



St. Aidan's Catholic Primary School, Winstanley OUR SPRING TERM NEWSLETTER

April 2026

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Dear parents, carers and families,

This has been another exciting term that seems to have finished in a flash! We have much to celebrate and be thankful for. We are proud to have a few insights into our Spring Term journey to share with you.

Catholic Life and Mission of School

Our children are committed to following the teaching and example of Jesus. This has been evident during so many events this term. Our **Senior Prefects** supported our **Sustainability and Climate Change Plan** and shared their work during a whole school assembly. Alongside our **Hands Disciples** they led our **Children's Mental Health Week** and our **Easter Service**. We have supported CAFOD by our **Big Lent Walk** initiative to raise funds for communities around the world alongside the donations made by our generous parents for The Brick.



The Catholic Social Teaching Principle of 'Preferential Option for the Poor' was humbly evident in our annual **Children's Charity Day**, which took place in March. This is one of our favourite days of the year. Year 5 and 6 children led the way with 26 stalls, and like St Aidan himself, they spread the Word of God in their actions, supporting a vast array of charities. With the support of the rest of the school and families we raised £984 on the day. This is truly incredible. It was an emotional and proud day.



Our children and their families never fail to inspire us with generosity and support. The Head-boy and Head-girl represented school at the Wigan Borough Member of Youth Parliament Inauguration Ceremony where they received an engraved plaque and framed certificate to recognise our outstanding support and high engagement in giving children a voice. Deacon Jim supported one of our Year 5 pupils and her family during their baptism. We held class Stay, Pray and Celebrates with Year 5/6S, Year 3/4-B, Year 1/2C, Year 5G, Year 3S and Year 1C sharing their work and guiding families through reflective celebrations of their topics.



"To change the world we must be good to those who cannot repay us."

Pope Francis.





During the **National Year of Reading**, we continue to promote the joy of reading in all our learning. **World Book Day** was a great success, and many costumes filled the school. Children enjoyed a range of activities and different Year groups came together to share their favourite stories.



FOSA - Our incredibly hardworking group of parents continued to support us this term, providing the amazing Easter Raffle prizes, with the winners being drawn during the final week. They have organised the spring discos, provided Mother's Day gifts via their Beautiful Blooms stalls, tuck-shops and continue the pre-



loved uniform stalls. With money raised on your behalf, they have set us an incredible target: £20,000 to develop the outdoor area off the KS2 playground.

The Curriculum continued to excite everyone this term. In line with our Mission Statement, our children have a 'passion for learning and an enjoyment for discovery and experiences in life'. The children are always keen to talk about their learning and have done this with our staff subject leaders this term.



In **English**, Year 5 were rightly proud of their wonderful writing and shared it with Mrs Farrimond. Our Reception children have been exploring the key text *Lost and Found*. After learning about materials and exploring floating and sinking, they designed a boat for a penguin thinking about their prior learning. They loved testing them in the water area and adapting their work, even if it didn't always quite go to plan.



In **Maths**, number work was challenging all classes along with the compact method in Year 4 - including writing their calculations on the tables!

In **Science**, so many topics have been covered including animals, living things and habitats, floating and sinking and lots of scientific enquiry.





Once again, **healthy living, sport and exercise** have played an important part of the success of the term. For our mental health and fitness children have all enjoyed two PE sessions every week experiencing different skills and sports across the whole PE curriculum, with a particular focus on gymnastics and striking and fielding sports. **Year 3 and 4** participated in School Games Action Festival. The **Year 3/4 girls' football festival** was a great success. **Year 6** completed their level 2 road safety cycle training with Wigan Council. Our **Curling Team** enjoyed their morning of sport and the boys **Football Team** experienced amazing success in both league and cup games. Wigan Warriors came and challenged our stamina as well as mental health and one of our parents danced her way to help Nursery children with their movement and strength.



After-school clubs also continued with every class in **KSI and 2** having access to a fun and sporty club.

During **Art lessons**, **Reception** children have been learning about the artist Mondrian. The children learned all about primary colours and abstract art before creating their own artwork. **Years 1 and 2** have been studying Drawing and Collage and the artist Kandinsky. In **DT**, **Year 3 and 4** have been building mini greenhouses, a fantastic study and design of structures, whilst **Year 5 and 6** made their own burgers.



Our **Personal Development Curriculum** continues to guide how we develop the children to ensure we are preparing them to be good citizens in a world where they can shine brightly and guide others. An inspirational example was the Wigan Borough Dance Festival in March, where **Year 5 and 6** children joined 60 schools and dance groups over five-nights at The Edge for a true celebration of dance and performance.





Our **Enrichment** calendar, experiences to enrich and develop the curriculum, were evident during the amazing Pop-Up Village where our **Nursery** children took part in imaginative role play across a variety of settings, including a shop, builders' yard, doctors, vets and fire station. We were also very grateful to three parents who kindly gave their time to talk about their jobs. The children met a veterinary nurse, who brought along some of the tools she uses, as well as cuddly pets to practise on. We also welcomed several police officers; the children had the opportunity to try on uniform and even sit inside a police carrier. In our final week, a dance teacher visited and taught the children a short routine. We are very thankful to all our visitors for helping to bring our learning to life.



We also take the time to celebrate the children in how they represent us away from school. To the national trampolining champion, the scouts on their midnight walk and the dancers, we are proud of you all!



Holy Week Celebrations: congratulations to all the children who took part in our Easter Bonnet and Design an Easter Scene events. The skill and craftsmanship on show were amazing. Thank you also to our Senior Prefects, Hands Disciples and small choir who led us through our Easter Service in church.



Thank you to our children, families, parish, staff and governors who have ensured another happy and successful term.

Have a wonderful family time this Easter.

See you all on **Monday, 20th April!** Mrs Farrimond

