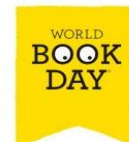




Virtue of the month – Forgiveness

Dear Parents and Carers



So that's what the sun looks like! We heard in last Sunday's Gospel about the Transfiguration, when Jesus 'was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun'. Having the sun come out for a few days has had a similar effect here at school. We are already two weeks into this short half term, and I hope that your Lenten preparations are going well. Your children have been wonderful, especially during this week's World Book Day. The costumes were enjoyable (my personal favourites were Gangster Granny, a robot, and all 3 of Mr Yarnell's costumes. More changes than a Kylie concert. Miss Coggins led a really uplifting assembly on the joy of reading, and you may get a taste for the costumes from the photos below. Throughout the week, the children took part in a variety of exciting World Book Day activities, including quizzes, reading together from a wide range of voices and backgrounds, and bookmark-making. They have created beautiful artwork and writing, some of which is now proudly displayed in the library for everyone to admire. It has been wonderful to see their creativity shine. A real highlight of the week was our book-sharing carousel. The children loved moving between classes to share stories, and it was lovely to see so many of them bringing in their favourite books from home.

Everyone looked fantastic in their World Book Day outfits, with so many creative and imaginative costumes on show. We would also like to say a big **thank you to the parents who came in to read to the classes**. The children absolutely loved it, and it made the week even more special. A **thank you to all the staff** as well, for ensuring everything ran so smoothly.

It was wonderful to see even the adults joining in the fun and dressing up! Each child also received their World Book Day book token, which can be used on **Monday** and **Wednesday afternoon at 3.30pm** at the book fayre in the school library. **Scroll down to see photos from our wonderful week!**

Attendance

Congratulations to **Oak Class** for winning the Attendance Cup this week! Your fantastic attendance shows a real commitment to being in school, learning together, and making the most of every day. To all our other classes—keep up the great effort! Next week could be yours.



New Library Leaders

We are delighted to announce our new **Library Leaders**! We were thrilled that so many children put their names forward, there was so much interest that the final selection had to be pulled from a hat. Well done to those who were chosen! Our new Library Leaders will help look after and organise the library, help keep the space inviting and well cared for. We know they will do a brilliant job and truly relish the responsibility. Congratulations to **Yr 3** -Capucine, Isabelle, Yasmin & Adam. **Yr 4** Fionn, Diya, Alexa & Taylor. **Yr 5**- Thomas, Felix, Lola & Toby. **Yr 6**- Madison, Evie, Renesmee & Elia.

For those who weren't chosen this time, there will be more opportunities in the near future for other children to become librarians and take on leadership roles



Sport

A huge well done to all the children who took part in cross country this week. Their hard work, resilience, and brilliant team spirit were wonderful to see. As always, they represented our school beautifully, and **we are incredibly proud of each and every one of them.**

School Places Available

Please spread the word to family and friends that we currently have a small number of spaces available in several year groups. We would be delighted to welcome new children into our school community. If you know anyone who may be interested, please encourage them to get in touch. We would be more than happy to offer a school tour and show them everything that makes our school such a warm, inclusive, and inspiring place to learn. We welcome children and families of all faiths and none.

Science Fair Competition

A quick reminder that our Science Fair Competition for **Years 3–6** will take place on the afternoon of Thursday 12th March 2026. To take part, children are invited to: Investigate a science question (usually through an experiment), or research a scientist's work and present their findings. Completed investigations should be brought into school during the week beginning **Monday 9th March**. A panel of visiting scientists will be judging the entries. This year, **12 children** will be selected to represent our school—**3 from each year group (Years 3–6)**—at the Xavier Grand Final at the ACS International School in Cobham. They will enjoy a fun-filled science day out of school and could even become the next Xavier Scientist of the Year!

Reception Disco

The PTA Reception disco was a huge success! The children had a fantastic time dancing, and enjoying a fun-filled time together. Reports of so many happy faces, lots of confident dance moves, and the children simply having a brilliant time with their friends. A big **thank you to our amazing PTA** for organising and supporting the event. Their hard work makes these special moments possible, and we are truly grateful for everything they do for our school community. For our older pupils—**watch this space!** Plans for the KS2 disco are already underway, and the PTA will share more details very soon.

INSET Day Friday 13th March - The school is closed to pupils.

Celebration Assembly

Well done to all the certificate winners, performers this week and to **Margaret Clitherow** for winning the House Points Cup.



Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Doyle



RE

This week is the 3rd Sunday of Lent. In the reading we hear about Jesus asking a Samaritan woman for a drink. We know that Jews and Samaritans would not integrate being long standing enemies. But Jesus not only explains that he can give water which will make people never be thirsty, but also acknowledges that he is the Messiah. This message both challenges us to forgive and be friends with others, but also to recognise the power of God in the lives of people around us and how we can come to meet God in the jobs we undertake every day. As the sun begins to shine more, do we recognise God's presence in the sun, the seasons and helping the flowers to grow? Mr Yarnell

St Francis School Development Fund

As you are aware, our former Governors'/School Fund is now the St Francis' School Development Fund, and **we need your support** to help it make a real difference. We recognise the current financial pressures on families, but continued contributions are vital in enabling us to invest in improving the school environment and upgrade equipment. This is common practice in schools and every penny goes towards enhancing your child's experience. We are inviting families to contribute just £5 per month per child (£60 per year). Payments can be made as a single amount or monthly by direct debit. UK taxpayers will be asked to complete a Gift Aid declaration, which adds 25p to every pound you donate. [Click Here](#) to make your contribution. **Thank you to all families who are able to support us.**

Calendar Dates

9 th -12 th March	Book Fayre Monday & Wednesday @3.30pm
9 th -12 th March	Science Week
16 th -20 th March	PTA Easter Bonnet Competition Details to follow
13 th March	INSET – School Closed
17 th March	Royal Albert Hall
18 th -19 th March	Parents Evening
25 th March	Easter Reflections - Reception & KS1 @ 9.10am Parents Invited KS2 @ 2.30pm -Parents Invited
27 th March	Break Up From School @1pm
13 th April	School Reopens @9am
4 th May	Bank Holiday -School Closed
5 th May	Year 3 Trip Frylands Wood
5 th May	Year 4 Trip to High Ashurst
11 th – 14 th May	Sats Week for Year 6
21 st May	Talent Show -Details to Follow
22 nd May	Outdoor learning Day Break Up For Half Term
1 st June	School Reopens @9am
1-12 th June	Year 4 MTC
10 th -12 th June	Year 6 PGL Residential
18 th June	Year 5 Wintershall Trip
19 th June	Inset Day -School Closed
26 th June	Sports Day -Details to Follow
	Reception to Bocketts Farm- Details to follow
17 th July	Break up From School @1pm

School Attendance

Every day counts...

Good attendance helps with...

Academic Achievement

Regular attendance helps children keep up with the curriculum and perform better academically.

Social Skills

Attending school regularly helps children develop friendships, social skills and learning how to interact with others.

Routine & Responsibility

Good attendance teaches the importance of commitment, routine, and responsibility, which are all valuable life skills.

Focus & Engagement

Children who attend school regularly are more likely to stay engaged in their learning and develop a positive attitude towards education.

Building Confidence

Regular attendance can boost a child's self-esteem and confidence, as they see their progress and achievements over time.

Enhanced Learning Opportunities

School provides not just academic instruction, but also extra-curricular activities and enrichment opportunities.

Over half a term missed!

Attendance	Days Missed
100%	0 Days Absence
95%	10 Days Absence
90%	19 Days Absence
85%	29 Days Absence
80%	38 Days Absence
75%	47 Days Absence

Having 90% over 5 school years, is half a school year's work missed!

Did you know there are...

- 365 Days in a Year
- 190 School Days
- 175 Non School Days

Attendance Matters!

