

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School

Care – Learn - Respect

Welcome back to Spring term 2

We are now half way through the school year. It has been a very busy time and the five week half term from Christmas to February half term really did fly by.

Lent

Ash Wednesday during half term holiday marks the beginning of Lent. Our 40 day journey to Easter which mirrors the time Jesus spent in the desert.



We began the term with a whole school Ash Wednesday Service to support our journey through Lent. Traditionally people give things up and in more recent times have chosen to take things up. In modern times these are often motivated by doing something for charity. All of these activities should be encouraged as they work to make us and the world a better place.

Lent, like Advent, is a spring cleaning sort of time. A time for positive change that helps us to grow. We will be encouraging each other in school and seeking ways to be the best that we can be.

Home school support

We continue to be grateful for families for the on- going support and interest in school life. We are extremely grateful for the hard work that goes into ensuring that children are ready and prepared for school.

Each class base has direct communications about ways to support key learning and this is an essential way to make a significant difference to your child's school journey. Reading every day, supporting vocabulary, spelling and handwriting skills alongside core number skills will give your child a significant head start.

If you have any concerns about engaging your child in these important activities always talk to your child's class teacher.

If you have any concerns about any aspect of school life please do ask.

Attendance Matters

Research has shown that children who have high and consistent attendance have an advantage over children who miss school. We are fortunate to have the skills and resources of the local authority welfare team who meet with myself and admin staff every six weeks to review individual and class attendance profiles.

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Of course illness can't be helped. As we thankfully continue to progress further away from Covid times we will now be re adopted best practice for absence. If your child's attendance falls below (or is at risk of falling below 90 %) the pastoral team will make direct contact with families to see if there is any support they can offer. This is an extension of our own school work and is a valued part of our school life.

Governors have also now decided to reinstate holiday fining. This is in line with best practice and was always a part of school administration. Any families taking 10 or more absences due to holidays (5 full days) will be informed by letter of the possibility of being subject to a fine. The fining process is managed by the pastoral welfare team at Blackpool County Council on our behalf.

If at any time you have any questions or concerns about your child's attendance please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Mannix directly. There are many support systems we can access to assist with this.

Congratulations to Mrs Murphy and family

Mrs Murphy safely delivered Fred Joseph in the half term holiday. Mum and baby both well so we are all delighted and looking forward to meeting the new addition soon.

Year 3 Staffing Changes

Year 3 parents and children are aware that Mrs Holden is expecting her second child. Mr Bourn is a teacher who has already worked with us and will be taking over from Mrs Holden in the next few weeks. Mr Bourn has worked with the class every Tuesday for the last half term and will be with them full time from Tuesday 20th February.

Academy Journey



We are continuing our journey in becoming a member of the BEBCMAT (Blessed Edward Bamber Catholic Multi Academy Trust). Paperwork and lots of reviews and meetings were completed last half term. The DFE have accepted our initial application. The next step will be to finalise all of the reports for key areas of school

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Life: Finance, Health and Safety, HR, RE and Catholic Life and Teaching and Learning. This will be a final submission later this term. If all goes well our plan will be to be a part of the academy by the end of this academic year.

Our Elephant Journey for Brian House.

Last half term our elephant was painted and sent back to Brian House in preparation for the Spring time Elmer's Big Parade. 40 large elephants painted by professional artists will create an external trail whilst the 30 smaller elephants painted by local schools will be housed inside buildings along the route.

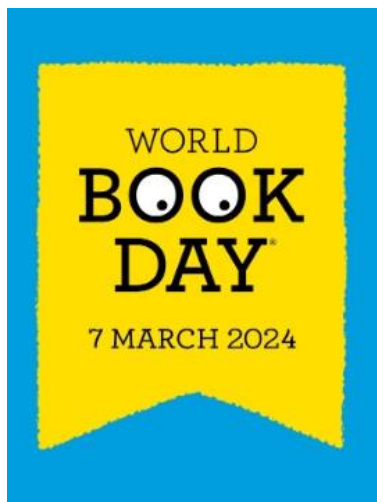
Our design was shaped by Year 5 and then drawn together by Isabella in Year 6 with Miss Bland. It uses our school colours of dark blue, light blue and white with red flowers and hearts. Over two days we had every child who was in school add their thumb print to our elephant. The finished elephant is unique to our school. Its identity has been kept a secret at the request of Brian House but we are very much looking forward to being able to see the elephant in situ later this year.

Our elephant does not yet have a name. Year 3 have shortlisted names and we will be voting for the final name during this half term.

During the half term having the elephant in school we did have a focus for fund raising and for talking about the work of Brian House. So many people have a direct connection with Brian House and recognise the fabulous work that they do turning sadness into creating positive memories for children and their families.

Our children are very positive about raising funds to support Brian House. Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children have been making items in their own time to sell and so many children have been keen to support this. We will be adding in more activities this term and plan to have a final summer sponsored event once the weather improves.

Thank you for your continued support.



World Book Day We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. Children can come into school dressed as their favourite book characters and of course please bring in their favourite books to share and enjoy.

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Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 5th March at 6pm -Year 4 pupils presenting Lenten Liturgy for Catholic Schools in Blackpool at Christ the King. **(Volunteer group only)**

Friday 15th March Dress up for Brian House – come in to school in something bright, something comfy, something stripy, whatever you want to wear **and** remember a contribution to our charity.



Tuesday 19th March Open Afternoon

for Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and 3 families. Come along from 2pm to see your child's learning and their learning base. An open ended opportunity to chat with your child as well as the teaching staff about their class learning.

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