



## St Louis Catholic Primary School

*"We work together, we pray together, we grow together"*



### Headteacher's Update – 13.2.26

Dear Parents,

We have reached the end of the first half of the Lent term and are looking forward to a restful week ahead – I hope you are too.

#### Nursery Application Deadline

The deadline for applying for Nursery places for September 2026 is **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 3pm**. If you have a child turning 3 before 31<sup>st</sup> August and you are interested in sending your child to our Nursery, please ensure you submit your application by this deadline. For those of you that require longer hours than our 3.30pm finish, we do have Aktiva that provide wrap around care until 6pm.

#### The beginning of Lent

Ash Wednesday falls in half term this year, meaning when we return to school we will be in the period of Lent. We are very pleased with our new liturgical calendar display in the hall, and the children are able to refer to it with confidence. They will also see the cloths of the prayer tables in their classrooms be changed to purple. This helps them to recognise that this is a very special time in the Church's year, a time to renew our friendship with God. This week they will reflect on Jesus's words, 'You are the salt of the Earth' and how they can bring out the best in themselves and others, just as salt can bring out the best from food.

For more information and ideas as to how you can explore this time of Lent with your child, please see the link below to the Ten:Ten newsletter for parents.

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>

#### Catholic Social Teaching (CST) Award

Instead of our usual pupil of the week assembly, this week we awarded our first certificates to those children who have demonstrated how to live out the CST aspect, Solidarity and Peace. Examples of this in practice might include children who:

<b>Solidarity</b>	<b>Peace</b>
<p><b>Include others</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Invites someone who is alone to join in</li><li>• Makes sure no one is left out of a game or group</li></ul> <p><b>Notice when someone needs help</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Offers help without being asked</li><li>• Supports a classmate who is struggling with work or emotions</li></ul> <p><b>Speak up kindly for others</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Says "That's not fair" or "They can play too"</li><li>• Challenges unkind behaviour in a calm way</li></ul> <p><b>Show care beyond themselves</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shows interest in helping people locally or globally</li><li>• Takes part enthusiastically in charity or service activities</li></ul>	<p><b>Resolve conflict calmly</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Uses words instead of shouting or physical reactions</li><li>• Walks away from situations rather than escalating them</li></ul> <p><b>Show forgiveness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accepts apologies</li><li>• Tries again after a disagreement</li></ul> <p><b>Act as a peacemaker</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Helps others sort out small disagreements</li><li>• Encourages turn-taking and fairness in games</li></ul> <p><b>Control emotions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Uses calming strategies when upset</li><li>• Asks for help instead of reacting negatively</li></ul>

### Use respectful language

- Talks about differences with curiosity and respect
- Shows pride in being part of one school community

### Model kindness

- Speaks gently, even when frustrated
- Encourages others to be kind

Following discussions in each class, a vote took place. I am delighted to share the winners with you.



### Children's Mental Health Week

As mentioned in the last update, we have been focussing on children's mental health through the lens of This is My Place, ensuring all our children feel safe at school, and know they have someone to talk to if they need it.

We are also fortunate to have our wonderful Mind Mentors, who are children who have been trained to support other children who may be having a tough time. Peer to peer support can be really beneficial, and our mind mentors do a great job.

### Online Safety

Safer Internet Day 2026 took place on the 10th of February 2026, with celebrations and learning based around the theme '**Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI**'. We know that AI is used more and more and that children will face exposure to it.

Please always encourage your child to talk to you about the online world – the more open we can be, the safer we can keep our children.

### Sports News

Well done to all the girls who played last week against Buckingham park. Buckingham park are one of the strongest teams in our league and the girls played very well to make it an even contest. Despite losing 1-0 in the end, the team never gave up and showed great perseverance to try and get an equaliser. A special congratulations to Sofia, who got player of the match for making some fantastic saves in goal. After half term, the girls next match will be Buckingham park in the quarter final of the cup, so they have the chance for some vengeance!

Well done to the boy's team, who continued their unbeaten run in the league with a resounding 7-2 win over Oak Green School. This excellent team performance, in very tricky weather conditions, has given the team a huge chance of winning the league this year! Keep up the great work.

## Year 2 DT

In DT this week, Year 2 had a fantastic time designing and making their own healthy wraps. They began by tasting a variety of ingredients, discussing flavours and textures, and thinking carefully about which combinations worked well together. After choosing their favourite options, the children prepared the ingredients themselves, practising safe cutting and food preparation skills. They were challenged to create a wrap that was not only healthy but also something they believed other Year 2 children would enjoy too. They looked delicious!



## Reception African Drumming Workshop/ Pancake Making

It has been a lively and enjoyable term in Reception. Last Friday, we were delighted to welcome Justine and Malcom, who visited us to lead an African drumming workshop. The children had the chance to learn and practise simple rhythms on the African drums. We were extremely proud of how carefully they listened, how well they followed instructions and how brilliantly they kept the beat. Everyone had a fantastic time!





On Wednesday our Reception children had a wonderful time making their own pancakes in preparation for Shrove Tuesday next week. They enjoyed measuring, mixing, and stirring the ingredients, and loved watching the pancakes cook. The classroom was filled with excitement (and delicious smells!) as everyone took part. They then celebrated with a special pancake party with their Year 4 buddies, sharing their tasty treats and enjoying time together.



## Chinese New Year

In addition, Nursery and Reception children have been learning about Lunar New Year and the traditions linked to this special celebration. In Reception they enjoyed taking part in activities such as practising Chinese writing and making Chinese lanterns.

In Nursery the children learned how Chinese New Year is celebrated around the world. They enjoyed listening to the story behind this special festival and exploring traditional music and dance. They also had the opportunity to taste some Chinese food, they were excited to try new flavours and talked about different types of food from around the world.

It has been a wonderful way to celebrate diversity and learn about different cultures together.



## WOW Badge Competition

Well done to everyone who entered! We were amazed at receiving over 35 entries for the WOW Badge Competition. The JRSO's had a very difficult job to choose just 3 winning entries, which will be sent into the WOW competition. The winning entries are Hattie 5L, Dominic 4S and Olivia 3L.



Hattie 5L



Dominic 4S



Olivia 3L

## **Looking Ahead**

### **World Book Day- celebrated in school on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February**

We are looking forward to the annual celebration of books and the power of reading with World Book Day. We do encourage children to dress up, which is why I thought you might appreciate the advanced warning.

The PTA would like you to know that they have a few costumes they can give (for free) to anyone who may otherwise struggle to provide or make a costume for their child. Please let the office know if you would like to take them up on this offer. Equally, if you have any costumes that your children have outgrown and you would like to pass on to the PTA, please bring them in to the school office. Thank you.

### **Book Look and Parents Evening**

We would love to welcome you to look at your child's books alongside them after school on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March and to book a slot for parents' evening on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March or Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March. More details will follow after half term.

However, please can I ask that if you book a slot for parents evening and are unable to keep the appointment that you email the school office. We are getting increasing numbers of 'no shows' on the night which is unfair on the teachers who are sat waiting and on other parents who could have booked that slot. Thank you for your understanding.

Have a wonderful week, Mrs Machin



Learning at St Louis  
Nursery



**We have been learning:** about the Chinese New Year celebration, including the story behind it and the culture, such as music and food.

**You can help at home by:** talking about different cultures and tasting cultural foods with the children.

**Reception**

**We have been learning:** how to make pancakes for Shrove Tuesday. We had a pancake party with our buddies.

**You can help at home by:** making pancakes with your child on Shrove Tuesday.

**Year 1**

**We have been learning:** about primary and secondary colours.

**You can help at home by:** discussing what colours are primary and secondary.

**Year 2**

**We have been learning:** about a healthy balanced diet and how to prepare food.

**You can help at home by:** speaking to your child about their healthy wraps and how they made them.

**Year 3**

**We have been learning:** about the properties of soils.

**You can help at home by:** asking your child to describe clay, sandy, chalky and peat soil.

**Year 4**

**We have been learning:** about fractions in maths.

**You can help at home by:** asking your child how to partition a mixed number.

**Year 5**

**We have been learning:** about the Alps in geography.

**You can help at home by:** asking your child why tourists may visit the Alps.

**Year 6**

**We have been learning:** about the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church.

**You can help at home by:** asking your child if they can remember all seven and what the purpose of each one is.