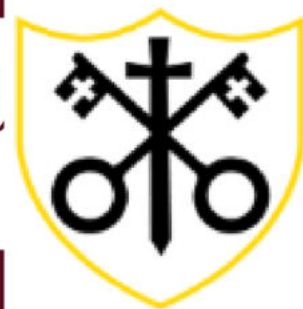




# SS Peter & Paul Newsletter

FRIDAY 22ND MARCH 2024  
VOLUME 10



Dear Parents and Friends,

Holy week is just around the corner, one of the most important weeks in the Liturgical calendar. The season of Lent is drawing to a close and reaches its pinnacle, as our focus falls fully on the passion, crucifixion and death of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. We begin with Palm Sunday this weekend where we celebrate Jesus' entrance into the city of Jerusalem, the holy city where Jews came from all over Israel to celebrate the Passover. During the upcoming week, we will remember Jesus' Last Supper (Holy Thursday) with his disciples and his passion and death (Good Friday) in a performance led by our Y5 and Y6 pupils- *Resurrection Rocks!*. We look forward to seeing many of our UKS2 parents join us.

Next week Thursday, we invite all parents to join us for our **Whole School Stations of the Cross assembly at 9am** as we spend time reflecting on the events surrounding the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Let us pray:

*Most glorious King,  
blessed are You Who continuously comes to us, leading the way to  
Heaven.*

*Hosanna in the highest!*

*As we begin this most Holy Week, commemorating Your gift of  
salvation, we pray that this commemoration will also be a real and  
transforming participation in Your life, death, and resurrection.  
Thank You for redeeming us, dear Lord. Please open our hearts to  
receive Your grace fully.  
Amen*

May you have a most blessed Holy Week!



## Important dates:

- 25th- Y6 Houses of Parliament Trip
- 26th- Balance Bike Training for Reception children
- 26th- Y1 to attend Mass at the Parish Church- **MUST BE IN SCHOOL FOR 8.30am**
- 27th- Y5 Easter Production 6pm (PARENTS WELCOME)
- 28th- Whole School Stations of the Cross Service 9.30am (ALL PARENTS WELCOME)
- 28th- NURSERY FINISHES- normal time
- 28th- SCHOOL FINISHES 1.30pm**

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

**School Target- 96%**  
**Total this week: 95.2%**

### GOLD AWARD

Y1 St Brigid 98.8%

### SILVER AWARD

Y3 St Marie 98.5%

### BRONZE AWARD

St Maximillian 98.1%

## Class Attendance:

- Y4- St Francis 97.6%
- Nur- St Mary 96.8%
- Y5- St Josephine 96.5%
- Y6- St Joan 96.4%
- Y2- St Clare 95.8%
- Y6- St Daniel 94.3%
- Y5 St Joseph 91.1%







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## Catholic life of the school



### Palm Sunday- 24th March

*Did you know that Jesus' entry into Jerusalem is recorded in all four Gospels?*

In John's Gospel, just prior to Jesus entering into Jerusalem for the week of Passover, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. Many had come to know about this and were amazed.

Imagine if that were to happen today. You would certainly be amazed or at least very curious about the miracle worker. The scribes and Pharisees, however, were filled with envy. Their envy reached a climax when Jesus entered the city riding on a donkey while the people laid palm branches before him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" The scribes and Pharisees couldn't handle the popularity of Jesus and the love so many people had for Him.

Today, many of you would ask-What was Jesus thinking? Jesus was so determined to go to Jerusalem for Passover. He knew what waited for Him, but He did not hesitate.

#### HOLY WEEK TASK

**With your child, why don't you...**

**Bring some of the Holy Week Scripture passages below to life by making your own palm branches or washing each other's feet.**

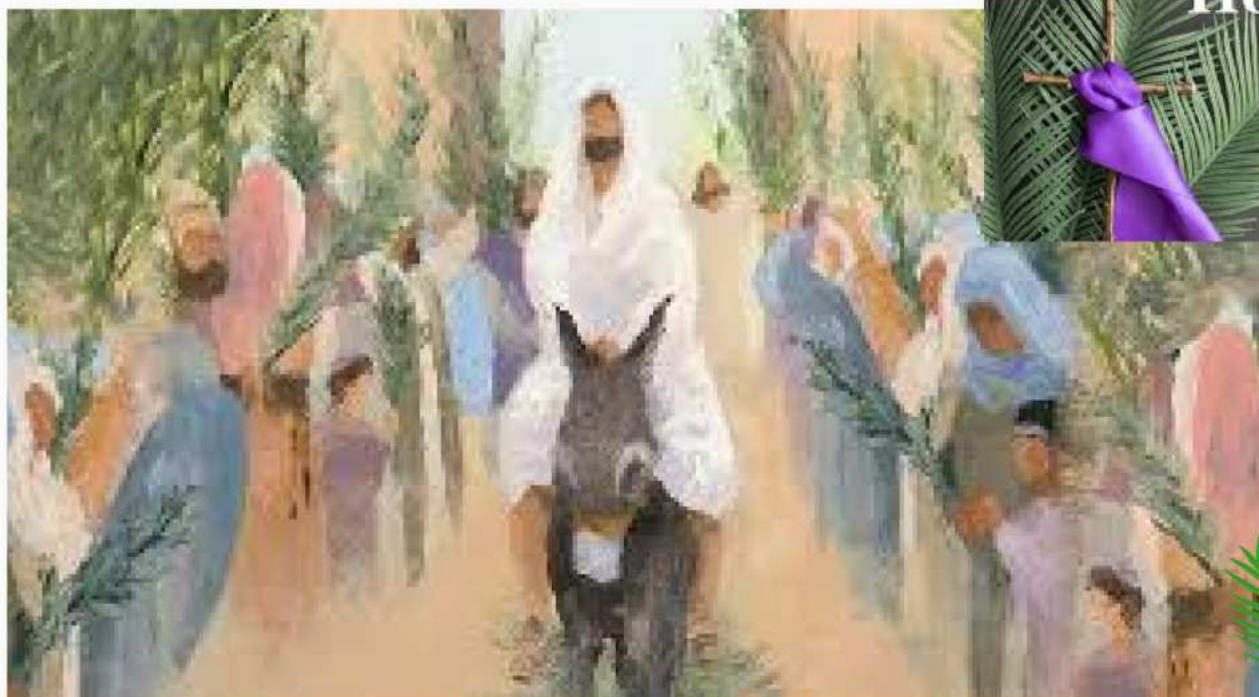
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**Palm Sunday - John 12:12-13**

**Jesus washes the disciples feet - John 13:4-5, 12-15**

**Talk about what practical ways you can help and serve others.**

**What actions can show care to the people around you?**







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## Catholic life of the school

### Year 2 Pupil-led Celebration of the Word

This week St Clare class shared their Celebration of the word assembly about opportunities with the whole school on Wednesday morning. They shared the story of the washing of the feet and how we have the opportunity to be like Jesus, showing how we care for and love our world and each other.







## St Joseph Feast Day

Reception children celebrated their class saint St. Joseph.

'Did you know that St. Joseph was like a super cool dad to Jesus? He taught Jesus how to build things and helped him grow up to be strong and kind!' St. Joseph was caring and made sure Jesus and his mom, Mary, always had a safe home and food to eat. He worked really hard to take care of them, just like our dads take care of us! St. Joseph teaches us to be loving and helpful, just like he was. He reminds us that families are important, and we should always look out for each other.

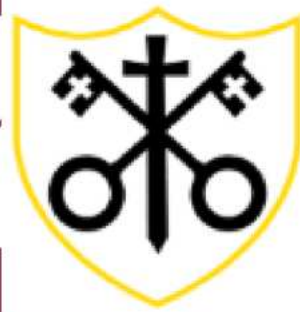
In reception class children celebrated St. Joseph's Day by doing fun stuff. Children made white paper lilies, which symbolise his pure soul. They also designed and made purple bracelets and put together a modern tool box for the carpenter St Joseph.







# SS Peter & Paul Newsletter



## KS1 Charity Cake Sale for Catholic Children Society



Wow!

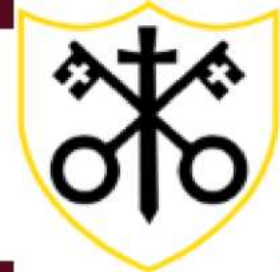
What a lot of delicious cakes and a community full of star bakers! Thank you for supporting St Brigid and St Clare Class charity cake sale this week. Thank you for all your creative bakes and donations. A special shout out to a special nanny in our school community who made 200 beautifully decorated cupcakes for our sale. Thank you to everyone who came and supported, by purchasing a delicious treat after school on Wednesday and Thursday .

The total raised was £284.05 for the Catholic Children's Society. We are blown away by your generosity and this is an incredible start to our whole school fundraising target of £600.

Look out next week for further class fundraising events.







## Stations of the Cross Service at SS Peter and Paul



On: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>

March 2024

At: 9:30am

Where: In the  
school hall

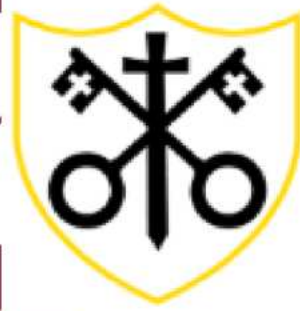
Parents welcome





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## Music News

### Hands On Day

#### Hands On Day – Try a Musical Instrument!

Merton Music Foundation will be hosting its popular 'Hands On' event where children aged 7+ can try a range of brass, woodwind, guitar, singing, accordion and string instruments in a fun and relaxed environment, to help decide which one is right for them.

Saturday 20 April, 9:45am – 11am and 10:45am – 12pm at Merton Music Centre, South Wimbledon (Merton Abbey Primary School, High Path, SW19 2JY).

£8 per child, booking is essential.

To find out more, visit: [www.mmf.org.uk/handson](http://www.mmf.org.uk/handson)



What's next for your musical child?

## HANDS ON DAY

A CHANCE FOR YOUR CHILD TO TRY A RANGE OF INSTRUMENTS TO SEE WHICH ONE IS RIGHT FOR THEM.

- ACCORDION - BRASS - GUITARS -
- SINGING - STRINGS - WOODWIND -

SAT 20 APRIL  
£8 PER CHILD  
SUITABLE FOR AGES 7+

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION  
MERTON ABBEY PRIMARY SCHOOL  
HIGH PATH, SOUTH WIMBLEDON, SW19 2JY

BOOKING ESSENTIAL!  
[WWW.MMF.ORG.UK/HANDSON](http://WWW.MMF.ORG.UK/HANDSON)







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## Achievement & Success

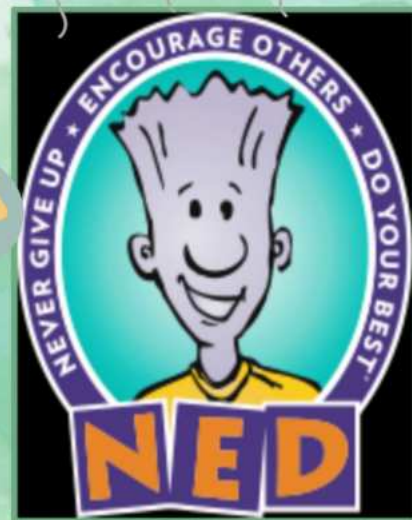
### NED CHAMPIONS THIS WEEK ARE:

ST JOSEPH- MAX  
ST BRIGID- LAMAR  
ST CLARE- PATRICIA  
ST MARIE- JOSIAH  
ST MAXIMILLIAN- JETHRO  
ST FRANCIS- DAVID  
ST JOSEPHINE- NATHAN  
ST DANIEL- OLIVIA  
ST JOAN- SHASHINI

### MUSIC NED CHAMPIONS ARE:

ABEIKPENG (ST CLARE)  
AARA (Y4)

Congratulations to all of our Ned Champions on their incredible achievements and talents this week.







# SS Peter & Paul Newsletter

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## Parent Information

### ENCOURAGING OPEN CONVERSATIONS AT HOME

With tricky topics and occasional clashes of opinion, it can be challenging to maintain an environment where children feel able to talk candidly and honestly. However, encouraging such conversations helps to develop trust – making it easier to unpack even sensitive subjects as children get older. Here are our top tips for promoting open conversations at home.

#### 1 CREATE A SAFE SPACE

Criticism, blaming or shaming can all prevent children from feeling emotionally safe – while showing affection, positive attention and an interest in what a child has to say builds their sense of security. These formative years are when children's opinions and values begin to take shape, so it's important to provide a non-judgmental environment in which to discuss them – especially if their opinions differ from your own.

#### 2 CONSIDER OTHER OUTLETS

Some children may find it easier to talk while they're participating in another activity such as drawing, writing, walking or sport. If it's possible, taking part in these activities together presents you with an opportunity to communicate while doing something side by side. A child may feel less pressure that way and can be more inclined to open up of their own accord.

#### 3 NORMALISE CHATS ABOUT FEELINGS

Incorporate mental health and emotional wellbeing into everyday conversations, using age-appropriate language and examples to help children understand their emotions. Ask questions like "How are you feeling today?", "What was the best and worst part of your day?", "If you could start today again, what would you do differently?" and "Is there anything you want to talk about?"

#### 4 LISTEN ACTIVELY

When children express themselves, make it obvious that you're listening closely and giving them your full attention. Maintain eye contact and validate their feelings without immediately trying to solve the problem. It's not helpful to dismiss their issues as childish or "teenage angst" – or to assume that they'll simply "get over" whatever they're feeling. Children don't have your life experience; their resilience is still developing as they learn to push through difficulties and handle problems.

#### 5 ASK OPEN QUESTIONS

Encourage children to share their thoughts by asking open questions about their feelings and experiences. Closed questions (such as "Did you enjoy school today?") are more likely to elicit a simple "yes" or "no" response. Instead, you could ask things like "Who did you spend time with at break?" or "Who did you sit with at lunchtime?"

#### 6 RESPECT THEIR BOUNDARIES

If a child isn't ready to talk to about something yet, respect their boundaries: this reinforces that their feelings are important and worthy of consideration. Ideally, you're aiming to let them know you care without smothering them, so just make it clear that you're there for them whenever they're ready to chat. Gentle, regular check-ins can sometimes be the best form of progress.

#### 7 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Model open, honest and healthy communication in front of children and young people. Try to demonstrate kindness when talking about others and yourself, because if children hear adults being overly harsh, critical or judgmental, or see them having unrealistic expectations of themselves, it makes them more likely to adopt and repeat this behaviour themselves as they grow.

#### 8 HAVE REGULAR CHECK-INS

Check in with children periodically to discuss how they're feeling and what's going on in their lives. This could be a weekly or monthly conversation, where the child has an opportunity to share whatever's on their mind. For parents and carers, getting away from the house and other distractions might be productive here: you could consider regular trips to a coffee shop or a café, or just a weekly walk.

#### 9 PROVIDE RESOURCES

It's often beneficial to let children know about other support that's available to them if they're struggling to talk to you specifically. Encourage them to talk to school counsellors, trusted adults or even a therapist, if necessary – while normalising this route and dispelling the harmful stigma around asking for help. Older children could engage with resources such as Kooth or YoungMinds.

#### 10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION

It's beneficial to praise children for expressing their feelings honestly – emphasising how important it is to talk about their emotions and how proud you are of them for doing so. This can be especially pivotal for boys, who often experience more of a stigma around talking frankly about their feelings and their mental health – a barrier that can be overcome, with enough love and support.

#### Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bateman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.



#WakeUp  
Wednesday

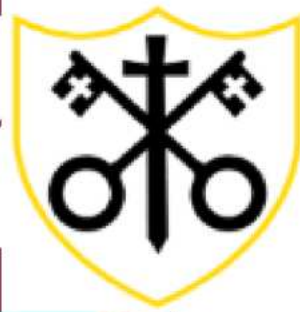
The  
National  
College





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Free lunch  
included!

## LEAP!

Easter Holidays Drama Project

8th to the 12th April

Join Attic Theatre Company & Green Arts Centre for a week of drama activities this Easter!

For ages 8 to 14

10am to 3pm daily

Location: Green Arts Centre

Inside Cricket Green School, CR4 3AF

To sign up, complete this registration form [here](#) or visit Attic's [website](#).

Please note, places are allocated on a first come first serve basis and registration does not guarantee a place on the programme.

For more information, or to discuss how we can support individual needs, contact [info@attictheatrecompany.com](mailto:info@attictheatrecompany.com)

