



Spring Term 2b Newsletter



A Message from Miss Elliott

As we begin our Easter holiday it's hard to believe we are coming to the end of yet another school term.

This term has been full of fun activities, experiences and achievements. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Kennedy, the OPAL working party and all the staff for their hard work in making OPAL such a success. We were delighted when we were awarded the Platinum OPAL award earlier this term.

I hope this terms newsletter gives you a flavour of all the wonderful things that have taken place this half term.

As we will not be in school during Holy Week this year, Mrs Watts and Miss Fox have provided many opportunities for our pupils to reflect on the significant events of this very special week. We have ended our term today with a beautiful and thought-provoking liturgy, led by Year 6, focusing on the Stations of the Cross.

I hope you all have a fun filled and blessed holiday.

May you all have a happy and holy Easter.

Miss Elliott



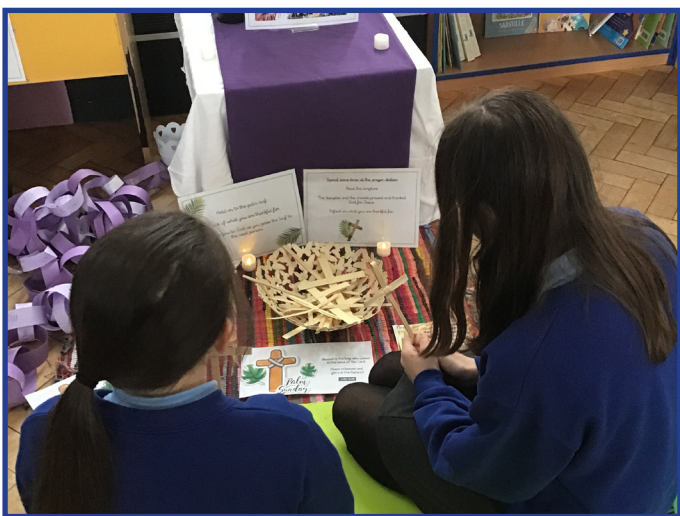
First Reconciliation



Thank you to Fr. John and Fr. Mariadass for supporting our pupils so well on 10th March as they celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Prayer Stations

5 interactive prayer stations were created for the last week of term. They supported the children with the final days of Jesus Journey through Lent – covering Holy week.

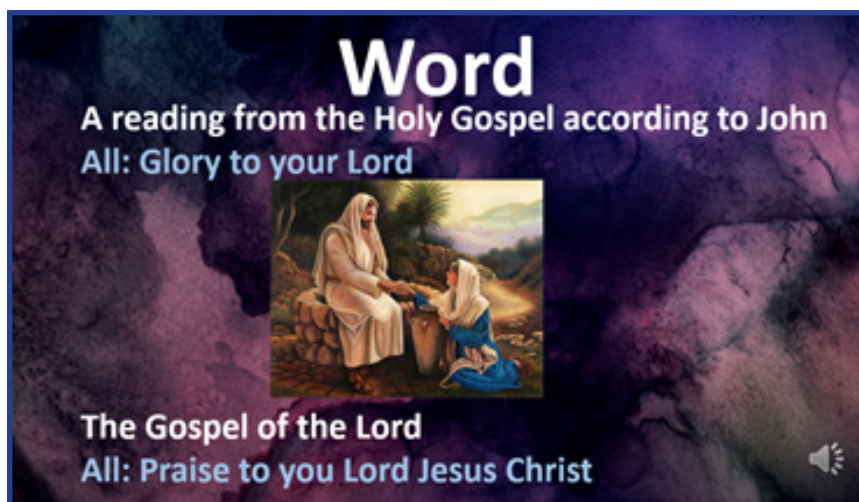


Class Liturgies

We have been very pleased to welcome parents into school to celebrate the Word of God and take time to reflect and pray on the Gospel teachings during class worships. Each week, one class has prepared a liturgy for parents to participate in. We have had a great response from parents so far.



Lenten Reflections



Each day during lent, all pupils have been taking part in a 5-minute meditation/reflection using a Lenten Prayer journal. The have watched reflective powerpoints, listened to quiet music or simply just sat in silence having 5 minutes to complete their journal or pray to God.

Faith in Action - Creative Prayer

The children in Year 6 are leading towards a faith in action pin that is designed to allow young children to help them discover how faith shapes lives. They have chosen to support worship in school and raise money in the summer term for charity. They have helped design our prayer room to make sure it is an inviting space and are supporting all children in KS2 leading prayer on a Friday lunchtime.

They have focused on creative prayer and have created an interactive prayer wall for all children to use. Currently it has prayers on for family members and Lenten Promises. With the prayer room revamped and extra resources ordered they have been able to support pupils with worship. We now need to focus on resourcing prayer boxes to support staff with all liturgical times of the year.

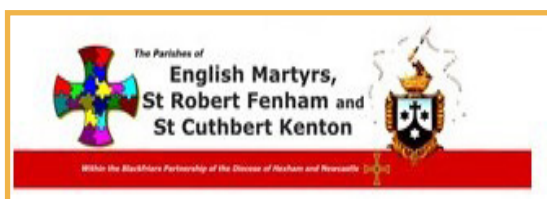


Mini Vinnies

The Mini Vinnies group in school have been working on creating Story Sacks which they are hoping to donate to a local children's group. They did this as a reflection of their motto 'Turning Concern into Action', as they were worried about how children who were in hospital celebrated World Book Day. The children made houses and peg dolls and the sacks to put everything in, as well as some Play Doh and mini umbrellas so that the children can act out the story. They used the book Makatope written by Mrs Tayari.



Reminder...



Palm Sunday Holy Mass
English Martyr's Church
2nd April 09:30 am

CAFOD Club

During CAFOD club, children have been learning about the climate crisis through games and have been researching information to teach other children about the importance of recycling.

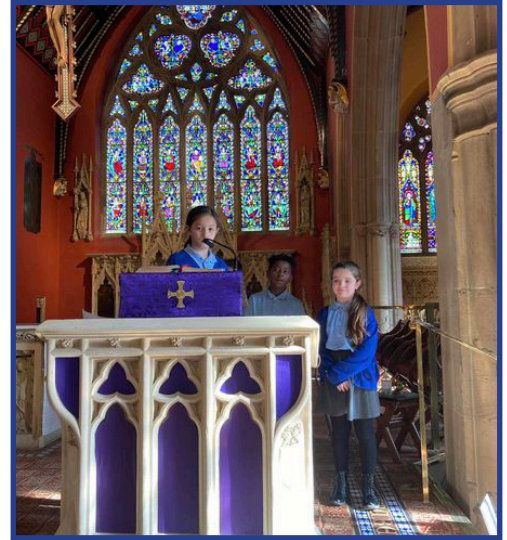


During Science week, the children from CAFOD club were joined on the visiting Science bus by family members to create their own 'recycling machine'.



Stations of the Cross

Year 4 attended Stations of the Cross at St Mary's Cathedral. They joined together with other Catholic Schools in Newcastle. This was a time to reflect and walk in Jesus' footsteps as we all continue our journey through Lent.



Y6 Lead Stations of the Cross



Children across school celebrated Jesus' journey as we move towards and look forward to Holy Week. As part of our prayerful celebrations Year 6 children accompanied by the choir led Stations of the Cross for all of our school to walk in Jesus' final journey.

OPAL

We are delighted to announce that English Martyrs' has been graded as a PLATINUM OPAL school. This has been awarded after working with OPAL to improve our play and learning opportunities, especially during lunchtimes.

We have seen improvements made to our school grounds, as well as many different opportunities to take part in activities, organised by our play team.

'This means that every child has an amazing playtime every day. It also means that play is taken seriously at the school and is given appropriate leadership, planning, evaluation and resources. OPAL Platinum status puts English Martyrs' in the top 0.05 percentile of UK primary schools in terms of the quality of your play offer. Playtimes at English Martyrs' are inclusive, joyful and provide a wonderful variety of types of play.'



OPAL



World Book Day



World Book Day is always a great time to celebrate our love of reading and a variety of different authors.

The children came to school dressed as their favourite book characters and they all looked fabulous!

Many classes took part in BBC's Live Lesson where the focus was on reading for pleasure through fun interactive activities.

Our older children enjoyed sharing their joy of reading with some of the younger children in school by sharing a favourite story with them.



Year 4 Educational Visit



Year 4 children had the exciting opportunity to carry out some market research on a maths game called 'Race to Infinity'. They learned how to play the game on the iPads which required a lot of mathematical skill. They then answered questions about how they think the game could improve and what features they like/dislike about the game.

The children did such an amazing job with their market research that they were invited to Proto in Gateshead, where they specialise in Immersive technologies such as Virtual and Augmented Reality and Virtual Production.

The children visited the Immersive Lab where they saw first hand augmented and virtual reality demonstrations in the Digital Catapult NETV Immersive Lab. It was here where they had the opportunity to get hands-on experience of VR / AR.

At the Virtual Production Demonstration they looked at how Netflix / Disney+ and film companies create TV and film content by using games engine technology in a virtual production studio. The children then had a go at inventing their own Virtual Reality application.

The staff at PROTO were amazed at the children's knowledge and understanding of augmented Reality and Virtual Reality.



Catenian Public Speaking



Congratulations to one of our Year 6 pupils who made it through to the live round of the Catenian Public Speaking contest 2023. We are extremely proud of her achievements and were amazed at how well she delivered such a thought-provoking speech. You can find out more and listen to her speech by visiting our school website.

We were delighted with the news that the overall winner was a former pupil of ours, Sophie Ritson.

Football

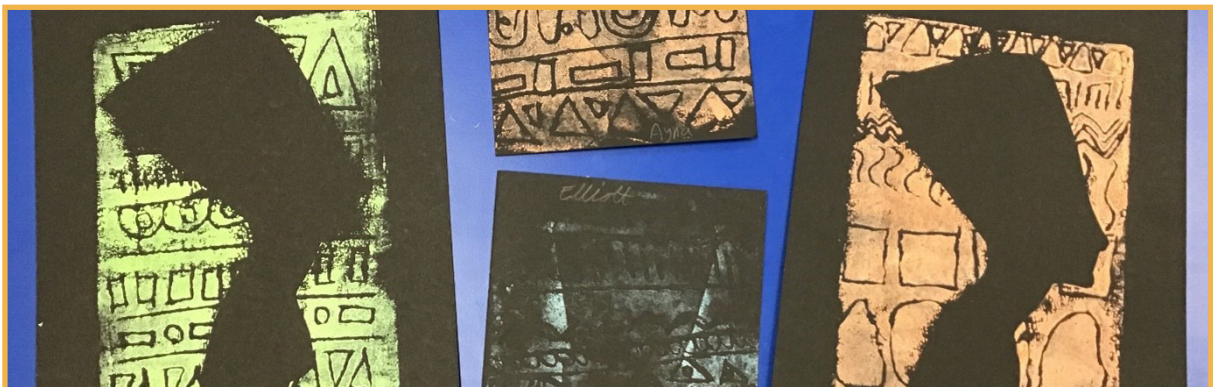
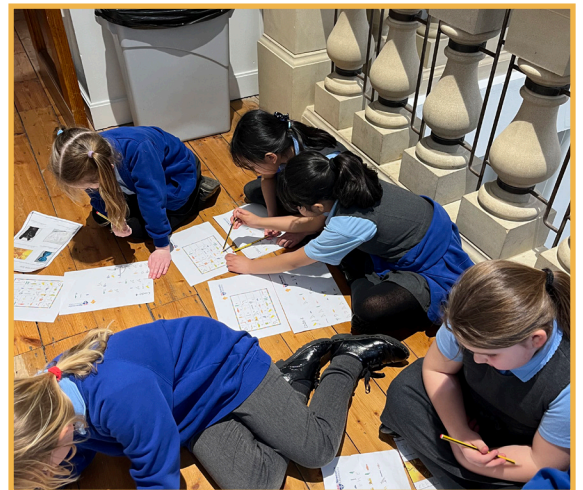


Well done to our year 3/4 football team who progressed through to the final round of the Newcastle Primary Schools, Under 9s 7 a side Tournament.

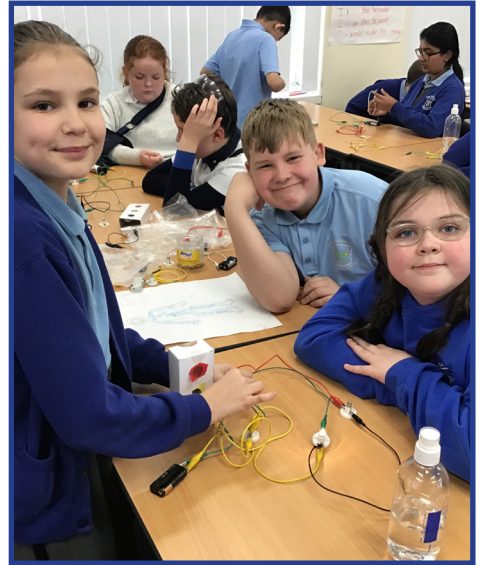
Year 3 Educational Visit

Year three recently visited the Laing Art Gallery and the Great North Museum. In the morning they were able to see and experience the exhibition 'Visions of Ancient Egypt' which 'examined the enduring appeal of ancient Egypt in art and design.'

Our year three classes enjoyed taking inspiration from this exhibition and participating in a workshop using their designs to create a beautiful piece of art. After lunch in the Gallery, they walked to the Great North Museum where they were able to see the Ancient Egyptian artefacts in the Egyptian Gallery. They searched for and examined artefacts then took part in a code breaking exercise to read the hieroglyphic messages. They had a fantastic time and brought back some wonderful images.



Science Week



The children had a fantastic time celebrating science week. They took part in a variety of hands on experiences and investigations which really developed their curiosity, critical thinking, collaboration and problem solving. The STEM bus was thoroughly enjoyed by all year groups.

Kindness Awards



A special congratulations to some of our fantastic pupils who were awarded for acts of kindness towards their Peers.

Red Nose Day



The children dressed in red and raised £135 for Red Nose Day. They used the event as an opportunity to focus on the works of Oscar Romero in El Salvador to explore his message of hope and being a “voice for the voiceless”

Sacred Heart Opera



The children had a wonderful time at Sacred Heart Catholic High School listening to and even joining in with an Opera performance of *The Wish Gatherer* by The English Touring Opera.

The story took the children on an adventure where they were taught the importance of taking care of our world and all the animals in it. They were given a special bookmark with seeds inside, to take home. The bookmark encourages the children to write down their wish, then plant the bookmark in the ground and watch to see what happens.

Easter Treat



Photographs showing the 'hatch' and Star Tables in our dining rooms that Carole and her team so expertly put together!

Looking forward...

Monday 17th April - Pupils Return to School

Tuesday 25th April - 3M Liturgy

Wednesday 26th April - Reception Vision Screening

Monday 1st May - BANK HOLIDAY (School Closed)

Monday 8th May - BANK HOLIDAY (School Closed)

Tuesday 9th May - Friday 12th May - Key Stage 2 SAT's

Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (School Closed)

More dates will follow when confirmed...

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