



Dear Parents

We have enjoyed a very busy week at school – full of visits and visitors. We find that these opportunities offer such enrichment for our children and we are so lucky to have staff that work to provide these experiences.

Burwell House

Our Year 5 children visited Burwell House in Cambridgeshire this week for a 3 day/2 night residential. I accompanied 5S from Monday to Wednesday and Mr Kelliher joined 5P from Wednesday to Friday. The trip was an opportunity to compare rural and urban life and included a village walk, identification of features of older properties, street and traffic surveys, clay tile work and creating a programme in a purpose built TV studio. Children in 5P also attended Mass on Thursday evening in Newmarket to celebrate the feast of All Saints. We have received such lovely compliments about our children, their manners and behaviour and are delighted with the success of this visit. Well done and thankyou to all involved.

Below is the lovely email sent to me by Fr Christopher the Parish Priest of Newmarket.



Dear Miss McGuigan,

As parish priest of Our Lady Immaculate Newmarket, I am writing to say what a pleasure it was to have the year 5 children at Mass last night for the All Saints' Day Mass. The behaviour of the children was impeccable as was their attentiveness and reverence during Mass and this was commented on by a significant number of people as they left Mass last night. The staff and pupils are certainly a credit to the school and this confirms my belief in the essential contribution that catholic schools can offer to the education of the young people of our country.

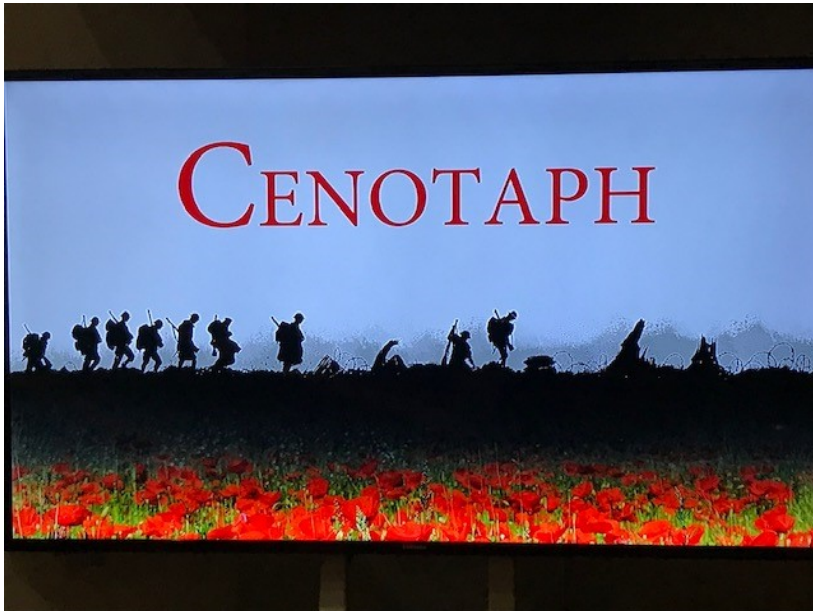
With every good wish and the assurance of my prayers,

Fr Christopher Smith
Parish priest of Newmarket

Remembrance Sunday

We shall be holding a two minute silence on Friday 9th November at 11.00 am. This year the Royal British Legion have asked us to sell a variety of poppy memorabilia.

There are reflector poppies, pencils, rubbers, rulers and pencil sharpeners. These are available to purchase from the office, or at break time at the Snack Shack.



Commonwealth Choir

Members of our Commonwealth Choir sung at the Guards' Chapel in Wellington Barracks, for a special performance of *Cenotaph*—Dedicated to all who served King and Country, composed by Major Simon Haw MBE.

*'Marking the centenary of The Armistice of November 1918, The Coldstream Guards Band present the first performance of **Cenotaph** - a poignant musical reflection of the service, co-operation and sacrifice of soldiers, sailors and airmen during the First World War 1914-1918'*

Gruffalo trip

On Wednesday the reception children went to Thorndon Country Park for the Gruffalo Trail. The children had lots of fun, finding the characters and making Gruffalo crumble.

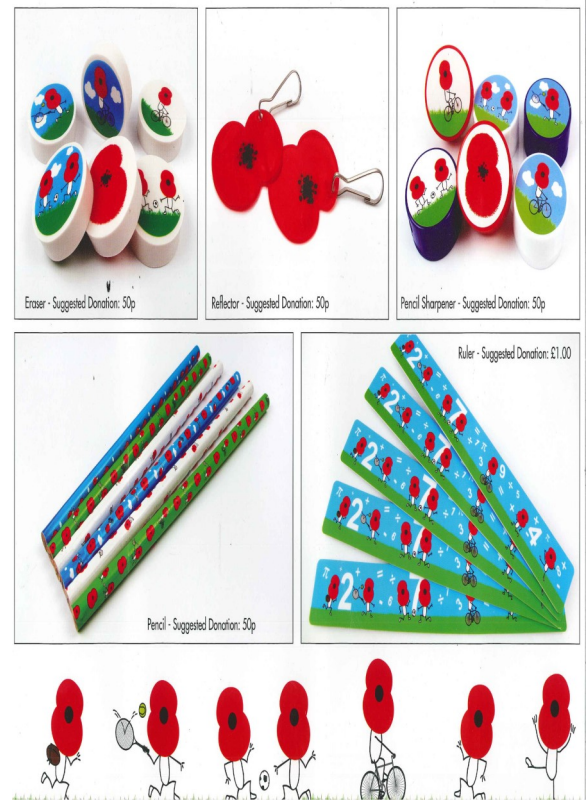


Firework Lunch

We have made some adjustments to our menu to enable us to provide a special Firework Lunch next Monday 5th November. The menu has been sent to parents via Parentmail.

Pupils' Phones

Only those students in year 5 & 6, who walk to or from school alone, are permitted to bring their phone in to school. Phones brought in are to be given in to the office first thing and picked up before going home.



RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



WEEKLY Reflections

Based on the gospel for Sunday 4 November - Mark 12:28-34

"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."

This Sunday we are asked to think about love. When asked which of the commandments is the most important, Jesus' answer was to love God and to love your neighbour.

Here at CAFOD we believe that through love we can make a world of difference. By showing compassion to others, we can help them to reach their full potential.

Saint John of the Cross said, "In the evening of life, we will be judged on love alone". We are all part of a global family and we are called to work together to create a more loving and peaceful world.

In the coming weeks we are holding our annual Memorial Masses across the country in honour of all our friends and family who have sadly died.

May we take this time to reflect on the impact they have had on us as individuals and the world as a whole. They showed us what it was to care immensely and to share their love of God with those around them.

We pray that we may emulate their kindness and continue the work that they started - bringing our brothers and sisters around the world together through love and compassion.

God of light,

Today, on All Souls' Day, we pray for our loved ones who have died, as we remember the kindness that they brought to this world and to our lives. We pray that we may find comfort in you during times of grief and that they may find peace in your arms. Fill us with your love and let your compassion shine through us, so that all members of our global family may flourish.

Amen.

"Holiness is the most attractive face of the Church...The Lord asks everything of us, & in return he offers us true life, the happiness for which we were created. He wants us to be saints and not to settle for a bland and mediocre existence" Pope Francis



All Saints Mass

We were reminded during Mass yesterday that we are all called to be Saints. Pope Francis has recently said the following:

"Let us ask ourselves what side we are on: that of heaven or that of earth? Do we live for the Lord or for ourselves, for eternal happiness or for some fulfilment now...it is good to be encouraged by the saints who did not live their lives by half measures."

Years 5 & 6 Football

After doing brilliantly to qualify from the Passmores event, our boys football team competed in the finals at Mark Hall on Friday 19th October, alongside 7 other schools.

We battled well and defended superbly, managing to keep two clean sheets in 0-0 draws with Church Langley and Little Parndon. We narrowly lost 1-0 to Nazeing, who were an excellent side and were the overall winners. They will now represent Harlow at the Essex finals.

It is a tremendous achievement to be named among the top 8 boys football teams in Harlow and we look forward to next years event!

Congratulations to Gene, James, Roman, Miller, David, Leo, Oliver, Dawid, Liam and Lucas.



This week 4E have been in charge of the chickens and have been out every day collecting, cleaning and dating the eggs, making sure the chickens beds are nice and cosy and clean, ensuring they have fresh water each day and their food is kept topped up. It has been VERY muddy round there this week due to the rain so the children have had to take extra care and have noticed that the chickens aren't huge lovers of the rain as they are unable to take their daily bath which consists of rolling around in (dry) mud. This is known as a dust bath and the chickens lay and roll around in the mud whilst ruffling their feathers and getting mud all over. After quite a while they stand up shake off all the dirt and they are then clean ready to start their day.



Next week it will be 4C's turn to take care of them so please ensure they have wellington boots.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to 1S, who are the winners of the KS1 Attendance Trophy this week with 97%. The winners of the KS2 Attendance Trophy is 4E, achieving 99%

Attending school is so important and makes a huge difference to your child's learning.

Please ensure you notify us of your child's absence by 9am either by telephone or using the Parentmail report absence option. We need full details of why your child is unable to attend school.

Parents of children below attendance targets will be invited in for a meeting with the Educational Welfare Officer.

RB	96%
RL	96%
1D	96%
1S	97%
2C	96%
2HD	92%
3MT	96%
3N	95%
4C	97%
4E	99%
5P	95%
5S	95%
6CA	97%
6ND	94%

Happy Birthday to... Eloise De-Souza, Oliver Wuzik, Harrison Comerford, Eviliija Kucinskaite, Liam Canavan, Mya Matunge, Christopher Annobil, Vincent Long, Shayden Sesay, Morayo Bolaji, Oliwier Slawikowski, Julian Joefczyk, Louis Sontag.



Merit Certificates:

1D: Helith Alkegamage, for his fantastic shape work
 1S: Sophie-Jai Henry, for her outstanding attitude to work this week
 2C: Mischa Hyde, for knowing the properties and naming 2D and 3D shapes
 2HD: Alayna Sellings, for being an amazing listener
 3MT: Louis Sontag, for his effort and attitude to his work and learning this week
 3N: Lily Vetori, for her amazing home research and finished product
 4C: Jayden Amorim, for a terrific attitude to homework
 4E: Faraya Honan, for thoughtful contributions in R.E.
 5P: James Kelly, for writing a thoughtful poem in Literacy
 5S: Lily Thurgood, Artiom Petrov & Lochrin McGinty, for their courage and determination at Burwell
 6CA: Jack Cater, Patricia Ejembi, Niamh O'Rourke & Ose Ebhabha, for their exemplary representation of Holy Cross at the Cenotaph Concert
 6N: Kavindya Alkegamage, for excellent effort with her homework
 Learning Mentor: Finn Thomas, for being a wonderful door monitor in the mornings
 Walking Bus: Zach Gauci, Ashdon Cunningham

Diary Dates

Menu Week 2

Monday 5th November

Fairy & Elf Garden 3.15-4.30
 KS1 Football 3.15-4.15
 Dance 3.15-4.15
 Year 2 Homework 3.15-4.15
 6CA Swimming

Tuesday 6th November

Dodgeball 3.15- 4.15
 KS2 Homework 3.15- 4.15
 Choir 3.15-4.20
 Football Team 3.15-4.30
 Year5 Road Safety Day
 1S Library Visit

Wednesday 7th November

Netball 3.15-4.15
 Chess Club 12.30-1.30
 Karate 3.15-4.15
 Reception Family Lunch 11.30
 KS2 require a packed lunch
 Individual Photographs
 4E Eucharist Service 9.10

Thursday 8th November

Newspaper 3.15-4.15
 Choir 3.15-4.20
 KS2 Football 3.15-4.15
 4C Library Visit

Friday 9th November

Karate 3.15-4.15
 Multisports 3.15-4.15
 Year 1 Trip
 Year 5/6 Dodgeball Tournament, Mark Hall 12.45-3

Sunday 11th November

Choir to the Festival of Remembrance

House Points

**Congratulations to the
winning house St Geroge's**

Miss S McGuigan
Headteacher

Please download our News & Events App for dates for the year. Details are available on the schools website under News & Events at www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk

Mr S Kelliher
Deputy Headteacher