

**From Mr Chappell:** With the Inset Day last Friday and next week being Good Friday, I can't believe this is the final newsletter of the term before we say goodbye to Term 4. This year has gone by in a flash! and it is great to think that we are just around the corner from the brighter, sunnier days (hopefully) which always seems to bring a renewed focus and energy across the school. Next term will see several different formal assessments – for example the Year 6s will take their statutory SATs tests and Year 4 will be working towards their MTC (Multiplication Test Check.) As parents/carers, we can aid this, and I am sure lots of information was given at the recent parents evening on what you can do to help support your children around this. Even if your child is not involved in taking a statutory test in a particular year group- supporting your child everyday with reading and maths to aid all the great things that are going on in the classroom, will see your child make good progress from their starting points. Have a great weekend.



**Baby news:** Huge congratulations to Miss Hurd, who on Monday of this week gave birth to her second son Otis. Both mother and baby are doing well and Otis is being very well looked after by his older brother Vinnie! Many congratulations and best wishes to Miss Hurd and her partner Dave.

**Reading and the Library:** A huge thank you to everyone who has been involved in the development and implementation of the Library Plane. Since it opened last week, classes have been going to the plane regularly, as we look to develop our reading for pleasure strand. We have very good systems in school for teaching reading - early reading is taught

through our RWI (Read Write Inc ) scheme, which is very rigorous in assessing children's reading at the end of each term – so that we can plug any gaps as soon as possible and intervene when children are not making the progress that they could be. Moving into Year 2 through to Year 6 – we then have a consistency of how we teach Guided Reading -with the sequence of learning across the week focussing on the key reading skills of vocabulary, retrieval, inference to name a few. In a recent peer review with our CSP (Challenge School Partner) and in other Headteacher Visits- these systems were deemed to be good- and so now we want to focus on how we develop 'reading for pleasure' across the school. Reading for Pleasure is ultimately what we want for all children- to develop a love of reading. This is where you as parents/carers also help to inspire your children to love reading, look to share a book, magazine, non-fiction book with your children every night.



40 days  
Walking along with  
Jesus

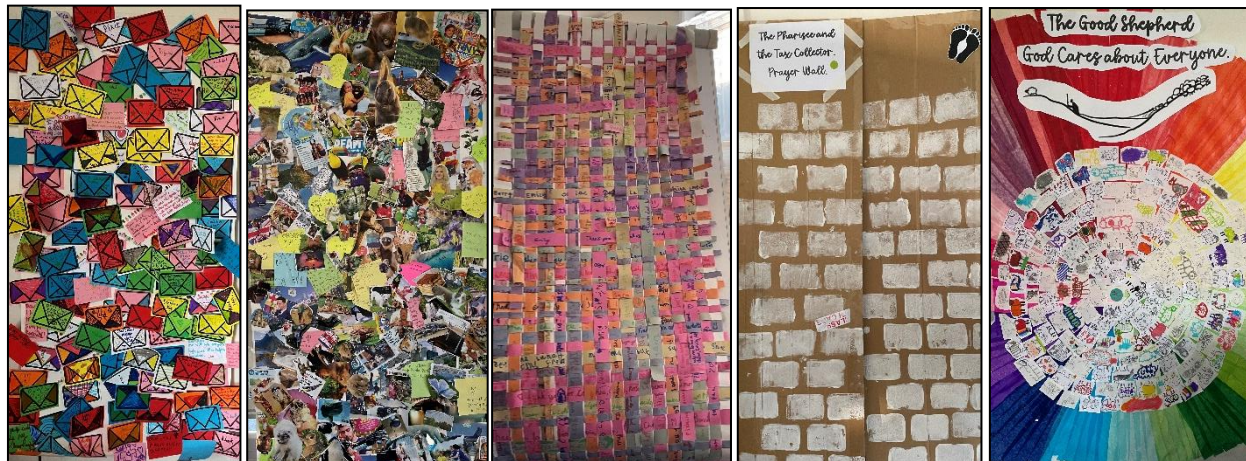


**Prayer Spaces:** A huge thank you to Mrs Baxter and our Open the Book community church team, who once again, have given up their time and energy to develop prayer spaces this week in school. This is our third prayer space of the year and this term looked at the Easter Story and in particular the story of lent. Thank you to Mrs Baxter for driving this forward and running the reflective sessions for all children across the school which are very important to us. Have a look below at the things that they have been doing.

Report by Mrs Baxter:

Let us be thankful for Lent: This week, the children have followed footprints around school to visit the **'Let us be thankful for Lent'** prayer space. The children were asked whether they would be thankful if they agreed to give up chocolate, favorite TV programs or computer games for 40 days and instead were really good and helpful at home. They all said this would be very difficult!

So, mindfully walking and following footprints around school they avoided the temptation of chatting to friends whilst revisiting 'Some stories about Jesus' from the Open the Book Stories assemblies and thinking about 'thankfulness'. As they went along, they created a School Message Board, a Thankyou Picture, a Friendship Scarf, a Wailing Wall of Prayers (hidden from view) and finally to represent they are all special they created the St Helen's herd of sheep.



## Is my child too ill for school?

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school, nursery or playgroup when they're unwell.

There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about [managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/managing-specific-infectious-diseases). These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day. Let them know that your child won't be in and give them the reason.

If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let their teacher know.

**Attendance:** At the end of last term we talked about the importance of attendance. As a parent myself I know how difficult it is to judge whether our children are well enough to be in school. As you know, this week we have had an outbreak of chicken pox which has impacted a number of different families across the school (and indeed the local area in other schools) thankfully, these children are doing okay and getting better. As you know, the DFE is having a huge push on attendance and the NHS has recently published guidance to help parents and carers decide whether their child is well enough to attend school, including information on a range of common childhood illnesses and conditions, such as coughs, colds, chicken pox, measles and headlice. Please

click on the link to find out more. Thank you so much for your support with this, we do really appreciate it.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Key Dates: Term 5 and 6		Inset Days:
KS2 SATs Tests	Monday 13 May to Thursday 16 May	<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024</b>
Year 4 MTC (Multiplication Tables Check)	Monday 3 June and Friday 14 June.	<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024</b>
Year 1 Phonics Test	Monday 10 June - Friday 14 June.	

## Well done to those children who were awarded a Celebration Certificate and Award!

Holly class – Rocky, Nikita, Amelia, Lauren, Berry, Lakshan

Beech class – Fenton, Elana, Quinn, Jude, Edward, Noah

Oak class – Clara, Obi, Bavisha, Willow, Freya

Ash class – Kai, Eleanor, Dougie, Bronnie, Freddie, Oliver, Elsie-Lou, Joshua

Sycamore class – Ferlyn, Honey, Abigail, Harrison, Justin, Honey

Elm Class – Ava, Evie, Catherine, Charlotte O., Suzanna, Charlotte M.

