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'Where charity and love are, God is there'

Term 4 Newsletter 27.02.26

We find ourselves in the season of Lent, a time that holds particular significance for our Catholic community. Lent invites us to pause and reflect on what truly matters—our values, our relationships, and our commitment to living as Jesus taught us. It is a season that encourages us to be thoughtful about the choices we make and the impact we have on those around us. I hope that during these weeks, our pupils will embrace this spirit of reflection and use it as an opportunity to grow not just academically, but spiritually and personally.

As we celebrate the diversity of our school community, I would also like to extend warm wishes to all our families who are observing Ramadan. Ramadan Mubarak to you all. It is one of the many things that makes our school so special—the way we come together to acknowledge and respect the different traditions and beliefs represented within our gates. These moments of celebration and reflection, regardless of faith, remind us of our shared humanity and our commitment to understanding one another.

This week, we will be gathering for Ash Wednesday Mass, an important occasion in our Catholic calendar. This is always a meaningful moment for our school family, and I encourage all our pupils to participate thoughtfully and respectfully.

I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to our Rags to Riches collection. The generosity shown by our families has been truly overwhelming, and it is a testament to the values we work hard to instil in our pupils—compassion, community spirit, and a willingness to help those in need. Your donations will make a real difference.

On a note of celebration, I was delighted to welcome Mrs McLoughlin, our Newman Trust Chaplaincy Lead, into school this week. Mrs McLoughlin spent time working with our Chaplains and was genuinely impressed by their dedication and commitment. She commended them as great Ambassadors of our school and our Catholic life. This recognition means so much to our young people and reflects the wonderful work they do in supporting our school community. They should feel very proud.

As we move through Lent together, let us continue to foster the strong sense of community and shared values that define St Nicholas of Tolentine.

'Where charity and love are, God is there'

Matthew 17: 1-9 (the 2nd Sunday of Lent, Year A)

Peter, James and John went with Jesus to pray on a mountain top. While they were there, Jesus was transformed. His face shone like the sun and his clothes became as dazzling as the light, whiter than any normal clothing could ever be. Suddenly Moses and Elijah, the great teacher and the great prophet of the Old Testament, appeared and were talking with Jesus. Then a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him." Then suddenly, when the disciples looked round, they saw only Jesus was left there with them.

In this Sunday's Gospel, the disciples received a glimpse of the awesome divinity of Jesus through the change in the way he looked (his transfiguration). This sacred encounter took place on the Holy Mountain – Mt Tabor.

The Holy Mountain experience was a sacred moment. To be sacred is to be holy – to be dedicated to God. God wants us to be his sacred people – to be holy and to try to live and love like Jesus did.

Our Mission: What else can help to remind us of God's sacred presence in our home



**Dear Lord Jesus, thank you
for the sacred places where
you are worshipped and
praised, and for making our
homes sacred through your
presence among us. Amen.**

Rags to Riches

On Wednesday, Green Team helped load up a van full of unwanted clothes to send off to Ukraine for our Rags 2 Riches project. Ruby class also helped by sorting through the donations, thinking about our Catholic Social Teaching focus of 'Option for the Poor' this term. We have raised £52 this time, which will go towards gardening resources so we can all help to Care for Creation. Thank you for all the donations. Watch this space for the next collection date! And remember, uniform that your child has grown out of can always be brought to the school office, including PE kit. Thank you!



WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

5 MARCH 2026

**Come dressed as your favourite Book
Character or in your comfy PJs.
We can't wait to see what everyone wears!**


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We are now using Arbor as the main source of communication for parents, at the moment we only have 49% of parents signed up. Please ensure you have signed up to be able to access all communication.





Check on your child from anywhere

Make payments on the go



- View your child's Timetable, Clubs and Attendance
- Pay for School Meals
- View your child's Guilford Golds!
- Update your details
- Receive instant messages
- Sign up to trips and after-school clubs

No more forms!

 Card payments


Attendance

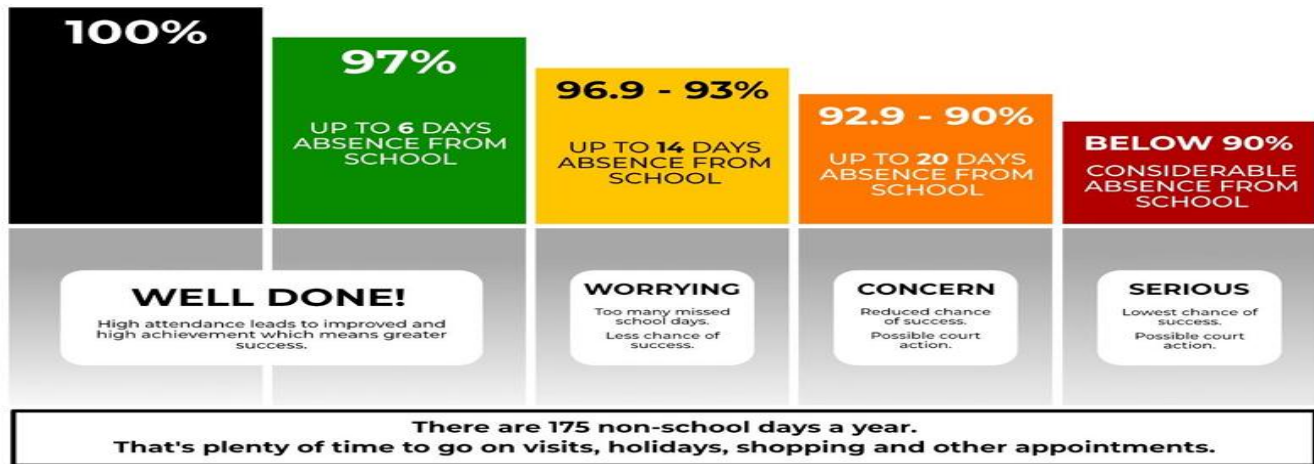
Thank you to those children who attend school regularly and on time. We will continue to monitor closely, if attendance continues to be a concern, we will send out an earlier letter than the end of term. The target for all pupils is set at **96.1%** and any figure below is a concern.

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	94.6%	95.6%	4
Emerald Class	83.2%	80.5%	9
Ruby Class	94.7%	92%	6
Amethyst Class	95%	94.1%	5
Sapphire Class	97.6%	97.5%	3
Topaz Class	93.4%	90.4%	10
Total	93.4%	91.9%	37

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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
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
Wednesday 18 th March	1.30pm – Family Forest Session
Friday 20 th March	Ruby and Amethyst Trip to Roman Baths
Monday 23 rd March	Ruby Class Preludes Trip
Wednesday 1 st April	9am – School Nurse Coffee Morning
Thursday 2 nd April	INSET DAY – Term 4 finishes

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs R James