



Bolton on Swale St Mary's Church of England Aided Primary School

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Headteacher Mrs Nicola Dobson

'Developing the whole child'

Newsletter Friday 28th February 2020 Our Christian value this term is Forgiveness

Welcome back to a new half term as we move into Lent and prepare for Easter This week in our Collective Worship and in classes we have made Lenten promises and thought about how we can be our best selves. On Shrove Tuesday, we learnt about why we eat pancakes. Children in Class 3 made Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras Carnival masks. Rev Yvonne and the children led our Ash Wednesday worship. We explored our new Christian value of 'Forgiveness' and Rev Yvonne explained how ash was made by burning last years palm crosses.



Thinking about others and our wider world during Lent-raising money for Fairtrade

This week is the start of Fairtrade Fortnight. We have been learning how Fairtrade ensures that farmers across the world receive a fair price for the crops they grow.

Friends of the School Lenten Smartie Appeal



Friends of the School have bought a tube of smarties for each child. These have gone home today. Please share and enjoy your smarties,(if you have given chocolate up for Lent you may need to store the chocolate until Easter). Please fill the empty tube with coins during Lent. The money we raise will be shared between helping to fund our pond area development and supporting our Lenten charity Fairtrade. Please return your smartie tube donations before Easter. Thank you!



Rishi Sunak's visit to school We received very positive feedback following our local MP's visit to our school. You can read about the visit on the Latest News page of Rish's website.

Responding to your questions A question has been raised about how we organise the giving of individual certificates in Special Mentions Assembly each week.

We have a clear policy on this which has operated for the 10 years for which I have been Head. All teachers keep a record of who receives an individual special mentions certificate and on what date. All children receive at least one individual certificate each half term. So for example, each child in Class 2 has received, at this stage in the academic year, at least 3 individual special mentions from Miss Jenkins. If you worry that your child's certificate may have gone missing between home and school, don't hesitate to speak to Miss Jenkins. She will be able to tell you on which date your child received their certificate and what it was to celebrate.

In addition to this, all children in a class often receive a certificate in Special Mentions Assembly following their Class Assembly Performance, Nativity Performance, Summer Production, to reward fantastic behaviour on a school visit. Children are rewarded with House Point certificates when they reach totals: Bronze =100; Silver = 250; Gold = 500.

Children receive positive verbal praise and stamps and stickers regularly. Each Friday afternoon each class has 'Golden Time' before Special Mentions Assembly, to reward excellence during the week. Such is the outstanding behaviour of children in our school it is rare for a child to miss this.

A range of other certificates are awarded by all teachers in addition to the above. This is to recognise, celebrate and promote excellence in all areas: personal qualities of resilience, kindness, team work, generosity, hard work. Academic excellence or effort in a particular area of the curriculum; participation or achievement in sport, music, art, charity work.

We aim to develop leadership skills for life and our KS2 children in particular, enjoy organising a range of clubs and activities for other children: Eco, Dance, Art, 24 Maths, Sports. They love to celebrate by giving certificates to those who take part! Finally, if you receive an award outside school please bring it in to share with us.

Class 3 Music lessons with violin and cello We have been very impressed with the instrumental playing in Class 3's music lessons. All Class 3 children received a letter this week with a permission slip for you to sign so that they can take their instruments home to practice. **Your child will need their instrument in school every Wednesday for their lesson.** Class 3 will perform for you with their instruments in our Summer Music Concert. School funds these lessons so that all children receive the opportunity to experience playing an orchestral instrument. If you would like your child to progress still further with the violin or cello there is the additional option of small group lessons with Mrs Jameson. Please enquire at the office for details about the cost of these.

Class 4 visit to Ripon Victorian Workhouse and Ripon Cathedral Tuesday 10th March Class 4 have letters sent home today for this visit with consent to be returned as soon as possible.

Dress as a book character on Friday 6th March for World Book Day We will be celebrating World Book Day and our love of reading by dressing as a favourite book character for the day. Your child should come to school in their book character costume and will wear this for the day. Please remember that they still need to be able to play outside at break and lunchtimes. Please can you dress as a character from a book rather than as a Superhero as we will link our costumes to our learning for the day. The children have discussed ideas which are not tricky or expensive; Charlie from 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'; Sophie from the 'BFG'; Alex Rider from 'Storm Breaker'; a Victorian child from 'Street Child'; Albert from Michael Morpurgo's 'War Horse'; a character from a David Walliam's story; Jack from 'Jack and the Beanstalk'; Hansel or Gretel; even Paddington Bear - were all great ideas.

Class Assembly date reminders:

Class 1 Thursday 5th March at 9.30am

Class 4 Thursday 12th March at 9.30am

Class 2 Thursday 19th March at 9.30am

Class 3 Thursday 26th March at 9.30am

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any queries.

Your sincerely,

Nicola Dobson