



ST. WINEFRIDE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the Spring Term draws to a close and we approach the Easter holidays, I wanted to share some of the wide range of excellent activities and achievements in which our pupils and students are involved. As you will see these stretch far beyond the classroom.

It is with great joy that we reflect upon how hard our children have been working and the experiences and opportunities that they have had which have developed them academically, socially and spiritually. We are proud of the effort that the children put into their learning and it is a joy to watch them grow and develop daily. Thank you for your continued support with home learning; this is extremely important and we value the input from you all to ensure that our children reach their full potential in school and at home.

This season of Lent, we have taken time to think about the needs of others and put others before ourselves. The children have enjoyed raising money for worthwhile charities and they understand that the love and kindness that they show helps others locally, nationally and worldwide.

Throughout this week, Holy week, we have had lots of opportunities to remind ourselves of the events of Holy week and what Christ endured in his final days. The children have celebrated Mass together in Church; journeyed around Stations of the Cross in Church and prayed in our school grounds. It has given us all time to reflect upon how God loves us all for who we are and it gives us time to think about the sacrifices that we can make as followers of Jesus.

The Season of Lent



Pray



Throughout Lent, all classes have opened their classroom door for families to join our Lenten 'Stay and Pray' sessions. All children have led their liturgical prayer time beautifully; presenting the word of God; writing prayers; encouraging responses from the heart and singing praise to the Lord. We are very proud of our children for leading us all in prayer. Thank you to family and friends for joining us; it has been a delight to welcome you into school to celebrate this time of prayer together. We hope that you enjoyed being with us.



Catholic Life at St Winefride's

During Lent, the children have come together to listen, and pray and reflect upon this time. Each Monday, we gather together to spend time in prayer and share the Word of the Lord. During Lent, we have been thinking about ways in which we can do more for others and become closer to God.

Our children have had the opportunity to be part of a Liturgical Prayer time that schools, across the Diocese of Shrewsbury, have contributed to. Francesca Williams and Tobi Podmore contributed to this time of prayer. The Liturgical Prayer service was called 'For God So Loved the World. Here is the link to the service, I encourage families to enjoy this together, this week, at home.

<https://youtu.be/wtu6SPd2OdA>

During this term, it has been a privilege to join all in the parish of St Winefride's to celebrate Mass. Father Francis welcomed us all to church on St David's Day, at the start of Lent and during this week, Holy Week. Mrs Bannister prepared the celebration of Mass for us all and ensured that the children led us in the daily reading and prayer. Father Francis thanked the children for their engagement in Mass; for their excellent reading and singing, and for their impeccable behaviour and manners. We are thankful to the parishioners, Joe and Agnes, for leading us in prayer as we journeyed around the 'Stations of the Cross' in church.

The children have enjoyed exploring the Stations of the Cross in our school grounds also.

Thank you to Mrs Bannister for leading the implementation of these special times of prayer for our children.



Art Club from KS2 shared a creative prayer session and they worked collaboratively to produce a large LENT sign to serve as a reminder to our school community about this Holy time.



Year 1 led the whole school community in a prayerful assembly inspired by their learning in Religious Education. The theme of their time of prayer was 'Families and Celebration' and it included the biblical story of the Presentation of Jesus. The children asked the school, community 'How can you be a light in the World?' and they certainly shone brightly in their assembly. Thank you to all of the year 1 children, Mrs Jones, Mrs MacDonald and Mrs Dee for preparing this time of prayer.

Year 5 led the whole school community in a prayerful assembly inspired by their learning in their Religious Education lessons. They shared what reconciliation means and communicated how forgiveness and reconciliation are intertwined. Their creative way of sharing their learning with us was excellent. Thank you to Mrs O'Gorman and all of the children for preparing this time of prayer for us all to enjoy.



B Tales



During Holy Week, on our final day in school, Maundy Thursday, we welcomed our friends from the B Tales who shared with us their performance of the Easter Story 'The Stranger.' In their own unique way, they shared with us the story of Jesus and the love that He has for us all. The B Tales team expressed "We always love coming to your school because we are always warmly welcomed and you all engage in the show. You are part of our B Tales family.' The children and staff love the performances shared by the B Tales and the spiritual messages that they convey so beautifully. We thank our wonderful PTFA for funding these performances for us all to enjoy.

Our children from Mini Vinnies, along with Mrs Bannister and Mrs Mullin, wrote inspiring messages of love to share with all in our school community and with the community of Neston. They placed the messages on our school fence to spread love and joy to all working pass who can read them. Thank you to our children, Mrs Bannister and Mrs Mullin for sharing these messages of joy and love.



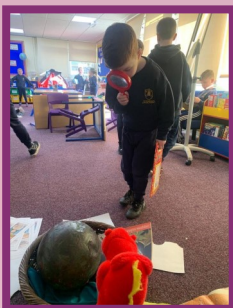


Curriculum



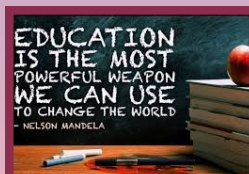
At St Winefride's, we pride ourselves on the broad, balanced and challenging curriculum that we have for all of our pupils in our school. We always look to review our curriculum to ensure that it meets the needs of all learners in our school. Throughout the duration of this academic year, we have worked collaboratively to refine our curriculum in History, Geography, Science, Art and DT. Historically, we have followed a two year rolling programme, but we have changed this so that each year group has their programme of study, dedicated to their year group, where the curriculum is age appropriate and sequential; allowing the children to progress in knowledge and skills and providing challenge for all.

Our teachers are leaders of curriculum areas and they work hard to ensure that our curriculum is reflected on our school website. Our teachers ensure that all parents and carers have a detailed curriculum overview, each term, which details what your child will be learning in all subject areas and suggestions of how you can support their learning at home using platforms available through school. **I urge you to visit our school website and view each curriculum area to learn more about the content of the curriculum along with examples of work produced by our wonderful children.** A reminder of our school website: www.stwinefrides.cheshire.sch.uk



In year 2, the dragons have visited our school (and made a little mess in the process!!) and the children investigated their classroom for signs and clues which were linked to their new book 'The Dragon Machine.' The children were transfixed by the 'hook' into their new book and were eager and motivated to find out more. It was a wonderful start to their new text.

On 7th March, some children from Year 1 became detectives as some bones appeared on our playground as well as some picture clues. The children had to investigate and write about what they found. This was an introduction to their new English book 'The Curious Case of the Missing Mammoth.' The children have continued to explore this book and it has inspired lots of their writing.

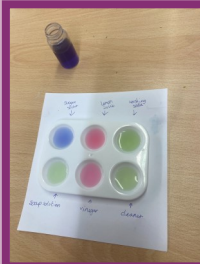


Linked to their learning of 'The Great Fire of London' Year 2 discovered that the fire started at Thomas Farriner's bakery, Pudding Lane. They were set the challenge of baking bread at home as part of their learning. The children enjoyed this experience and lots of bread was baked. The children brought their bread into school to share with their friends.

Quality of Education



Science Week



To celebrate Science week and our love for Science at St Winefride's, we had several Scientists visit our school to deliver 'hands on' Science workshops for all of our children. Reception, Years 1 and 2 learnt about adaptation and camouflage. Year 3 learnt about skeletons. Year 4 had a more in depth workshop about camouflage and adaptation and Year 5's workshop was all about biological diversity. Finally, Year 6 had a day full of 'hands on Science' as they learnt about circulation and the heart as well as engaging in a Chemistry workshop led by Chemist Professor Wilson. It was a fantastic day.



Music

On Friday 17th March, the children and staff of KS2 visited the Philharmonic for an inspiring morning of music. They listened to the orchestra play and as part of their learning in music, they sang with the orchestra too. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



Phonics and Early Reading

At St Winefride's we teach phonics and early reading using Little Wandle. The children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 engage in daily phonic sessions taught by the class teachers and teaching assistants. We pride ourselves on the excellent teaching of phonics at St Winefride's and this is evident in the attainment and progress made by all of our pupils. To find out more about Little Wandle and how you can support your child at home, I encourage you to visit our school website where you will find a wealth of resources to support your child in their phonic development and early reading. Our school website is www.stwinefrides.cheshire.sch.uk. Please click on the 'Our Curriculum' and find the 'Phonics and Early Reading' tab. You can also visit <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/> for more information and support with phonics and early reading.

Week beginning 24th April, we are planning on inviting parents and carers into school to engage in a phonics workshop where you can experience the phonic teaching and learning that happens in our school. More information will follow regarding this.

Our school follows the White Rose scheme of learning for maths and we work alongside the local Maths learning hub and engage in 'Mastering number' programme on top of our learning in our Maths lessons. Please visit our school website to find out more about the Maths curriculum for your child's year group and what they learn in Maths. You will also find information about the teaching and learning of Maths on the curriculum overviews that are shared with you by your child's class teacher as well as on our school website.

We
Love
Maths



Quality of Education

Behaviour and Attitudes

WORLD BOOK DAY

On Thursday 2nd March, children and staff enjoyed celebrating their love of books and reading on World Book Day. All of the children and staff were invited to come to school as a word—a proper noun, a common noun, an adjective, an adverb. We had a variety of words arrive at school on this day and it was wonderful to see all of our children and staff celebrate World Book Day in style. We love books at St Winefride's and we promote reading for pleasure and reading for growth. On World Book Day, all classes engaged in fun and exciting activities. The children in Reception made wonderful book characters using wooden spoons. Children and staff from Years 1—6 visited Neston library where they enjoyed a story shared by the staff from the library and each child received their very own book to take home and enjoy reading.

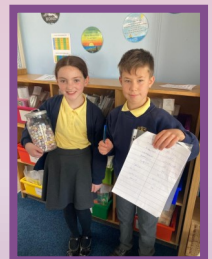


School Council

INTERNATIONAL WORDL BOOK GIVING DAY

On 14th February, our children celebrated 'International Book Giving Day.' This day is an opportunity to celebrate the joy of books and reading and to share books with one another so that all of our children have access to good books to read. During this week, children were invited to bring a book into school to 'gift' to another child and share their love of books and reading. Children enjoyed swapping books and taking a new read home with them. Hugo and Henry in Year 1 very kindly donated two books to their class to mark this day also. This is wonderful and our children are living out our school mission statement daily and this is what makes our school a special place to be.

Mrs O'Gorman meets regularly with our well established Student Council. Children from Year 2 to Year 6 come together to discuss the life and events of the school and the children represent the children in their class and share views and suggestions for school life. At this meeting, the children discussed their ideas around 'giving' during Lent and expressed their feelings around raising money for charities local, nationally and worldwide as well as using money raised to support our outdoor learning area. At the meeting, the children were asked to go back to their peers and decide upon a fundraiser that their class would lead to raise funds for their chosen charity—Alder Hey and to purchase something for our woodland area so that all children can benefit. Well done and thank you to Mrs O'Gorman all children and staff for planning these fundraising activities and to all of our parents and family members for supporting these events. The children have thoroughly enjoyed leading and supporting all initiatives. We had lots of wonderful ideas; a chocolate raffle, tombola, bring and buy sale, guess the coordinates and guess the number of eggs in the jar. In total, we have raised approximately £300. All of the money raised will be shared between Alder Hey and purchasing something for our school grounds which will serve as a reminder of our community working together.



Giving is not just about making a donation; it is about making a difference.

Personal Development





More Charity Work

We have been really busy as a school community raising funds to support charities. The children have been enthused to do this and they show a real understanding and desire to help others who need our support and prayers. Thank you to all of our families for supporting the children in their aspiration to help others and in doing so, making a difference to the lives of others. I am incredibly proud of our whole school community for the love, compassion and commitment we have for helping others in need—'Together is better.'

Thank you to all of the children in Year 5 who raised money for charity by holding a cake sale. Thank you to all parents and family members who helped the children bake scrumptious cakes for everyone to enjoy! Year 5 raised £407.45 and donated all monies raised to the Turkey Syria Earthquake Appeal. The children organised and led this themselves as they want to help those in need. They have shown great empathy and compassion and we are incredibly proud of them.



Personal Development



WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

On 15th March, we welcomed a very special guest to our school, Caroline from Down Syndrome Cheshire came to our school to share with us, and to explain, the uniqueness and gifts that children with Down Syndrome have.

The children were very knowledgeable and asked thoughtful questions. Caroline expressed her gratitude to the children for their engagement and she commented upon how well mannered our children are. We received a lovely message from Caroline after her visit:

"You have a lovely school; the children all have impeccable manners, and I was impressed by their participation. Please pass this on to the rest of SLT and thank the children for me for their engagement."

On 21st March, World Down Syndrome Day to raise awareness of Down Syndrome, we wore colourful socks to school. Children were invited to purchase a sock biscuit. In total, we raised £258.35 from selling biscuits and from generous donations from all of our families—thank you for your wonderful support.

Thank you to Miss Holland for organising Caroline's visit and our celebration of World Down Syndrome Day.

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

On Thursday 6th April, the children and staff enjoyed a non-uniform day to raise money for Autism Awareness.

Thank you to all parents and family members for your kind donations. We have raised £109.54 which will be donated to Autism Together. Autism Together has been providing support to people on the Autism spectrum, offering a wide range of residential services, supported living, day services and community support from their base in the Wirral, UK. Miss Holland and Mrs Roberts held a SEND coffee afternoon parents and carers and a special guest from Autism Together came to speak at the meeting. It was a very informative afternoon. Thank you to Miss Holland and Mrs Roberts for organising and leading this informative afternoon.



Quality of Education



Barnstondale



The children in year 4 along with Mr Shone, Mrs Roberts and myself enjoyed a wonderful residential trip away at Barnstondale. During our three day break, the children from Year 4 took part in a variety of activities such as woodland exploration; survival challenge; abseiling, archery, rifle shooting and much more. The children did enjoy exploring the grounds during their free time. They had fun on the adventure playground; enjoyed playing football on the pitch and thoroughly enjoyed the sensory garden. At our school, we pride ourselves upon providing the best opportunities for the children to take part in exciting, meaningful and interesting trips and residential trips which encourage independence, social skills, teamwork and allow children to experience new things in a safe and supportive environment. The children and staff had a magnificent time and learnt lots about outdoor life, themselves and each other. The staff at Barnstondale expressed that our children were a joy to work with and be around; they were engaged, knowledgeable and curious and they were extremely well behaved and well mannered at all times. Our children are a credit to themselves, to their families and to our school. To watch them experience the excitement of being away and learning in the outdoors, with friends, is a real joy. The children have learnt great life skills as well as grown in confidence socially. They have shown developing independence, perseverance and resilience and I am incredibly proud of them. It was a privilege to experience Barnstondale, making memories with all of the children. A huge thank you to Mr Shone and Mrs Roberts for giving up their time to support the children on their residential trip.

Fairtrade Breakfast

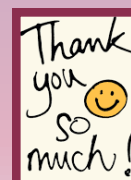
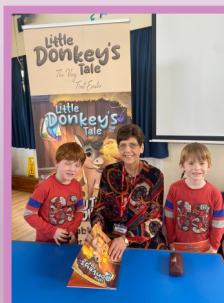
We were overwhelmed with the support from children and families at our Fairtrade breakfast held on the 7th March. Children and families were invited into school to enjoy a delicious breakfast made using 'Fair Trade' products. Donations received meant that we were able to send £84.15 to CAFOD. Thank you to everyone for your support.



Author Visit - Christine Field-Davies

Today, Thursday 6th April, we were fortunate enough to welcome Christine Field Davies back to our school to share her Easter story with us 'The Donkey's Tale.' Christine's book has recently been published and today, she came in and shared her story with our children. The children asked thoughtful questions about Christine's book and her life as an author. Christine said, "I love coming to St Winefride's. The children are wonderful. They are always very well behaved and have excellent manners. They ask really thoughtful questions. I am impressed by how knowledgeable the children are and how they want to know more. It is a joy to be here."

Thank you to Christine for sharing her book with us and her experience of being an author.





Outdoor Learning

Working in partnership with Dave Armson from Mersey Forest, our youngest children in Reception and Year 1, were helped by our oldest children in Year 5 and Year 6 as well as governors and staff, to plant over 100 trees in our school grounds. The children learnt about why trees are so important and why the 'trees for climate' planting project is important. The children learnt how to plant trees and what is needed to look after them.

Our woodland area has been developed by a team, from Allium. They have cleared the existing woodland and created a pathway. They have added some seating too with a firepit so this can be used as a space for outdoor learning. The children, and staff, are excited to utilise this space. We are extremely fortunate to have such wonderful school grounds. Thank you to Mrs MacDonald for organising this project to take place in our school.



Trees for Climate

PTFA Events

Thank you to our wonderful PTFA for organising prizes for our Eggstravaganza which was held this week, during Holy week. Well done to all of the children and families for entering into the eggstravaganza with great spirit. We had a variety of creative entries and it was very difficult to choose the winners from each year group. All of the children, who entered, are winners in our eyes.

A huge thank you to Mrs Seddon and her daughter (and past pupil) Emily, who judged the competition on behalf of the PTFA, supported by our very own Mrs Taylor! They shared that it was a joy to judge the competition but it was difficult to choose the winners. Thank you to our PTFA for providing the chocolate prizes for all of our winners, and for giving each child in our school, a chocolate treat. They were greatly received.

A huge thank you to you for supporting this wonderful event and tradition of our school.

SAVE THE DATE—PTFA BBQ and Bingo— Thursday 25th May 3.30pm—5.30pm. More information to follow.



Dolce



Soo and Catherine from Dolce Catering always make meals time fun for all of our children. In our final week, Easter is our theme and they have created a joyful, fun experience for all our children including Easter chocolate nests and lamb shaped cookies.

Staff News



We warmly congratulate Mrs Bannister on her appointment as permanent Deputy Headteacher at our school. Mrs Bannister has been acting in this role for the past 18 months and positively contributes to the leadership and management of our school. We wish Mrs Bannister happiness and best wishes as she continues to support all in our school community to achieve their potential. We celebrate the implementation of our permanent leadership team who strive to ensure the best outcomes for all of our children, families and staff in our school. Congratulations Mrs Bannister!

On Friday 31st March, we said goodbye to Mrs McCann who has worked at St Winefride's for 7 1/2 years. We came together to give thanks for her love and commitment that she has shown our school during her time here. Children, staff and governors would like to thank Mrs McCann for her service to our school and we pray that she finds new treasures, each day, in her new role.



Congratulations to Mrs Roberts on her appointment as our school business manager. We thank Mrs Roberts for her continued dedication, commitment and positivity that she gives to our school and everyone in our school community and we look forward with excitement to all that she will bring to her new role in our school.



Sending all of our children, families, staff and governors, peace, love and Easter Blessings.

On behalf of all of the staff at St Winefride's, I would like to wish you an enjoyable and restful Easter Break and we look forward to welcoming all of our children and families back to school on: **Monday 17th April 2023. Our doors open at 8.45am and all children must be in school by 8.55am.**