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Tuesday 11 February 2025

Newsletter No 6

Dear Parent/Carer



Unbelievably it is February and January has come and gone in a flash. School has been very busy and the children have started the term with enthusiasm and determination. I am optimistic that they will carry this positive attitude into February and the rest of the year.

### **Whole School Blessing – Tuesday 21 January -9.00am**

Father Anthony Searle led a whole school blessing in January which was a great way to start the year. Rev Searle and I visited all the classes and key areas of the school, prayers were read by the children and Father Searle blessed all the areas in the school.

Then the whole school gathered in the hall, received a whole school blessing and joyfully sang ‘My God is a Great Big God.’ The children responded with some very thoughtful prayers for their year groups and enjoyed the experience of being sprinkled with Holy Water.



### **Ashing**

#### **Ash Wednesday –5th March 2025**

To mark the start of Lent, we are pleased to offer children, parents and staff the opportunity to participate in the ancient Christian tradition of “ashing”. Ashes are used to make the sign of the cross on people’s foreheads as a sign of our desire to repent and make a new start. Reverend Anthony Searle from All Saints High Wycombe and Robyn Connelly, Children and Families Minister from All Saints, will be in the infant playground after school on Ash Wednesday to offer ashing to anyone who wants it. It only takes a moment and is a wonderful way for people of all ages to engage with Lent traditions in a really tangible way. You can also find more about ashing, including the biblical and historical context at:

[www.churchyear.net/ashwednesday.html](http://www.churchyear.net/ashwednesday.html)

### **Parent Responses to Letters, Forms and Requests for Information**



I would like to ask that parents and carers respond to school requests within the given timescales wherever possible. I understand that there may be occasions where a number of responses are required within a short space of time and we do our best to limit this and to make the process easier by using 'Forms'. The office is spending an increasing amount of time chasing for responses either by phone or email as we do not want children to miss opportunities.

It would also be very helpful if you could send the children in with the correct clothing, PE Kit, instruments etc as we have needed to also make an increased number of calls to allow children to take part in Forest School, Swimming etc. We will not continue to make calls and children may not be able to take part.

### Parent WhatsApp Groups

We recognise that these groups are a valuable way for parents to connect and share useful information and we welcome this. School has no input or sight of these groups. However, please can you ensure that only correct information regarding school events is shared – there have been 3 occasions in the last week where we have needed to manage some confusion when incorrect information has been posted.

### Christian Value for Living and Behaviour for Learning

This half term our Christian Value is:  
**'Compassion'**



Our Behaviour for Learning is: **'Curious'** and our Vision Character is: **'Curious Cat'**



### Children's Mental Health Week

Last week was Children's Mental Health Week! This year's theme, *Know Yourself, Grow Yourself*, encourages children to explore self-awareness and emotions. At school, we completed activities based around the movie, *Inside Out 2*, including creating their own *Islands of Personality*, thinking about what they can do and what they would like to learn to do, and playing a *Pupil Bingo game*, to help children build resilience and connect with others. Ask your child about what they've learned!



### Governor Recruitment



Many schools across the county have vacancies for governors. In an effort to address this a campaign is being launched, targeted at all residents in Bucks which will be delivered between the 27 January-14 February across the core Buckinghamshire Council channels such as social media and a press release and sharing poster. The campaign



focuses on the personal development benefits of becoming a school governor and aims to highlight some success stories.

Being a school governor can be excellent for professional development and helps you to develop your understanding of school management as well as other skills.

**We are currently looking for a Parent Governor and if you would be interested, please look at the Parent Governor Recruitment letter sent last week or contact Ruth Moorhouse in the school office.**

For further details about Governor roles in Bucks, contact [schoolgovernance@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:schoolgovernance@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

### End of Term

A reminder that we break up on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 3.15pm** and return to school on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February**. I hope you all have an enjoyable half term break.

### A few date reminders

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|--|--------------------------------|
| • Monday 10 February to Friday 14 February | Assessment Week Year 6         |
| • Friday 14 February                       | NSPCC Number Day               |
| • Friday 14 February                       | Year 6 Doughnut Sale for PGL   |
| • Friday 14 February                       | Break up for Half Term 3.15 pm |
| • Monday 24 February                       | Back to School 8.30 – 8.45am   |
| • Monday 3 March to Friday 7 March         | Assessment Week Year 1 to 5    |
| • Wednesday 5 March                        | Cake Sale YR, 3 and 5          |
| • Monday 3 March to Friday 7 March         | Book Week                      |
| • Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March          | Ashing                         |
| • Thursday 6 March                         | World Book Day                 |
| • Friday 7 March                           | Y1 Class Assembly              |

Yours sincerely,



Celine Hawkins  
Headteacher



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