



25.4.2025



Dear Parents,

It was wonderful to welcome the children back after the Easter break.

We are now in the liturgical time of Eastertide which lasts until the Feast of Pentecost.

### **Pope Francis**

Although Pope Francis had been ill for some time and looked incredibly frail on Easter Sunday, the news of his death still came as a shock. This week we have sought to follow Bishop Mark's advice by praying for Pope Francis as he so often asked us to. Before Mass on Wednesday the staff shared a short reflection and prayer time with their classes and throughout the week we have taken opportunities to remember Pope Francis and pray for him.

We have opened a Book of Condolence in our chapel and if you wish to contribute to this then please send your words, a prayer or thought into school in an envelope marked 'Book of Condolence' and we will make sure it is included. This morning we held an assembly and talked about Pope Francis' life and mission. We touched on his legacy too and drew connections with this half term's Catholic Social Teaching Principle of "Community and Participation."

### **Easter Mass**

On Wednesday morning Fr Paul came into school to celebrate an Easter Mass with the children. As Fr Paul said, "It is happy occasion touched with sadness." The children's responses to Father's questions were knowledgeable and thoughtful. Parents and Grandparents as well as parishioners are always welcome to join us at our school Masses. Thank you to our Year 6 readers and staff who did a wonderful job proclaiming God's word and to those who served at Mass or brought the offertory.

**Parish News** <https://www.stjohnvianney.co.uk/>

### **Altar Servers**

If any Year 5 children who have made their First Holy Communion would like to see what being an Altar Server is all about, ask them to speak to me or Mrs Cannavan. In the past Fr Paul has come into school to talk to the children about what is involved and we can arrange this again. If your child is interested in serving at school, at St Wilfrid's Church or both and understands that this is an important role, then we can help them find out more about it.

### **Lent Fundraising**

I don't yet have the final figure for our Lent fundraising but I hope to be able to share this with you next week. Thank you so much for your generosity.

### **School Building Fund**

Each year we ask for £15 per child to support the Diocese Building Fund. This fund finances important projects in school buildings across the diocese. In recent years we have benefited from it with a playground resurfacing, major improvements to our roof, fencing around the car park, new fencing around Pre School and a new boiler for the Pre School and Reception classrooms. We have also had all the pavements to the front of school replaced. Last year we had all the old windows and doors surrounding the courtyard replaced and had the Pre School and Reception class radiators replaced. Last year our main school boiler was also replaced.

As a school we have to contribute around £3000 each year to the fund for these projects. In the past we have received enough contributions through the building fund to cover this but in the last few years contributions have reduced and last year we only received £700. If you are able to pay the Building Fund levy of £15 you can find it on School Gateway. We as a school get so much out of the fund for the relatively small amount we are asked to contribute. Please help if you can.

### **Week commencing 12/5/2025**

There will be NO school snack for Years 1 to 6 during week commencing 13/5/2024. This is because it is Y6 SAT week and we would risk disturbing the tests.

### **Night Owls Bookings**

Please make sure you book your children in to Night Owls well in advance. We need to ensure that we have sufficient staff on duty for the children attending and there are different ratios depending upon the ages of the children. Most days we receive calls after 2:30pm to book places. This puts a lot of pressure on the Office Staff to check lists and ratios at one of the busiest times of the day. You also risk there not being sufficient staff and your request being rejected.

### **Welcome**

This week we have welcomed Mrs Chu to our school staff. She will be working part time in our office.

Have a wonderful weekend.

**God Bless,**

**Justine McEniff, Headteacher**



**Easter Mass – 23.4.25**

***"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10***