



 April 2025
Ebrill 2025

St Francis R.C. Primary School



stfrancisprm.cardiff.sch.uk



Wilson Road, Ely, Cardiff, CF5 4JL



02920 591 666



stfrancisprm@cardiff.gov.uk

A message from our Headteacher,

Miss Langsdale



Dear Parents and Carers,

Easter Greetings to Our School Community.

It was lovely to see all of the children back on Monday after the Easter break.

In the newsletter you will be able to see photos of the children as they prepared for and celebrated the events of Holy Week. Thank you to all of the children and staff - these were beautiful events.

Easter is a time when we are reminded of hope and love. Our celebrations this year are tinged with sadness as we mourn the passing of Pope Francis who has left behind a legacy of compassion, humility and dedication to the service of others. As a school we shared an affinity with Pope Francis and his love for our patron saint - St Francis.

We look forward to the Summer Term ahead of us.

Miss M. Langsdale
Headteacher





Religious Education Directory

Prayer of the Month



Gweddi'r Mis

God of life,
We celebrate the rising of your
Son and the new life that you
bring into the world. We thank
you for all the good things that
you have given to us. Help us to
share them with others.

Amen.



He is Risen

Written by: Mrs Humphreys





Religious Education Directory



Virtues

Compassionate and Loving

Compassionate: Feeding of the Five Thousand
(Matthew 14:13-21)

Jesus withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Loving: The New Commandment
(John 13:34-35)

Jesus said, 'And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples.'





Religious Education Directory

Assemblies



A huge THANK YOU to all the children and staff for the beautiful Holy Week Assemblies! The storytelling from all the pupils in our school has been a joy to watch. Through our Gather, Word, Response and Mission we have witnessed lovely readings, prayers, acting, and hymn singing. The children deserve to feel PROUD!

A synopsis of what we all did...

P.S1 - Palm Sunday - He arrives in Jerusalem and a huge crowd gather to meet him. He goes into Jerusalem on a donkey and the people wave branches to greet him.

P.S2 - Year 5 - The Garden of Gethsemane

Jesus and some of the disciples go out to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. Judas and some of the Jewish leaders and guards come to arrest Jesus. He is taken to the Jewish leader's house.

P.S2 - Year 3 - Jesus at the Temple
Jesus goes to the Temple mount - an area around the Temple where people used to gather and meet. Jesus is not happy with what he witnesses - people are abusing the use of the temple!

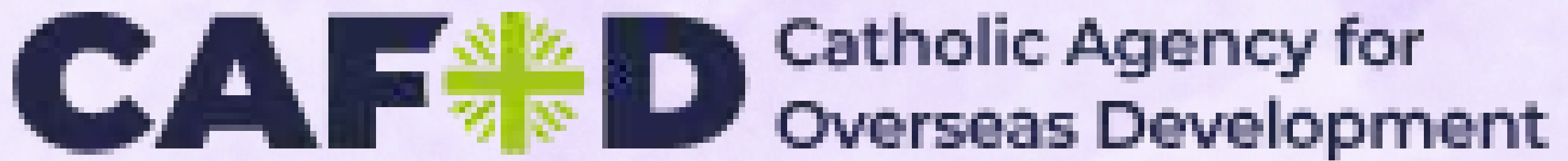
P.S2 - Year 4 - The Last Supper
Jesus gathers with some of his disciples to celebrate the Passover Meal and the washing of the feet.

P.S2 - Year 6 - Good Friday
Jesus is taken to Pilate's house where he is tried by Pilate for being a King - the King of the Jews. Pilate sentences him to be crucified. He is taken out to Golgotha and killed.





Religious Education Directory



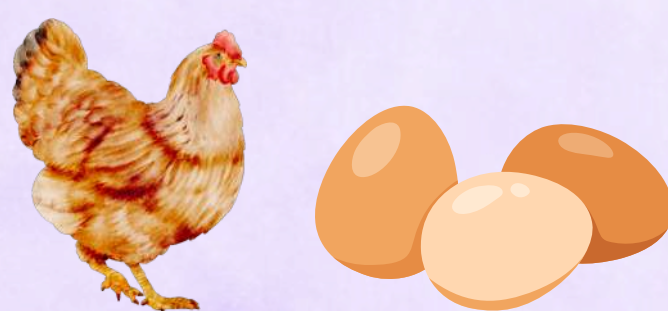
THANK YOU to everyone for raising money from our board games afternoon for the Glitter chickens for CAFOD! **We raised £117.25**

Tume wants to raise chickens, but the local breeds don't lay enough eggs to feed her family or provide a stable income. She has the skills and the plan; she just needs the right support. With your help, our local experts can provide people like Tume with super chickens, that grow larger and lay many more eggs. They also thrive on scraps, insects, and weeds; and require very little water, perfect for an area prone to drought.

With these chickens, Tume can ensure to keep her family healthy long into the future!

With your donations we have managed to help families like Tume - Diolch!

Through almsgiving we chose to put others before ourselves - very proud of you all!





Religious Education Directory

Pope Francis 1936-2025

It was very sad news to hear of the death of our Pope - St Francis.

His entire life was dedicated to the service of the Lord and of His Church. He taught us to live the values of the Gospel with fidelity, courage, and universal love, especially in favour of the poorest and most marginalized. He was a true disciple of the Lord Jesus.

Few people can say they've written a letter that's been reported on news channels worldwide, debated in a US presidential election and cited by heads of government as a catalyst for an historic international agreement.

Yet that's what Pope Francis achieved with his second encyclical.

Laudato Si' is one of the most important documents written this century. The Pope's letter, addressed to "every person living on this planet", is a clarion call for us to care for the earth - our common home and our global family.

Our children in St Francis Primary school have had great opportunities through our religious lessons to understand parts of Laudato Si' and how they can make changes in our community and the wider world.

As the Pope called to all children....

"to dream great things, to seek vast horizons... and to offer the best of themselves to the building of something better."



Father,
You chose your servant, Pope Francis to be the leader of the Catholic church for 12 years.

Pope Francis was the Shepherd of your whole flock.

You gave him wisdom and courage as he guided your people with love.

Jesus, as we celebrate your Resurrection we ask that you welcome Pope Francis into your heavenly Kingdom.

Holy Spirit, be close to everyone who will be sad now that Pope Francis has died.

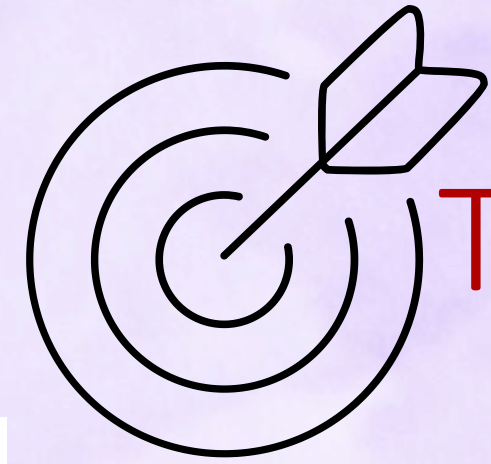
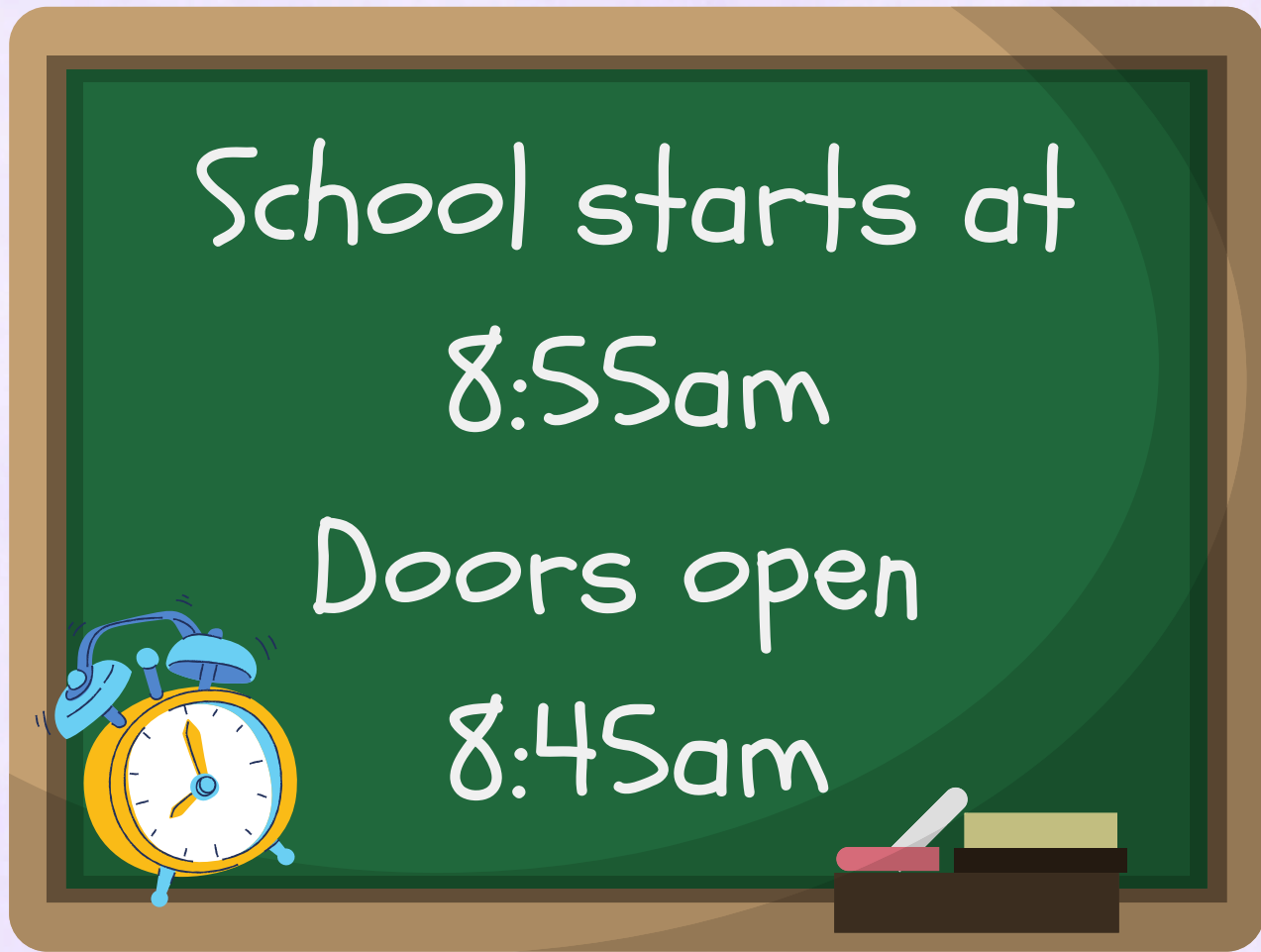
Amen

May he rest in peace





Attendance & Punctuality



Target:
100%

**Your child's
attendance needs
to be above
95%**



At St Francis we monitor attendance **regularly.**

Our attendance is also monitored by school governors and the Local Authority.

Attendance at school is extremely important for all pupils so that they can achieve as well as possible, and is now part of safeguarding procedures.



If your child is unwell please contact the office otherwise the absence cannot be authorized.

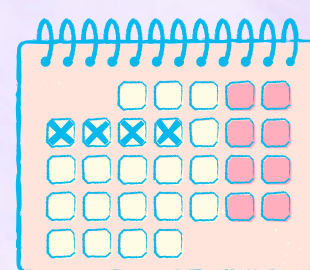


Please ensure your children are in to avoid potential fines.



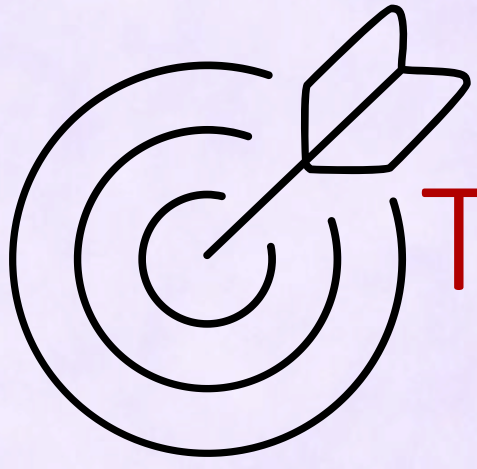
Every moment in school counts.

Days soon add up and the more children are in school the more they are likely to learn. Please do all you can to bring you child to school.





Attendance & Punctuality



Target:
100%

Slightly down from last month!

Overall Attendance

90.4%

Your child's attendance needs to be above **95%**

Nursery AM

84.6%

Nursery PM

86.3%

Reception

86.8%

Reception/Year 1

85%

Year 1

95.2%

Year 2

93.2%

Year 2/3

91.3%

Year 3

92.4%

Year 4P

96.6%



Year 4M

89.2%

Year 5M

86.3%

Year 5P

92.1%

Year 6B

86.9%

Year 6M

92.6%



Attendance Rewards

Our School Senedd have decided on a **No Work Day**; which would include things like a movie, board games P.E, chrome books and arts, for the class with the best attendance. You can help your child's class win this by **bringing them in everyday!!**





Attendance & Punctuality



Target:
100%

EVERY School Day COUNTS

Your child's attendance needs to be above **95%**

0 days off school

100%

Perfection!

Equal to 2 days off school each year

99%

Excellent

Equal to 5 days off school each year

97%

Good

Equal to 10 days off school each

95%

Slight Concern

Equal to 20 days off school each

90%

Concerned

Equal to 30 days off school each year

85%

Very Concerned




EVERY Minute COUNTS

- 5 Minutes late each day
- 10 Minutes late each day
- 15 Minutes late each day
- 20 Minutes late each day
- 30 Minutes late each day

IS APPROXIMATELY

- 3 days lost!
- 6.5 days lost!
- 10 days lost!
- 13 days lost!
- 19 days lost!

Lateness = Lost Learning 





Our 24-25 Topics

Autumn Term



Tymor yr Hydref

What's it Made of?

Beth mae e wedi'i wneud o?

During the Autumn topic our focus is::

Being curious and searching for answers is essential to understanding and predicting phenomena.

and

Matter and the way it behaves defines our universe and shapes our lives.

Spring Term

Fantastic Physics!

Ffiseg Ffantastig

During the Spring topic our focus is::

Forces and energy provide a foundation for understanding our universe.

During this pupils will be exploring everything from 'push and pull', sources of light and sound, friction and gravity, all the way into Space and flight!



Tymor yr Gwanwyn

Summer Term



Tymor yr Haf

Nurturing Planet Earth

Meithrin Planed Ddaear

During the Summer topic our focus is::

Informed, self-aware citizens engage with the challenges and opportunities that face humanity, and are able to take considered and ethical action.

Human societies are complex and diverse, and shaped by human actions and beliefs.

and

Our natural world is diverse and dynamic, influenced by processes and human actions.





Easter Bonnet Workshop

We would like to say a massive

thank you



to all the parents who came in for our



EASTER

Bonnet Workshop.



Nursery



Year 2/3



All the children had a fantastic time creating their amazing bonnets with you, and as always, we loved seeing you in school too!





Easter Bonnet Workshop



EASTER

Year 1

Bonnet
Workshop.





Reception

Reception/Year 1 celebrated Holy Week in a number of ways.

They took part in the Palm Sunday assembly where they created their own palm leaves and waved them as Jesus rode through Jerusalem on a donkey. They also sang the hymn 'Sing Hosanna' beautifully. You are able to watch their performance by scanning the QR code.



The children learnt all about Maundy Thursday and the 'Last Supper'. They took on the role of Jesus and his disciples and re-enacted the events that happened. Together they sat and ate a delicious meal of bread, beans and drank blackcurrant squash.

The children thoroughly enjoyed making their Easter bonnets alongside their families. They had great fun at the parade showing the rest of the school their creations!





Year 1

Our tasting session with different chocolates and bananas



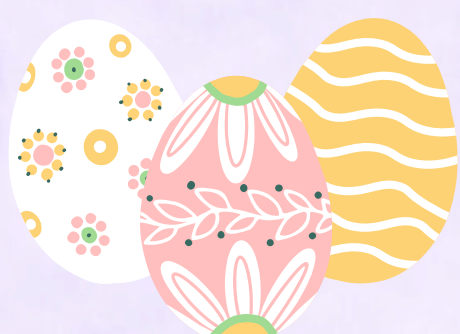
In Year 1 we have just started our new topic on fairtrade. We have started our journey by taste testing a variety of Fairtrade products including different chocolates and bananas. We have begun to learn about the journey of cocoa beans all the way to becoming chocolate.

We may even be making our own chocolate from bean to bar...watch this space...

Fairtrade



Starting to learn about different cocoa producing nations, which ones are Fairtrade. We have decided to learn more about the Ivory Coast





Year 2/3



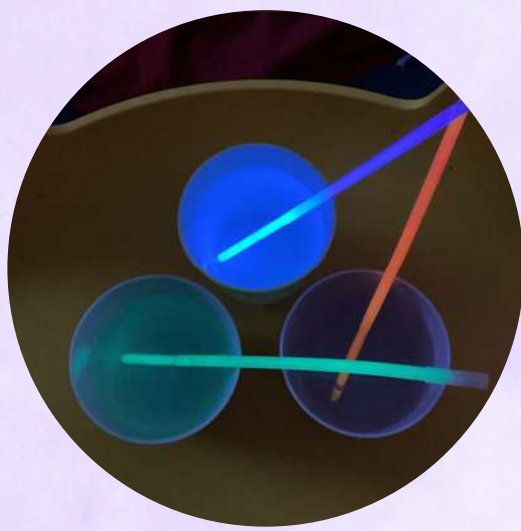
During the spring term Year 2/3 focused on 'light' and 'sound'. To celebrate how well they did during this physics topic we had a 'Glow Day'.



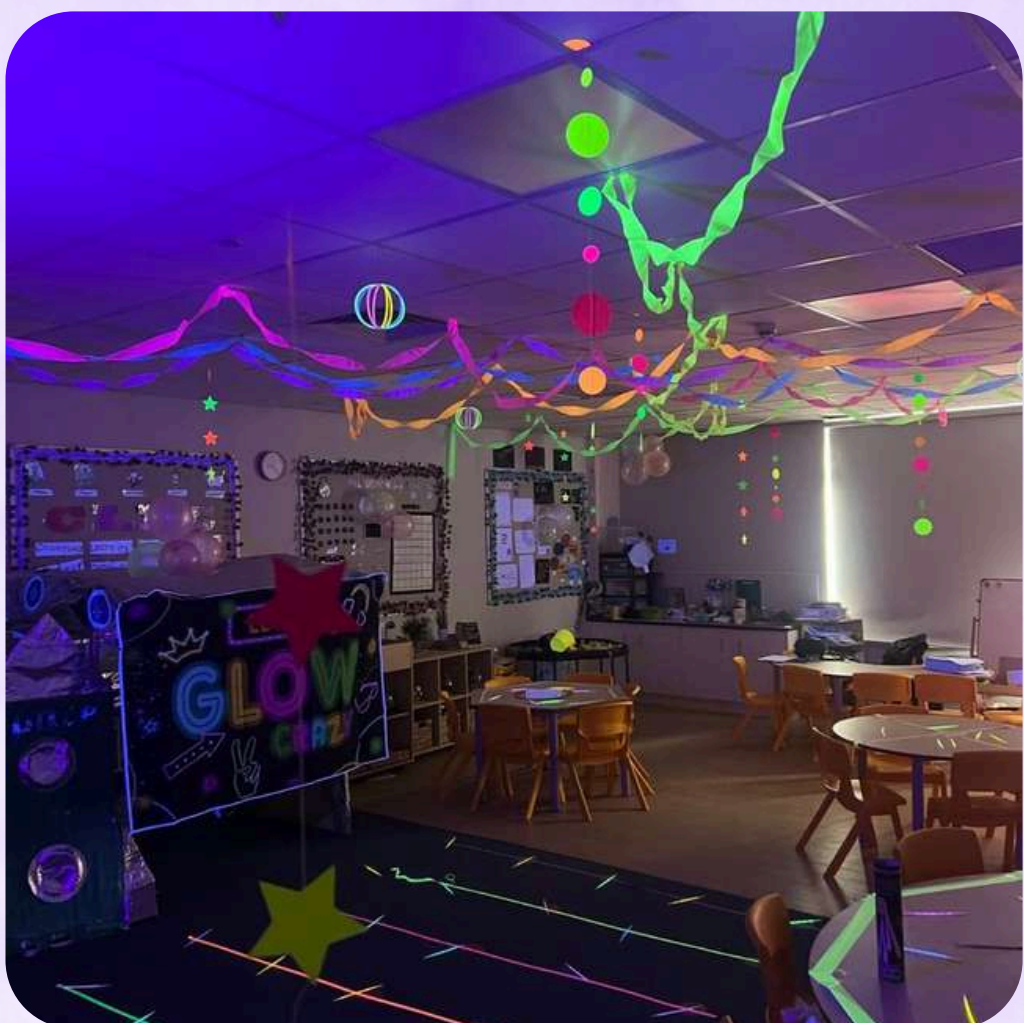
Glow Day



The children thoroughly enjoyed their 'Glow Day'.



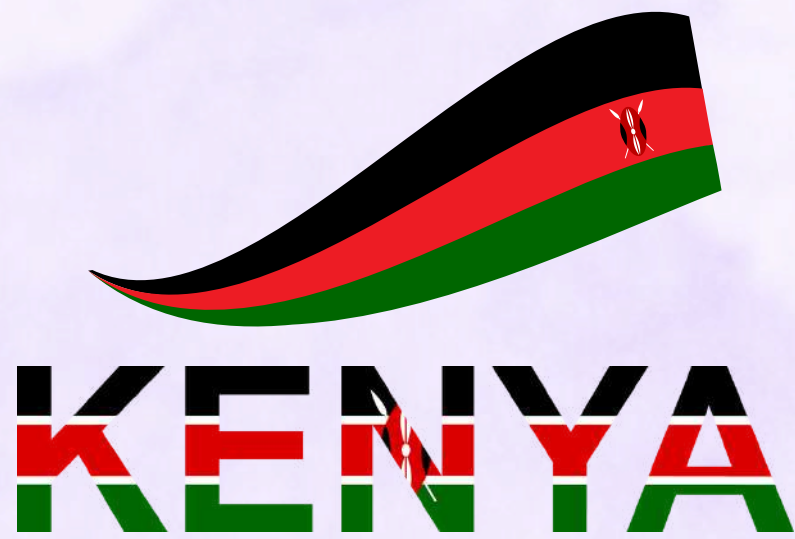
We completed a glow stick experiment that showed whether a glow stick glows better in hot, warm or cold water. We discovered that cold water is the best to make your glow sticks glow the brightest.



We transformed our classroom with lots of glow in the dark decorations. It was lovely to see how excited they were when they walked into the classroom.



We had lots of fun with our glow face paint and glow sticks



Year 2/3

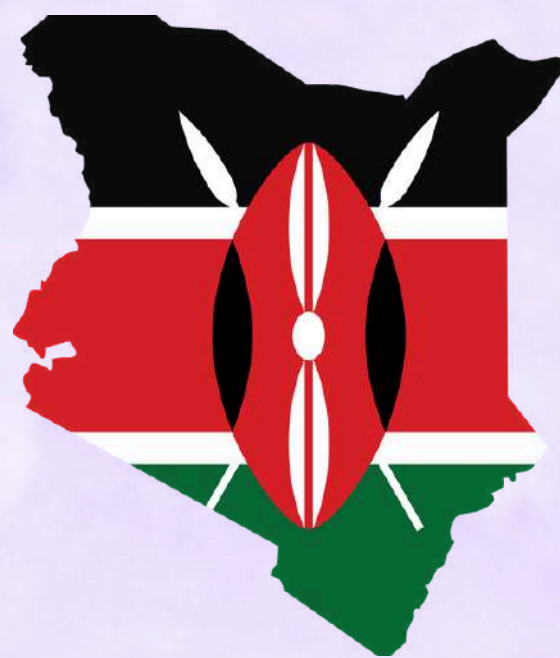


Our topic this Term is called 'Nurturing Planet Earth'. We will be focusing on Fairtrade and zooming into Kenya. To introduce the topic we had an experience day. The children took a very exciting flight and landed in Kenya.



First we arrived at the 'airport' and Miss Kennett had to scan all our tickets to make sure we all got onto the flight in time. Then we scanned our luggage to ensure it all got on the correct flight! We came prepared for the Kenyan weather with our hats and sunglasses.

We arrived in Kenya! We watched a documentary that showed us different animals in East Africa, the different habitats and we were very shocked to learn that Mount Kenya has snow!



Here are are ready for takeoff!



To continue with our experience day we tasted different fruits grown in Kenya. We tried; papaya. pineapple and passionfruit. Pineapple was definitely the favourite but Miss Kennett was very proud of all the children for trying the different fruits.

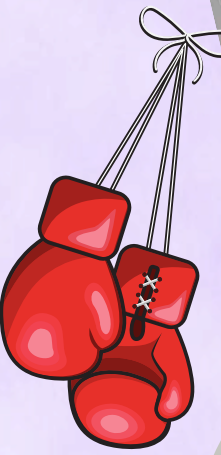




Mini Dragons Boxing Year 5 and 6



Year 5 and 6 welcomed a VIP guest to St Francis! World Champion boxer Joe Calzaghe and his son Joe Jr. came to St Francis to present Year 5 and 6 with their certificates for completing their Mini Dragons Boxing Training. They got to show him their skills, and he was very impressed! They also got to ask Joe questions and he even signed his autograph for them!





Cardiff Met Basketball Key Stage 2



We enjoyed hearing from two professional women's basketball players from Cardiff Met's team!



We welcomed them for an assembly where we got to ask them questions about being basketball players and how we could get into basket ball outside of school.

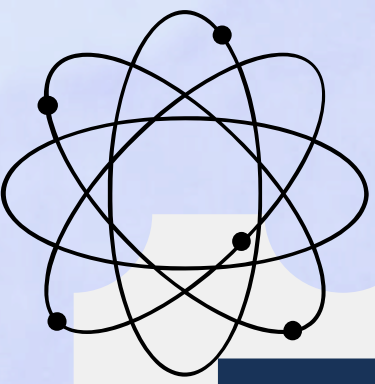


Some of our children even had the chance to show off their basketball skills to win prizes!

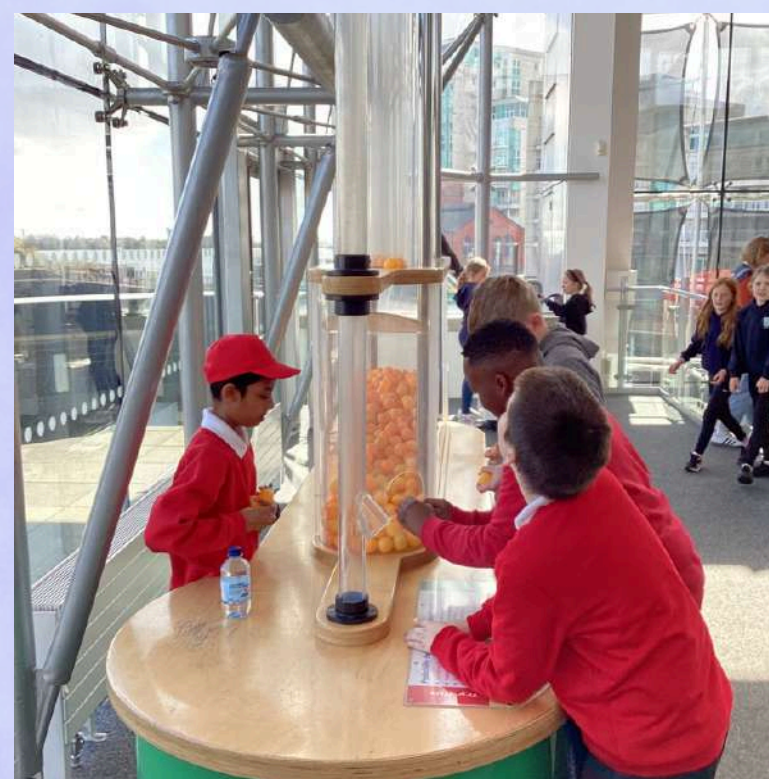




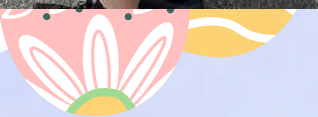
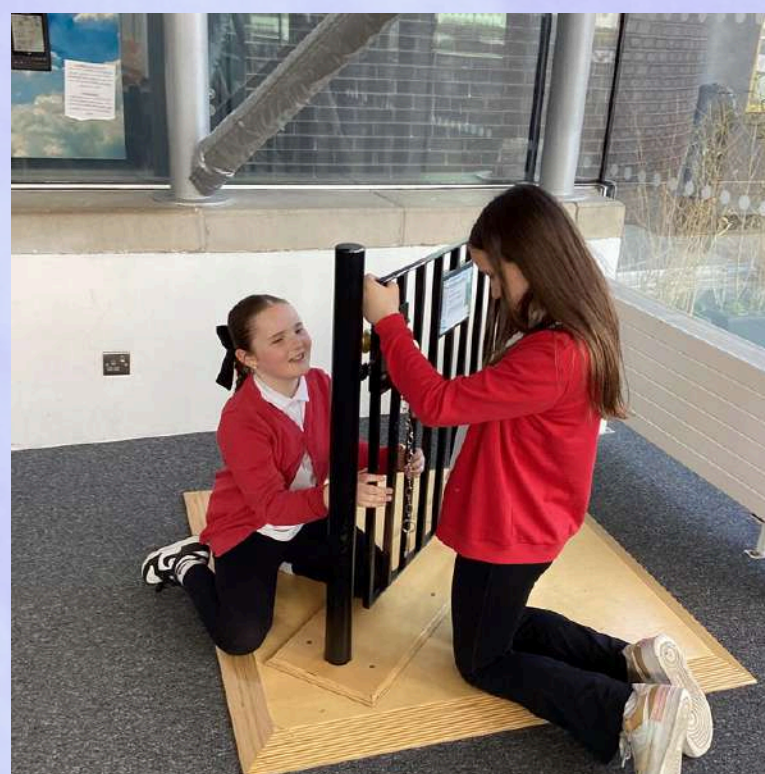
Year 6 Techniquest



All of Year 6 were lucky enough to go to Techniquest this month.

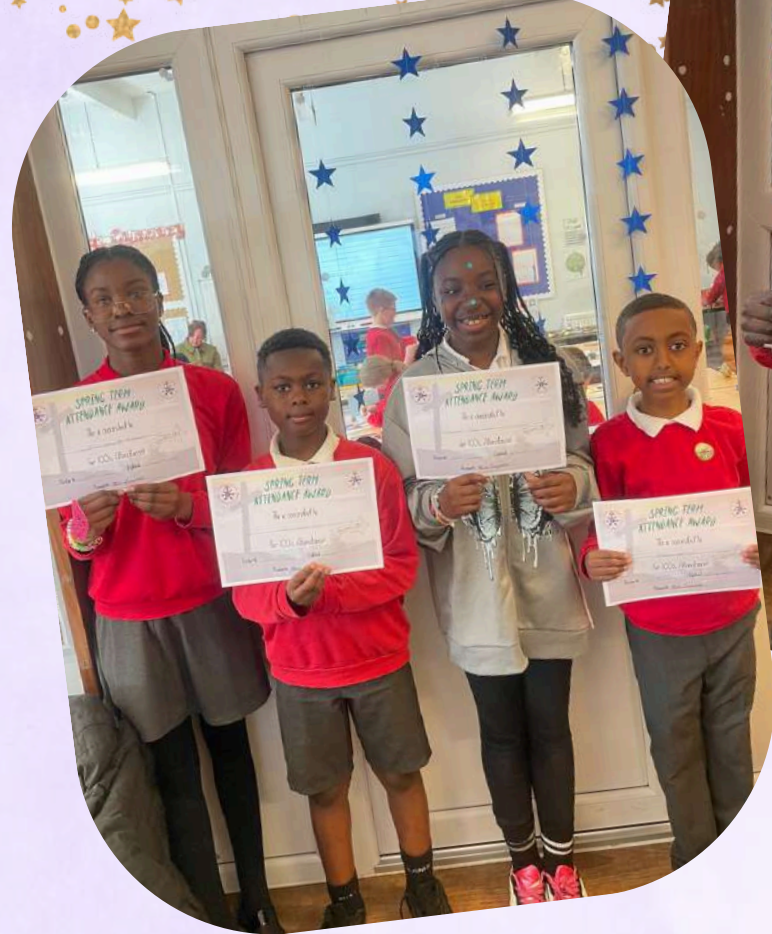


When we arrived we were taken to the Planetarium. We were put in a dark room with a huge projector overhead and taken on a tour of the Solar System. We looked at Mars, Jupiter and the sun in detail and were able to really impress the guide with all of the space facts that we knew. Finally, we took a look at a black hole and he told us how they are made. Next, we went to 'The Forces Show' where we learnt some more about forces in action. Our favourite moment was when the guide lit the gas that was in a coke bottle and the bottle was propelled to the top of the theatre. After a quick bit of lunch, we were allowed to explore the show hall of Techniquest. We had so much playing with the science experiments and learning as we went. We all thoroughly enjoyed our day.





Stars of the Month! Seren y Mis!



Well done to our Spring Term Citizen, Hard Working and Most Improved winners!

Congratulations on getting 100% attendance!



Very proud of Eira in Year 3 for coming 4th place and 6th place in her gymnastics work!

We are very proud of Lucas in Year 2 / 3 for doing so well in Karate gradings. He moved up 3 belts in one grading! Fantastic achievement

Lucas!



Let your child's teacher know if they have achieved something outside of school and we will celebrate them here!



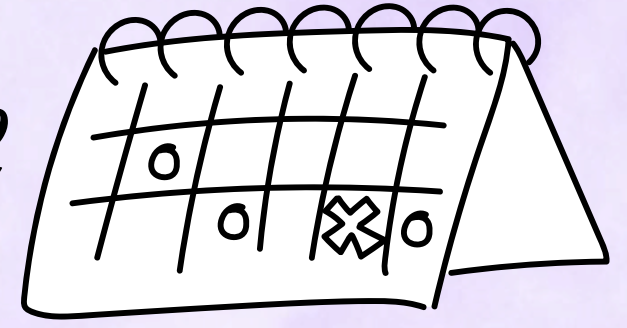
Fantastic behaviour at lunchtimes! Thank you for being so helpful!





After School Clubs

Spring Term Timetable



MONDAY



TUESDAY

Gymnastics/
Cheer Leading
Year 3
3pm - 4pm
Mrs Coray

Choir
Years 4, 5, & 6
3pm - 4pm
Mr Philp

Football
Year 3 & 4
3pm - 4pm
Mr McConkey

Dance
Year 4&5
3pm - 4pm
Miss Mathias

Football
Years 5 & 6
3pm - 4pm
Mr Windross



Take a look at what we've been doing...



Miss Mathias' Dance Club





Google Translate App



Google Translate

FREE APP

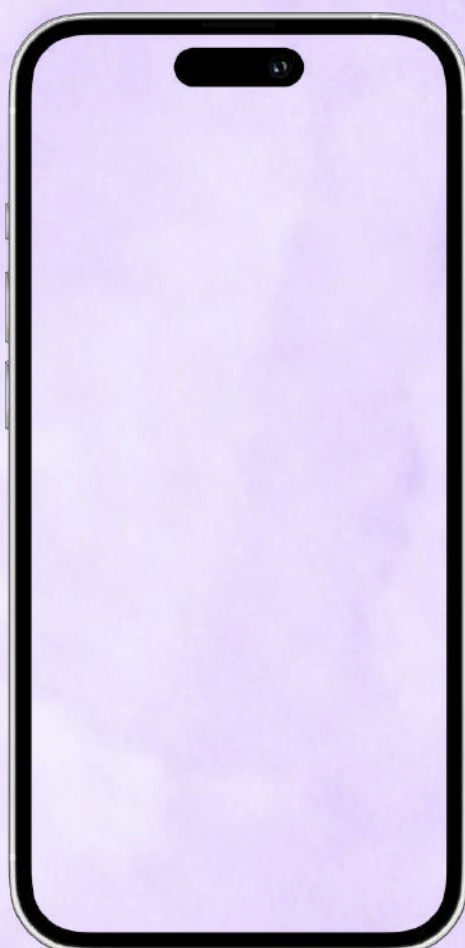
Google Translate is a free app available on the web, iOS for iPhone and Android.

Click here  for web

EASY TO USE

It is easy to use and can translate between up to **133** languages.

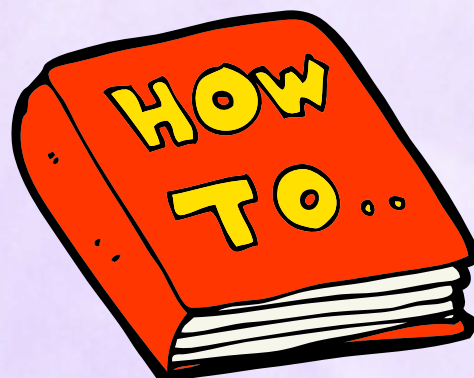
You can copy and paste text into the translator if the text is digital, or use the camera to convert in real time if the text is printed.



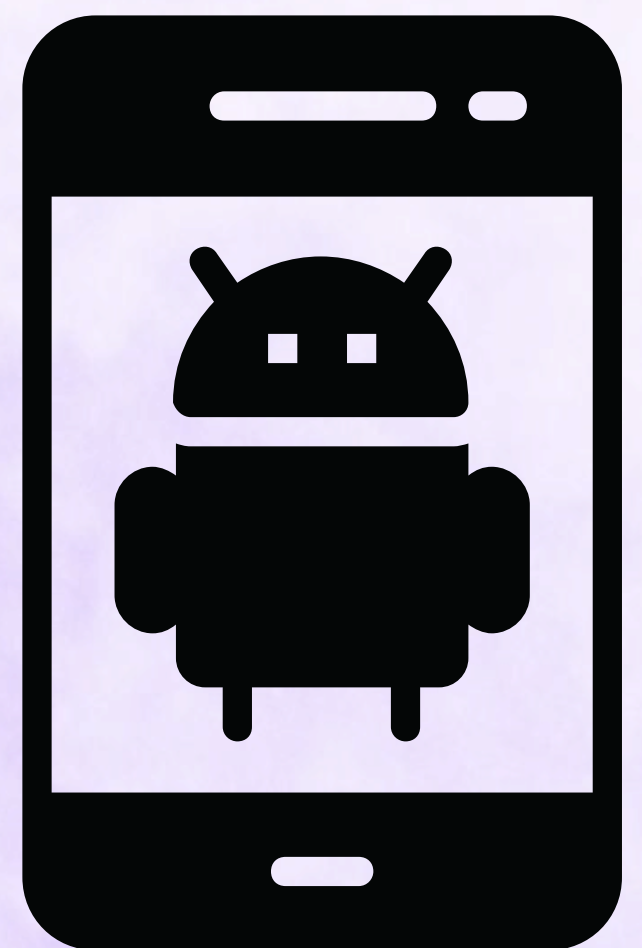
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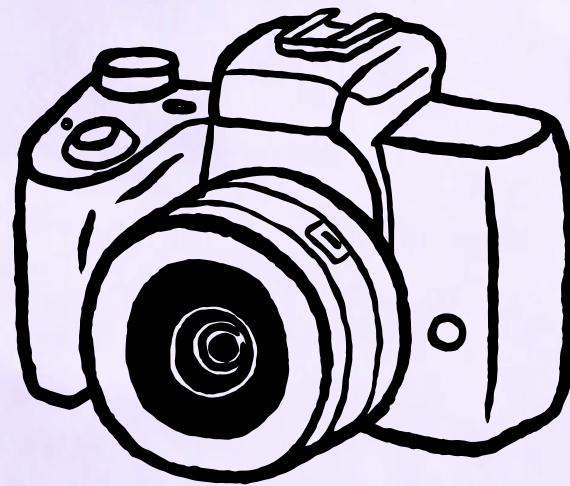


Year on a Page Blwyddyn ar Dudalen



| | Term Starts | Half Term | Term Ends |
|-------------|-------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Autumn Term | 02.09.24 | 28.10.24 - 01.11.24 | 20.12.24 |
| Spring Term | 06.01.25 | 24.02.25 - 28.02.25 | 11.04.25 |
| Summer Term | 28.04.25 | 26.05.25 - 30.05.25 | 21.07.25 |

School Photos



Thursday 7th November
Individual Photographs

Thursday 22nd May
Class Photographs

Inset Days

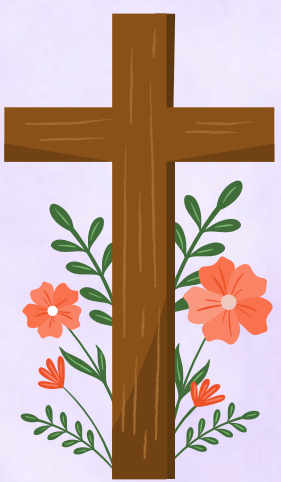
1. Monday 2nd September
2. Tuesday 3rd September
3. Monday 18th November
4. Monday 3rd March
5. Monday 2nd June
6. Monday 21st July

Pupil Progress Meetings

Wednesday 23rd October
 Wednesday 26th March
 End of Year Report in July

Important Dates in the Catholic Calendar

- Thursday 29th May - Ascension Day
- Sunday 8th June - Pentecost
- Sunday 29th June - Feast of St Peter and St Paul





Dates for your Diary



May



Thursday 1st May - May Day



Sunday 4th May - Hedgehog Awareness Week



Monday 5th May - African World Heritage Day



Thursday 8th May - VE Day



Thursday 15th May - International Day of Families



Friday 16th May - Endangered Species Day



Tuesday 20th May - World Bee Day



Tuesday 20th May - Nursery's World Bee Day Party



Friday 23rd May - Half Term



Monday 26th May - Spring bank holiday



Thursday 29th May - Ascension Day





Dates for your Diary



June



Monday 2nd June - Summer Term Starts



Thursday 5th June - World Environment Day



Sunday 8th June - Pentecost



Sunday 8th June - World Oceans Day



Sunday 15th June - Father's Day



Monday 16th June - Refugee Week Starts



Sunday 21st June - Summer Solstice / First Day of Summer



Wednesday 25th June - Sports Day



Sunday 29th June - Feast of St Peter and St Paul

