



# RE NEWSLETTER



English Martyrs Roman Catholic School

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## Autumn First Half-Term

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Dear Parents,

I would like to share with you the various events that have taken place over this half term as part of our devotion to the Catholic Life of our School.

It has been a great start to the new year over the last few weeks. The children are settling well into their new classes and have had a happy first half-term at English Martyrs. We have celebrated Mass in school, together, for Harvest and collected food for local food banks. Throughout the term, classes have also been introduced to Key Stage Assemblies where the children get the opportunity to lead the prayers and showcase their God given gifts and talents.

### **Whole school and Mass**

We started with a whole school mass, on Friday 9th September, celebrated with Father Alex and the parishioners. Years 5 and 6 led the mass in church along with Fr Alex. Years 3 and 5 have also been to church. Year 3 went to learn about Baptism and Year 5 went to a Laudato Si art exhibition. They then participated in a creative workshop on painting inspired by the Laudato Si.

### **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

We held a coffee morning and cake sale, for all parents, to fundraise to help people living with cancer to support as part of our schools' vision and mission.

### **RE Ambassadors**

Our RE Ambassadors have continued to spread the Good News and are planning a large number of activities to run during the school year following their trip to meet other RE Leaders from other schools in the Diocese of Westminster. Our RE Ambassadors have been meeting weekly with Father Ray to pray, talk to each other and to plan and prepare for whole school events.

On Tuesday the 4th of October the RE Ambassadors - Luka, Sebastian, Keoni, Margot and Romane (unfortunately Ava was unwell) went to Westminster Cathedral Hall to attend an exciting meeting on what it means to be a good pupil chaplain. The Deacon inspired the children through activities such as creating your own personal super hero, a group activity about how we judge each other (using conkers!), and a silent guided meditation session. The children had a wonderful time and learned a lot too! *'It was incredible and very inspiring'* Luka Riou *'Now I know Religion is super fun and I can't wait to share these games with the school'* Sebastian Hartlin.



*Laudato Si Art Workshop*



*Creating a superhero to help stop pollution.*



*RE Ambassadors giving KS1 their Rosary beads*

A very valuable learning experience and a good start to the children's journey as pupil chaplains.

### **October is the Month of The Rosary**

During the month of the Rosary, the RE Ambassadors bought a rosary bead for every child so that all children were able to learn how to pray the Rosary and can then take home a Rosary and share this special time with their families. The RE Ambassadors have coordinated our Rosary time during the Month of October with all the children having regular opportunities to say a decade of the rosary in class or in Key Stage Assemblies. During the Key Stage One Assembly they taught Year 1 and 2 children how to use their rosary beads to pray.

### **Rosary Breakfast**

We also gathered together in Key Stages to celebrate a family prayer service in Honour of Mary in October where we prayed the Rosary. This was a lovely way for the children from across the school to pray together as a whole community in our school prayer garden.

### **Black History Assembly**

The whole school celebrated Black History Month, celebrating some inspirational people of the past and present. As part of Catholic Social Teaching on Justice, Year 6 created and sung a song titled 'A Lover-ly Black History ....'. See the song lyrics below.

### **Harvest**

We had a wonderful Harvest assembly. Thank you to all our generous families, who brought in many harvest gifts. The whole school came together and sang a song alongside Year 6 who read thoughts, prayers and Bible passages. Many parents and carers were also with us on this special occasion. Thank you for all your contributions.

During this half-term, English Martyrs have been studying 'The Way the Truth and the Life' topics in a variety of creative ways.

## GOD'S WORLD



*Nursery admiring God's creation*

## **NURSERY AND RECEPTION**

**"Creation is the first and universal revelation of God's love"**

Religious Education Curriculum Directory

This half term, the children in the Nursery and the Reception classes have been learning about God's world. Throughout this topic, the children began appreciating the beauty of the world God made. They learnt that God has asked us to care for the world and think of ways in which we can help to do it. The children also talked about how they



*"Let there be Light!" Reception reading the story of Creation Genesis 1*

could look after each other. Our Early Years and Key Stage 1 classes love doing Godly play to learn about the creation stories.

### GOD'S GREAT PLAN



*Adam and Eve Godly Play*

### **YEAR 1**

**"As the first action of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, creation is the first step towards the covenant relationship God seeks with every human being"** Religious Education Curriculum Directory

In Year 1 the children have been learning about the Creation stories. God created our wonderful world and then people to look after it. The children are learning that they should all take responsibility for looking after God's world and keeping it amazing! God's world is in our hands. The children heard the story of Noah's Ark. They became authors and retold this special story in their own words during Godly Play. They enjoyed acting out the story using props and painted a rainbow as a reminder of God's promise. The children also created their own dance in response to Psalm 148.

### THE CHOSEN PEOPLE



*Role Playing Moses and The Exodus*

### **YEAR 2**

**"In order to gather together scattered humanity God calls Abram ... and makes him Abraham, that is, 'the father of a multitude of nations.' ... God formed Israel as his people by freeing them from slavery in Egypt ... he gave them his law so that they would recognise him and serve him as the one living and true God, the provident Father and just judge, and so that they would look for the promised Saviour."** Catechism of the Catholic Church

The children have been learning that we are chosen by God and that God chooses certain people to lead and guide his people. God called Abraham and Moses to be great leaders. Following on in their example, the children were given the opportunity to think about the gifts that God had given them and how they could use them. Having the opportunity to reflect on Abraham's trust in God helped the children to understand that we should always trust God.

## THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY



*Fr Alex explaining the signs and symbols of the Sacrament of Baptism*



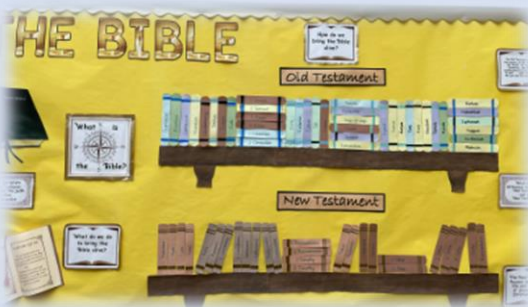
*Parent describing what happens at the Baptism*

## **YEAR 3**

**"The Church is the family of God, the people that God gathers in the whole world."** Religious Education Curriculum Directory

The children have been developing their understanding that the Church is the family of God and that we join this family when we receive the Sacrament of Baptism. They have been learning about what happens at Baptism and the signs that are used. They have been learning about the promises that are made by parents and Godparents at Baptism. This links into them learning about what it means to be a part of a family and especially what it means to be part of a Christian family.

## THE BIBLE



## **YEAR 4**

**"The Scriptures are the living Word of God, written under the guidance of the Holy Spirit received and faithfully handed on within the living Tradition and teaching of the Church."**

Religious Education Curriculum Directory

The children have been learning that the Bible is a story of God's love and concern for us. The Bible is a living book through which God speaks to us and tells us about himself. They have been learning that the Bible is one story told through many different books. Moses, David and Jonah are just a few of the important people they have looked at as well as learning how to find a Bible reference. Being able to explore the Bible helps us to pray and experience how God speaks to us.

## GIFTS FROM GOD



*The children singing their own songs about creation in KS2 Assembly*

## **YEAR 5**

**"Each human person is unique and made in God's image and likeness"** Religious Education Curriculum Directory

Children have been focusing on creation and have spent time recognising the gifts they have received from God to help others, but, also pausing to reflect on how they can be both physically and spiritually healthy too before beginning to spread these gifts. They have been learning that we are all created in the image and likeness of God and know that God calls us to care for others and all creation with love and respect. There are times when we fail to be good stewards of creation and it is important to learn from this. The children wrote their own poems, songs and prayers reflecting on God's creations and shared these in assembly showing how they are thankful for and their wishes for caring for God's creation in the future.

## THE KINGDOM OF GOD



*Year 6 Black History Month Assembly*

## **YEAR 6**

**"The Kingdom belongs to the poor and lowly, which means those who have accepted it with a humble heart"**  
Catechism of the Catholic Church

Year 6 have been learning about The Kingdom of God. They have looked at his earthly Kingdom and what it is like; who it is for; what we have to do to enter it; and then what we do once we are in it. They have read lots of parables and bible stories that teach us about his Kingdom. In one parable, they learnt that it is like a mustard seed: it started small but grew to be the biggest tree of them all, spreading its branches far and wide, encouraging his people to settle in its safety. They created some beautiful poems and a song to describe the Kingdom for our assemblies.

## **A PRAYER FOR AUTUMN**

Gracious and loving Lord,

Thank you for the seasons we can count on, find routine in, and that will never cease while the earth remains. During Autumn, when the cooler winds drift in and the days grow shorter, draw us closer to you. Let us feel your warm and loving presence. May we imagine ourselves in your arms, close to your heart, surrounded by your light, and find comfort in your consistency when the world around us seems to be constantly changing. Thank you for your lovingkindness that engulfs us and your light that drives the darkness away. We praise you for being a God who loves us and takes care of us. We are grateful you are with us in all circumstances and seasons.

Amen

**Mrs Briggs**

**RE Curriculum Leader**

**Year 6 wrote a song to celebrate Black History: It was linked to Catholic Social Teaching: Dignity**

*We believe every human person is made in the image and likeness of God. This is a gift that we all share as fellow human beings; we are all infinitely loved by our Creator.*

*God is present in every human person, regardless of religion, culture, nationality, orientation or economic standing. Each one of us is unique and beautiful. We are called to treat every person and every creature with loving respect.*

Year 6 song

All I want is for life to be fair  
We just need to take some care  
Stop, think, take time to share  
Oh wouldn't it be lovely?

All I want is Black History  
Look how we treat the minority  
We want Equality  
Oh wouldn't it be lovely?  
Oc-to-ber is the month that we hon-our them  
All they've done to make us such  
A great nation

Marcus Rashford an inspiration  
During Lockdown he fed the nation  
Equality in education  
Oh wouldn't it be Lovely  
Lovely  
Lovely  
Lovely  
Lovely

Rosa Parks sat on a bus  
Told to get off  
but she made a fuss  
Stood firm and she did it for us  
Oh wouldn't it be Lovely?

All I want is a planet where  
All Black people are treated fair  
No-race - ruling - the company chair  
Oh wouldn't it be lovely

Oc-to-ber is the month that we hon-our them  
All they've done to make us such  
A great nation

All I want is for life to be fair  
We just need to take some care  
Stop, think, take time to share  
Oh wouldn't it be lovely?

Yr 6 English Martyrs