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'Where charity and love are, God is there'

Term 4 Newsletter 27.03.26

Last week, we welcomed OFSTED back to our school. We have all been eagerly anticipating their return, and I am immensely proud of how our children, staff, and community have embraced this opportunity to showcase the wonderful work happening within our walls. While we are unable to share the results with you just yet, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to making our school such a special place.

Over the past two weeks, our pupils have been engaged in a wealth of exciting learning opportunities that bring their curriculum to life. Ruby and Amethyst classes ventured to the Roman Baths, where their History learning was enriched through direct experience and exploration. This kind of immersive learning helps our pupils develop a deeper understanding of the past and fosters a genuine curiosity about the world around them. Additionally, Ruby class visited St George's to participate in their musical workshops, providing our pupils with the chance to develop their creative talents and explore music in new and inspiring ways.

One of the highlights of last week was the visit from Rise Theatre company, who took us on a treasure hunt adventure in search of the 'Treasures Within'. This creative and engaging programme explored the Catholic Social Teaching Themes, allowing our pupils to reflect on values that are central to our school's identity and mission. It was a wonderful way to bring our Catholic ethos to life through drama and interactive storytelling.

This week, all classes have taken part in Roots to Belonging, a creative programme that has resonated deeply across our school community. Throughout the day, our children engaged in activities exploring themes of belonging, community, respect, and emotional regulation. These are values we hold dear at St Nicholas of Tolentine, and it was heartening to see pupils reflecting on what these themes mean to them. I would like to extend a special thank you to the parents who joined us for the parental workshop, demonstrating their commitment to supporting their children's learning and wellbeing.

As we approach the end of Term 4, I would like to remind you that we have an INSET Day on Thursday, 2nd April. This is a day for staff professional development, and school will be closed to pupils.

Thank you once again for your continued support and partnership as we work together to provide the very best for our pupils.

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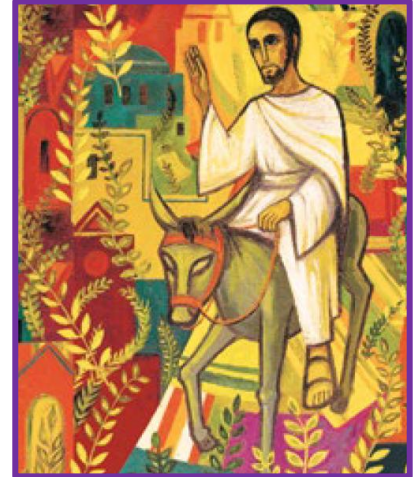
Matthew 21:1-11 (Passion/Palm Sunday)

When they were near Jerusalem, Jesus sent two disciples into a nearby village to collect a donkey. He said to them, "If anyone stops you, tell them that it is for the Lord, and that the donkey will be returned." So, the disciples went out and did as Jesus had told them. They brought the donkey and Jesus sat on it. As he set off, great crowds of people spread their cloaks on the road, while others were spreading palm branches on the path in front of him. The crowds were all shouting, "Hosanna! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heavens!" When Jesus entered Jerusalem, everyone was excited and some asked, "Who is this?" "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee," was the reply.

This coming Sunday is known as Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. It is the start of Holy Week. This is the week when the Church especially remembers Jesus' final days in Jerusalem.

"Holy Week is a time to give Jesus our hearts. On the Cross He gave us all of His love." St. Teresa of Calcutta

Holy Week is a very special time: it includes Palm Sunday, the celebration of the Last Supper, the washing of feet, the agony in the garden, Jesus' arrest, crucifixion and his resurrection.



Dear Lord Jesus, as Holy Week approaches, we thank you for giving your life for us, so that one day we too may know the joys of heaven. Amen.

Ruby and Amethyst visit The Roman Baths

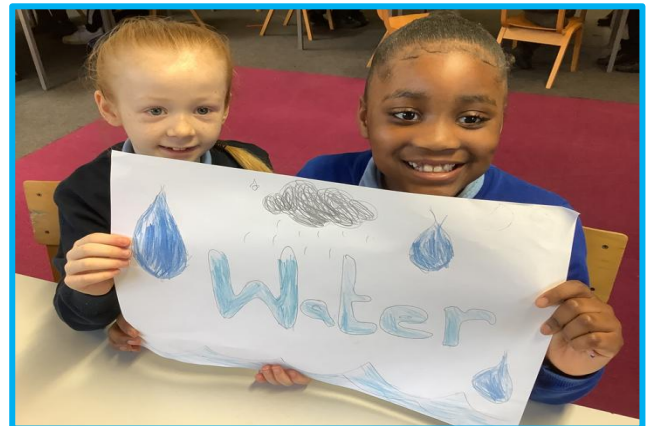
Last week Ruby and Amethyst travelled to Bath to visit the Roman Baths as part of the learning in History. They had an amazing day out. They were able to handle 2000 year old artefacts, they reconstructed bridges, became archaeologists and had a wonderful time exploring the museum. We are really proud of how enthusiastic the children were and how much they enjoyed learning about the past. Thank you to the parents who supported staff on the trip.



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Rise Theatre Workshop

Last Thursday, the whole school was treated to an inspiring visit from Rise Theatre, who led a series of lively workshops throughout the day followed by a vibrant theatre production. Classes took part in an interactive treasure-hunt-style adventure designed especially for primary schools, exploring the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching and how these valuable "treasures" can be lived out by every child. The children thoroughly enjoyed the performance, enthusiastically engaging with the themes and reflecting on how they can put Catholic Social Teaching into action in their own lives.



Ruby Class Musical day out

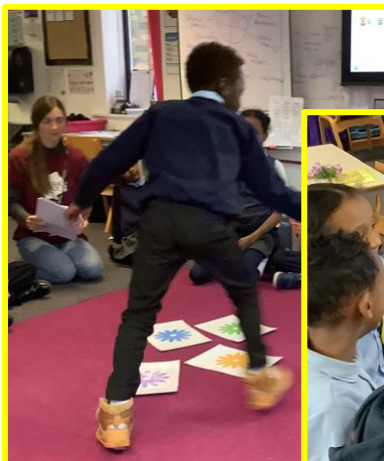
On Monday, Ruby class visited St George's and took part in a full day of musical workshops with the wonderful Preludes. They sang songs, wrote their own music and enjoyed a big concert to finish. We really do have some talented musicians at St Nicks!



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Roots to Belonging

The whole school recently took part in Roots to Belonging workshops led by Unique Voice, Bristol City of Sanctuary and the Asylum and Refugee Clinic (ARC). Throughout the day, children engaged in a creative programme exploring themes of belonging, community, respect and emotional regulation. Assemblies focused on togetherness, building empathy and celebrating the richness of our diverse school community. Pupils had valuable opportunities to reflect on how they can make a positive difference in the lives of others. The day beautifully echoed the values of Catholic Social Teaching, reminding us of Jesus' words: "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34).



Recorder Concert

We were joined by a Recorder Quartet today for our assembly. We enjoyed listening to lots of musical pieces played by all the different recorders, there were so many different sizes. It is so wonderful to be able to provide our children with these amazing opportunities.

Attendance

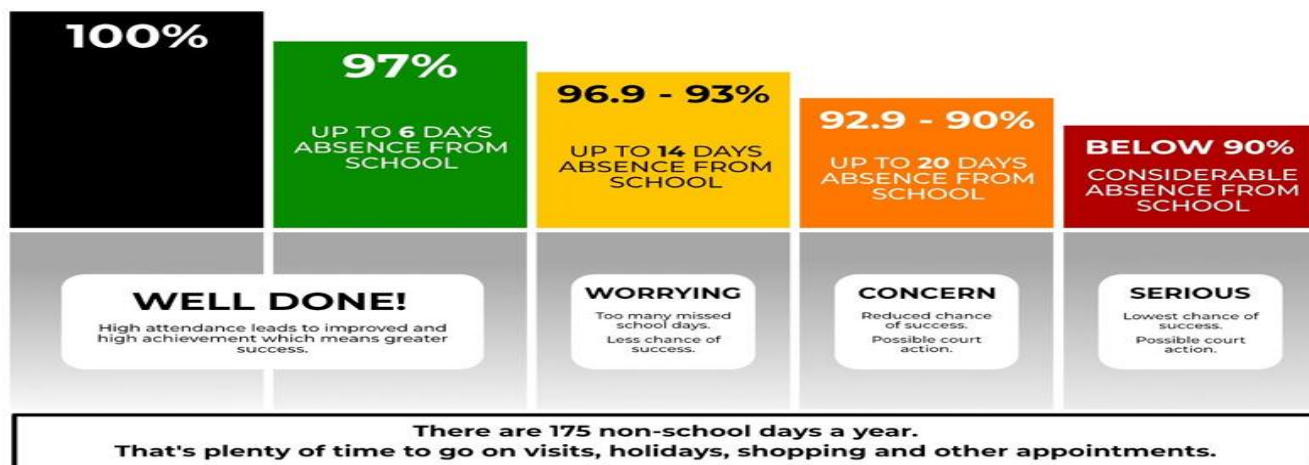
Thank you to those children who attend school regularly and on time. We will continue to monitor closely, if attendance continues to be a concern, we will send out an earlier letter than the end of term. The target for all pupils is set at **96.1%** and any figure below is a concern.

Any classes who achieve a 100% attendance for the week will be able to have a non-school uniform day the following week.

Class	Yearly Attendance	This week's attendance	Late sessions this week
Diamond Class	94.7%	94.5%	4
Emerald Class	87.5%	93.5%	8
Ruby Class	94.7%	96.5%	6
Amethyst Class	94.6%	92.4%	15
Sapphire Class	97.7%	97.1%	3
Topaz Class	92.9%	82.9%	12
Total	93.8%	92.6%	48

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WHAT IS YOUR ATTENDANCE?



Thank you to those who attend regularly. Please remember to phone the school office if your child is going to be absent. If we do not hear from you, we will ring you and then may also make a home visit if we are unable to contact you. Thank you to those who arrive on time. Remember, children can go straight to class from 8:40am or attend breakfast club from 8am if necessary. There is also access to the walking bus if required. If your child is constantly late to school this can affect their self-esteem and they could be missing out on valuable reading, phonics or Maths activities and interventions.

Term 4 Dates

Date	Event
Wednesday 1 st April	9am – School Nurse Coffee Morning
Thursday 2 nd April	INSET DAY – Term 4 finishes

Term 5 Dates

Date	Event
Monday 20 th April	Term 5 starts for all pupils
Tuesday 21 st April	9am – Year 1 parents invited for class Prayer and Liturgy
Wednesday 22 nd April	9.30am Resurrection Mass – All Parents welcome
Wednesday 6 th May	EYFS Nempnett Pasture Farm trip 9am – Sweet Dreams Parent Support from School Nurse
Monday 11 th May	YEAR 6 KS2 SATS Start

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs R James