



Care – Learn – Respect

Dear families of Our Lady of the Assumption

It has been a very busy half term.

Class teachers are working to focus children's learning and plans are continuing to develop visits for the children as well as visitors to support learning. Thank to all parents who continue to support their children's reading and their weekly home works.

Extra Bits in the learning journey

Reception class have really enjoyed balancability and we are delighted to have purchased our own set of balance bikes so that they can continue their skills journey. We have also purchased science resources for reception class after securing a grant and are looking forward to some growing projects as the weather improves.

Year five have been working on two projects - Tales Retold, a resilience building drama programme and a sports based project with Blackpool Football Club.

A group of year six students took part in a conference at Blackpool Football Club and will share their learning with all pupils in key stage two.

Next half term

We have plans for reception, year one and two to enjoy a science adventure.

Year three and four will be attending history trips and year five will take part in a cycling proficiency course.

Year 6 will begin a six week project with Sports 4 Champions.

Wherever possible we look for ways to access events at no cost or reduced costs and try to access subsidies and grants. We are very grateful to the PTFA who will make contributions to events where possible.

As we continue to seek ways to offer opportunities beyond the classroom we will need to ask families for voluntary contributions for class events. We hope that you will support these events to make them possible.

PTFA are planning further events and we look forward to sharing details once confirmed. School discos in the autumn term were a huge success and will be back on the menu for summer term.

Staff have been accessing training both within school and outside of school. We are also re building shared learning experiences with schools from within the Catholic clusters of Blackpool and Fylde.

Before School and After School

We have been working to transfer the ownership of the before school and after school provision to school. Many of you will know that this was under separate management to our school but governors and staff in the provision have been keen to bring it under school management. We appreciate it is a valued support to our families so it makes sense that it is fully part of our school life. This process has been complex to ensure that the transfer meets all legal requirements but we hope it will be completed by the end of February.

The lunch payment system is now set up for you to select meal choices. If your child has hot meals please do give this a go. Let admin know by email if you have any issues.

Currently it can be tricky for the catering team to know how much to cook in order to give all children a choice so this will greatly simplify that process. Most children are quite flexible about their meal choices but this will ensure that you and they will know in advance what they will be eating.

New Signage so that everyone knows who we are and where to go on arrival. Also importantly the many no smoking signs have been removed.

Plans Forward

I've been working with the diocese to make plans to expand the covered area in the reception class outdoor base. We've also had some small works agreed for areas around school. The KS2 children's toilets are to be re skimmed and painted and an extra drain is being added to the small playground to stop low level flooding into the boiler room. All of these projects are important and will be completed at no cost to school.

Dance and singing club

Both the Friday dance club and our school choir have been working hard to get ready for their performance at The Winer Gardens this Friday evening.

The focus and the standard of performance is impressive. Over 60 of our children are involved in this exciting project.

Shakespeare Drama Club

The Tuesday and Friday drama club are also working hard to prepare for their performance next half term. Pupils from year three, four, five and six are all involved.

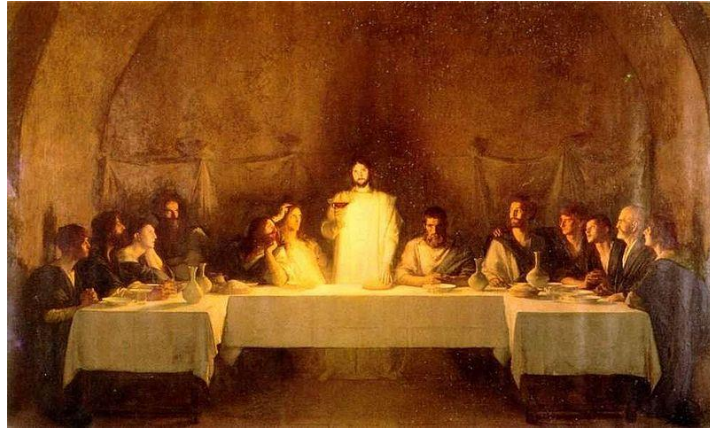
Our Lenten Journey.

On our return to school our Lenten Journey we begin with Ash Wednesday on 22nd February. All pupils will take part in this service in church.



Our Lenten Journey will conclude with all classes contributing to Holy Week events. In addition Year 6 pupils will take part in the **Catholic Schools Lenten Liturgy**. Year six pupils have been working on understanding the detail and significance of The Last Supper. We will be asking for volunteers to work on a project to create a

performance based on The Last Supper to perform at St Kentigens on Tuesday 14th March at 6.00pm.



On line time Internet Safety Day Tuesday 7th February.

It is clear that our young people are confident and competent users of a wide range of electronic devices, on line platforms and apps. We all know that they switch easily from one to the other and bewilder us with their knowledge.

It is an exciting world and it can develop their skills in many ways.

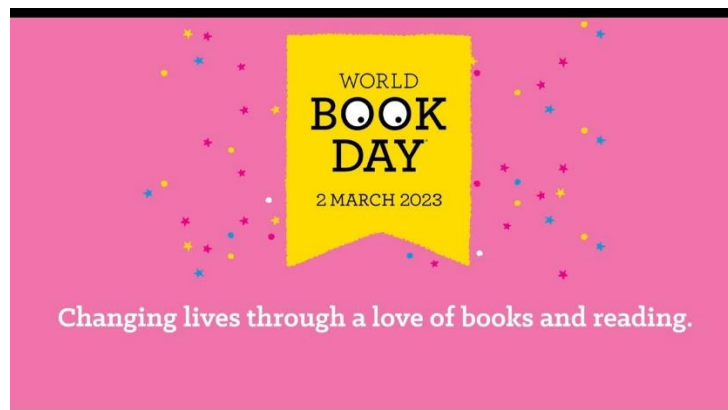
On Internet Safety day every class accessed age appropriate lessons to develop their awareness of the positives and the challenges of this world.

All parents know the responsibility of trying to keep ahead of the children and also to ensure that we know what they are accessing. It is essential that parents keep on seeking ways to ensure that children share what they are accessing in order to keep them safe.

As we approach half term this seems a good time to ask parents to continue to check what children are seeing, hearing and saying whilst on line.

The following links offer advise and support

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>
<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>



World Book Day 2nd March 2023

Reading and books are so important to our school learning journey. We are fortunate to have lots of quality books in school. We plan to celebrate world book day by encouraging children to dress up and to have opportunities to share books.

When we are all having to watch our spending it's important that you don't feel you have to purchase new items for this event. What is most important is that children bring books that they really do love so focus on making the dressing up fun rather than complex.

Attendance Monitoring



Every student. Every day.

We work with the local authority and follow national guidance when managing attendance.

Monitoring by the local authority will pick up pupils at risk of falling to concern levels and this will result in a letter from the pupil welfare team to identify if there is any support they can offer. They are a supportive team who work in partnership with us in school.

Thank you to parents who do notify us of any absence. Sickness absence should be reported daily.

Planned absence can only be authorised if children are attending close family weddings or funerals. We ask all parents to complete an absence form so that we have a complete record of any absence.

Community Matters

Polite Request from our neighbours

Local residents have politely asked that families avoid blocking them in and ensure that they can get in and out of their driveways and roads.



We wish you a peaceful, healthy and happy half term and look forward to welcoming children back on Tuesday 21st February

