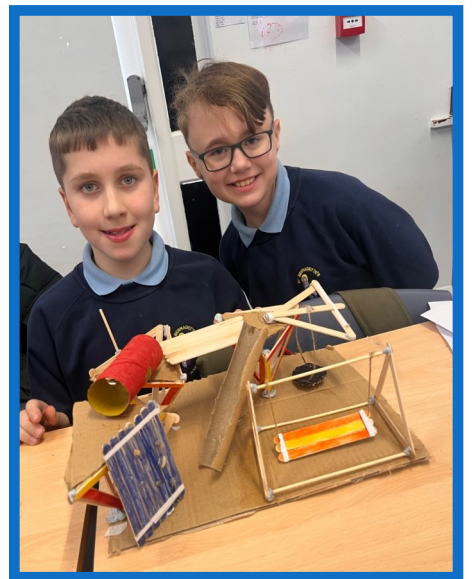




ST. BERNADETTE'S BEACON

ISSUE 7: April 2025



Live the Gospel and when necessary use words.

HEAD TEACHER'S WELCOME

Welcome to our Spring 2025 edition of St. Bernadette's Beacon and once again, a huge thanks to Miss Rogers for creating such a beautiful keepsake of our journey through this term in school. As always, it has been an extremely busy term and so much has been achieved. This term's Beacon is filled with just a snapshot of some of the learning activities, retreats, visits and visitors into school which have enhanced our curriculum, brought our school together and created a sense of awe and wonder for pupils to really enjoy their learning as well as our ongoing mission to continue to develop ourselves spiritually and emotionally.

Of course our mission as a catholic school continues to thrive and we have been particularly proud of the children this term. Our continued charity work includes 'A Mile of Coins', our Big Lent Walk and of course our support for Fr David's mission in Muhoroni through our Seeds of Hope project. You may recall, the money raised sponsored a child to go to school for 1 year in Muhoroni which we're all incredibly proud of so thank you to our families and community for continuing to support with our charitable work.

Fr David and the parishioners of St Bernadette's continue to support us in our mission. The children have enjoyed attending weekly Mass and Fr David is currently supporting a number of children across KS2 as they prepare to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. We are also so blessed to have a great team of catechists who give up their time each week to come into school and lead the children on this journey and on behalf of all staff I would like to take this opportunity to thank them publicly.

There is such a strong culture of service in school as our Waste Warriors, Mini-Vinnies, Buddies, Mental Health ambassadors and Eco-Club develop further. Our newly appointed House Captains have also stepped into their leadership roles with great confidence and maturity. A particular highlight was observing them discuss their faith with Bishop Stephen on his recent visit to school. The children really challenged him with their questions.

Collective Worship continues to be a real strength within school. Scripture is shared every Monday where children are invited and challenged to live out the key messages as a 'mission' throughout the week. Children understand and can articulate that this is because our whole school vision is to 'Live the Gospel.' The children have really enjoyed planning class acts of collective worship for their families and are very much looking forward to their upcoming Easter services.

As always, we continue to exploit every opportunity to enhance our curriculum and this term, children across school have enjoyed a number of specialist weeks as documented in the Beacon. This year we have also introduced Forest School for all pupils and our music offer continues to thrive. As well as Mrs Riley who delivers the children's music lessons, we have a number of children across KS2 accessing additional music lessons in violin, cello, clarinet, keyboard and flute. Of course our choir continues to shine and we were particularly proud of their recent contribution at Durham Cathedral. We are delighted to see a number of new members joining the choir too.

It feels like we rarely have a week without another sporting victory for St Bernadette's. The children really do flourish when representing our school and we are always incredibly proud of them. As well as working with NUFC and Newcastle Eagles, this term the children have enjoyed their dance curriculum being delivered by or specialist dance teacher Michael. A group of pupils from KS2 worked with Michael and represented our school at the North Tyneside Dance festival and what a performance they gave! They put so much effort into their routine and their confidence on the night was dazzling.

On behalf of all staff and governors, I would like to thank our whole school community for your ongoing support to our school and wish you all a very happy and holy Easter.



OUR TEAM CAPTAINS

INTRODUCING OUR LEADERS!

Our House Captains and Vice Captains play a vital role at St. Bernadette's, serving as role models and leaders for their fellow students. They are chosen democratically by their peers to promote and be living examples of our schools values.

These young role models help promote teamwork, school spirit, and a sense of belonging by encouraging pupils to take part in house competitions, sports events, and other activities. As representatives of their house, they support younger students, set a positive example, and motivate

others to do their best.

They also assist

teachers in organizing events and take on responsibilities that build their confidence and leadership skills. Their dedication to promoting our Jelly Beans helps create a strong, supportive, and inclusive school community.

The Jelly Bean Way

Red is for the love He gave; **be kind**

Green is for the world He made; **be a steward**

Yellow is for His light so bright; **be humble**

Orange is strong and full of might; **be courageous**

Purple is for His hour of sorrow; **be compassionate**

Pink is for a new tomorrow; **be just**

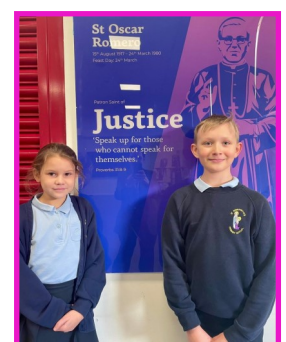
Guide our actions for this we pray

To live our lives the Jelly Bean Way

As we travel our journey with God above

May our lives be blessed and shared in love

Live the Gospel and when necessary use words



OUR HOUSE FEAST DAYS!

ST. JOSEPHINE

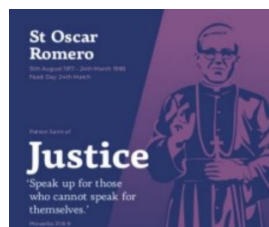
St. Josephine was a remarkable woman known for her strength, faith, and compassion. She was born in Sudan, she overcame great hardships and later became a nun, dedicating her life to helping others. Her feast day, celebrated on February 8th, is a time to remember her incredible journey and her message of hope and forgiveness. On this special day, we reflect on her kindness and resilience, drawing inspiration from her unwavering trust in God. St. Josephine's story reminds us of the power of faith and the importance of treating everyone with love and dignity. At St. Bernadette's, one of our houses is named after her. On her feast day, the children in her house gather and enjoy a celebratory lunch together in her honour.



ST. OSCAR ROMERO

St. Oscar Romero was a courageous archbishop from El Salvador who dedicated his life to speaking out for justice, peace, and the rights of the poor. He fearlessly defended the voiceless and stood against injustice, even in the face of great danger. His feast day, celebrated on March 24th, honours his legacy of faith, courage, and compassion. On this special day, we remember his powerful words and actions, inspiring us to stand up for what is right and to care for those in need. St. Oscar Romero's life reminds us to be a voice for justice and a light of hope in the world.

As is customary at St. Bernadette's, the children in St. Oscar's house honour his feast day by celebrating together.



BISHOP STEPHEN'S INSPIRING VISIT TO OUR SCHOOL

WHAT A MORNING!

Bishop Stephen Wright is a dedicated and compassionate leader in the Catholic Church, serving as the Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle. He was ordained as a priest in 2000 and faithfully served in various roles, including parish ministry and leadership positions within the diocese. His commitment to faith, pastoral care, and guiding others led to his appointment as an Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham in 2020. In 2023, he was chosen to lead the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, where he continues to inspire and support the Catholic community. His journey to becoming a bishop reflects his deep faith, humility, and dedication to serving God and His people.



We were therefore greatly honoured to welcome Bishop Stephen to our school this term for a truly special visit. His presence brought a sense of excitement and inspiration as he took the time to visit every class, speaking to the children and sharing his wisdom in a way that was both engaging and meaningful.

Bishop Stephen spoke about the importance of kindness, faith, and perseverance, encouraging our students to always support one another and believe in themselves. The children had the wonderful opportunity to ask questions, and he answered each one with warmth and insight, making everyone feel valued and heard.

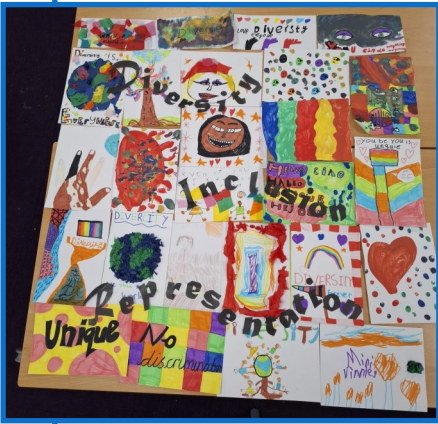
His visit left a lasting impression on both students and staff, reminding us of the power of faith, community, and learning together. We are incredibly grateful for his time and the uplifting message he shared with us all.

Thank you Bishop Stephen for making this such a memorable experience!



MINI VINNIES' NEWS

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION



The Mini Vinnie's are champions for diversity and inclusion. During the Spring Tern, they were therefore delighted when they were given a fantastic opportunity to work with Sunderland University. They were approached to be part of a project by Mr McQuillan, for the new Museum opening up in Durham called 'The Story.' It

wanted to promote discussion about diversity, inclusion and representation, and to answer the question: 'What

does the future look like for the Children in the North East?' Our Mini Vinnies came up with a list of words for the project and helped to produce a piece of art work to exhibit them.



This was the piece of art work that was then displayed as part of a lights show for the opening weekend.

MILE OF COINS

£269.42

This February, our Mini-Vinnies challenged us to create a 'Mile Of Coins' to raise funds and awareness for World Cancer Day. MacMillan Cancer Support is raising awareness of the impact a cancer diagnosis can have on people's lives and highlighting the urgent need to provide better care for more people. Your generosity far exceeded any expectations and as you can see, we surpassed our target and collected well over a mile! The grand total raised was £269.42.



A huge THANK YOU for all of your donations and to our Mini-Vinnies. They are once again extraordinary examples of how our young people "Live the Gospel" and show compassion, by following in the footsteps of St. Vincent de Paul.



CHOIR AT DURHAM CATHEDRAL

OUR AMAZING CHOIR SHINES!

This term, our incredible school choir recently had the privilege of participating in a prestigious choral competition at the magnificent Durham Cathedral. The historic setting provided a breath taking backdrop as our talented singers filled the grand space with beautiful harmonies and heartfelt performances.

Months of dedication and rehearsals led up to this moment, and our choir did not disappoint! Their stunning vocal blend, confident stage presence, and passion for music captivated the judges and audience alike. Their hard work and commitment truly paid off, and we couldn't be prouder of their outstanding performance.

A huge thank you to Mrs Riley and all those who helped make this experience so special. Whether it was the thrill of competition or the magic of singing in such a historic venue, this was an unforgettable moment for everyone involved!



NEWCASTLE EAGLES

BASKETBALL CHAMPS!

Newcastle Eagles are a professional basketball team based in Newcastle. They compete in the British Basketball League (BBL), which is the top-tier professional basketball league in the UK. The Eagles are one of the most successful teams in British basketball history, having won multiple league titles, Cups, and Trophies.

Can you therefore believe that they had time to work with our Sporty Reception Class?! The lucky children had two sessions with coaches from Newcastle Eagles. They initially worked on the skill of dribbling. It was tricky, but they soon mastered it! They then worked on the skills of throwing and catching. Their sessions finished with a 'show off' competition, where they were given the opportunity to show off their new skills to their friends.



FOREST SCHOOL

PENCILS AND INK!

During the Spring Term, our Key Stage 1 children had an exciting time at Forest School, where they learned the traditional skills of whittling

pencils and making their own ink. Using real knives and careful techniques, they whittled sticks to create their very own natural pencils, developing their fine motor skills and patience. They also experimented with natural materials like berries, charcoal, and mud to create ink, just like people did in the past. The children loved using their handmade tools to draw and write, bringing history and nature together in a fun and hands-on way. It was a fantastic experience that sparked curiosity and creativity!

In Forest School, our children take part in a variety of exciting, hands-on activities that help them connect with nature and develop important skills. They learn how to build dens and shelters, work together to create nature-inspired art, and explore the environment through bug hunting and plant identification. They also enjoyed lighting and sustaining campfires, cooking simple snacks, and using tools safely for activities such as whittling and woodcraft. Through these outdoor adventures, our children build confidence, resilience, teamwork, and a deep appreciation for the natural world, all while having lots of fun!



SAFER INTERNET DAY

STAY SAFE ONLINE!

Safer Internet Day was an important opportunity for our school to learn about staying safe online and using technology responsibly.

Throughout the day, children took part in engaging discussions and activities that helped them understand the importance of kindness, privacy, and critical thinking when using the internet. They explored topics like online friendships, protecting personal information, and spotting misinformation, empowering them to make smart choices in the digital world. Interactive games, live lessons, role-play scenarios, and class debates made learning fun and meaningful.



By the end of the day, every child left with a stronger awareness of how to stay safe, be respectful, and use the internet positively in their daily lives. They were able to identify trusted adults who they could talk to should they experience any of the issues we explored during the day.

We also opened our doors to parents to support

with parental controls on the devices and apps that our children use at home. We hope those who attended found it helpful! If anyone was unable to attend or would like some advice and help around parental controls, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Finally, a big congratulations to Mr. Harland's Year 5/6 class!! They received a shout out on the BBC for taking part and posting as part of their interesting live lesson about Safer Internet Day.



15:21 GMT

Hello Year 5/6 at St Bernadette's Primary School in Wallsend 🙌

St Bernadette's Primary School, Wallsend

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RELAX KIDS

A HOLISTIC APPROACH!

This term, our Year 1 children have benefited enormously from a programme called *Relax Kids*. It uses a unique seven-step holistic approach which takes children from high energy and stress levels to a state of relaxation. This is both a physical and mental process involving physical activity, yoga, positive touch, deep breathing exercises and mindfulness techniques.

The aims of the *Relax Kids* programme are to teach our children to learn valuable mindfulness and relaxation tools. This can reduce stress levels and improve focus and concentration. We also hope that it will help them to develop an understanding of the link between physical and mental health. It also supports children to have a level of understanding of the relationship between the brain, their feelings and behaviour.



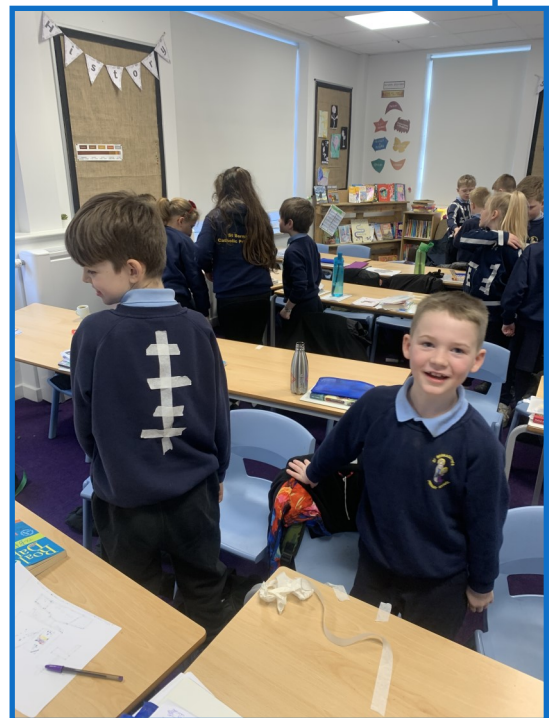
SCIENCE IN LOWER KEY STAGE 2

SKELETONS

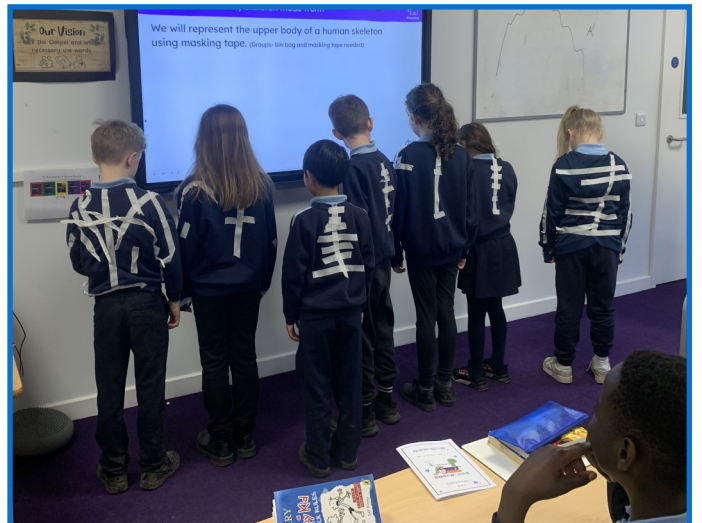
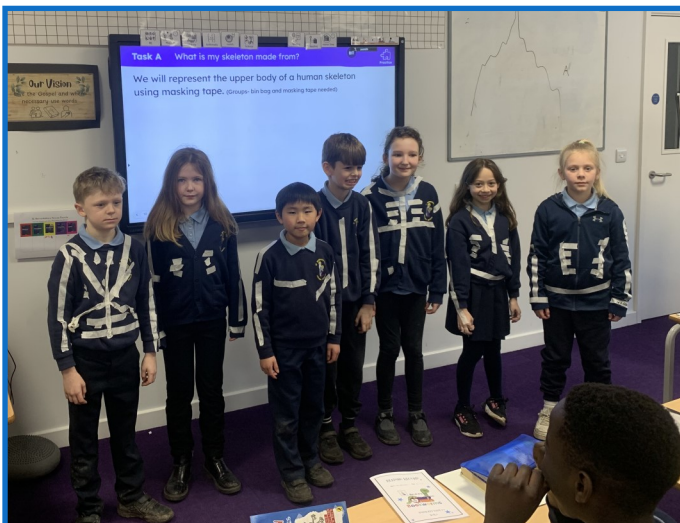
In Lower Key Stage 2, children have been exploring the fascinating world of skeletons during their Science lessons. They learned about the three main functions of the skeleton, support, protection, and movement. They also learnt about how our bones help us stand, shield vital organs, and work with muscles to allow movement.



designed by freepik



To bring their learning to life, the children used their own bodies to locate, measure, and understand the shape of different bones. Using masking tape, they carefully marked where key bones, such as the skull, ribs, and femur, could be found. This hands-on learning helped them visualize how their own skeletons work, making their lesson both fun and memorable!



DANCING IN PE

ST. BERNADETTE'S CHURCH

The whole school had an incredible time learning and expressing themselves through dance with our local dance specialist, Michael, during PE lessons! Each class had the opportunity to develop their movement skills, rhythm, and confidence while exploring different dance styles. The children loved working together to create routines, learning new steps, and expressing their creativity through movement.

Each dance lesson typically followed a structured format to help children develop their skills, confidence, and creativity. They began with a warm-up, where students engaged in stretches and movement exercises to prepare their bodies and prevent injuries. On one occasion, our lovely team in the school kitchen joined in with the Year 2 warm up! Next, they developed and learned new steps, rhythms and techniques and focused on choreography, where children practiced their dance sequences and refined their movements. Finally, they were taught the importance of a cool-down. This involved gentle stretches and reflections on their progress. This approach keeps our lessons engaging, fun, and effective!

A group selected from across Key Stage 2 were given an exciting opportunity to enter the local Dance Festival. The children proudly showcased a special routine for the event. Performing on stage was a fantastic experience for our students, filling them with a sense of achievement and teamwork. The energy, excitement, and joy of dance brought everyone together, making it a truly memorable experience for our school!



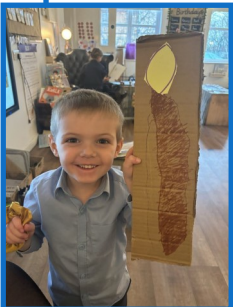
BIG ART WEEK

This term, our Big Art Week was an incredible celebration of creativity and imagination! Throughout the week, students explored different art styles, experimented with new techniques, and worked on exciting collaborative projects. From painting and sculpture to mixed media, every class had the chance to express themselves in unique and colourful ways!

EARLY YEARS



In our Early Years, we embrace Expressive Arts and Design throughout the school year. It allows our young children to explore their creativity, imagination, and self-expression. Through activities like painting, drawing, music, dance, and role play, children develop important skills such as fine motor control, problem-solving, and confidence in expressing their ideas. This area of learning encourages curiosity and experimentation, helping children to make sense of the world around them in a fun and engaging way. By exploring different materials, sounds, and movements, they build communication skills and develop a love for creativity that supports their overall development.



KEY STAGE ONE

In Key Stage 1, children explored the exciting world of sculptures by creating their own 3D artwork this term. They learned how to manipulate paper by folding, twisting, and curling it to form different shapes and structures. Using card and other materials, they carefully designed and built their own unique sculptures and pictures. During Art Week, these hands-on activities helped develop their fine motor skills, creativity, and understanding of how flat materials can be transformed into three-dimensional art. The children had great fun and were very proud of their imaginative creations and showcasing their growing artistic talents.

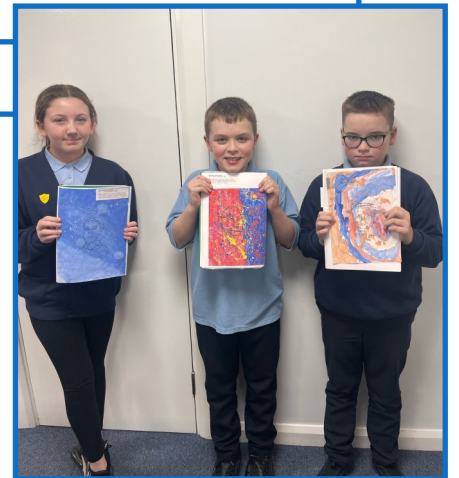
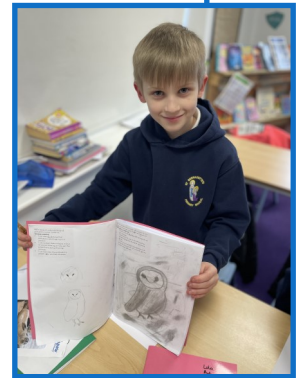


BIG ART WEEK

LOWER KEY STAGE 2

In Lower Key Stage 2, our children took a step back in time to explore the fascinating world of prehistoric art. They discovered how early humans communicated through cave paintings and used natural materials to create their artwork. As part of their learning, they even made their own paint by grinding natural materials they found and mixing them with water. Using their hands, sticks, and simple tools, they recreated ancient-style cave

paintings, depicting animals, handprints, and scenes from prehistoric life. This exciting hands-on experience helped them understand how early artists expressed themselves and told stories long before written language existed.



UPPER KEY STAGE 2

In Upper Key Stage 2, children showcased their creativity during our Big Art Week by designing stunning multi-media portraits. They explored different artistic techniques, combining paint, collage, and digital elements to create unique and expressive self-portraits. By layering textures, experimenting with colours, and incorporating a variety of materials, they produced artwork that reflected their personalities and emotions. This project allowed them to develop their artistic skills while gaining a deeper understanding of how art can be used to express identity. Their final pieces were vibrant, imaginative, and a true celebration of their creativity!



YEAR 4 AT EMMAUS

SPIRITUAL RETREAT

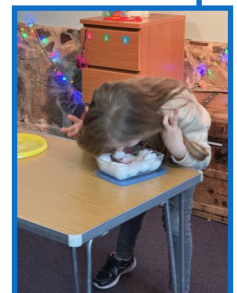
Our Year 4 children recently embarked on a spiritual retreat to Emmaus, a journey that provided them with an opportunity for reflection, prayer, and personal growth. The retreat was a special time for the students to step away from their daily routines and immerse themselves in a peaceful and nurturing environment.

Throughout the retreat, the children participated in a variety of activities designed to deepen their understanding of faith and strengthen their relationship with God. Guided by teachers and spiritual mentors, they engaged in moments of quiet meditation, group discussions, and interactive sessions that encouraged them to explore their beliefs.

One of the highlights of the retreat was a nature walk, where the students reflected on the beauty of creation and the presence of God in the world around them. This experience allowed them to connect with nature and appreciate the many blessings in their lives. They also took part in special moments of prayer, where they shared personal intentions, and embraced the power of community prayer.

In addition to spiritual activities, the retreat fostered teamwork and friendship. The children worked together in small groups, participated in cooperative games, and supported one another through the various exercises. These moments of bonding helped to strengthen their sense of belonging and unity as a year group.

By the end of the retreat, our Year 4 students returned with a renewed sense of faith and a deeper appreciation for their spiritual journey. The experience at Emmaus was not only a time of reflection but also a reminder of the values of kindness, gratitude, and trust in God's guidance. It was a truly fulfilling experience that will stay with them as they continue to grow in their faith.

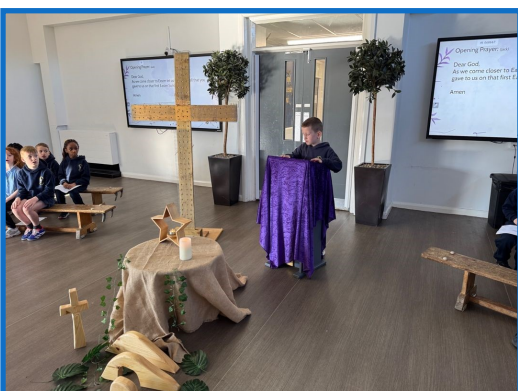


CELEBRATION OF THE WORD

Collective worship is a vital part of our life in school, bringing the school community together in prayer, reflection, and faith. It provides an opportunity for students and staff to deepen their relationship with God, grow in their understanding of the Gospel, and reflect on important values such as love, kindness, and forgiveness. Through our prayer times, liturgies, hymns, and scripture readings, our collective worship helps to strengthen the Catholic ethos of the school and encourages everyone to live out their faith in daily life. It also fosters a sense of unity, peace, and respect, creating a nurturing environment where students can develop spiritually and morally.

CLASS WORSHIP

This term we were joined by the parents and families of the children in Year 1/2, Year 3/4, Year 4, and Year 5, for beautiful acts of worship. The children in each class worked hard to plan, prepare and lead these special prayerful moments for both their families and wider school community.

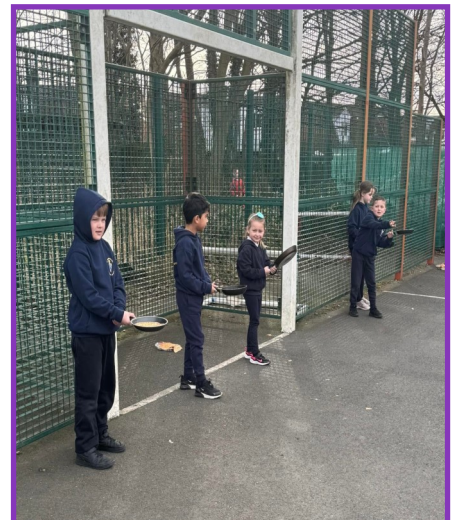


ANNUAL PANCAKE RACE

Shrove Tuesday is an important day for Catholics as it marks the day before Lent, a time of prayer, fasting, and reflection. Traditionally, it is a day to confess sins and seek forgiveness, preparing spiritually for the season ahead. Many people enjoy eating pancakes, a custom that began as a way to use up rich ingredients like eggs, milk, and sugar before the fasting period of Lent. Shrove Tuesday reminds Catholics of the importance of repentance, self-discipline, and preparing their hearts for Easter.

PANCAKE SHENANIGANS!

On Shrove Tuesday, also known as Pancake Day, we happily welcomed the return of our very popular St. Bernadette's Pancake Race! Children from Nursery to Year 6 raced with their frying pans and they were "flipping" great! As always, the staff race provided the most entertainment, with Mr Sales and Mr Harland giving it their all, while Mrs Ryan won points for best effort and most graceful flipping.



ASH WEDNESDAY

THE IMPORTANCE OF ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is a significant day for Catholics as it marks the beginning of Lent, a season of reflection, prayer, and preparation for Easter. On this day, Catholics receive ashes on their foreheads in the shape of a cross as a sign of repentance and commitment to God. The ashes serve as a reminder of our mortality and the need to seek forgiveness, symbolizing the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." It is a time to reflect on our actions, grow in faith, and strive to become better people through acts of kindness, prayer, and sacrifice.

To mark this sacred day, Mrs Fallon and Mrs Hall took a group of our students to Church to collect ashes that had been blessed by the priest. This was a meaningful experience, connecting our school with the wider Catholic community and emphasizing the importance of this spiritual tradition.

During a special celebration back at school, every child had the opportunity to receive ashes on their forehead, just as Catholics do around the world. This moment of quiet reflection allowed students to think about their Lenten promises and how they can grow in faith and kindness throughout the season. It was a beautiful and meaningful way to begin Lent together as a school family.



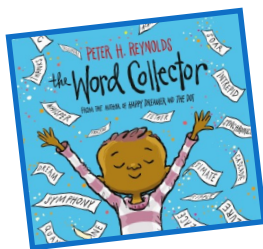
WORLD BOOK DAY

A CELEBRATION OF STORIES!

World Book Day was a truly magical experience at our school this year, filled with exciting activities that brought the joy of reading to life! The day began with a book swap, where children eagerly chose new stories to take home and enjoy. It was wonderful to see the excitement as they exchanged books, sharing recommendations with friends and discovering new adventures within the pages.

One of their many special moments during the day was our visit to Forest School, where we gathered around a warm campfire to listen to a story. The crackling fire, fresh air, and natural surroundings made storytelling even more enchanting. The children were captivated by the tale, immersing themselves in the magic of words and imagination.

We were also delighted to welcome secret readers into our classrooms — special guests who surprised the children by reading wonderful stories aloud. The excitement and curiosity built up as each reader revealed their book, creating a sense of mystery and fun.



Throughout the day, we engaged in creative and inspiring activities based on the book *The Word Collector*. The children explored the beauty and power of words, collecting their favourite ones throughout the day. These activities helped them appreciate how words can inspire, connect, and bring joy.

World Book Day was a fantastic celebration of reading, reminding us all of the magic that books bring into our lives. It was a day full of storytelling, creativity, and a shared love for literature that we will remember for a long time!



BIKEABILITY

CYCLING PROFICIENCY FOR YEAR 5!

Bikeability is 'cycling proficiency' for the 21st century, designed to give the our next generation the skills and confidence to ride their bikes on today's roads. Our Year 5 children recently took part in the program, an initiative carefully designed to equip them with essential cycling skills and road safety awareness. This valuable experience not only enhanced their confidence in riding a bike but also taught them the importance of being responsible and alert while cycling on roads.

Throughout the training, the children progressed through different levels of instruction. They started with basic bike-handling skills in a controlled environment, ensuring they felt comfortable and secure. As they gained confidence, they moved on to more advanced lessons, including how to navigate junctions, signal correctly, and understand road signs.

The program emphasized key safety principles such as wearing helmets, maintaining bike control, and being aware of their surroundings. The instructors provided guidance on how to assess risks and make safe decisions when cycling, ensuring that the children left the sessions with a strong understanding of how to ride safely and independently.

Beyond the practical skills, Bikeability also fostered a sense of independence and resilience among the students. Many children overcame initial nerves and developed a newfound enthusiasm for cycling. The program also encouraged healthy habits by promoting cycling as a fun and sustainable mode of transport.

By the end of the training, our Year 5 pupils had not only improved their cycling skills but also gained a greater awareness of road safety. A huge thank you to those at North Tyneside Council who facilitated this for us.



KS1 GEOGRAPHY

A UK TO BE PROUD OF!

This term, our KS1 children have been busy exploring the UK in their geography lessons! They have been learning about the four nations—England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, discovering what makes each one special. They have enjoyed using maps to find the UK and learn about its capital cities and surrounding seas.

The children have also been looking at physical and human features of Geography found across the UK. They have been fascinated by the different landscapes, from high mountains to rolling countryside and busy cities. They have even had a go at making their own maps to recall their learning.

It has been wonderful to see our KS1 children so engaged in learning about the UK. They have asked fantastic questions and enjoyed fun activities such as songs and projects linked to different parts of the country. This exciting learning is helping them build a strong understanding of the place they live in and the wider world around them!



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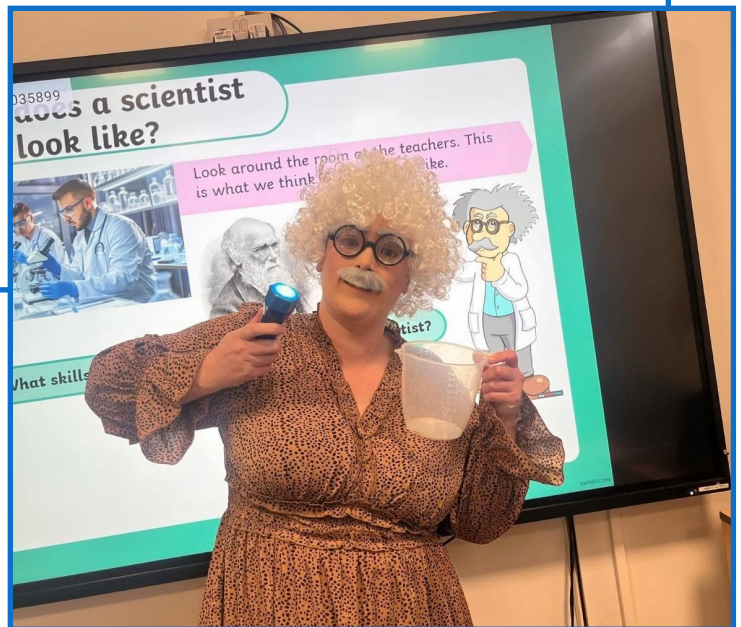
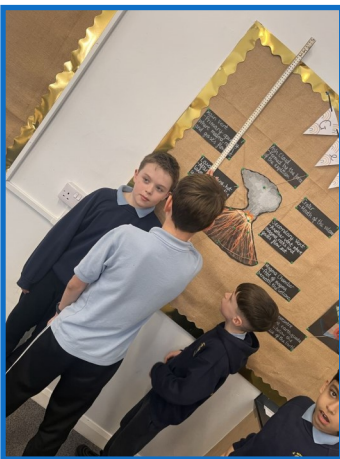


BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

CHANGE AND ADAPT!

This year, St. Bernadette's Catholic School celebrated British Science Week with the exciting theme *Adapt and Change*. Students from across our school explored how living things, materials, and technology evolve to survive and thrive in a changing world.

Through hands-on experiments, interactive workshops, and inspiring assemblies, our children discovered the incredible ways nature and science respond to challenges. We focussed particularly on the enquiry type of pattern-seeking. The whole school shared a common investigation whereby they were challenged to identify patterns between age and height. By linking science to real-world issues, our children will gain a deeper understanding of how they, too, can adapt and make a positive impact on the world around them.



BIG LENT WALK

FUNDRAISING

This Lenten season, our School took part in the Big Lent Walk, an initiative that encourages students, staff, and families to combine faith, charity, and fitness. We walk around the Rising Sun while reflecting on the journey of Christ and raising funds to support those in need. This special walk promotes spiritual growth and physical well-being, reminding our children of the sacrifices Jesus made and how they too can make a difference.

The school community has embraced this challenge with enthusiasm, using it as an opportunity to strengthen their faith through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Teachers have incorporated discussions about Lent's meaning into RE lessons, helping students understand the importance of self-discipline and generosity. Each step taken during the walk symbolizes a commitment to spiritual renewal, reinforcing Catholic values of compassion and service.

By participating in the Big Lent Walk, St. Bernadette's students are not only deepening their faith but also supporting charitable causes. The funds raised will go toward helping vulnerable communities, providing food, education, and essential resources. This special initiative unites the school and local community in a shared mission, fostering a spirit of kindness and solidarity.



LIVE SIMPLY ARTS COMPETITION

A TALENTED BUNCH!

This Easter, we were excited to host the Live Simply Arts Competition, where children across all year groups created a piece of artwork celebrating God's beautiful world. This initiative encourages our students to reflect on the wonders of creation and express their appreciation through creativity.

Whether using paint, collage, sculpture, or digital design, each piece highlights the beauty of nature and the responsibility to care for our planet.

The competition aligns with the school's commitment to living simply, sustainably, and in solidarity with others.

Through their artwork, students are reminded of the importance of stewardship and gratitude for the gifts God has given us.



EASTER CELEBRATIONS

CELEBRATION OF THE WORD

Catholics celebrate Easter as one of the most important events in the Christian calendar, marking the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. It is a time of great joy and hope, symbolizing new life, redemption, and God's everlasting love. In our primary school, Easter celebrations play a vital role in helping students understand the significance of this holy season. Through prayer, reflection, and special activities, we come together as a school community to deepen our faith and appreciate the message of Easter. These celebrations not only strengthen our connection to our beliefs but also foster a sense of unity, gratitude, and joy

among our students.



EASTER EGG COMPETITION

EGG-CELLENT FUN!

Our school was filled with creativity and excitement as students took part in our annual Easter Egg Decorating Competition! Each child put their artistic skills to the test, transforming plain eggs into colourful, imaginative masterpieces. From intricate designs to fun and quirky themes, the decorated eggs showcased the incredible talent and creativity of our students.

After the competition, we proudly displayed the eggs for families to admire. It was wonderful to see parents, carers, and friends exploring the showcase and celebrating the hard work of our students. A huge well done to everyone who took part—your creativity truly brought the Easter spirit to life!



TODDLER GROUP

WEEKLY GROUP

St. Bernadette's Toddler Group provides a welcoming and nurturing space for our youngest children and their families to come together in a supportive community. The group offers numerous benefits, fostering early childhood development, social interaction, and a sense of belonging for both children and their families.

Our toddler group provides the opportunity for children to develop essential social skills. Through play, sharing, and group activities, toddlers learn how to interact with their peers, build friendships, and practice important communication skills. These early social experiences help to lay the foundation for their transition into preschool and beyond.

Our Toddler Group practitioner encourages early learning through a range of stimulating activities, including storytelling, music, arts and crafts, and sensory play. These activities support cognitive and motor skill development while making learning fun and engaging. The structured yet flexible sessions allow children to explore their creativity and curiosity in a safe environment.

St. Bernadette's Toddler Group plays a vital role in early childhood development and community building. It is a wonderful place for children to learn, play, and grow while providing families with friendship, support, and a shared sense of belonging. The sense of community it provides helps to reduce feelings of isolation and creates lasting friendships among families. All are welcome, so if you know of any toddlers who would benefit from the group, please recommend us to their families!



SEEDS OF HOPE UPDATE

CATHOLIC LIFE

In December, we set out on a mission to raise awareness of Fr. David's missionary work in Muhironi. Our Y6 children designed an Advent project - Seeds of Hope, asking the recipients to pray for our brothers and sisters in Muhironi. Following your generous donations, we were delighted to give Fr. David £500! With this money, we have now sponsored a child to go to school - Paul. It provides him with a uniform, ensures he can attend school everyday and gives him daily meals. Thank you to our wonderful school community for your support with this mission and a huge congratulations and well done to our children for their commitment to living out their faith in action!



SPORTS NEWS

FOOTBALL NEWS!

The boys completed in the Premier League Finals tournament this term, showcasing incredible dedication, teamwork and outstanding sportsmanship throughout. Their brilliant effort earned them a well-deserved second place, a testament to their hard work and determination. Finishing in the top six schools in the district is a remarkable achievement and something to be proud of.



HOCKEY UPDATE

This term, some of our incredible year 6 pupils travelled to St. Thomas More to take part in a hockey festival alongside other primary feeder schools. Their outstanding talent, determination, and teamwork secured them a well-deserved 2nd place! The level of hockey on display was exceptional, and their sportsmanship was equally impressive.

YEAR 5'S FANTASTIC THEATRE EXPERIENCE

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

Our Year 5 students had an amazing time watching the incredibly talented students of St. Thomas More perform 'High School Musical' at Whitley Bay Playhouse this term! From the moment the curtain rose, the show was bursting with energy, music, and excitement. Our students were completely captivated by the outstanding performances, lively choreography, and fantastic singing.

It was a truly inspiring experience that showcased the magic of live theatre, leaving our students buzzing with excitement. A huge thank you to St. Thomas More for the kind invitation and for putting on such a brilliant production — we loved every moment!



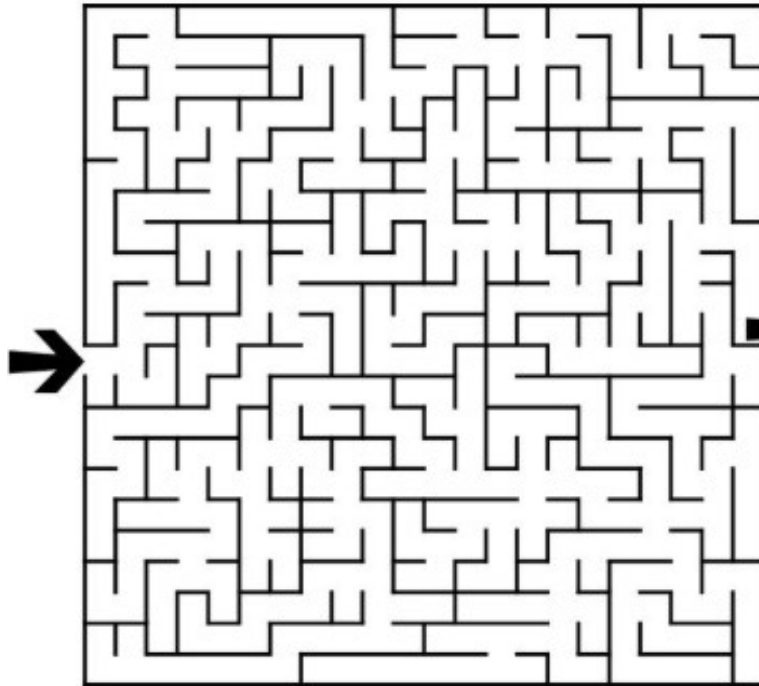
BERNIE'S PUZZLE PAGE

FIND THE EASTER EGG



designed by freepik

Can you help Mrs Fallon find her way around the maze to the Easter Egg?



WORDSEARCH FUN



HOT CROSS BUN

BUNNY

BASKET

EGGS

EASTER

CHOCOLATE

CHICKS

LAMBS



designed by freepik

A	H	O	T	C	R	O	S	S	B	U	N
I	C	B	T	H	A	W	P	I	D	F	A
L	R	C	A	O	E	B	Q	Y	F	G	B
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A	Q	E	Y	E	R	C	H	I	C	K	S

On behalf of the staff, governors and pupils of
St. Bernadette's, we would like to wish you
a very peaceful and holy Easter Holiday.



designed by  freepik

Live the Gospel and when necessary use words.

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