Our Lady & St John's Newsletter

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Volume 7 Issue 8

24th February 2025

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the half term break to what promises to be another busy term.

The season of Lent begins next week with Ash Wednesday – we will be receiving ashes at mass on Wednesday and all parents are welcome to join us. Our Lent journey will start with our Big walk for CAFOD – details below.

Nursery Applications for September 2025

If your child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022, they can start in the nursery class in September 2025. To apply for a place please download an application form from the school website. Please post or email completed forms to the school office. We have both 15 hour and 30 places. Tell all your friends and relations about our wonderful school nursery!

Please note that the closing date for Nursery applications is **10th March 2025.**

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs. Cunningham

Stars of the Week
24th February 2025

Rec : Thiago & Ryan
Yr1: Bianca & Xavier
Yr2: Miki & Alexander
Yr3: Arnisa & Giorgio
Yr4 Vinnie & Chloe
Yr5: Tristan & Saskia
Yr6: Staffro & Francis R.



Red Nose Day

We will be celebrating Red Nose Day on ***Friday 21st March***.
We are asking ALL the children to come to school dressed in **'Red'**

We are a PEANUT & NUT FREE SCHOOL

Due to severe allergies of some pupils and staff, please ensure no nut or peanut products are brought into school.



Safeguarding

The wellbeing of our children is of paramount Importance to all staff.
Should any parent have a concern regarding a child's wellbeing, please inform the school's designated safeguarding officer:
Mrs Cunningham or in her absence the deputy safeguarding
officer Mrs Sheehan. In cases where school staff have concerns, they have a statutory duty to discuss the issue with their line manager, Mrs Cunningham to seek further advice.

Congratulations to the children in St Andrew's who received the most house points over the last week.

The children in St. Andrew's will receive 15 minutes of extra play in Key stage 1.

The children in St Andrew's in Key stage 2 will receive a Homework pass for this weeks' homework.

House point winners for this week

HOUSES	Score
St Patrick	187
St Andrew	198
St George	165
St David	192
St John	164
Overall Winner	St Andrew's



Punctuality & Attendance

POSITION	YEAR	%	Lates
1st	5	100	2
2nd	Rec	96.3	1
3rd	6	96	1
4th	3	96	0
5th	2	95.5	0
6th	Nur	94.2	2
7th	1	92.8	0
8th	4	87.7	2





Congratulations to Year 5 on their 100% attendance!

Important Dates February/March

Monday 3rd March
- Scholastic Bok fair all week

Tuesday 4th March
- Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday 5th March
9:00 Ash Wednesday Mass in church
3:30-6:00 Y3 Parents evening

Thursday 6th March
- World Book day

Friday 7th March
- CAFOD big Lenten walk

Tuesday 11th March
2:45 Y1 Celebration assembly
- Y2 trip to Florence Nightingale museum

Wednesday 12h March
8:30&2:00 Nursery & Reception Stay & Play
- Y3/4 Football

Thursday 13th March
8:30&2:00 Nursery & Reception Stay & Play
- Y6 British museum trip
- Y5 Netball borough competition

Friday 14th March
- Poet visit

Friday 21st March
- Red Nose day
- Y6 Road safety theatre
- Y3&4 Best Football

Monday 24th March
6:00 GB meeting

Tuesday 25th March
- Gunnersbury Park workshop Yr3

Thursday 27th March
- Y3&4 Multi skills festival

Friday 28th March
2:45 Y3 Celebration service

Monday 31st March
- Y5&6 Tag rugby

Tuesday 1st April
9:00 Y4&5 Lenten service

Wednesday 2nd April
8:50 Achievement assembly

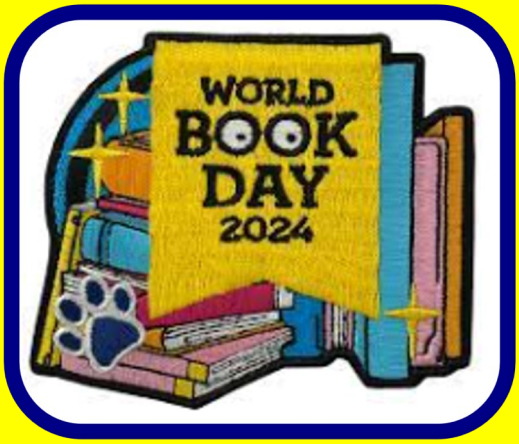
Thursday 3rd April
9:00 End of term mass

Friday 4th April
1:00 End of term

World Book Day

At OLSJ, we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 6th March. This is a wonderful opportunity to explore authors and stories that the children have not experienced before.

As with every World Book Day, children will be able to get dressed up as book characters and take part in fun book-based activities throughout the day. Prizes will be handed out to the best costumes in each year group.

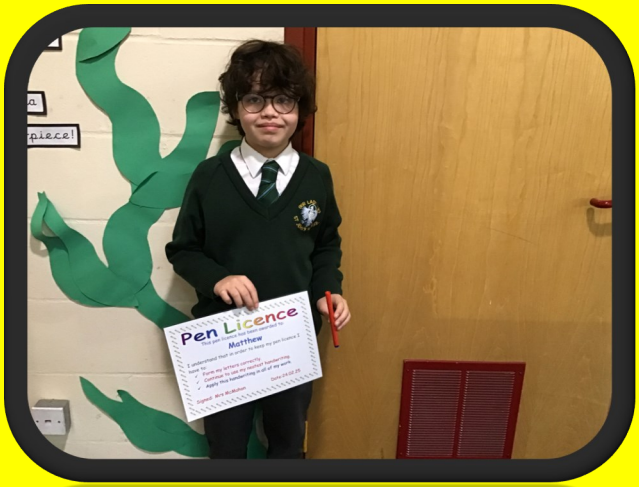


We raised a grand total of £671.47 for NSPCC.

Thank you to everyone who brought in cakes and who bought cakes. A big thank you also to everyone that made a donation online.

Pen Licence

Congratulations to Matthew on receiving his pen licence





Y4 cake sale

A big thank you to everyone who bought in cakes and who purchased cakes.

Year 4 raised £138

Poetry by Heart competition

This week in assembly, we were pleased to be able to announce the winners from each class for the Poetry by Heart competition. There had been much deliberation amongst the staff but we could only choose one from each year. The winners will now be entered into the Poetry by Heart contest where they might be given the chance to perform at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London.

A big congratulations to all who learnt their poems - you did a wonderful job.

Well done to:

Dawid (Y3), Sophie M. & Laura (Y4) Theo (Y5) Naana, Simone & Emilia (Y6)



CAFOD The Big Lent Walk

Mini Vinnie's - Cafod's Big Lent Walk 2025

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 5th March. During this season we focus on Praying, Fasting and Giving.

Our special message is that the whole school will be taking part in a Big Lent Walk on Friday 7th March, while dressed in purple (the liturgical colour for Lent) green (for growth) or both.

We will be walking in solidarity with our global brothers and sisters, overcoming injustice and poverty. Every step we take will make a real difference to families overcoming injustice and poverty. This is a great way to put our faith in action.

Please donate what you can on Parentmail.

We pray that this time will be filled with hope for everyone and as we draw nearer to God, may we be able to see signs of the Spirit at work - in creation, in community and in our global family. A better world needs all of us, so please help us to help those in need.

Thank you.

https://cafod.org.uk/news/uk-news/dermot-o-leary-supports-cafod-s-big-lent-walk?

To all our parents,
grandparents and carers.

We really need your help.

With the increasing demands on the curriculum, we are finding it more and more difficult to provide 1-1 reading for our children.

Although this is not an expectation of the curriculum, it is something that we have always valued in the hope that it provides children with a love of reading from an early age.

So, if you can spare an hour or two every week (or more) to hear children read, please let me know, we would be eternally grateful.

This support is invaluable to both the teachers and the children.

Thank you in advance
Mrs Sheehan

Homework club

Mrs. Sheehan & the School council will be running a homework club for the juniors in the ICT suite.

Monday & Tuesdays

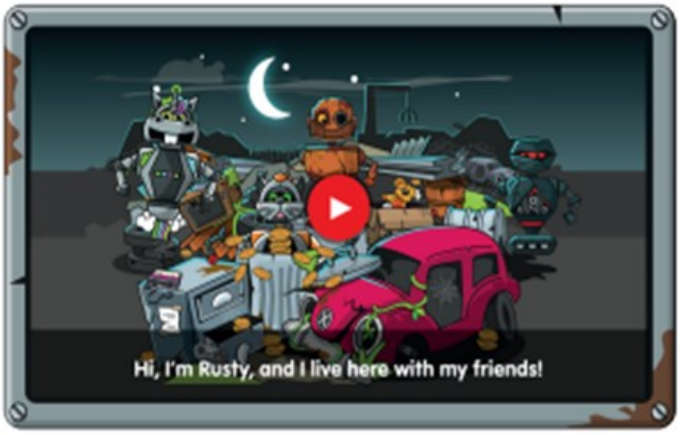
12:15-1:00

HOW THE GAME WORKS

Numbots

BEFORE THE GAME

Children are welcomed to the game with an opening video, where they are introduced to the central character, "Rusty". In the video, Rusty asks for help in his quest to find new parts to upgrade him to a diamond robot, so he can "shine inside and out, like a Diamond". Next, the child will be able to choose a bot name they will play under, as well as their own robot character.



PLAYING THE GAME: STORY MODE

The game starts in 'Story Mode'. There are 18 stages - from Rust to Diamond - and each stage is made up of a number of levels. Players start at Rust level 1 and, to unlock the next level, they need to earn at least 2 out of 3 stars.

To earn the 2 or 3 stars required to pass the level, children must demonstrate a level of fluency when answering the questions. This means they must be accurate and timely with their answers; if children get 0 or 1 stars they need to answer more quickly. The game ensures that learners don't move on to the next level until they show they are prepared for it.

Story Mode starts with very basic maths (subitising numbers) and progresses steadily and rigorously to addition and subtraction of double-digit numbers.



PLAYING THE GAME: CHALLENGE MODE

When players complete Stage 3 (Tin): Level 35 in Story Mode, they will unlock Challenge Mode. Here they can race the clock to test themselves on how many questions they can answer correctly in one minute. There are 20 different challenges to choose from; each challenge testing a different skill, for example number bonds to 10, adding single digits or subtracting double digits.



HOW THE GAME WORKS

Numbots

THE CUSTOM SHACK

For every maths question answered correctly, the child will receive coins to spend in the Custom Shack. Here, they are able to purchase new parts to upgrade and personalise their own robot character. As well as earning coins, children are kept motivated throughout their NumBots journey by collecting badges and winning trophies to reward their achievements.



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

We recommend children get 3 minutes a day four or five times a week. There will be times when they need your help understanding what to do (to help with that, there is an info slide before each level begins) or even with typing in the answers. They may need encouragement from time to time and they may benefit from being reminded that making mistakes is something perfectly natural.

They could also reach a point in the maths that is beyond their reach for now; if it feels like they've reached a blocker, we'd recommended returning to earlier levels and trying to complete them with 3 stars. If they are regularly struggling to achieve 2 stars, it may be worth speaking to their teacher abour possible strategies and asking them to change the Story Controls for your child, which will give them longer to pass each level.

