

24th February 2023



St. Joseph's is a joyful community which follows the example of Jesus, helping, accepting and respecting everyone, as we learn and grow together, safe in His love.

Lenten Prayer

God of tenderness and compassion, as we journey through this season of Lent, may we turn wholeheartedly to you and learn to walk in your way of self-giving love. Amen.



Stay and Pray



Years 1 & 2 joined the parish for Mass in recent weeks. Year 1 will be attending on 28th Feb and Reception on 7th March.

Everyone is very welcome to attend.

Maths Workshops

It was a pleasure to welcome parents from 1S, 2F, 2P, 4GH, 4B, 5A and 5C into school to share in their children's mathematical journey. We hope all the parents took something away with them which they can use to support their child. We look forward to welcoming the parents from other year groups over the coming weeks.

4CH Class Assembly

In their class assembly, 4CH shared their thoughts on community. They also re-enacted The Iron Man by Ted Hughes in a performance best described as 'unforgettable'. The children sang beautifully and remembered all of their words. We are very proud of them, as always.

Yr6 Cycle Confident

Last week, a group of Year 6 children took part in Cycle Confident training to achieve levels 1 and 2 in cycling proficiency. As part of the training, children learnt to cycle safely and responsibly, manage risks when cycling and negotiate some junctions on roads. The instructors were impressed with the children's behaviour and motivation to learn and the children enjoyed becoming safer and more confident on their bikes.



Year 4 Viking Day

Year 4 enjoyed their Viking Day. They handled some genuine artefacts from Viking times, made Viking longboats out of clay and tried weaving and archery. Learning about the Viking courts was fun in the afternoon and they also loved the story telling. Our Vikings looked amazing in their outfits. Thank you!



Year 3 & 4 Girls' Football Competition

It was a pleasure to take a team of girls to the Sports Collective competition at Noak Hill. The children enjoyed the day and managed 2nd place in their league, narrowly missing out on the knock out games by just 1 point. Some of the children have a new found love of the game.

Please be reminded to pay contributions to workshops and trips taking place. If we continue to be unable to cover the costs of the events, we may have to cancel them. No child will be excluded for their parent's inability or unwillingness to pay. However, if this is the case, please contact the finance team so that decisions regarding the trip or workshop can be made in a timely manner. Payments for events which have already taken place or are due to take place can be found in the Payment section on the ParentMail app and website.



YEAR 1 CIRCUS DAY

Year 1 enjoyed their Circus day. They learned how to spin a plate, juggle, walk on stilts and balance on a tightrope. Thank you, children, for putting so much effort into your costumes. It was a great day to conclude our History topic, 'The Circus'.

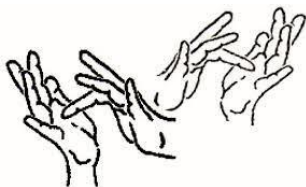


ASH WEDNESDAY



'Remember (to man) that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.'
Genesis 3:19

This Wednesday marked the start of Lent. We use this period of 40 days – from Ash Wednesday to Maundy Thursday – as an opportunity to have a spiritual 'spring clean.' We use the season of Lent to help us to prepare for the celebration of Easter. We are encouraged to think about how we can **give, act** and **pray** during this time. We have learned to sign a simple prayer (**Jesus, be the centre.**) to help us to focus during this special time. Big thanks to Fr Matthew who welcomed the Juniors to Mass and came to lead a service in school for the Infants.



CAFOD ASSEMBLY

On Friday 24th February, Mr. Jones, a friend of St. Joseph's and a representative from CAFOD, visited the children and led an assembly about CAFOD's work across the world for those living in extreme poverty. We heard about a young girl called Dristy and how her family are supported in Bangladesh by the money that CAFOD raises. Mr. Jones also spoke to the children about CAFOD's Lent initiative: The Big Lent Walk which we will be fundraising for this half term (more details to follow!)



We had a wonderful week celebrating reading. There has been lots going on, with the grand finale being 'Pyjama Day' on Friday. Mrs. Partridge will share photos and some work in the next Reading Newsletter.

A Special Thank you to the PFA for arranging hot chocolate and biscuits for the children.

We will be having a Book Fair after school between 22.03.23 – 28.03.23

WRITING WORKSHOP

Some children from Year 3 and 4 took part in a writing workshop at Scotts Primary School with the author Stephen Davies. They learnt how to develop characters and wrote a story based on the Titanic. It was a really enjoyable day.



Children's Liturgy

St Joseph's Church Children's Liturgy takes place every Sunday in the Social Centre (on St Mary's Lane, next to the school). It will be open to children old enough to be left in the care of catechists, up to those who are of First Holy Communion age. Parents are asked to drop children off before 9am with the catechists.

Please see the Church Newsletter for full details.

***FOR ALL DIARY DATES PLEASE REFER TO THE SCHOOL WEBSITE ***

<https://st-josephs-upminster.net/term-dates/>