Newsletter

Autumn Term: 13th November 2026

The ORATORY RC PRIMARY School

We work together, we play together, we laugh together, we pray together.

Dear Parents,

What a wonderful week it has been, taking special time to focus on the qualities of love, respect and kindness. The children have all taken part in all of the activities throughout the week in an exemplary manner with my particular highlight being witnessing the prayerful way they approached our very special Spirituality Day yesterday. Thank you as always to the many parents that helped throughout the day.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you all to our parents' evenings next week which provides an important opportunity to discuss your child's progress and next steps with their class teacher – please do sign up if you haven't already done so. Wishing you all a lovely weekend and the children are all suitably excited for pyjama day next Friday!

With my very best wishes, Mrs Steinart

Upcoming dates

November

16 Nov Coffee Morning & Uniform Sale 8.30am
16 Nov Y6 & Reception Class Family Mass 2.15pm
18 & 19 Nov Parents' Evening
20 Nov Glass Door pyjama & hot choc fundraising day

December

1 Dec Christmas Fair in hall 3.30pm
10 & 11 Dec Infant Nativity 2pm
13 Dec Children's Mass at Little Oratory
16 Dec Junior Carol Service 7pm
17 Dec Children's Day (Christmas party)
18 Dec End of term 1.30pm

Please note: these dates do not include school trips. Please check on classlist, and in your child's bag, for other letters and announcements

January 2027

4 Jan Inset Day (no children)
5 Jan Children return
6 Jan Feast of Epiphany
8 Jan House of the term mufti day
12 Jan Y3 Mass & First Holy Communion meeting 2.15pm
15 Jan Winter mufti day
15 Jan Year 4 Cake Sale 3.30pm
18 Jan Coffee Morning & Uniform sale 8.30am
18 Jan Parent & Child Book share 3.45-5.30pm
22 Jan Y5 Class Assembly 9.15am
25 Jan STEM Week
26 Jan Y2 & Y4 Family Mass 2.15pm

February 2027

5 Feb Y3 Class Assembly 9.15am
9 Feb Safer Internet Day
9 Feb Y3 Pancake Sale 3.30pm
12 Feb Half Term 3.30pm

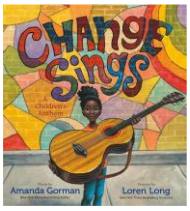
This week's theme: Friendship – BREAK THE SILENCE

This week, our assemblies have focused on Friendship Week, exploring the importance of kindness, respect and looking out for one another. We discussed what makes a good friend, celebrated our differences and learnt how to recognise bullying and distinguish it from everyday disagreements.

Inspired by Amanda Gorman's 'Change Sings' and the story of the Good Samaritan, we reflected on how even one voice can make a difference. We explored what it means to 'Break the Silence' by speaking up when something is wrong, asking for help and supporting those around us.

Our key message this week has been that we all have a part to play in making Oratory a happy, safe and welcoming school where everyone feels valued, included and heard.

Story of the Week
Change Sings
By Amanda Gorman



Music of the Week
Count on Me
By Bruno Mars



Art of the Week
Oratory Motto Mosaic
By Oratory Children



Friendship Week

The children have had a wonderful week celebrating Friendship Week. They have been busy talking about what makes a good friend, celebrating our differences, solving problems together and celebrating this year's theme: 'Break the Silence'. A highlight of the week was celebrating Spirituality Day yesterday where the children worked their way round a variety of prayer stations in the hall. The Owls guided their Owlets beautifully as always and Year 5 took on their guiding roles with Year 1 in an exemplary manner, proving what wonderful Owls they are going to be next year. In assembly this morning, some of our Year 6 children did a wonderful job of acting out a short sketch based on our theme, 'Break the Silence'. They showed us how one small act of kindness can make a big difference. By stopping to notice someone who needed help, using their voices for good and taking action to support others, they reminded us that even the smallest acts of kindness can have a powerful impact.






















More Spirituality Day & Anti-Bullying Workshops










Year 6 at Westminster Abbey

Our Year 6 children were very lucky to have a special visit to Westminster Abbey this week and learn about the Grave of the Unknown Warrior as part of their WWI study. They even spontaneously recited 'In Flanders Fields' as a class outside the abbey, surrounded by memorial crosses and captivating fellow visitors who were clearly very impressed and touched.

Well done on this beautiful tribute of remembrance, Year 6!




Remarkable Remembrance Poppies by our Year 6 Artists






We LOVE Oratory Odd Socks!





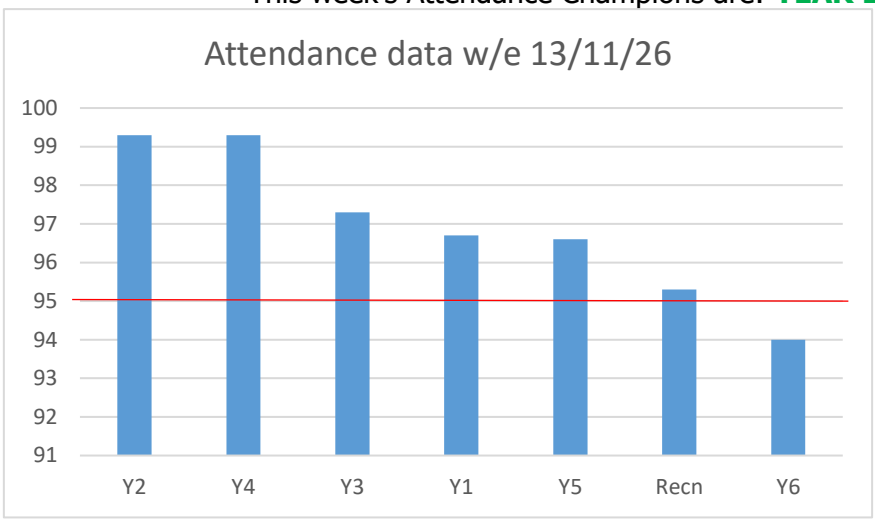






Attendance Spotlight - Growing Together in Faith and Learning

Every day in school matters, and strong attendance helps our children make the most of every learning opportunity. Each week, we will celebrate the class with the highest attendance across the school.
This week's Attendance Champions are: **YEAR 2 & YEAR 4**



Group	%Attend
Y2	99.3
Y4	99.3
Y3	97.3
Y1	96.7
Y5	96.6
Recn	95.3
Y6	94

Well done to everyone in Year 2 & Year 4 for a fantastic week with 99.3% attendance!
Thank you to all our families for supporting regular and punctual attendance.
Your support with attendance and punctuality is greatly appreciated - every day really does count - helping the children participate fully and make the most of the gifts God has given them.

Attendance Update
Working Together to Support Good Attendance

Firstly, we would like to say a big thank you to all our families for your continued support in ensuring that children attend school regularly and arrive on time. Good attendance is so important for children's learning, friendships, confidence and overall wellbeing, and we really appreciate the efforts families make to ensure their children are in school each day.
As we are now more than halfway through our first term, we will shortly be sending home an update on your child's attendance so far this academic year. This will give you an opportunity to see their current attendance percentage and understand how this compares with our school expectations.

Attendance below 95%
Where a child's attendance has fallen below 95%, the school will be in touch with parents and carers to discuss any difficulties and explore how we can work together to improve attendance. Our approach is always to be supportive and understanding, recognising that there can be a range of reasons why children may be absent from school.

Attendance below 90% - Persistent Absence
The Department for Education defines attendance below 90% as persistent absence. This is a significant concern, as it means a child is missing more than one day of school in every ten, which can have a considerable impact on their learning and progress. Parents of children whose attendance falls below 90% will be invited to meet with Mrs Steinart. These meetings are an opportunity to have a positive, supportive conversation about any barriers to regular attendance and to agree practical steps that we can take together to help improve it.

We understand that children do become unwell and that some absences are unavoidable. Our aim is not to place additional pressure on families, but to ensure that every child has the best possible opportunity to thrive at school.
Please also note that we always publish term dates early so that families can organise accordingly and ensure holidays are not taken during term time. Next year's term dates can be found our website here.

Thank you once again for your continued support and partnership. By working together, we can help every child make the most of their very important time at school, both academically and socially.

School Council News



Pyjama Fundraising Day



Our wonderful School Council have decided that they would like to repeat the fun from last year and have another Pyjama Day to raise money for our Autumn term charity, Glass Door. This is an opportunity for the children to think about and raise important funds for those who are not as fortunate as us. We know that having a cosy bed, warm water and a hot meal to go home to are things to be treasured.



Next **Friday 20th November**, the children can come to school dressed in their pyjamas (and even bring a teddy!) … thank you to the Parents' Association who will also be serving hot chocolate for the children to enjoy in their pyjamas!

Please log onto Parent Pay to make your donation to Glass Door.

School Choir News



More exciting news for our school choir…we have been invited to sing at the TLC Christmas Carols Competition on Hogarth Road on Thursday 3rd December at 5pm.
There will also be Christmas stalls and then the countdown to the Christmas lights switch on!
Please click here for more information and to book your free ticket!

School Choir News



The School Choir are incredibly excited to be singing Carols in Peter Jones, Sloane Square on Monday 7th December at 2pm.
So, if you happen to be doing a spot of Christmas shopping at this time you will be sweetly serenaded as you shop!

Year 3 at the Science Museum

Year 3 had a wonderful time at the Science Museum this week where they explored the Power Up exhibition as well as taking part in the Feel the Force show. Well done, Year 3 Scientists!











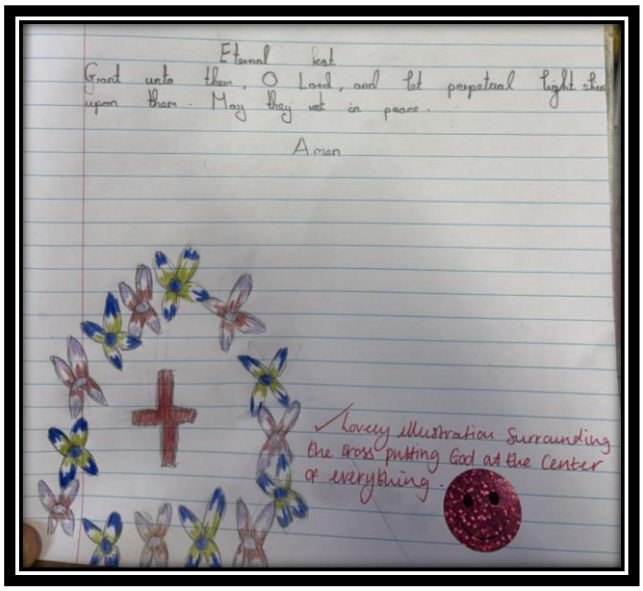


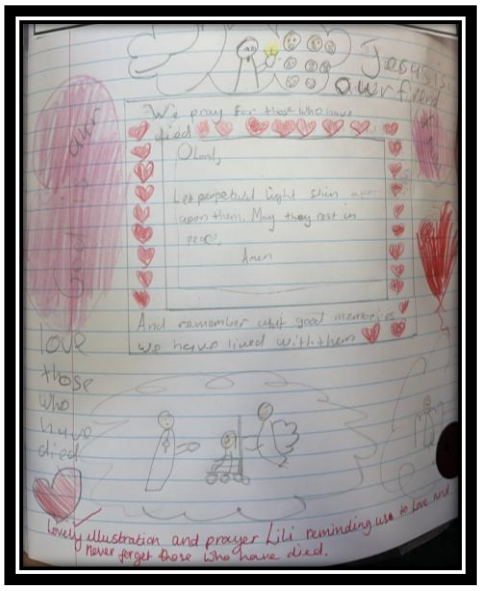
Chaplain's Corner – Father James

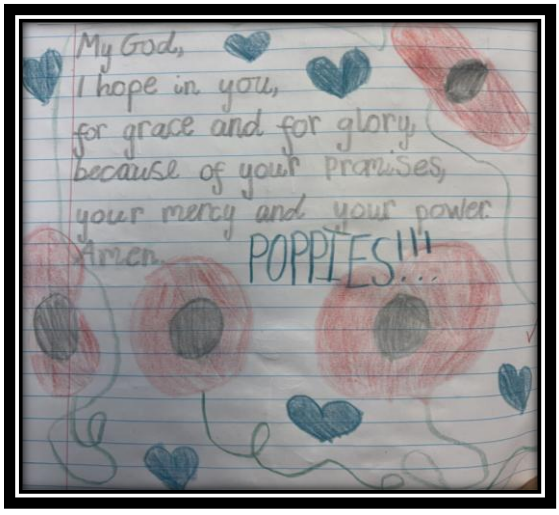
On the 11th November we kept the Feast of St Martin of Tours. An antiphon at Matins for the feast reads: "While Martin is still a catechumen, he clothed Me with his garment." This refers to the time when, as yet unbaptised, he clothed a poor man with his cloak, after which Christ appeared to him and said "you have clothed Me." This points to the reality that when we come to the aid of those in need out of love of God, we are doing it to Christ Himself, who generously rewards us for our charity (cf. Matthew 25:31-46). We ask St Martin to pray for us, that we may have faith in this truth and put into practice in our own lives.

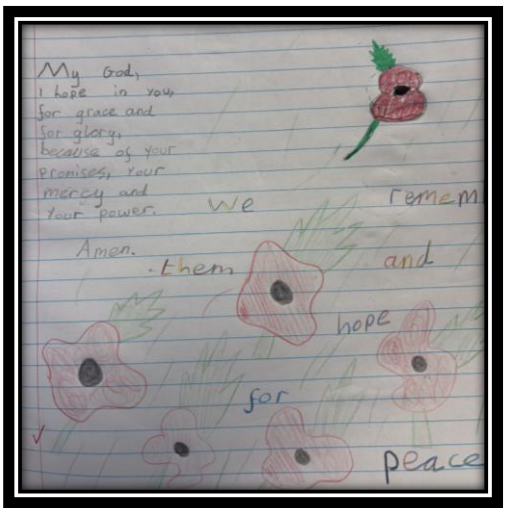
Prayer Journal Spotlight

Once again, it was such a pleasure to see the number of children who came to proudly show me their beautiful Prayer Journal entries this week. It was wonderful to see such thoughtful and reflective prayers, alongside the care, creativity and effort that so many of you put into presenting your very special prayer journals. Here are Frederica's and Lili's from Year 4 and Caterina's and Sienna's from Year 3 – well done!









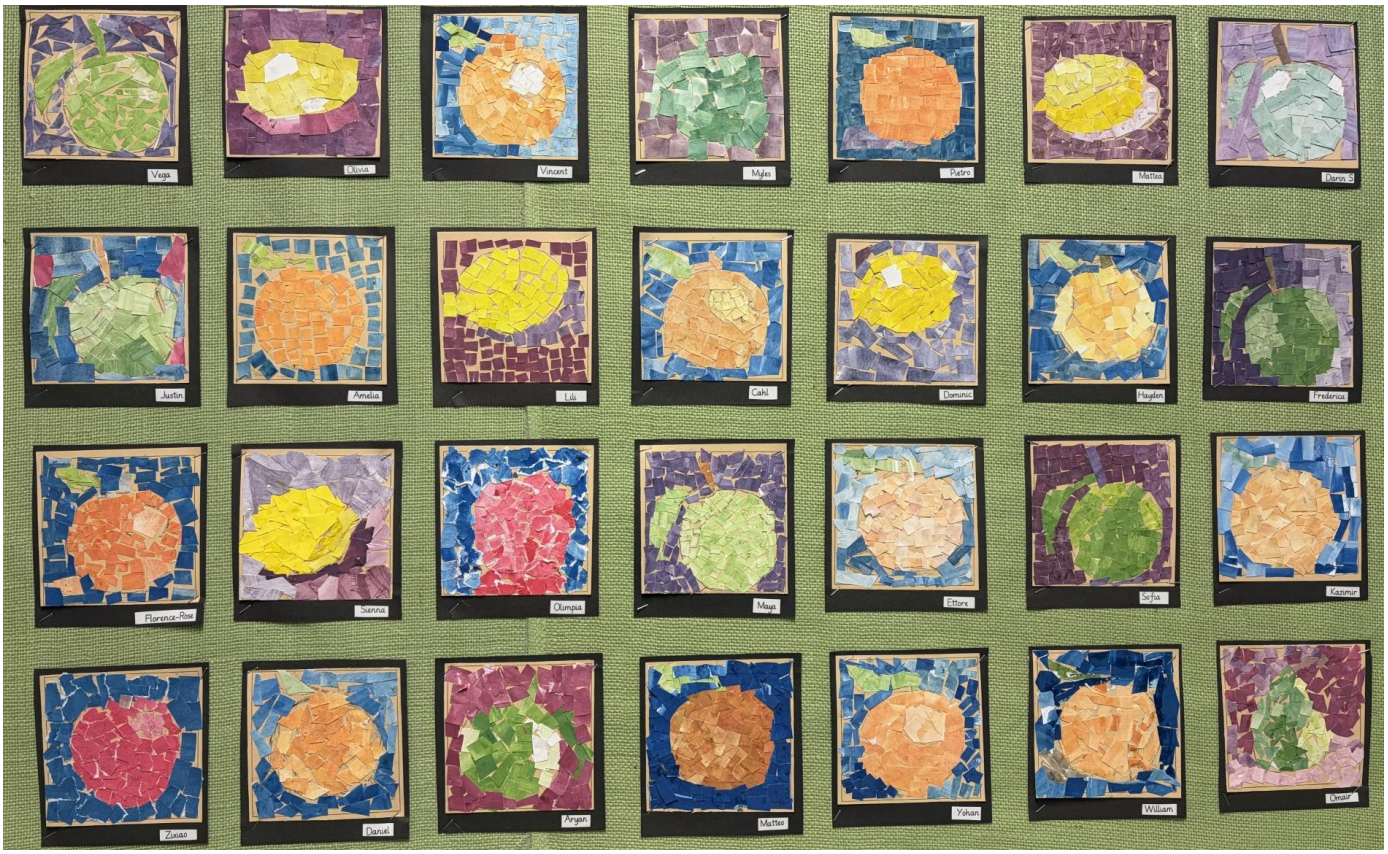
Wednesday Word – Wednesday 11th November 2026

THE Wednesday WORD
Good News for Families

SHARING SUNDAY'S GOSPEL WITH SCHOOLS, PARENTS & FAMILIES

Magnificent Mosaics by Year 4

Look at the wonderfully intricate mosaics that our Year 4 artists have created in their art lessons which are now proudly displayed in the Junior corridor. Well done, Year 4!







Parent Helpers Needed!

There are many wonderful upcoming events where parent helpers are very much appreciated – please let Markus or your reps know if you are able to help at any of the following:

Friday 20th November: **Glassdoor Pyjama and Hot Chocolate Fundraising Day** (parents needed to serve the hot chocolate to all classes).

Monday 30th November: **Wreath making** (to sell at the Christmas Fair).

Tuesday 1st December: **Christmas Fair** (in the hall 3.30pm-5pm - help needed with set up, manning stalls and clear up).

Thursday 10th & Friday 11th December: **Infant Nativity Play** (help needed with handing out drinks and nibbles after the performance).

Thursday 17th December: **Children's Day** (help needed with setting up the hall for lunch, serving lunch, clearing the hall ready for discos in the afternoon, helping at Junior discos).



Dear Parents,

As you all know, since Agata and Ina took the Second-Hand Uniform Sale under their wings a few years ago, they have transformed it into a brilliant service for our school community.

I think it is worth remembering why this is such an important part of what we do as a PTA. Not only does it help families save money, particularly when children seem to grow out of their uniforms almost overnight, but it also makes a real contribution to sustainability. Giving perfectly good uniforms a second life, rather than buying everything new and throwing away what no longer fits, is something we absolutely want to encourage.

On top of all that, it is also the financial bread and butter of everything we do as a PTA, from organising children's events and parties to contributing to the many other projects around the school.

There is, however, a small challenge ahead. Both Ina and Agata are now in Year 6 and will be leaving the school at the end of this academic year. We therefore need a few parents to come forward and help us keep this initiative going. Ideally, we would find a small group of parents who could work alongside Ina and Agata over the coming months and gradually take over the organisation. It doesn't need to be a huge commitment for any one person if we share the responsibilities and is a perfect way to contribute to our very special school community.

Our next Second-Hand Uniform Sale is this coming Monday, 16 November, from 8:30am in the School Hall.

If you have some time available, please come along and give us a hand. And if you might be interested in getting involved more regularly, it would be a great opportunity to meet Ina and Agata, see what is involved and have a chat with me about how we can organise a smooth handover.

I would really like to see this continue. There has been so much fantastic work going into building it up, and it would be a shame to lose such a useful and worthwhile initiative for our school.

Many thanks,

Markus

What's been going on in class this week?

Year 6

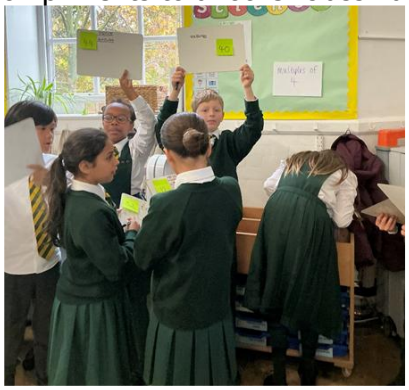
The Year 6s have had another very special week. Firstly, it was school-wide Friendship Week and the children greatly enjoyed our Break the Silence workshop and Spirituality Day. The children also had the opportunity to visit Westminster Abbey as part of their study of World War and Remembrance. Finally, it was also assessment week which meant they were able to demonstrate their brilliance across the curriculum. They have also focused on the following:

Maths: Arithmetic assessment, Reasoning Assessment (A & B); Fractions: Ordering & comparing fractions - same denominator.
English: Reading Focus: Reading Comprehension Assessment; War Horse by Michael Morpugo; To explain a prediction using evidence; To identify evidence for an inference about a character. Writing Focus: Drafting a diary in first person; Editing and refining a diary in first person; Researching using precise sentences; Considering audience and omission in writing. Grammar & Punctuation focus: semi colons to separate main clauses; clauses and phrases; rhetorical question.
RE: Prophecy and Promise: To show understanding of the Old Testament passage about Hannah and the importance of women in salvation history; To explain how Miriam and Deborah helped God's people.
History: Visit to Tomb of Unknown Warrior at Westminster Abbey for tour and remembrance service.
Science: Electricity end of unit assessment
Latin: To understand that Latin verbs are conjugated to show who is doing the action.
PSHE: 'Break the Silence Workshop': Understanding the steps necessary to combat bullying through drama exercises.
PE: Block, Guard, Attack; Health Related Exercise

Next week will be another busy week for our Year 6s. Enjoy the weekend!

Year 5

Another brilliant week in Year 5! The children should be especially proud of their focus during our second assessment week. This is what we have been up to:
English – We started our new novel *High Rise Mystery* by Sharna Jackson. We predicted what the plot might be about, and then wrote characterisations of the two protagonists, sisters Nik and Norva.
Maths – We completed our arithmetic and reasoning assessment papers, as well as learning about multiples and common multiples.
RE – We considered the significance of David's anointing, and also wowed at his trust and courage when facing the Philistine-giant Goliath!
History – We were archaeologists on Howard Carter's team when he discovered Pharaoh Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922, and wrote diary entries about our amazing discovery.
PSHE – We reflected on how racism deserves no place in our society, by looking at the civil rights movement in America and inspirational figures like Martin Luther King Jr and Rosa Parks.
Science – We learnt about mechanisms and how pulleys, levers, and gears can help us!
Another highlight this week was Friendship Week, particularly when we each wrote anonymous compliments to another classmate. It made our hearts feel so warm!





Year 4:

Year 4 have had a wonderful week of learning. We really enjoyed our Friendship Week activities, including our workshops, Odd Socks Day and Spirituality Day!
English: In English, we used powerful verbs and fronted adverbials to describe a setting.
Maths: We compared the area of different shapes and created our own area cities.
R.E: We learned about the miracle of Elijah and the flour and oil.
Science: We sorted solids, liquids and gases according to their properties.
Geography: Following our learning on Pompeii, we explored the role of tectonic plates in volcanoes and made our own tectonic plates jigsaw.
French: We used new vocabulary to describe classroom equipment and what is in our pencil case.
D.T: We created our own cars using axles and wheels.
P.E: Continuation of unit: Hands, Feet, Equipment.
P.S.H.E: We discussed the traits that good friends have and how we can be a good friend.
Well done to all on a great week. Have a lovely weekend!
Miss McVeigh and Ms Mark.





Year 3:

Year 3 have had a wonderful Friendship Week, full of reflection about how we can 'Break the Silence' to be upstanders!
This week Year 3 have learnt:
• In Maths, we learnt how to add and subtract two 3-digits numbers from each other, with exchanging. We also completed our Autumn Assessments
• In English, we have been acting out and inferring what the characters are feeling and thinking. We have also been looking at non-fiction texts and learning about different African animals.
• In RE, we learnt about the Liturgy of the word and found out how Catholics use some signs, actions, prayers, and symbols to celebrate Mass
• In History we learnt about Mary Quant and how clothes and fashion changed in the 60's.
• In Science, we had an fantastic trip to the Science museum where we took part in a live show learning about every day forces and magnets. We then took part in an interactive gallery learning about how games had changed throughout the years.
• In PSHE, we thought about how we could be reflective on our own actions, acknowledge when we have made mistakes and consider how we can find a resolution.
-For friendship week we read the story of 'Lost and Found' and considered how we could be bucket fillers. We shared compliments with our friends.

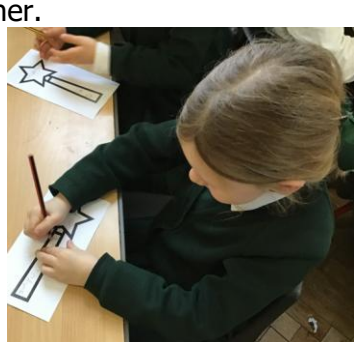





Year 2:

We have had a lovely week in Year 2. The children have been showing lots of kindness during Friendship Week and have been persevering with their second week of assessments. Here is what they have been up to this week:

- In **English**, we wrote character descriptions describing the Lonely Beast. We also mapped out part of the story and have written diary entries from the point of view of the Beast, with a focus on noun phrases. .
- In **Maths**, we have been focusing on adding across 10 with two-digit and one-digit numbers. We have been partitioning using part-whole models and have used number lines to help our understanding of this.
- In **RE**, we have been reflecting on Zechariah's special message about John's futures. We have also been learning about the Annunciation to Mary and wondering about how Mary must have felt at each moment.
- In **Science**, we learnt about simple food chains. We discussed how plants and animals get energy from food. We finished our unit on 'Living things and their Habitats' with an end of unit quiz.
- In **Art**, we created an sketchbook information page about weaving.
- In **PSHE**, we read the story 'Room on the Broom' and we discussed how it is good to be friends with those who are different to us. We made and decorated wands with compliments and gave them to one another.



Year 1:

Year 1 have had a fabulous Friendship week!
In Maths: We have been learning to problem solve using addition sentences.
In English: We planned and wrote a character description of Mr Underbed. We also role played the characters in the story and wrote our own thought and speech bubbles for the characters.
In Science: This week we started our new topic all about materials. We used our investigation skills to describe and classify different objects and the materials they were made out of.
In History: We were introduced to Mary Anning and thought about questions we could ask to discover more about her and her life.
In Religious Education: This week we started our new topic 'Prophecy and Promise'. We learnt that the Bible is a sacred library of books which contains the word of God. We created beautiful bookmarks and placed them prayerfully into our class Bible.
In Phonics: We have been reviewing and revising our long vowel sounds and practising our tricky words.





Reception:

Reception have had a very busy week of learning!

Phonics: We have continued to practise reading and writing words with consonant blends such as **br**ick, **dr**ess.
Literacy: The children have enjoyed being introduced to our new class text "Astro Girl". They have been using vocabulary from the text in their learning and their play.
Maths: We have been counting, representing and writing numbers to 5.
RE: This week, we talked about how we begin to prepare for Christmas during Advent.
PD: The children enjoyed participating in games for understanding in PE.
EAD: The children have been using splat painting to create pictures of the planets.
UTW: We have been investigating which objects sink and float.
PSED: The children completed many whole school and whole class activities involved in friendship week. We talked about kindness, sharing and what it means to be a good friend.
C&L: The children have enjoyed using new vocabulary from the text in our spaceship role play area.






PUPIL OF THE WEEK & ACT OF KINDNESS

Congratulations to these children who have had an extra special week and received Pupil of the Week and Act of Kindness awards. Keep up the great work!

	Pupil of the Week	Act of Kindness
Reception	Bruno	Chiara
Year 1	Naia	David
Year 2	Matthias	Tomas
Year 3	Lavinia	Nicolas
Year 4	Yohan	Zixiao
Year 5	George	Freddie
Year 6	Arman	Yana
Special Act of Kindness		Imanuel (Y6)

House of the Week	Class of the Week
Blue House	**Year 3** (For the very mature and prayerful way they approached Spirituality Day)