



Shamrock Newsletter

30th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to this edition of The Shamrock. It has been a busy and positive couple of weeks in school, and it's been wonderful to see the children settling into routines and engaging so enthusiastically with their learning. As always, we are proud of the way our pupils support one another and contribute to the caring, inclusive atmosphere across the school.

In this newsletter you will find the introduction of some new things to our school as well as some information which will prove useful at home. We hope that this will serve as a good way to deliver the news to you. If you do have any questions about any of the information contained in the newsletter, please do come and speak with us.

Telephone numbers - Arbor

We have had a couple of instances where we have tried to get in touch with a parent or carer and have been unable to reach them as their phone number was incorrectly entered into Arbor. Please check and ensure all the contact information we have for you is correct.

Key Stage 1 Entrance

You will have noticed that the class teacher is not usually standing at the door where Year 1 and 2 enter the school building. This is because they are busy in the classroom: settling the children into their day; carrying out check-ins and interventions. If you do have a message about your child, the member of staff at the door will happily pass it on. The best time to speak to your child's class teacher about their progress or something that's happened in school is always at the end of the day. Please speak to them in the playground or contact the school office to book an appointment. We thank you for your understanding with this.

Y6 SATs Parents' Workshop

We will be holding a workshop for the parents of children in Year 6 to explain the process of the end of KS2 assessments that are taking place in May and how you can best support your child in the lead up. This will take place at **2:45pm – 3:15pm on Friday 27th February**. We were trying to find a time that would be least inconvenient for most people so please accept our apologies if you are unable to attend. There will be some information sent out via email to parents who cannot be with us for that afternoon.

Phonics Programme Change

We are very excited to inform you that the way we teach children phonics and help them with their early reading in school will be changing! The school will be moving to a programme called Unlocking

Letters and Sounds from the beginning of Term 4. The children in our Reception class have already been using the new resources in class and it has had a really positive impact. Year 1, Year 2 and any children who are being supported with phonics in KS2 will be seeing these new resources after half term. We will be holding an information session for parents at the beginning of Term 4 – more details to follow!

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Children's Mental Health Week runs from 9th – 15th February. The theme this year is "This is My Place". This ties in very well to the work we have been doing in school which fosters a sense of belonging for the children. This includes their attendance, uniform and positive relationships. The children will be linking some activities to this important week in class. If you wish to get involved at home there are some activities that you can do as a family here:

[Children's Mental Health Week – Family Activities](#)

Safer Internet Day

Linking with the theme of mental health, Safer Internet Day falls on Tuesday 10th February. This year the theme is "Smart tech, safe choices". With the children, we will be exploring how they can safely use smart technology and think about the impact that recent developments in AI might have on them as children. There are some top tips on how you could have discussions around this with your child here:

[Safer Internet Day 2026 – Top tips for families](#)

[CEOP - Helping to protect your child online](#)

[Common Sense Media - Guide to parental controls](#)

Punctuality

Thank you to those parents who have engaged with the school since my email about attendance and punctuality. We will work with our families as much as we can to enable all children to attend school on time, every day. Please come and speak to us if you are having problems with attendance or arriving to school on time.

World Book Day

This exciting event is taking place on Thursday 5th March. We would love to invite the children (and you if you're feeling keen!) to dress up as their favourite book character. We can't wait to see what you decide to dress up as. See if you can work out who the staff have chosen to disguise themselves as!

House Point Reward

As a reward for winning the House Point competition in Term 2, St Luke's House (yellow house) can wear their own clothes to school on **Thursday 12th February**. If your child is not in St Luke's house they should wear school uniform or PE kit as normal.

What's been going on?

We have had a busy couple of weeks! Behind the scenes the school Governors have had a meeting of their Mission Committee. This committee exists to safeguard, promote and actively embed the




schools core values and overarching mission. Its role is to ensure that the ethos of the school isn't just written down but loved out across everyday teaching, learning relationships and wider school life.

The children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 helped to lead elements of Mass this week. They read and sang with such confidence and we are all very proud of them.

Pyjamarama was a great success! A big thank you to the PTA and staff who created cosy reading spaces, delivered hot chocolate and biscuits and made sure everyone had a warm, fuzzy feeling inside.

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing a safe, nurturing and high-quality learning environment, our staff have recently taken part in training focused on regulation strategies and adaptive teaching. This training supports us in understanding how to help children manage their emotions, stay calm, and engage positively with their learning, while also ensuring that teaching is flexible and responsive to individual needs. By strengthening these approaches across the school, we aim to create classrooms where every child feels secure, included and able to excel.

Photos

		
<p>The children read beautifully at Mass.</p>	<p>We have launched this term's Catholic Social Teaching principle – Human Dignity.</p>	<p>We have celebrated more fantastic learning and kindness in our Friday Celebration Assembly.</p>

Dates for diaries

As always, there are some important things coming up. Please check below!

<p>3rd February</p>	<p>Y5 Swimming</p>	
<p>4th February</p>	<p>Rags 2 Riches Clothes Collection</p>	<p>Please pass any clothing donations to the school office BEFORE this date.</p>
<p>9th February</p>	<p>Children' Mental Health Week</p>	
<p>10th February</p>	<p>Y5 Swimming Safer Internet Day</p>	
<p>12th February</p>	<p>Themed lunch menu for Chinese New Year St Luke's (green) House – Own clothes day</p>	<p>More info to follow, or speak to the school office. Children in St Luke's House can wear their own clothes.</p>

13 th February	INSET DAY - No school for Children	
16 th February – 20 th February	HALF TERM	
24 th February	Y5 Swimming	
27 th February	Y6 SATs Parent's Workshop	2:45pm – Y6 parents only
3 rd March	Y5 Swimming	
4 th March	Year 4, 5, 6 Lenten Confessions	
5 th March	World Book Day	Please dress up as your favourite book character!
6 th March	PTA event – World Book Day Disco	Timings TBC
10 th March	Y5 Swimming School Nurse Coffee Morning	9am
17 th March	Y5 swimming St Patrick's Day – 2 events in the church!	Mass @ 9:15am Concert @ 1:30pm All are welcome!
19 th March	Reception & Year 6 Parents' Evening	Bookings will open on Arbor in Term 4.
24 th March	Y5 Swimming	
26 th March	Reception & Year 6 Parents' Evening	Bookings will open on Arbor in Term 4.
27 th March	Year 3 & Year 4 – Stations of the cross	2:30pm in the church. All are welcome.
31 st March	Y5 Swimming	
1 st April	Year 3 & Year 4 – Stations of the cross	7pm in the church. All are welcome.
2 nd April	INSET DAY - No school for children	
3 rd April	Good Friday – Bank Holiday	

And finally...

As we come to the end of another busy fortnight, Matthew 5:1–12 reminds us of the quiet strengths that help our school community flourish. The Beatitudes call us to kindness, patience, and compassion - qualities that often shine most brightly in small, everyday moments. Whether it's offering a helping hand, showing understanding, or choosing gentleness when things feel challenging, these values shape the safe and caring environment we want for every child. As we look ahead, may we continue to nurture a community where each person feels valued, supported, and encouraged to grow with hope and confidence.

I wish you all a wonderful weekend,



Mr Broyd