

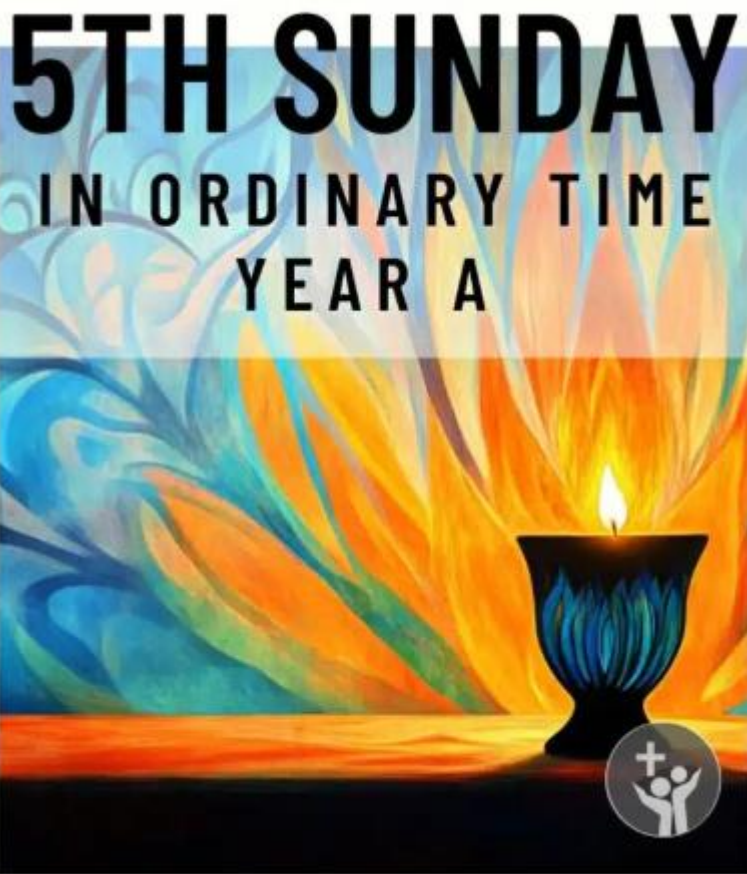


As I type the newsletter this morning, I am willing myself to remember that we need the rain to enjoy the beautiful, green countryside in the spring and summer but gosh it's hard when the grey days occupy the weather forecast! Still, inside school we're warm, toasty and a hive of activity! We've welcomed lots of visitors this fortnight – Mrs Parker – Trust Standards Lead, Mrs Corry – Diocesan Link Advisor, alongside both financial auditors and health and safety auditors. Whilst there is always work to do to be even better, we are in an increasingly strong position with clear ways forward – thank you for continued support.

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 warm!  
Mrs McBrown

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January – People of Salt and Light**



The 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds us that faith is not something we keep hidden. Jesus tells us to be like salt and light. These are simple images, but they help us understand what it means to live as His followers.

This Sunday's readings talk about helping others, being kind, and trusting in God. Isaiah tells us to care for the poor. The Psalm praises those who are generous and steady. Paul points us to Jesus, not fancy words. And Jesus calls us to live in a way that points others to God.

Each reading gives us a clear message. Faith must show in our actions. When we serve others, we reflect God's love. When we do good, we help others see the way to God.

The 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A invites us to be people of light. We are called to live with kindness, courage, and trust. When we live like this, we help make the world a better place.

***Gracious God,  
You call us to be salt and light in the world. Shape our words and actions so they bring hope, healing, and truth. Help us preserve what is good, shine where there is darkness, and reflect Your love in all we do. May others glimpse Your grace through us today.  
Amen.***

## Class liturgies

This fortnight we have enjoyed beautiful class liturgies from Year 1 and Year 6, both classes shared elements of scripture alongside prayer and beautiful singing.

Thank you to both Mrs Winter and Mrs Tapatau for their work in preparing the children so beautifully.



## Ash Wednesday

Typically, we would be celebrating Ash Wednesday as a school community, but we are on half term which is very unusual! There will be Ash Wednesday services at both Our Lady and St Joseph's and Our Lady Star of the Sea, please check the [website](#) for further detail.

## Wet Weather

The forecast for the next few weeks is pretty wet, however as the saying goes there is no such thing as bad weather but bad clothing...! To that end we will be trying to get the children outside as much as is reasonably possible for fresh air as well as opportunities to move! If you would like your child to bring "wellies" to school, please mark them with their name and they can change into their school shoes once inside. Also please ensure your child's coat is named and preferably has a hood. Thank you.

## Building Work

As you know we have been working with SES mechanical to replace our heating system. The work is going well and is currently on schedule. Over the remaining few weeks, the engineers will be working into the evenings to keep disruption to a minimum, so please do not feel alarmed if you see lights and movement in the school building after hours.

## SEND provision

Mrs Stephens has been very busy ordering new resources for children to use to support their regulation both in and out of class – from fidget toys and wobble cushions to spinning and trampolines the children have been thoroughly enjoying and benefiting from the new equipment which has been funded by the PTA – a huge thank you to you all.



## Star Rugby Workshops

Rugby workshops have continued with years 3 and 4 having the opportunity to work with the coaches developing discipline, teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship. With the 6 Nations starting this weekend, if your child is interested in taking this further please contact Thurrock Rugby club [here](#) for information on their minis and youth teams.



*Inspired by Christ, Working Together, Achieving Our Best*

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

Looking Ahead...		
Date and Time	Event	What's needed...
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Star Rugby – Y2	PE Kits please – see letter for further detail.
	Parents' Evening 3.30pm-7pm by appointment only	Please come and meet with your child's teacher to discuss their progress
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Y2 Class Liturgy 9am.	Come and join Y2 for their class liturgy
	Parents' Evening 3.30pm-5.30pm by appointment only	Please come and meet with your child's teacher to discuss their progress
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Y5 Class trip to the Tower of London	Packed lunch and a coat with a hood.
	Y4 attending Mass 9.15am	Please join us at Mass with Father Anthony
Half Term		
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	Ash Wednesday (during half term)	Mass at Our Lady and St Joseph's – click <a href="#">here</a> for timings
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Back to school – gates open at the usual times.	Uniforms, smiles and shiney shoes!
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Y3 Class Liturgy 9am	Come and join Y3 for their class liturgy
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February + Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	SEND One Plan meetings – by appointment only	Meetings with your child's class teacher and Mrs Stephens to review their learning.
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Reception and Year 6 attending Mass 9.15am	Please join us at Mass with Father Anthony
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day Parade 9.10am	Dress as your favourite word or phrase – see Mr Stephen's letter for more detail. Refreshments on sale before the parade. The parade will be weather dependent but dressing up is not!