

Dear Families,

During this Lenten season, our school is focusing on prayer, generosity, and making thoughtful choices that help us grow together in our faith.

The children have been learning that Lent is not only about giving something up, but also about giving more of ourselves to others – FASTING, PRAYER and ALMSGIVING.

We are grateful to the parents who were able to join us for Stay & Pray, and we extend a warm thank you to everyone who supported the children in completing chores at home to raise funds for CAFOD. These shared efforts strengthen the sense of faith and service that is so important in our Catholic community.

Mrs Philpott



A Beautiful Poem...

Harmony

By Year 5's Vihaan

*It's culture day
And I'm here to say
That we are all unique.
Living together
Is always better
We're united forever.
No matter what ethnicity
We can all live happily.
Proud and tell your flag
can stand
All together hand in
hand.*

Attendance:

- Year R – 95%
- Year 1 – 97.1%
- Year 3 – 96.4%
- Year 4 – 97.4% ****
- Year 5 – 96.3%
- Year 6 – 96%



Whole School – 96.3%

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

Regular attendance at school is vital for children's learning, confidence, and wellbeing. So far this term we have had a lot of absence due to sickness – please refer to NHS for guidance on when to stay home from school.

[Is my child too ill for school? – NHS](#)

With any sickness or diarrhoea, please think of others and follow the 48 hour rule.

Families of Faith

† February †

Prayer Corner



Dear Jesus,
Thank you for this new day,
For our family, our friends, and all
the love around us.

Thank you for the saints we
remember this month,
Who teach us to pray, be brave,
and care for others.
Help us to be kind, share our gifts,
And shine your light wherever we
go.
Amen

Saints to Inspire



14 February - St Cyril

St. Cyril and his brother St. Methodius helped teach the Slavic people about God and made the first Slavic alphabet called Glagolitic. They also translated the Bible so people could read it in their own language. Today, St. Cyril is remembered for helping people learn to read and for creating the Cyrillic alphabet.



10 February - St Scholastica

St. Scholastica, twin sister of St. Benedict, devoted her life to God and led a community of women. She is remembered for her deep faith and prayer, including a famous story where God sent a storm so she could spend more time with her brother.

Good News from the Gospel



Week 1 - Matthew 5:1-12

We listen to the Beatitudes. How can you be a peacemaker?
How can you promote peace at home or at school?

Week 2 - Matthew 5:13-16

We think about how salt brings out the best things. What good deeds can you do today? How can you bring light to the world?

Week 3 - Matthew 5: 17-37

Teaches us about following laws and commandments. What would you like to say sorry for? How can you show you are sorry?

Week 4 - Matthew 4: 1-11

We have begun Lent and hear about Jesus being tempted in the desert. What are you giving up for Lent?

Family Faith in Action

The feast of **Candlemas** is celebrated on the **2nd of February**. This day celebrates when Mary and Joseph presented baby Jesus in the temple (*Luke 2:22-40*). Here are some ideas to do at home:

- Children could decorate candles with symbols of light (stars, suns, hearts).
- Light candles and talk about Jesus as "the Light of the World."
- Say a simple prayer: "Jesus, help us to bring your light to others."

National Inventors' Day 11th February

Research an inventor. Find out more about what they created



National Random Acts of Kindness Day 11th February

Offer words of encouragement or make a donation to a local cause

National Love Your Pet Day 20th February

Our relationship with our pets are part of our call to Stewardship. Genesis 1:25



ECO DAY!



The EYFS and Year 1 children explored up-cycling and recycling, learning how individuals can collectively contribute to a healthier planet and a more sustainable future. Each child decorated a cork 'Eco Fish' with colourful recycled scales, helping to raise awareness of the problem of plastic pollution in our oceans.



Eco Day was led by Philip Hunton from Green Up Your Act.

Having explored a variety of texts, Year 2 made Bee Hotels. They used bamboo and recycled packaging to make homes for bees, and they even found a place to attract the bees to our school.

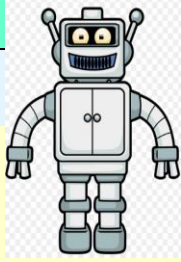
They learnt how crucial bees are for sustainability.



Key Stage 2 had an inspiring morning, starting with an assembly led by Phillip from Green Up Your Act - it was packed full of brilliant ideas about sustainability, climate change and ways to protect the environment. They then threw themselves into a hands-on workshop, exploring a fantastic range of recycled creations - from coasters and notebooks to handbags. Energised by Green Up Your Act's creativity and innovation, the children went on to craft their own impressive notebooks using old maps, recycled card, and paper. Their enthusiasm and imagination truly shone!



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE WHEN USING AI



What Parents Should Know!

Artificial Intelligence tools are becoming part of everyday life for children. While exciting and useful, they also bring risks that families should be aware of:

- **Inaccurate or misleading information** that children may believe is true.
- **Inappropriate or unexpected content** appearing without warning.
- **Requests for personal information** that children may not recognise as unsafe.
- **Unmonitored “chat-style” interactions** that feel like talking to a real person.
- **Sharing or copying content** without understanding privacy or copyright.

How Our School Protects the Pupils

We are committed to keeping children safe online and ensuring AI is used responsibly. In school we:

- Supervise all online activity.
- Use **filtering and monitoring systems** to block and report unsafe content.
- Teach children how to **question information** and stay safe online.
- Only use **age-appropriate tools** in lessons.
- Train staff to understand the risks and safe use of AI

How You Can Support Safety at Home

- Remind your child **not to share personal details** online.
- Talk about how **AI can make mistakes**.
- Encourage them to **tell an adult** if something feels wrong or confusing.
- Check **age ratings and privacy settings** on apps and tools.

Who to Contact

If you have any concerns or questions about AI or online safety, please speak to:

- **Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Mrs Philpott**
- **Your child’s class teacher**, who can direct you to the right person

We are here to support every family and work together to keep our children safe.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance Guide for Parents/Carers

What YOU must do:

1. Telephone the school before 8.30am each day of your child's absence to report the reason.
2. Tell the school in advance, of any medical appointments and forward copies of appointment emails, letters, or text messages to the attendance officer.
3. If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often feel better on arrival.
4. If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

What WE will do:

1. Check your child's attendance every day.
2. If your child is absent, we will call to establish the reason.
3. Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.

Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.

4. If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.

Diary Dates



Diary Dates	Class	Event
Monday 23 rd February	All	Stay & Pray sessions each day (Lent)
Friday 6 th March	Year 2	Class Assembly – Parents welcome
Monday 9 th March	Year 1-6	Swimming lessons start
Wednesday 11 th March	Year 3 and 4	Trip to Butsers Ancient Farm
Friday 13 th March	Year 3	Class Assembly – Parents welcome
Monday 16 th & Wednesday 18 th March	All	Parents Meetings to discuss progress
Tuesday 17 th March	Year 6	Trip to the cinema
Friday 20 th March	Year 3	SPAG workshop for parents
Wednesday 25 th March	Year 4	SPAG workshop for parents
Wednesday 25 th March	Year 5	Easter Play @ 2pm
Friday 27 th March	Year 1-6	Swimming lessons finish END OF TERM
Friday 27 th March	Year 5 & 6	Easter Trail @ Kerith Centre
Thursday 16 th April	All	MATHS DAY – Dress in numbers
Friday 24 th April	Year 4	Class Assembly – Parents welcome
Thursday 1 st May	All	St JOSEPH'S FEAST DAY – MUFTI DAY
Tuesday 5 th May	Year 2	Pizza Express Visit
Thursday 7 th May	Year 3 & 4	History Workshops in school
Monday 18 th May	All	Class Photos
Friday 22 nd May	All	SPORTS DAY
Monday 1 st June	All	INSET DAY/ Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 9 th June	Year 3	Parent workshop - Kaboom Maths
Monday 15 th June	Choir	Junior Music Festival - performance
Monday 6 th July	Year 4,5 and 6	SHP Wilde Day
Wednesday 22 nd July	All	END OF TERM

FIRE SAFETY!



Our Year 5s were delighted to be invited to meet the Bracknell Fire Service and take a look at their Engine! Thank you to Mrs Pay for organising this.

CONGRATULATIONS



A huge congratulations to our year 6 swimming star who was awarded a trophy at the Bracknell and Wokingham Swimming Awards. She also took part in 8 races over the weekend and came **2nd in 50m backstroke, 2nd in 200m backstroke, 3rd in 400m** (her first ever 400m race) in freestyle, **3rd in 200m freestyle, 3rd place in 200m breaststroke and 3rd in 50m free style** - she even got a county Time in 100M free style! All her hard work is being recognised, and we are all very proud.



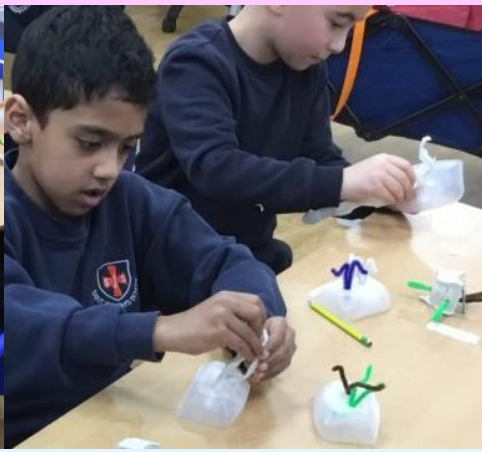
Does your child have an achievement to share with our community?

Email a photo to the school secretary: secretary@stjosephsbracknell.co.uk



Well done to the Athletics Team who made it to the Bracknell finals and managed to get **8th place** – amazing!

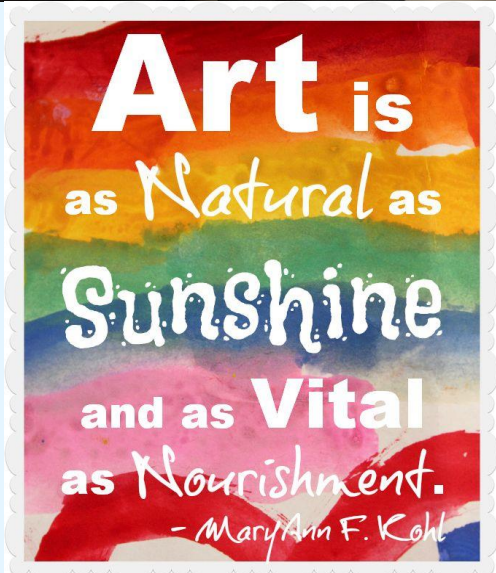
ART WORKSHOPS



Year 2 enjoyed Southill Park visiting for a junk modelling workshop where they made underwater sea boxes. Check out their squid, octopus, crab, fish and coral – all made from recycled packaging!



Year 1 had the opportunity to use a variety of tools to scratch some artwork which can be used for printing – all in the style of Andy Warhol!



ST JOSEPH'S PTA

UPCOMING EVENTS

2026

**MAR
13**

**MOTHER'S
DAY**

Your children will have the opportunity to create a personalised gift for Mum or a loved one

**APR
17**

**SPRING
DISCO**

Get your boogie on and join us for a spring Disco in the Hall!

**MAY
22**

**SPORTS DAY
REFRESHMENTS**

**MAY
10**

**FAMILY
FUN DAY**

Looking for a day full of laughter, fun, and lasting memories? Bring the whole family to Family Fun Day

**JUN
19**

**FATHER'S
DAY**

children will have the opportunity to create a personalised gift for Dad or a loved one

HOT CHOC/ ICE-LOLLY SALE DATES TBA



GEMS

Autism & ADHD Support Service
East Berkshire



1 on 1 Support Sessions

An online or over the phone, 60 minute session offering support and advice.

Suitable for Parents and Carers whom:

- Has a child/young person who may have, waiting assessment or has been diagnosed with Autism or AuDHD (Autism & ADHD).
- Require strategies for a new presenting issue.
- Attended workshops/courses previously and need further advice.
- Want to talk confidentially or uncomfortable with group sessions.
- Are neurodivergent themselves or have access needs.

Available for families residing in, or have a registered GP in East Berkshire.

To book your place contact GEMS:



Gems.4Health@nhs.net



0800 999 1342

Sign Up Today!

