

October 2023



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

Part of the Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust



Autumn Term 1a Newsletter



A Message from Miss Elliott

As we come to the end of our first half term, we have lots of lovely things to share with you.

As ever we try to use our newsletters to highlight any important new information we have sent out this term. We also showcase the many memorable learning experiences offered to our pupils as we continue to strive to ensure we have a rich, ambitious curriculum where all can succeed.

May I take this opportunity to 'officially' extend a very warm welcome to our new Reception children and their families to the family of English Martyrs'.

They have been busy trying different activities including singing, counting, painting, building and exploring our outdoor play area, as well as making lots of new friends!

It was lovely to see many parents/carers attend our Curriculum Night earlier this term. All information shared by the class teachers will be uploaded to the school website by the beginning of next half term.

Thank you to all those parents/carers who took the time to complete the online survey.

We will be looking at the responses and addressing any issues / concerns or suggestions made next half term.

As always, the pupils and staff have worked very hard and I'm sure are looking forward to the half term break.

May I wish you all a very happy half term holiday!

(Don't forget to put your clocks back on Sunday 29th October - enjoy the extra hour in bed!)



Miss Elliott

Mass in School



We were very happy to welcome Fr John and Fr Mariadass into school, to celebrate Holy Mass with our KS2 children and some of the English Martyrs' parishioners.

This was a celebration of the new academic year where we were able to ask for God's guidance and support from the Holy Spirit.

We gave thanks for our friends, teachers and families as well as praying for our new reception children and our previous Y6 children who are now starting their new journeys at High School.

We will celebrate mass on the First Friday of each month, here in our school hall. Parents, carers and parishioners are most welcome to join us for mass and there will be refreshments available afterwards.

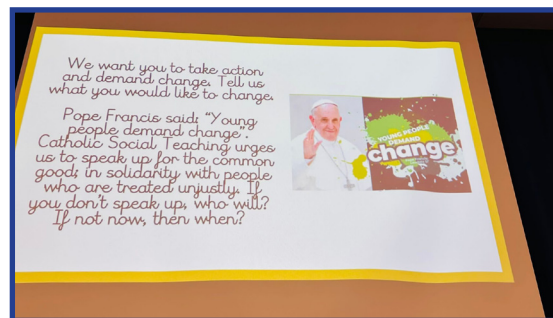
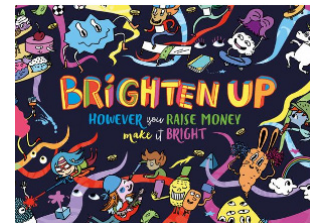
Welcome Mass for Bishop Stephen

Two members of our CAFOD club represented our school as our Diocesan schools joined Bishop Stephen this afternoon at a beautiful Mass to welcome him to our Diocese as our Bishop.



Harvest - Brighten up for Cafod 2023

Our Catholic social teaching theme this year is 'Young people demand change'

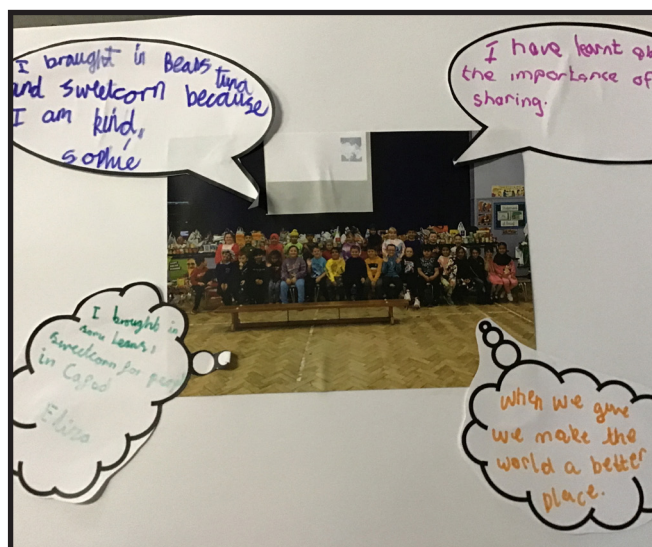
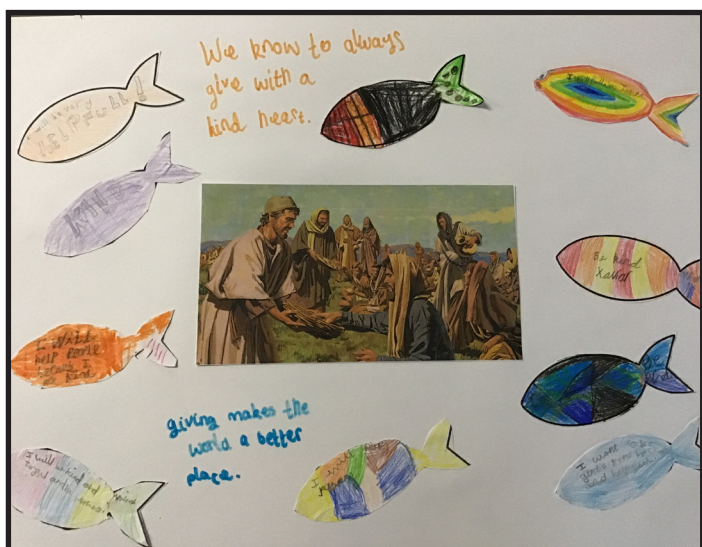
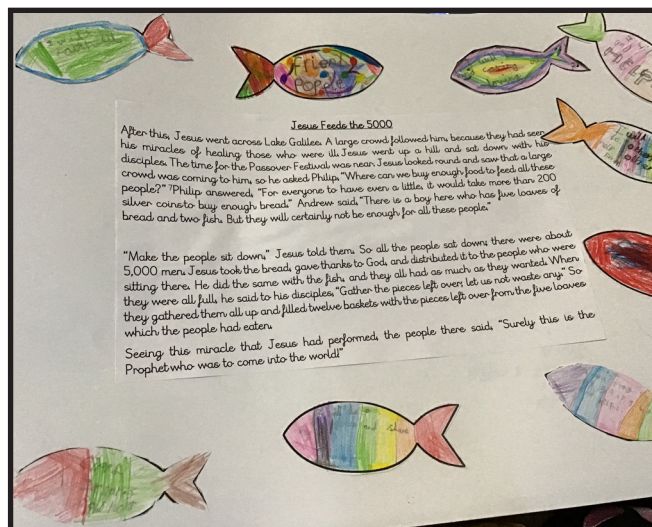
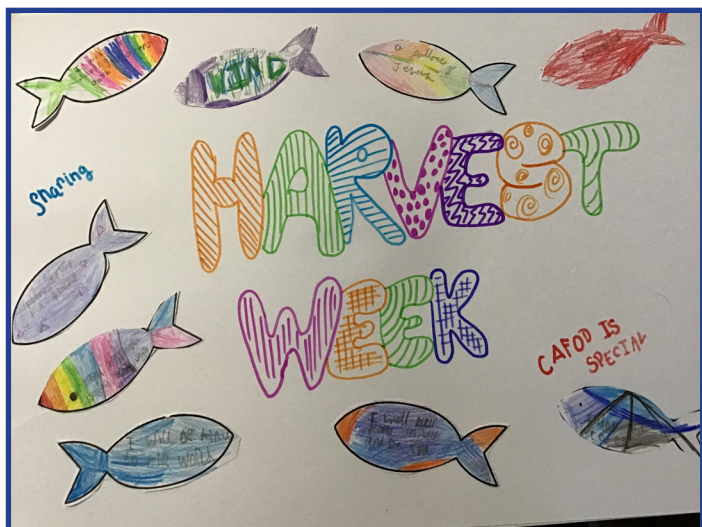


This Harvest Festival week we have supported CAFOD by joining other schools around the country to brighten up, dressing in bright colours and collecting food donations. We have collected food for Joe's place this year, a local charity who helps to feed the homeless.

Over the week the children have focused on the key message that 'working together and starting small, we can make a difference and help create a world where everyone's rights are respected, and everyone can live life to the full.

Once again, we would like to thank all of our families for your kindness, generosity and support.

Celebration of the Word



All of our children are involved in planning, delivering and evaluating prayer. They work together in their House groups to celebrate the Word. We record this in a lovely book as a celebration of our year. Here is an example from our Year 3 class for this weeks celebration of Harvest.

Faith in Action



Our Year 6 children have started their 'Faith in Action Award'. Over the year they will focus on improving the prayer and for all pupils by doing things such as improving the prayer room for child led prayer, leading prayer stations, leading prayer on a Friday lunch time and helping all children in school with praying the rosary through our liturgical year. They will also focus on our Catholic social teaching goals to support our local community. Currently they have supported the local charity Joe's place who cook meals for the homeless.



World Faith - Jewish Synagogue Visit



As part of World Faith studies, Y4 have visited Newcastle Reform Synagogue in Gosforth to talk about Judaism and have a tour of the Synagogue. They were shown the Torah scrolls, discussed religious practice in the Synagogue and at home.

World Faith Lessons - Judaism



In our World Faith lessons we have been focusing on Judaism and looking at key aspects of the Jewish faith such as Hankkah, Shabbat, and the Torrah. Deanna Vandervelde is part of the United Hebrew Congregation of Newcastle came into school and talked to the children about Jewish beliefs, values and festivals.

Pupil Responsibilities

Congratulations to our newly appointed:

Head Boy - Matthew Warkman

Head Girl - Rebecca Douglass

Deputy Head Girl - Anamika Jose

Deputy Head Girl - Chisom Ayodele

Chair of School Council - Ava Diffley White

as well as our House Captains and School Prefects.

Well done!!



House Points

Term 1a - Winning House

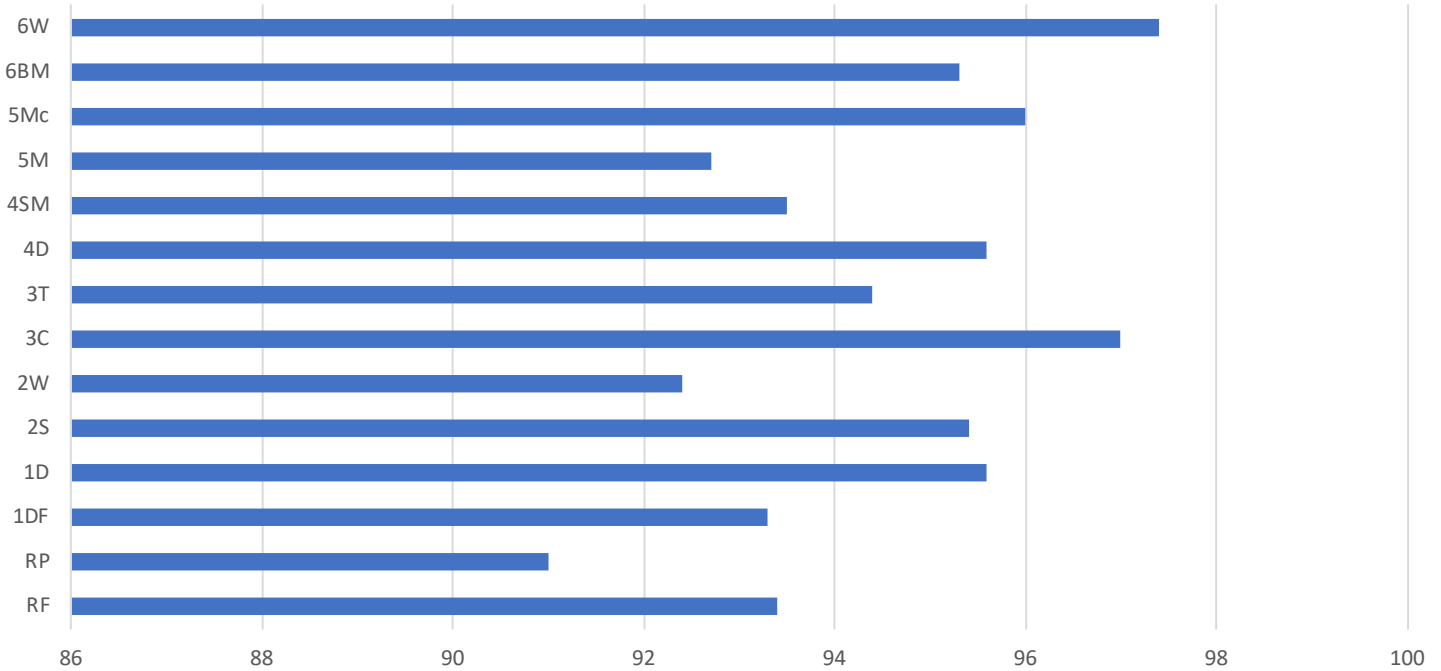
St Hilda - 1120



Attendance by Class

Well done to the children in 6W who have the highest attendance this half term at 97.4%

Attendance - Autumn 1a



Y6 Borrowdale



Y6 Borrowdale



Art - Gelsenkirchen Project

As part of our newly formed partnership Mr Kennedy, Miss Madsen and Mrs Bridgewood travelled to Gelsenkirchen, Germany, to meet the staff at Regenbogenschule, or 'Rainbow School'.

They were shown around Rainbow School by Partnership Agreement co-signatory and English teacher Melanie Zimmerman, where they observed the teaching of both English and German, and were able to plan future partnership projects and themes, as well as a visit to Newcastle for Rainbow School staff.

The staff also spent time at Leibniz-Gymnasium, a secondary school where they worked with 16- and 17-year-old students and discussed the benefits of learning languages. The pupils shared experiences of their own visit to Newcastle in August, and asked questions about England, Newcastle, and were keen to hear our thoughts about Gelsenkirchen.

Some pupils also presented coursework which had a focus on Newcastle – exploring culture, landmarks and the geography of the north east. The staff were also given a tour of the school, enjoyed cake made by parents, and were given a musical performance by a pupil who is an award-winning flute player.



Art - Gelsenkirchen Project



Black History Month

As part of Black History Month, Mrs Margo led an assembly supported by some of our Y6 pupils. Mrs Margo reminded pupils about some of the most influential black individuals and how they have helped to shape history.

The children also considered how much society has changed but also what still needs to be done to ensure everyone is treated fairly and with respect.

The month presents an opportunity for children and young people in our school to learn more about Black history and to celebrate the contributions Black people have made to society.



European Day of Languages

There are 24 official languages in Europe but adding in regional and minority languages, the total number spoken across the continent is over 200. On 26 September, European Day of Languages, we celebrated the range and diversity of languages spoken throughout Europe by celebrating the languages spoken in our school.

We are so lucky at English Martyrs' to have a school community where many languages and cultures can be celebrated.

Miss Madsen led us in an assembly where we heard many different languages spoken from around Europe. We were set challenges to identify languages and we are going to research the origins of languages spoken in our school.

Throughout the day and coming weeks we will learn more about languages and the importance of learning other languages.

It was wonderful to see children so proudly sharing their languages and cultural backgrounds with the school community.



Grass Roots Sports and Northumberland Cricket Board

This year we have teamed up with Grass Roots Sports and Northumberland Cricket board to deliver some high quality and challenging PE and Coaching sessions for our pupils.

This term, children will be taught Tag Rugby, with a focus on not only the fundamental skills of throwing and catching but also the importance of movement and tactics within the game. Pupils will also look to improve reaction time, coordination and confidence as they apply new skills to game situations.

Our pupils in Year 2 and 4 are currently working with Northumberland Cricket board to improve their skills and learn about the game of cricket. The coaches will introduce all elements of the game to the children and will also provide further pathways and opportunities for those who wish to pursue the sport outside of school.

Through our PE offer, this year - our pupils will be taught a wide range of skills which can be applied to a wide range of sports. They will be able to take part in many different sports both in PE lessons and in school competitions. We will also be working with other organisations including Falcons Rugby and Newcastle Eagles basketball.

You can find out more on the PE pages of our website.



Curriculum Night

Thank you to all those parents who attended our curriculum night. It was a lovely chance to meet your child's teacher and find out about the curriculum content for their year group. If you were unable to attend the information can be accessed from the school website after half-term.

To find this information please go to the pupils section of the website. Select the relevant Year group and click Life in Year ** 2023/24/Curriculum Night.

Attendance - Term Time Holidays

Following guidance from Newcastle upon Tyne Local Authority all holidays taken during term time will be subject to referral for penalty notices (fines). Attendance is a national focus for the Department for Education, Local Authorities and schools and many children are missing their legal entitlement to education.

At English Martyrs', we do understand that going away during school holidays can be expensive and we also understand that sometimes there are exceptional circumstances whereby children will not be in school.

However, holidays during term time are having a significant impact on children's education both nationally and locally.

These changes will come into effect for Leave of Absences submitted from Monday 30th October 2023.

Reporting Absences

If your child is going to be absent from school please ring the school office on 0191 274 7463 before 9am and select Option 1 for absence. Please leave your child's name and class, and the reason for absence.

Please note this is the only method for reporting absence to the school office and no other methods should be used i.e. Tapestry or email.

Reception Meeting

It was lovely to welcome so many of our new parents to our Reception Reading and Phonics Meeting. It was a great opportunity for parents to explore phonics and learn more about the Essential Letters and Sounds scheme our school follows. Thank you to all who attended.



Tapestry

School use an online journal called Tapestry which we share examples of children's work with parents. This can be accessed via an App.

All parents should now have received an email invitation to the address you have provided the school office. This will ask you to create a password and a pin and then give you access to your child/children's journal. (please note this may go to your junk folder)



Upcoming Dates.....

October 2023

6 th	Mass in school
10 th	Y6 Girls – Nissan Stem Visit
10 th	Y4 Synagogue Visit
11 th	Y1 – Y6 Curriculum Information Evening for Parents/Carers 3.30pm
17 th	Reception Reading & Phonics Information Meeting for Parents/Carers 2.30pm

Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October 2023 – School Closed for Half Term

30 th	School returns from Half-Term holidays
30 th & 31 st	Y6 Konflux Theatre Workshops in school

November 2023

2 nd	Toileting Workshop for Nursery Parents (9am to 10am) Main School Hall
13 th - 17 th	Anti-Bullying & Road Safety Week
14 th	Y2/Y3/Y4/Y6 Central Mosque Visit to school
15 th	North East Sikh Visit to school
17 th	Children in Need 2023
17 th	Y6 visit - Durham University Experience Day
20 th	Y5 visit to Central Mosque (Newcastle)
20 th	Y4 Fire safety talk from the Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service
27 th – 1 st	SEND Reviews Week
29 th	Flu immunisation team in school for pupils in Reception to Year 6 (consent form to be completed by parents/carers via website link)

December 2023

1 st	Parish Mass in school 10am
5 th	School Choir (Grainger market) 10.30am
11 th	Lower KS2 Y3/Y4 Carols in English Martyrs' Church (times tbc)
12 th	Upper KS2 Y5/Y6 Carols in English Martyrs' Church (times tbc)
13 th	EYFS/KS1 Christmas party
14 th	KS2 Christmas Party
18 th	KS1 Carols in English Martyrs' Church (times tbc)
19 th	Reception Class Nativity (two performances am and pm) times tbc
20 th	Nursery Christmas Party
20 th	Christmas Mass at English Martyrs' Church (tbc)
21 st	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch in school

***Monday 25th December 2023 to 5th January 2024
School Closed for Christmas Holidays***

Please be aware these dates are subject to change
If any changes are made a text will be sent with updated information