



NEWSLETTER



**“Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, Whispering 'it will be happier'...” –
Alfred Lord Tennyson**

Lent Term 1

Value of the Term-LOVE



Lent 1 Family Faith Challenge



Happy New Year and welcome back to all our pupils and families. This term our focus saint is Saint Valentine whose Feast Day is on the 14th February and so our value of the term is Love. Love is a very poignant Gospel Value for our school as it is at the heart of our school mission statement, “A love of God, love of one another and a love of life itself. Valentine was a priest in the Catholic Church. He lived in Rome, Italy, in the 200s. At this time, an emperor, who many called Claudius the Cruel because he liked entering into wars, decided to ban people from getting married! He did this because nobody wanted to join his army, and he needed men for his wars. However, Valentine secretly married people who were in love.

This terms challenge is get creative and design a heart, the symbols associated with St Valentine to create our Prayer Web. You can make it as colourful as you like and use any media, for example- paint, papier mache, pasta, origami, collage. Can you create a 3D model?

Thought of The Week

The hymn writer Thomas Obediah Chisholm (1866-1960) wrote:

Summer and Winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

In a cursed and tumultuous world, creation itself reminds of God's great faithfulness. Every new season is a testimony, a signpost, to grace. So the proper response to the past year, whether good or bad, is not “I made it through” or “Look what I achieved.” It is “Thank you, Lord.”

Let's look forward to a new year with positivity and inspiration to enjoy God's world and the people in it.



Message from Bishop Patrick - Discipleship

How can we demonstrate discipleship? Christ charges his followers to go and make disciples, "teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matthew. 28:16-20). This "teaching" is an invitation to a lifelong process of teaching, also known as discipleship. Discipleship, as we define it today must include this aspect of teaching one another to observe the commands of the Lord. Rather, as believers, we are charged to teach and disciple one another by inviting one another into our lives, sharing what we know to be true about the Lord, and encouraging one another to walk in obedience to God's commands.



Recommended Reads of the Month: January 2019



	<p>This is the story of a sleepy town called Suds. A place where stories fill the air of children who keep turning grey and disappearing without a trace... Poppy and Erasmus are certain there's something peculiar going on in Suds, and they're determined to unravel its secrets. But when they discover the answers might lie in the dark and twisting woods, can they find the courage to creep inside and solve this riddling mystery?</p>
	<p>In these pages, some of today's most wonderful culture-makers--writers, artists, scientists, entrepreneurs, and philosophers--reflect on the joys of reading, how books broaden and deepen human experience, and the ways in which the written word has formed their own character. On the page facing each letter, an illustration by a celebrated illustrator or graphic artist presents that artist's visual response.</p>
	<p>Smart is not just ticks and crosses, smart is building boats from boxes. Painting patterns, wheeling wagons, being mermaids, riding dragons... From the award-winning creators of The Underwater Fancy-Dress Parade and Under the Love Umbrella comes this joyful ode to all the unique and wonderful qualities that make children who they are. Why not try a new book this month as a family?</p>



New Year Mass



We thank Fr. Paul who joined us to lead our New Year Mass in school, in which we considered how we can move into a New Year ensuring we work hard to shine our lights bright. How will you shine your light in 2019?

We have no worship next Wednesday as we have a day of Healthy Living and Fitness Workshops.

Trips

When your child has a school trip and the letter states to provide a packed lunch please remember this can be provided by Farm Kitchen if you usually order Hot Meals. When parents go into the weekly menu selection page you will see, "If you have ordered a hot school lunch and your child's school organise a school trip, as long as we are notified by the normal order deadline (3pm on the preceding Tuesday), we will ensure a healthy packed lunch is provided for your child. If you would rather receive a full refund please email enquiries@thefarmkitchen.com and we will arrange for the cancellation of the meal. Please ensure at least 24 hours notice (1pm the preceding day) is given for any meal cancellations". If you have any further queries regarding this please speak to myself, Mrs Wide or Mrs Bach in the School Office.

16 Fun Back to School Math's Activities for KS2

Back to school, and back to math's with our roundup of 16 fun back to school math's activities to start your term the way you want it go on, even in the face of any brain drain...

Spring Back into Math's!

Back to school and back to Math's Lessons! A great return from our Christmas break and it's a great idea to motivate yourself with some amazing math's activities. Take a look at the link to Third Space learning and check out the math's games, revision activities and much much more - maybe play a math's game of Bingo at home? Or you could challenge a family member to a game of Battleships using coordinates? Whatever you choose - have fun learning and practicing your math's skills

<https://thirdspacelearning.com/blog/16-fun-maths-activities-ks2-back-to-school-summer-brain-drain/>

Priorities for School Improvement for 2018-2019:

Key Improvement 1: Catholic Life of the School -SMSC To develop a stronger pupil driven spiritual ethos led by the Chaplaincy Team that enables all stakeholders to encounter Christ to develop as leaders in their own faith journeys and missionary discipleship. *Article 14: You have the right to choose your own religion and beliefs. Your parents should help you decide what is right and wrong, and what is best for you.*

Key Improvement 2: Effectiveness of leadership and management To embed external outward facing school leadership within the St. Therese of Lisieux CMAT, based on inquiry research and a pro-active, self-improving culture, with all leaders exhibiting high expectations for every pupil and member of staff. *Article 3: All adults should do what is best for you. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.*

Key Improvement 3: Quality of teaching, learning and assessment To improve the quality of teaching and learning to ensure 90% is consistently challenging and inspirational, achieving at least 75% at age related expectations and 20%+ Greater Depth for core areas of Religious Education, Maths and English. *Article 29: Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people*

Key Improvement 4: Personal development, behaviour and welfare To ensure our pupils are ready for a life beyond school and develop resilience and motivation for applying core skills of reading, writing and arithmetic across the curriculum. *Article 6: All children have the right to life and develop healthily. Article 28: All children and young people have a right to a primary education, which should be free. Discipline in schools should respect children's human dignity. Young people should be encouraged to reach the highest level of education they are capable of.*

Key Improvement 5: Outcomes for children and learners To raise standards in Maths particularly how reasoning and problem solving is embedded across the curriculum, ensuring pupils have the opportunity to achieve Mastery of core mathematical skills and apply in a range of contexts. *Article 13: You have the right to find out things and share what you think with others, by talking, drawing, and writing or in any other way unless it harms or offends other people.*

Word of the Week

Can you think of other ways to describe the beautiful night sky?



moonlit



Pupil of the Week

EYFS-Maisy Jones for coming back focused and ready for learning, excellent participation in phonics and math's this week!

Year 1-Ilya Mihailov for trying hard to write simple sentences using his learnt phonemes and working more independently.

Year 2- Amelia Kondracka for her fantastic booklet she made at home linking to our topic and English work about the adventurer and explorer Amelia Earhart.

Year 3-Inesa Bindzaitė for the enthusiasm and confidence she has shown in her math's learning this week.

Year 4-Robert Darnes for showing enthusiasm for learning during our Brazil week and putting in 100% effort in every lesson.

Year 5-Nikola Raczka for excellent exploration of, and responses to the Highwayman poem

Year 6- Tori-May Woolsey for her improvements and understanding in using and applying decimal place value.

Attendance

Remember as we start the school year our school target is 97% and anything below **90% is Persistent Absence and can result in a fixed penalty notice**. We are also required to report any families to the local authority whose children have had 10 consecutive days absent from school or any that take unauthorised/absence or holiday. This week's winners are Year 2.

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
95.42%	93.97%	99.17%	98.28%	97.08%	91.25%	93.75%

We have noticed an increase in applications for Holiday's during Term Time may I remind all parents that no holidays may be taken during term time and will be recorded as unauthorised attendance and may result in a fine.

The Heart that See's Award



This week the award goes to Florence for donating some birthday money to St. Norbert's Church to help with the heating problems.

Did you know?

The 21st January is Squirrel Appreciation Day! Appreciate your squirrels in whatever way you can! Remember that this is a tough time of year for squirrels, food is scarce and buried food may be inaccessible because the ground is frozen. You might share some sustenance with your local squirrels, or simply admire their persistence and grace. Squirrel is love!



The Big garden bird watch is 26th–28th January. If you wish to take part, you can order a free postal pack before the event on the website. The website has lots of videos to watch too with your children!

Safeguarding Messages: Working together to stay safe!



JRSO Message

<http://thinkdirect.gov.uk/education/early-years-and-primary/parents/7-to-11s/Be-bright-be-seen/>



E-Safety - Do you know what your child is doing online? Ask.

Visit our E-Safety page on the school website.

<http://www.st-norberts.lincs.sch.uk/e-safety.asp>

A very worthwhile tool for parents for understanding modern day apps and games and a great way to start a dialogue with children about their understanding of how to stay safe.

To find out more follow the link

<https://net-aware.org.uk> Or download the Net Aware app for android and iOS.



Make sure your child knows what to do if they come across cyberbullying. Encourage them to be an upstander not a bystander with the Stop, Speak, Support code.

[It is Digital Resolution Month. Remember to keep safe online](#)

Time to make a digital resolution! Create a family agreement to ensure positive behaviour and boundaries online. If incidents have occurred over the holidays, be aware of the UK Safer Internet Centre's Professionals Online Safety Helpline who can support with any online issues: 0344 3814772 or helpline@saferinternet.org.uk

House Points

1st	2nd	3rd	4th
St Bernadette	St Francis	St Lucy	St Dominic

Take Time to Pray as a family this week:

(Based on Matthew 2.1-12)

Lord of new beginnings,
we thank you for bringing us safely to the
start of a new year.

We are grateful for all the promise it holds.
This week, as we remember the visit of the Magi
to the new-born Christ,
bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh
we ask for guidance in using our own gifts of
money, time and voice.

Help us to use them wisely for the benefit of
others,
especially for the vulnerable, children and young
people
that they may enjoy a new year full of hope
and free from fear.
For your name's sake.
Amen.



Mrs Withers (Acting Headteacher)