



*Where talent grows*

Head Teacher: Mrs M. Walker

Head of Teaching, Learning and Assessment: Mrs E. Watson

## 'Christian Value' – Trust

*"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid."*

*Psalm 56:3-4*

30<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### Head's Message

This week, (28<sup>th</sup> January) the Anglican Church celebrated the feast day of St Thomas Aquinas. He is patron over many areas including learning and pencil making! Having studied at the University of Paris, he taught at the theological college of St James at a time when Christian understanding was grappling with new science and philosophy. He did not fear these new ideas, but studied them, and in doing so believed that faith and science were not exclusive but complementary. Also on Wednesday, Open the Book led a whole school worship based on 'Four Good Friends'. As we approach Children's Mental Health Week (9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> February), we have arranged for Sewing Seeds to visit Class 4 to discuss with the pupils 'This is My Place', which is this year's theme. The aim this year is to empower young people and highlight the importance of emotional wellbeing. Next week, we have the marvellous Young Voices concert to look forward to, as well as a Year 1 Family Lunch. Finally, there are two attachments being sent out with this newsletter. One from the LA regarding penalty notices and one from the DfE regarding school complaints.

### Reception Lunch

We have scheduled a Reception Family Lunch for the 11<sup>th</sup> March. Please do not worry about payment for this event at this stage. We will add it to Arbor next week, and you will be able to sign up and pay any time up to the actual day of the lunch.

### Diary Dates

4<sup>th</sup> February – Year 1 Family Lunch at 12-12:30pm

6<sup>th</sup> February – Young Voices concert

12<sup>th</sup> February – Class 3 Cake Sale

13<sup>th</sup> February – Pancake Day Special Lunch

13<sup>th</sup> February – Last day of term

23<sup>rd</sup> February – Year 5 Bikeability - Level 2

23<sup>rd</sup> February – Parents' Evening Appointments

24<sup>th</sup> February – Parents' Evening Appointments

24<sup>th</sup> February – Boys' Football Match at St John's against Rainow at 3.30pm

27<sup>th</sup> February – Talent Show – infants at 10:30-12pm and juniors at 1:45-3:30pm. Families invited

4<sup>th</sup> March – Lakeside and SATs information evening for Class 4 at 5-6pm

5<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day

8<sup>th</sup> March – Rotary Club Swinathon (volunteers from Class 4)

11<sup>th</sup> March – Reception Family Lunch at 12-12:30pm

11<sup>th</sup> March – PTA Meeting at the Turners Pub at 7pm  
20<sup>th</sup> March – PTA Disco  
21<sup>st</sup> March – World Down Syndrome Day  
23<sup>rd</sup> March – Easter Special Lunch  
23<sup>rd</sup> March – Easter Celebration Assembly at 2-3:30pm. Families invited  
25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> March – Class 4 Residential at Lakeside  
26<sup>th</sup> March – Year 4 Bikeability - Level 1  
27<sup>th</sup> March – Last day of term

### **News from Reception**

This week in Reception, we have read the book, The Odd Fish, a story of a fish encountering plastic in the ocean for the first time. This led to a wonderful set of Drawing Club sessions where we drew and collaged the main characters and the setting before writing about a new sea creature and their encounter with rubbish in the water. We looked closely at a real Sea Bream and located the gills, fins, tail, eyes and scales. In maths, we have learnt how to be a careful counter and practised our touch counting skills; we also learnt how to count objects that cannot be moved. In music, we used body percussion to create rhythmic patterns and focused on responding to hand signals for when we start and stop playing.

### **News from Class 2**

This week, Class 2 have been reading an exciting new book about superheroes, which has sparked lots of enthusiastic discussions, descriptive writing about our ideal superheroes, and imaginative story writing. In maths, we have been developing our subtraction skills. In science, we have been learning about UK habitats, and in RE we have been role-playing stories based on Jesus' miracles. We also received a mysterious letter from the past, which led us to learn about Beatrix Potter. We enjoyed listening to some of her classic stories, including Peter Rabbit and his friends.

### **News from Class 3**

This week has been a busy and engaging one for Class 3. In mathematics, students have been developing their multiplication skills and working through two-step problems. In English, Class 3 have written the first draft of their own stories inspired by 'The Pied Piper'. They have completed an initial edit and will be self-editing their second draft. In Religious Education, we explored the life of Mother Teresa, learning how she changed the lives of many and discussing ways we can follow her example. Science lessons included a hands-on experiment investigating how water drains through different surfaces. We finished the week with a practical food activity, where students practised chopping and peeling to make a fruit salad, while learning about the skills involved in food preparation.

### **News from Class 4**

This week, in maths, we have been looking at rounding decimals to the nearest integer, tenth or hundredth and exploring decimal number sequences. We have also started to learn how to find the perimeter and area of rectangles and rectilinear shapes. In English, we have started to explore a new book, called 'Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race' by Margot Lee Shetterly. We have been describing Dorothy Vaughan, one of the women in the book. In computing, we have been using Tinkercad to complete some 3D design, and, in art, we have been working on using the foreground, middle ground and background to create depth.

### **Celebration Awards**

#### **Good Work**

Class 1 – Nora for creating a beautiful collage and carefully lino printing over the top to create an ocean scene.

Class 2 – Sky for her enthusiasm in RE, role-playing ‘Calming the Storm’.

Class 3 – Harper for her excellent attitude towards her work and her work in science this week during our experiment.

Class 4 – Lola-Rose for super story writing, focusing on description and action.

### **Good Citizen**

Class 1 – Eddie for his excellent participation and effort in phonics.

Class 2 – Arthur for always been gentle, kind and honest class member.

Class 3 – Maisie for her smiley persona in class.

Class 4 – Lilian for being a kind, considerate and compassionate classmate.

**Ethos Award (Trust)** – Class 4: Arthur for being a trustworthy and friendly member of our class.

**House Points** – Lowerhouse and Oak Bank are currently tied.

### **Sports News**

Class 1 – This week, we focused on throwing and catching using bean bags. We tried to maintain our hand eye coordination and increase our accuracy when catching.

Class 2 – The children looked at working in small groups of 3/4 to come up with different partner balances and then demonstrating these to the class. We also finished with small team target practice games.

Class 3 – In PE, Class 3 focused on working in groups to create three different partner balances, including different shapes and difficult techniques. We then went into our HIIT (high intensity interval training) session. We worked for 30 seconds with a 1-minute break over 12 sets and 4 different actions.

Class 4 – This week, the class were given a set time to complete a small sequence of balances to perform to the class, including solo and partner balances, linking them all together. We then moved onto our HIIT session in which we worked in groups of 3, rotating 30 seconds each of hard work. We performed burpees, star jumps, squats and finished with a plank competition.

### **Star Sports Performers**

Class 1 – Penny

Class 2 – Isla and Posy

Class 3 – Orin and Sophie

Class 4 – Austin and Jess

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