



A Hearty Day

We celebrated St. Valentine's Day with a difference this year but our hearts were still at the heart of the day. We held a fundraising day for CPAD (Community Public Access Defibrillators) in Ingleby Barwick. Their mission is to get much-needed defibrillators installed to cover all areas, ensuring local residents are within access of a defibrillator within a 500 metre radius. We were joined by Dougie the Defibrillator Dog who led us in a special assembly and work out. Our kind hearted community managed to raise £140 and also learned how important exercise is for our hearts.



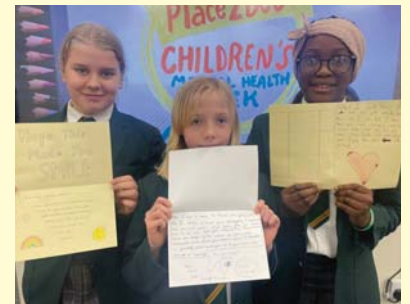
The Great Outdoors

Our Eco-Warriors were given a great hand by Groundworks to give our school allotment and outdoor prayer areas a much needed clean up in preparation for Spring. Allotment and flower beds were cleared and classes throughout the school will be ready to plant some vegetables ready to sow later in the spring. There was also time for a bit of bird watching too!



Mental health Week- Let's connect

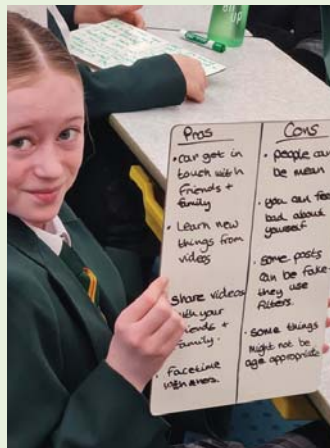
Children's mental health week was celebrated in school 6th - 12th February. The theme was "Let's Connect" and classes completed activities that helped them connect with one another, the parish community and with nature in the school grounds. The Well-being Champions group were involved in preparing this week. During the week, we made bird feeders for our gardens so that we could connect with God's creation and made kindness pebbles to place around our community for people to find positive messages. We also made cards for patients at Roseberry Park Hospital who are struggling with their



mental health and invited carers into school for a special Healing and Anointing service. We made book marks and quizzes for residents at the Poplars Care Home to help them keep healthy and active minds. A great week was had and pupils and staff were reminded that the importance of maintaining meaningful connections with one another is a key driver in avoiding loneliness and anxiety, so it is important that young people establish friendships which can allow them to support one another.

Internet Safety Day

One of the biggest challenges facing pupils and parents in today's technological age is keeping safe on-line. The purpose of this event was to raise the awareness of pupils knowing how to keep themselves safe online and knowing what to do if they did not feel safe. Pupils learned and reflected upon how the internet can be a great place to gain knowledge providing it is safe and appropriate to do so. We also have some sessions planned for parents to learn how to take precautions to ensure that their children are safe while online.



Arrivederci... for now!

At the time of writing, some of our Year 5 and 6 pupils were boarding a flight to travel to Claviere in Italy to enjoy a week of skiing. They could contain their excitement and judging by the events on twitter, they are having a fantastic time. More news in the next edition!





Little People, Big Dreams!

As usual, it has been a busy time with our youngest of learners and we want them to begin to have big dreams for their futures. Developing an early love of books and reading is very important to us. The children learned all about what we see when we look up and we explored this through the book-The Blue Balloon. They are developing their understanding of the world and awareness of History, Science and Geography. The children learned about Amelia Earhart and Jane Goodall and even built their own aircraft. They also developed a sense of the past and present and where in the world things happen. They also celebrated Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day.



Time for the Gallery

There has been some excellent work produced this half-term based on some of our local artists using some well known landmarks. We are proud to be part of Teesside!



Thornaby Library Visits

Our local libraries play an important role in supporting schools in the education and literacy of our young people. They provide countless resources as well as safe meeting places for children to encounter the world of literature. Our early readers visit the library on Gilmour Street while our older readers visit the central library. For many of our children, it was the first time that they had visited the library. Many thanks to our local libraries and librarians for making us feel so welcome and we look forward to many more visits and borrowing some fantastic books to read!



Carlton

Our Year 4 children enjoyed their residential stay in North Yorkshire. A wonderful group had a wonderful visit earlier than usual so had to brave the cold winter weather. The group enjoyed the usual activities like gully walking, weaselling at the Wainstones, orienteering and the high ropes challenge. The evening campfires were enjoyed by all the children showcased their talents to keep each other entertained. As always, their excellent behaviour and conduct were commented upon by the Carlton staff. We are already looking forward to next year!



World Book Day

At St. Patrick's, we celebrate World Book Day by encouraging our children to enjoy reading, not simply dress up for the day. The purpose of this day is to enjoy books and encourage children to have a love of reading. Our little ones dressed up as their favourite book characters while the upper school designed activities around the theme of a book to share with one another. Classes partnered up and great fun was had and shared with visiting parents and grandparents. We also held a "Story Jar" competition where we invited children to think about how their favourite story book could be represented in a simple jar. Pupils creatively create items to represent stories and characters.





Sporting Scene

We have continued to be successful in Nicholas Postgate Sports tournaments. Pictured are our Dodgeball and Cross Country teams proudly showing their winners medals.



HSBC Money Matters

We welcomed representatives from HSBC to deliver sessions on financial capability. The sessions encouraged our pupils to consider the choices that they make around money, based on needs and wants, in particular exploring if it is possible to eat well on a limited budget. Older pupils were taught how to recognise fraud and how people can protect themselves and online identity. They also looked at the cost of buying toys and how long it would take to save up for a toy. The sessions helped to understand choices that we can make around spending and saving and that others may make different choices. Financial literacy is more than just maths and numeracy as it significantly influences other academic subject areas and societal learning. Beyond calculations it is important that young people build the skills to make decisions around money and understand how finances impact the world around them in order to support their future economic wellbeing and mental health.



Shedding a little light and love to Ukraine

Many schools in the area were approached by kind hearted Jean Hart to help with a project that she had created. Jean had made it her mission to try and send light and warmth to homes affected by air strikes in Ukraine. Former headteacher, Jean of Throston Primary School in Hartlepool came up with the innovative idea to send 1,000 candles to Ukrainian families in need, with a little help from schoolchildren and their families across the Stockton area. We accepted the challenge to support Jean. Candles were brought into school and decorated with families who came into school to help. We managed to collect and decorate 200 candles for Jean so we know that lots of families in Ukraine will benefit directly from our kindness.



Catholic Life Awards

We have Recently achieved two very important awards- the Cafod Live Simply Award and the Oscar Romero Award. These are two great achievements for our mission as a Catholic school. The CAFOD award is about showing how we live simply and how we try to live in solidarity with those in poverty, how we sustainably live with creation.

We live in solidarity with those in poverty through supporting a range of charities through prayer and donations (Children in Need, Teesside Hospice, Little Sprouts, Thornaby Foodbank, Books2Africa, Shoeboxes and fundraising for Ukraine. We live sustainably with creation through growing fruit and vegetables in school grounds to be used to make food e.g apple crumble, potato salad. We also develop our school and church gardens to help our environment through planting and making bird feeders.

We were also the first school in the Middlesbrough Diocese to be awarded with The Oscar Romero Award. Oscar Romero was a Bishop who lived in El Salvador in the 1950s and fought for equality and the rights of the working poor. It is an award given to schools who show a commitment to including Catholic Social Teaching within their curriculum. The promotion of caring for creation and consideration of humankind is a strong aspect throughout our curriculum at St. Patrick's. Bishop Terry will present these awards in school.

