

25th March 2022

Dear Parents

Coffee morning for Ukraine – Congratulations to the parents who ran the coffee morning last Sunday and raised a brilliant £485 which will go to support Ukraine. We continue to keep those suffering in our prayers.

Covid – We have a lot of cases of Covid in school at the moment, so please do remain vigilant in looking out for symptoms. The official symptoms are: a new continuous cough, high temperature and/or loss of taste or smell. However, lots of people report headaches, general aches and pains, sore throat or tummy ache. If in doubt, do an LFT test and keep your child off school if they are unwell.

Reconciliation – An important aspect of Lent is self-reflection and questioning if we are being the best version of ourselves and as much like Jesus taught us to be. The Catholic tradition is to seek reconciliation. Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 had the opportunity this week to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This helps us to prepare more fully to be able to celebrate when Easter comes. Thank you to all priests who helped ensure this could happen: Fr Mehall, Fr Stewart, Fr David from Our Lady of Lourdes, Fr John from St Mary's and it was particularly lovely to welcome Fr Shaun back for this. The Infant children had a reconciliation service on Tuesday with Fr Stewart who told the parable from Sunday's Gospel about the fig tree. The message in the story is that God never gives up on us!

Giving for Lent – Our chosen charity for Lent is to give donations to St Monica's church food bank. Lots of things have been brought in already, thank you! The last day to bring something in is Monday 28th March. We will be walking to church as a whole school on Monday morning to deliver the goods and find out what the food bank volunteers do.

Retreat Day – The two Year 5 classes had a reflective and thoughtful retreat day at St Monica's church led by Anna from the parish. They learned about the Stations of the Cross and then made their own in small groups. Fr Mehall and Fr Stewart blessed their beautiful work and it will soon be displayed around school.

Choir Performance – Last Friday, Ms Phillips took a group of singers from the choir to perform at "The Gift of Music" concert at Enfield Baptist Church in aid of The Nightingale Cancer Support Centre. The theme of the concert was "Celebration" and our songs reflected our celebration of love, ourselves, our faith and looking to a brighter future. About £2,000 was raised for a very worthy cause. Although only seventeen children took part on the evening, their collective voices really raised the roof – so well done to all of them! The whole school were delighted to hear them sing in school on Wednesday. We're very proud of you!

Dance Festival – For the first time since 2019, we were able to take a group of children to perform at the Millfield Theatre this week. Congratulations to all the children who took part and performed so well despite missing lots of dancers due to sickness. Thank you to Miss Dalton and Mr O'Shea who led this and worked with the children over the last few weeks to prepare them for their performance.

Walk and wheel to school – Mrs Weston has been busy this week collecting data about how children travel to school. We could win a prize if we get enough numbers walking or wheeling in (not in a car!), so keep it up for next week as well

Happy Bag Collection! – Don't forget to bring in clothes for recycling etc on Friday 1st April at 9am.

Netball Match – Our Year 6 netball team played against Oakthorpe Primary School on Wednesday. It was a very tough match but we won 7-5 - well done!

Mother's Day – The Reception children invited their mums to school for a tea party on Wednesday. It was a lovely occasion, made all the more special because we could all join together in the hall for the first time since 2019. It was the first time some of the mums had even set foot inside the building. It was quite emotional seeing so many smiling faces in the hall and listening to the children sing. Thank you to Fr Mehall for blessing all the mums. We will have to find a way to make it up to the mums in Years 1 and 2 who missed out on their tea parties due to covid over the last two years.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend. I am looking forward to going up to the Wirral to see my mum this weekend.

Kind regards
Kate Baptiste
Headteacher