

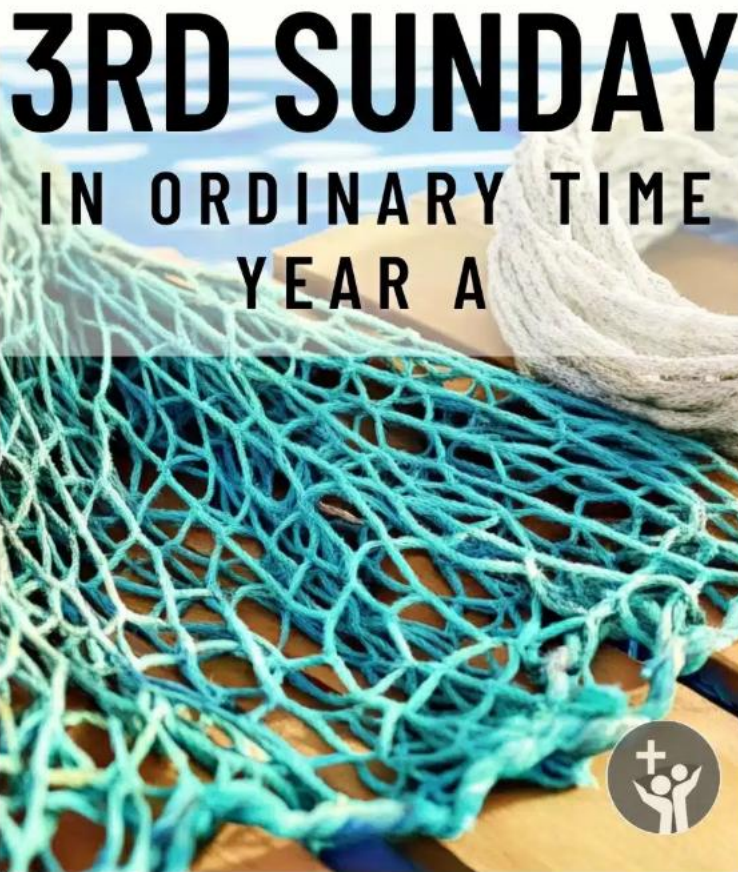


Well, we have made it through the ten darkest weeks of the year, and we are beginning to see slight glimmers of longer days. I am always excited to think that after half term I can normally drive home without my lights on! This fortnight has been a busy one as ever as the children focus on their new learning topics and we have had some lovely compliments about our children's behaviour this fortnight – a visiting nurse said, "the children were the best she'd worked with lovely manners!" What a compliment – well done everyone!

As always there is lots of exciting and interesting things happening this term, please do the check the fortnightly 'Looking Ahead' dates at the end of the newsletter along with the website diary which is regularly updated [here](#).

Have a super weekend and keep dry!
Mrs McBrown

Sunday 25th January – Walking in the Light



The 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time reminds us that God brings light into darkness. We hear the words of Isaiah about a people who once lived in gloom but now see light. This reading shows us that God does not leave us alone. He is near, even in hard times.

In the Gospel, Jesus begins preaching and calling his first followers. He brings light to Galilee, a place people often forgot. He tells them to turn their lives around and follow him. His message is simple but clear: the kingdom of heaven is close.

Saint Paul also speaks to the early Church. He tells them to stop fighting and focus on Jesus. It is a good reminder for us today. We belong to Christ, not to any group or leader

Lord Jesus, You who brought light to Galilee's darkness, shine upon my heart today. As Your presence transformed those ancient shores, let Your grace illuminate my path and guide me closer to Your truth. May Your light heal, strengthen, and renew me, so I may reflect Your love to others. Amen.

EYFS Class Liturgy

We worshipped with our youngest children this fortnight as they celebrated the gift of welcome. From their confident contributions, super singing and joyous personalised hearts they helped us to remember how important it was to make others feel welcome and valued. A huge thank you to Mrs Akinyemi and team for preparing the children so beautifully.

Champions!!!

It's with real joy that we share the girls' football team have finished their league season as Champions! They are undefeated and have not conceded a goal all season which is a huge accomplishment!

They are still in the cup competition and I'm looking forward to getting along to seeing them play soon!

I'm just hoping Arsenal follow in their footsteps this season...!

Well done Girls – we're so proud of you.



School Dinner Prizes

Last week, we explained that the number of children who have a school meal on Census day supports our school funding, thus we would run a prize draw for each class and those who had a school dinner on this day would be entered. The winners were.... Zahra, Lorenzo, Malika, Milah, Amelia, Testimony and Chidera. A huge thank you to those who were able to support this initiative



SEND Coffee Morning

This week saw our new coffee morning with Mrs Stephens which was a super success – please look out for the next one which will be in March. Currently, Mo James from PATT SENDIASS is also scheduled to attend who will be able to provide independent support and guidance for parents. All are welcome!



Traffic

As we are all aware the traffic on the school run is tricky enough without the plethora of roadworks we're currently experiencing! The gate opening and closing times will remain the same, however we do acknowledge the challenges we are currently facing.

Uniform

The children's school uniform is exceptionally smart – a huge thank you to you all for supporting this. Please may you ensure that your child's hair accessories – bows, bands, clips and beads - are in school colours and that your child is wearing their school tie. Thank you. The full uniform list, which was created in consultation with parents last summer, can be found [here](#) if you are unsure.

Star Rugby Workshops

Star Rugby workshops are well underway, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed their experience and have been keen to get involved. We still have a couple of classes to take part and I'm sure they will have just as much fun! Rugby encourages discipline, teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship. If your child is interested in taking this further please contact Thurrock Rugby club [here](#) for information on their minis and youth teams.



Looking Ahead... Spring term	
Monday 26 th January	Star Rugby – Y4 PE Kits please - see letter for further detail.
Tuesday 27 th January	Year 1 Class Liturgy 9am
	Year 6 Residential meeting 4pm
Monday 2 nd February	Star Rugby – Y3 PE Kits please - see letter for further detail
Tuesday 3 rd February	Year 6 Class Liturgy 9am
Monday 9 th February	Star Rugby – Y3 PE Kits please - see letter for further detail
	Parents' Evening 3.30-7pm
Tuesday 10 th February	Year 2 Class Liturgy 9am
	Parents' Evening 3.30-5.30pm
Friday 13 th February	Year 4 at Mass 9.15am
	End of term 3.15pm finish
Wednesday 25 th February	SEND reviews – invitations to follow
Tuesday 10 th March	

Please remember to check the school website [here](#) for further dates and details.