



A very busy and wet half term!

We have reached the end of another busy half term and what a miserable one for weather. The only day it didn't rain - it snowed! Hopefully, there's better weather to come as we approach Spring!

School Improvement

The term ended with a visit from our School Improvement Partner who was very impressed with how articulate and polite our children are. Their excellent behaviour was also noted. We welcomed her suggestions of things that could enhance the classroom experience for our children, we will be getting to work on this straight after half term. We want the best for each of our classes.

Lent

The Holy Season of Lent begins on Wednesday 18th February with the traditional Ashes Service at St Dunstan's church. It's a time of reflection where the children will be reminded that the three themes of Prayer, Charity and Fasting. Each class will be covering the themes in their RE lessons and also reminded throughout Lent of opportunities to join as a community in one of the three themes.

Y6 will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation during the first week back, which is a reason to celebrate. We also welcome you to our school Masses in St Dunstan's Church each Wednesday at 9.30am

Drop Zone

We continue to get lots of positive feedback about our Drop Zone. Over the past few weeks its been especially appreciated in this awful weather! The Drop Zone is run voluntarily by the school to ensure a **safe, calm start to the day**. I need to remind all parents that the drop zone operates **from 8.35am** Please do not stop in the middle of the road letting children out before this, putting them and others at risk. Please don't be offended if you're asked by a member of staff to move your car if you're parked on the zig zags or you are too early for the Drop Zone. Several parents have been sent fines for inconsiderate parking so please help us to keep the children safe. **If Residents raise concerns about unsafe driving, we may have to close the Drop Zone, which will mean that Drayton Road will return to no cars permitted between 8:30 and 9:00am.**

- **8:30am** – Gates open for children who walk
- **8:35am** – Drop Zone opens
- Children must be supervised by an adult until 8:30am
- The Walking Bus runs from **8:20am**
- Orchard Club is open from **7:30am**

Finally.....

I hope you all have a restful and peaceful holiday, if you are lucky enough to be going away, safe journey and we'll see you all back on Monday 23rd February.



Housekeeping reminders

School Meals & Packed Lunches

Our kitchen prepares meals based only on the orders placed each day. This helps us reduce waste and stay within budget.

Recently, we've had to contact many families because no meal was ordered and no packed lunch was provided.

To be absolutely clear: no child will ever be left without food. Ensuring children are fed is a safeguarding responsibility and one we take extremely seriously.

In such circumstances, when we provide unplanned meals, the school must cover the cost. This is not funded and is becoming unsustainable. It can also mean that meals ordered correctly sometimes run short.

Parents must ensure that either a meal is ordered before 8am, or a packed lunch is provided from home. If neither is in place, we will contact you to bring a packed lunch to school before **11:20am**.

Meals can be ordered in advance for the whole half term. Repeated failure to order meals will be followed up, as this is now having a serious financial and operational impact.

Thank you for helping us ensure school funds are used for teaching and learning.

Faith in Our City – Exhibition

Join us on **Friday 27th February, 3:45–4:30pm** to see the fantastic work children have created during Faith in Our City Week.

Due to the popularity of previous exhibitions, this event will now take place in the children's classrooms, not the school hall. Please visit your child's classroom first, then feel free to explore others. We hope this provides a more comfortable experience for everyone.

World Book Day

We will celebrate **World Book Day on Thursday 5th March**. Nursery will celebrate on **Wednesday 4th March**.

Children are invited to come to school dressed as a book character

Lenten Fundraising

This Lent we will be raising money for a number of organisations that need our help

On **Friday 27th February**, the Mini Vinnies will be organising a cake sale in the playground after school. This money will be donated to the St Dunstan's SVP

There will be two further days dedicated to our call to be charitable during Lent, **Thursday 12th and Friday 20th March**. Thank you in advance for your generosity



Reception join us in Church



This Half Term, Our Reception children have been joining us for Mass. Before they did, they went and had a look at the church and saw that the crib was still up!
Their behaviour has been outstanding each week - just as we'd expect!



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Orchard Club

Opens 7.30am

Closes 5.30pm

Nursery get to know our Church!



It was lovely to see Nursery in church talking to Fr John - Monday 2nd March is our EYFS 'Stay and Pray', hope to see lots of you in school at 2.45pm.



Our Year 6 Children prepare for their Confirmation



To enhance the deepening of faith for the children preparing for Confirmation, Mr Hobbs and Mrs Morgan took the children to the Irish Centre for a day of song and reflection with Dan and Emily. A blessed experience again!



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Sports news!



It's just our Boys' team that has played league games so far. Once again we were invited to take part in the Vertu Trophy run by Birmingham City's Community Department. A great morning of competition!



The Girls' team finished a very respectable third place in the district indoor competition - well done to them!



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Catholic Life



Fr John gave our Prayer Leaders a special blessing for their mission in 2026! They're already doing a great job. Please look out for the prayer bags after half term!



Faith in our City Week



Year One visited Our Lady of Lourdes Parish to see another Catholic church other than St Dunstan's. We spotted things familiar to us!



Year Two were invited to All Saints church to look at the differences and similarities between our church and theirs. We were welcomed by Canon David



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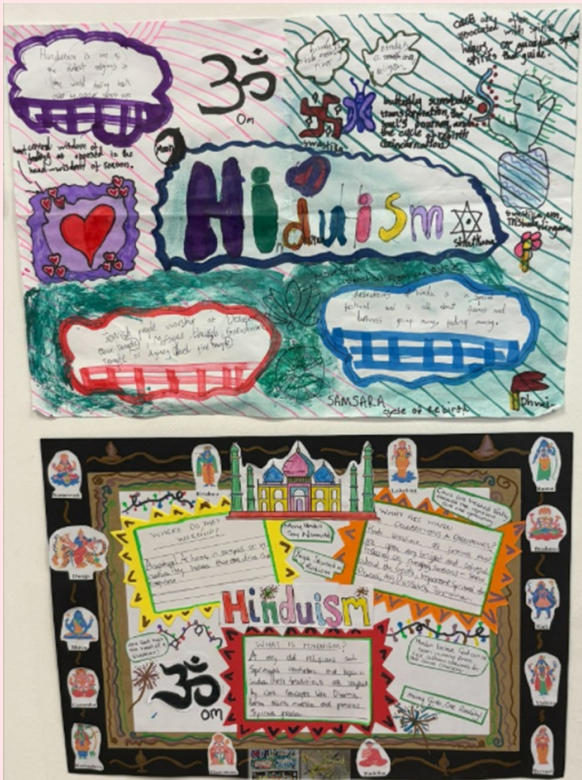


Orchard Club

Opens 7.30am

Closes 5.30pm

Faith in the City



Y3 have been looking at Hinduism. They produced some stunning artwork at home as part of their learning.



Year Four visited a Synagogue as part of their learning about Judaism



Faith in the City - Celebrating the values we share



Year Five's topic is Islam, thank you to Miss begum and Miss Abdule who spoke to the children about their faith.

Year Six had a talk from Mr Gill about his faith, Sikhism. They learned about the Temples and the symbols.





Goodbye and Good luck!!



This morning during Staff Prayers, we said a sad 'thank you and goodbye' to Debbie our Cook who is leaving to work closer to her new home. She really doesn't want to go, but as she doesn't drive, it's a difficult journey. So whilst we're sorry to lose her, we understand. Hope the new job goes well!!



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Enrichment Day - Sport and Arts

