our children will be given the opportunity to complete a series of reflections and think about what they can do to make a difference to others during Lent. This will be led by our 'Faith in Action' children who will prepare a weekly focus based on Sunday's Gospel during Lent.

Year of Prayer



In preparation for the 2023 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope' 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis. We thought we would take this opportunity to show you a few examples of how we pray in school and each class will have the opportunity to plan and prepare prayer spaces for the children to visit during Lent and over our school year.

Parent Reading Workshop

Thank you to all the parents/carers who were able to attend our Reading information session, we hope you found it useful.

A copy of the slides can be found on our school website under Curriculum-English-Reading.

A copy can also be accessed by following this [link](#)

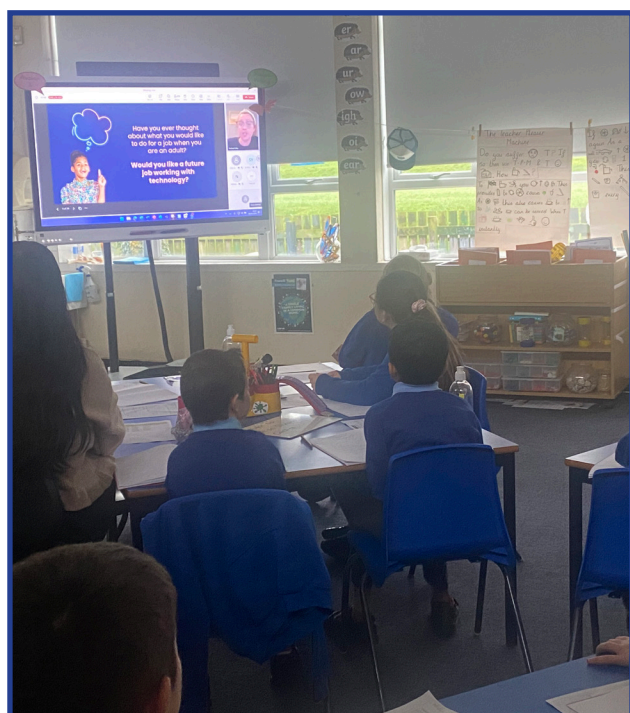


Y6 - Safety Works Visit

Year 6 went to learn about being safe at Safety works. Safety works is run by Northumberland Police, British Transport police, Nexus who run the Metro System, local road safety teams and the RNLI. It is an interactive safety centre, that helps children to understand and learn about the importance of being safe when coming face to face with everyday hazards such as a fire, a busy road, being near water etc and how to prevent accidents occurring. Y6 had a great time.



Safer Internet Day



The children took part in Safer Internet Day 2024 on 6th February 2024, with celebrations and learning based around the theme 'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'.

This year we focused on AI and how it can make a difference and inspire change. Our KS2 students took part in a live lesson with 'Tech She Can' where they learned how AI can be used in their daily lives. They learned about how AI could be developed in the future and were presented with different future career opportunities involving using and designing AI.

Our KS1 students learned about the power of AI and how it can be used to create different media.

Fasching Celebration



As part of our partnership with Rainbow School in Gelsenkirchen the children celebrated Fasching or Karneval which is one of the most popular festivals in Germany; the biggest celebrations take place the week before the start of Lent. Children were invited to showcase their Karneval style clothes and get into the true spirit of Karneval. All of the children in school made their own Karneval mask; learnt numbers 1-10; practised the colours in German and Key Stage Two children enjoyed a video call with the pupils in Rainbow School.

Bishop Bewick Choir

Some of our Year 6 pupils joined a Cross-Trust choir with children from over 20 schools. They joined together to record a special song which will be used by all schools in the Trust throughout Lent.



Children's Mental Health Assembly

As part of Children's Mental Health Week, the children in Key Stage 1 and 2 enjoyed an assembly based on the book 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse'. It is a fantastic book with very meaningful messages.



Shrove Tuesday

Carole worked with some of our Upper Key Stage 2 children to make some delicious pancakes in celebration of Shrove Tuesday, the day preceding Lent.



School Council



The School council have been very busy recently meeting on a fortnightly basis to discuss ideas and make exciting plans for school.

They have conducted a survey to gather children's ideas about what they would like to see on the lunchtime menu and then fed back their findings to Carole who runs the kitchen and she is currently compiling a new menu for the school council to proof-read that will include lots of their suggestions! The children have had meetings with Miss Moran to come up with new and exciting ways to encourage full attendance at school. Currently the children have posters in their classrooms and are gathering ideas for a new school library!

House Points

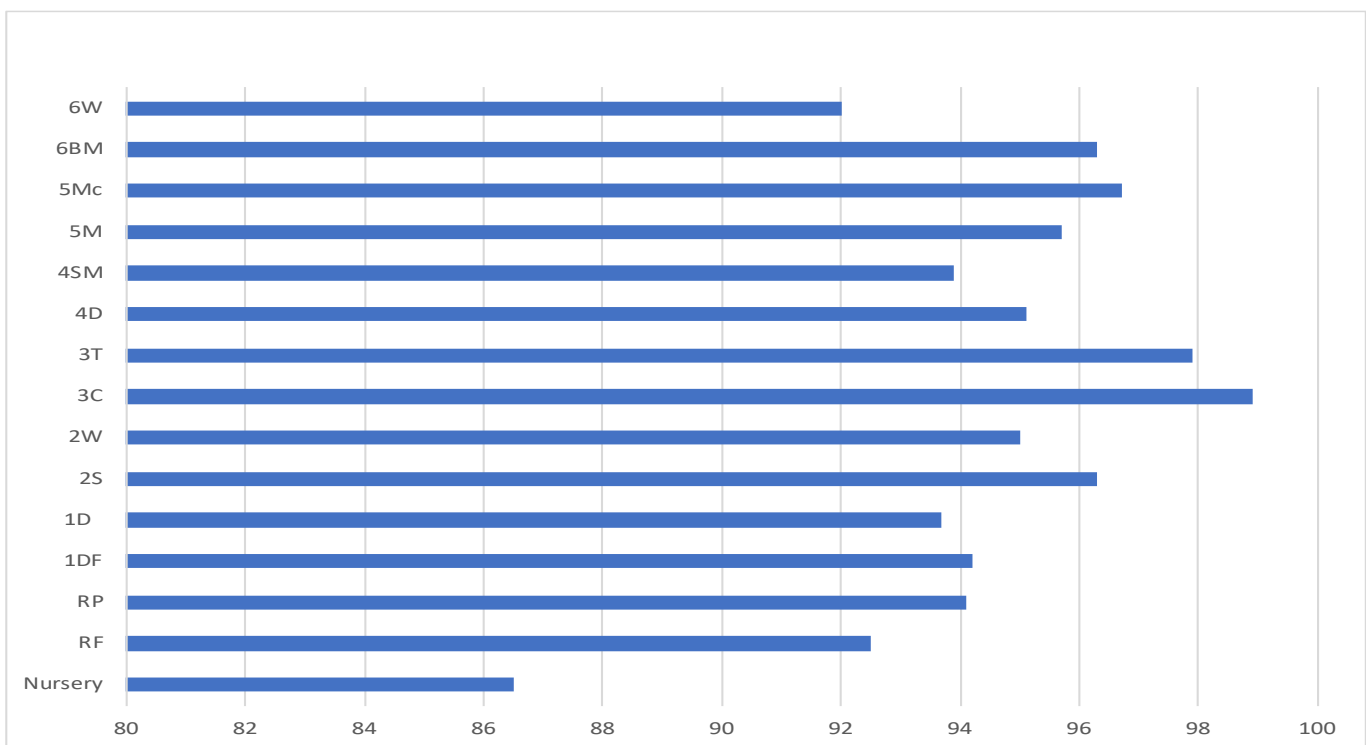
Term 2a - Winning House

St Oswald - 1627



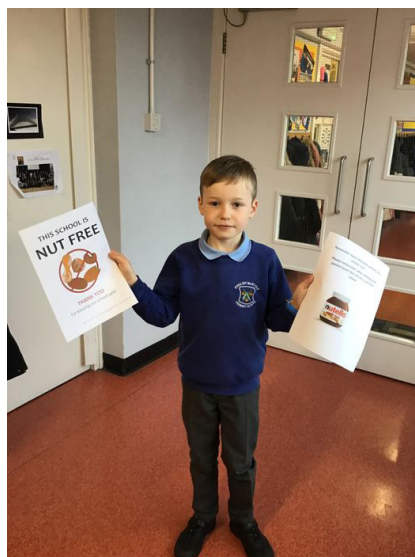
Attendance by Class

Well done to the children in 3C who have topped our half termly attendance tracker!



My Voice Matters Award

Congratulations to one of our school councillors, and a very caring brother who was presented with a special award for reinforcing the message that we are a NUT FREE school. He visited every class including nursery to deliver a nut free poster. He spoke passionately about the importance of ensuring any products containing nuts are not brought in to school. Well done!



Upcoming Dates.....

- Monday 26th February - Pupils return
- Monday 26th February - Friday 8th March - SEND Reviews
- Tuesday 27th February - YMT Residential Information Evening (Year 4)
- Wednesday 28th February - Nursery Parent Visit Group 1
- Friday 1st March - Nursery Parent Visit Group 2
- Monday 4th March - Friday 8th March - Reception Parent Visits
- Thursday 7th March - World Book Day (children can dress as their favourite colour or book character)
- Tuesday 26th March - Stations of the Cross at the Cathedral (Year 4)
- Friday 29th March - School Closed for Easter Holidays (3.20pm)