

NEWSLETTER for CANDLEMAS TERM @stantonysrc1
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Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been a short but very busy Candlemas term! The dark days and miserable weather have made it seem much longer. The post Christmas bugs have played a part in pulling down our attendance figures and some pupils have been very poorly. Please keep them in your prayers.

On a brighter note there have been a number of very exciting trips; the visit to **London** was beyond amazing and another visit to **ULCLAN in Preston** inspired our young historians to consider university when the time comes. We always like to inspire and encourage our pupils to 'raise their standards and aspirations'.

At the time of writing, our choir is currently singing their hearts out at the AO arena **Young Voices** concert. What an experience- they will come back as confident performers and entertainers!

Years 5 and 6 are currently preparing for their **residential courses**; these are prime opportunities for the children to build resilience, bravery and independence. They always return exhausted and elated! These opportunities are very cost effective and worth saving for. The trips are already heavily subsidised and such good value in terms of learning and the memories made. I hope we can continue with this in UKS2.

The **Sacramental programme sessions** begin again after half term. Father would really like to see more children in church on a Sunday. St Joseph's is at 11:15am. There is a children's liturgy to support the younger children where they can prayer together and colour pictures, and everyone is welcome for a cup of tea and a treat afterwards. Children making their First Holy communion should be in Church every Sunday, especially throughout the Lenten term.

Ash Wednesday is during half term so please receive your ashes at 9:30am at St Joseph's.

Have a lovely half term break and we will see you at the start of the Lenten Term on Monday 19th February.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind regards

Mrs McGowan



Diary Dates

- 5th-9 th Feb - Valentines biscuit sale and Blind Dates books
 - 7 th Feb - Front Row music assembly (parents welcome)
 - 7 th Feb - EYFS Museum visit
 - 7 th Feb - Young voices
 - 8 th Feb - Y5 Victorians day
 - 8 th Feb - Author in to read to EYFS, KS1 and LKS2
 - 9 th Feb - Year 2 music performance
 - 9 th Feb - Break up for half term
 - 19 th Feb - School reopens
 - 19 th Feb - Chicks arrive in Reception
 - 20 th Feb - Reception visual screening
 - 22 nd Feb - Y5 Residential parents meeting 3:10pm
 - 28 th Feb-6 th Mar - Scholastic Book Fair in school hall at 3pm
 - 29 th Feb - Leap Year Challenge Fundraiser
 - 4 th Mar-6 th Mar - Y5 Residential to Kingswood
 - 8 th Mar - World Book Day celebrations in school
 - 12 th Mar - Reception Class Cinema trip
 - 14 th Mar - Y4 Class Cinema trip
 - 18th to 22nd March - Year 6 residential to the Lake District
 - 25 th Mar - Turning disability into positivity assembly and workshops with Bart Gee- breaking limits
 - 26 th Mar - Reception Blackpool Zoo trip.
 - 27 th Mar - FOSA Easter Egg Bingo (3:30)
 - 27 th Mar- Year 1 Music Performance
 - 28 th Mar - Year 3 and 4 Easter Praise
 - 29 th Mar - Break up for Easter
 - 9 th April - School re-opens
- Keep a look out on Dojo for extra dates.



ATTENDANCE

Overall attendance figures: 01/09/2023 to 02/02/24

| Year group | Authorised% | Unauthorised% | Attend % | Change from Feb 23 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Rec | 6.7 | 1.7 | 91.6 | -1.9 |
| 1 | 5.8 | 2.4 | 91.4 | -1.6 |
| 2 | 4.2 | 1.1 | 94.8 | +1.9 |
| 3 | 6.3 | 0.9 | 92.8 | +0.3 |
| 4 | 5.8 | 1.4 | 92.8 | -1.8 |
| 5 | 3.9 | 0.6 | 95.5 | +2.4 |
| 6 | 3.7 | 0.9 | 95.4 | +1.3 |
| National primary data to date | 3.8% | 1.5% | 94.7% | |
| School Totals | 5.5% | 1.3% | 93.4% | = |

We cannot authorise any holidays during term time.

Although there is a drop from last term, some classes are performing well compared to last year. Rec, Y1 and Y4 and also Y3 need improvement as they are bringing our school down below national averages.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Dear Parents,

Thank you for supporting us in keeping to the rules this term. Ties and shoes have been in place for almost all pupils with random PE kits almost a thing of the past. A few earrings have crept back in which means our insurance policy is at risk during playtimes. PE is not allowed with earrings in. Your child may not be covered in case of an accident- you have been warned repeatedly. Phone calls will continue.

We are delighted to inform you that we continue to receive generous donations from parents and carers for our school uniform swap and share in the reception area. This initiative aims to support families by providing a sustainable and cost-effective solution for acquiring school uniforms.

The school uniform swap and share will be open every school day from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Parents can bring in used uniforms that no longer fit their children and are in good condition. These donated items will be available for other families to collect, free of charge.

We believe that this initiative will not only benefit families financially but also foster a sense of community and togetherness within our Catholic school.

Kind regards,

The Office Team.



Parents as partners

Our new [homework policy](#) has encouraged a distinct rise in homework being completed and it has positively affected reading and spelling across school- so thank you for your support! The draw for a £50 Smyths voucher will take place on Friday! **All children in Year 3 and 4** can win a free watch if they complete the time challenge! I will post a practice test on dojo and the [time test](#) will happen on Friday 23rd February and once every term thereafter. On your request, workshops were held on [reading fluency and comprehension](#). Thank you to those 9 parents who were able to make it. Thank you for your lovely positive feedback too. We are always happy to help!



FAMILY SUPPORT IN SCHOOL

Parents group: This is run weekly with Ms Ali. Parents learn about parenting styles, successful parenting strategies, behaviour management and age appropriate milestones. Open to everyone who would like to share ideas and boost their own knowledge.

Parent coffee mornings on Fridays: Parents can come along for a brew and natter. Some weeks we will be inviting special guests through FOSA, Family support, early help teams, SEND and Mental Health. SEND forums- Guest speakers are invited in to inform and support on a range of needs which your child may have or you think your child may have. These are advertised on class dojo.

All parents are always welcome to come in and talk about any concerns they have. A problem shared is a problem halved and we have many avenues of support available; our Pastoral Manager Ms Ali, and other parents who have been through similar circumstances and got through it- we can all help.



New resources in school

The librarians and I went shopping for some new books and have restocked sections of our libraries and Accelerated Reader bandings. Books on cultures, bi lingual stories, graphic novels and some good classics have all been included. The **KS1 picture book library is now open every Friday morning at 8:30am to 8:45am for parents to choose a book with their child to share at home.**

Our **VR headsets** are up and running- your child may have used them and had a multi sensory experience! Ask them!

Our mindfulness sheds have been decorated and staff have received their training so the children will begin regular use after half term. These sheds provide very calm, relaxed spaces for children to pause and think, and reflect on their emotions. We want all our children to be able to self-regulate and understand and control their emotions. This work builds on our very successful Nurture and ELSA provision, and also our EYFS and KS1 Mini Minds Matter sessions. Our pupils now have an outdoor comforting space at playtimes to retreat should they wish.

Extra and co curricular offer

Children's university is still high on the agenda with clubs counting towards precious hours!

We currently offer the following clubs:

After school: Homework, Football, Crafts, Judo, Gymnastics, Dodgeball, Story club, Drama, Wellbeing.

Lunchtime: Reading in the library, Choir, Recorders, Football, Bracelet making, Colouring, Eco club.



Pray
for
peace



It is Christ who is our peace and who calls us to follow him as peacemakers in our violent and broken world.

Let us pray for ourselves and for the world in which we are his witnesses.

For our own homes, our families, our parish community; that the peace of Christ will work in and through us.

For the relief of those who are victims of war and violence. **Let us pray to the Lord: Christ, be our light.**

For all Christians, that we will recognise our calling as peacemakers, using our God-given talents to build a culture of peace. For the ministry of Pope Francis, that he may continue his bold proclamation of the gospel of justice, peace and reconciliation. **Let us pray to the Lord: Christ, be our light.**

For our political leaders, that they will not provoke division and hatred but pursue a shared understanding, reconciliation and healing. And for our nation, that we may lead the world in laying down arms and in working to achieve a just peace. **Let us pray to the Lord: Christ, be our light.**

For a rejection of violence as a solution to human conflict. We pray especially for an end to wars and violent conflicts across the world, those we are aware of in Israel and Palestine, Ukraine and Russia and the many that are forgotten but still persist. **Let us pray to the Lord: Christ, be our light. Amen**

SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS

Our new Instagram page is [@stantonysrc1](#) - we would love to be able to celebrate our pupils on there, but if you do not want your child appearing please check you have signed the right consent forms. I know some people want to see their children on more photos so you may need to check you have given consent. Either way, it is parent's choice. It's the same handle as our X page. We will be moving over to Instagram from X now so more of you can see it. Daily messages and information will be on dojo but jolly pictures will be over on Instagram!

Our new improved website is now live. It should be easier to navigate on mobile phones. Let us know what you think. Teachers will put links to it on dojo pages.

Please check your children's use of social media and the content they are accessing. Please emphasise the importance of being kind on line, never hiding anything, and telling a trusted adult if you feel under pressure with it. If you wouldn't show your grandma- DON'T POST IT!



Year 5 & 6 pupils visit to London!

We had an amazing adventure in our capital city. Our day began very early as we had to catch the train from Preston at 7am. The sun was shining as we pulled in to Euston station and we quickly made our way to the underground. Navigating the Tube wasn't easy and we soon realised that we were heading in the wrong direction! Luckily we found our way and made it to Buckingham Palace in time to watch the Changing of the Guard. It was spectacular to see all the soldiers marching and playing their instruments, we even had a little dance! From there we walked towards Westminster passing Big Ben and into the Houses of Parliament for our guided tour and workshop. We all really enjoyed the tour and were lucky enough to witness a live debate! After leaving we had a short walk across Westminster Bridge to Shrek Adventure. What a fun packed experience it was! We rode on a virtual London bus with Donkey and met all the Shrek Characters along the way. Everyone was grinning from ear to ear afterwards! We had all built up an appetite after all the fun of the day so we made our way to Pizza Hut and filled our tummies before making our way to the bright lights of Leicester Square. There was just enough time for a little shopping spree to the M&M store and the famous Lego shop before we hopped back on the tube and caught our train from Euston back to Preston.

Written by the lucky pupils who went on the trip.

