



### Ensuring Christ is at the centre of our school

The federation has been working hard to ensure that Christ remains at the centre of our schools. As a Catholic school it is our mission to ensure that the teachings of Christ are evident in all our practice. It is our duty to steer and develop the moral compass of each child as well as their academia.



So far this year all our children have taken part in an All Souls Remembrance service as well as a service to celebrate our Patron, St Margaret Mary. Furthermore, our children attend weekly Mass on a Wednesday as well as gathering for worship as a whole school on a Monday afternoon. As well as this, our Year 6 have been on a Pilgrimage and our Key Stage 2 children recently celebrated a Waiting for Jesus Advent service and we will finish term tomorrow with a whole school Mass at 9.15am. We do hope you can join us as we celebrate Mass together. Look out for new events in 2018 including a Year 5 Holy Island residential.



### Core Knowledge and History

In September our school began a new curriculum focusing on developing pupil knowledge. Although we still follow the National Curriculum, we aim to ensure that our children have the opportunity to learn about interesting topics that inspire them. An example of this is our current Year 1 children. This year they have covered topics including The Battle of Hastings and Kings & Queens. As part of their new topics, Castles, Mrs Chandler and her staff decided to take them to visit Carlisle Castle as they had already been introduced to Norman architecture through previous topic coverage.



The children were amazed and thoroughly enjoyed the experience, please remember that we are lucky with the historical and geographical treasures we have on our doorstep. If you are interested in finding out more about our curriculum changes then please check

### The Christmas Fair & Future Events

It was great to see so many people supported our recent fair. Members of the Parish, parents, staff and children alike, all worked hard to ensure that we began the Christmas festivities in the correct manner. Thanks to your support we made over £1,200 and the children have asked if some of this money can go towards developing the school yard and library. A huge thank you to those local businesses whom provided a fantastic set of raffle prizes and to those who ran stalls. Look out for more information about our Summer Gala to mark the 80th anniversary of the school.

### The Fundraising Continues

Year 6 had a fantastic time carol singing at Tesco Rosehill and raised £130.

A great effort. Thank you to everyone who came to support the children.



### Student Leadership Team assigned

Congratulations to those Year 6 children who have been appointed House Captains and Head Boy & Girl. These 6 children meet every fortnight with Mr Denny to discuss how the school could be developed further. The House Captains are as follows:

St Hilda - Nathan Sellers

St Bega - Katie Leiba

St Aidan - Emily Dixon

St Oswald - Matthew Charlton

The Head Boy and Girl are Dylan McAdam and Ava Bell.

The Leadership teams first pledge was to improve the library and on the back of this we have invested in a cataloguing and scanning system allowing children to withdraw books.

### DATES FOR THE DIARY—LENTEN TERM 1 2018

- 04/01/18 School Term begins
- 06/01/18 Feast of the Epiphany
- 09/01/18 Year 5 Parent Meeting—Holy Island 3.30pm
- 09/01/18 Year 4 Swimming begins (10 weeks)
- 09/01/18 Reception & KS1 Gymnastics (10 weeks)
- 11/01/18 KS2 Gymnastics (10 weeks)
- 12/01/18 Year 6 Visit to Magistrates Court
- 15/01/18 Year 5 Cyclewise Training (4 days)
- 19/01/18 Coffee & Conversation 9.00am
- 20/01/18 Boys 5 a side Competition - Sands Centre
- 29/01/18 Film Night - Despicable Me 3
- 30/01/18 Rotakids Biscuit Decorating
- 31/01/18 Welly Walk EYFS & KS1
- 02/02/18 Candlemass Service (Whole School PM)
- 03/02/18 Girls 5 a side Competition— Sands Centre
- 06/02/18 E-Safety Day
- 09/02/18 Lenten Service (Whole School PM)
- 09/02/18 School breaks up for half term 3.15pm
- 14/02/18 Ash Wednesday Mass AM

Parish Ladies group meet 1st Tuesday of every Month after Mass at 7.00 pm in the Parish Church.

### Engagement on Arrival



In Nursery the children have been studying various narratives, including 'Jack & the Beanstalk' and 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', and have been working very hard to improve their understanding and mathematical skills.

The children have been exploring narrative in a very hands-on manner, recently they investigated a mystery regarding who broke a little wooden chair and left a lock of golden hair behind, and then they went on their own 'Bear Hunt' in Kingmoor Woods. The weather was wintry and there was lots of "swosh swish" through the trees and a few "stumble trips" on the way - but it didn't stop them having fun and no one complained about being cold. The children's room was also transformed into Percy the Park Keepers Hut as well as Santa's grotto.

Our term concluded with a visit to Walby Farm Park to see Father Christmas and take part in a live nativity. Thank you to all those who have helped support the Nursery as we prepare to welcome our next group of children in January. A huge thank you to all the staff for their continued hard work.



Dear Parents,

What a fantastic term we've had so far; both staff and children have been working hard to make sure that the school keeps moving from strength to strength. Please keep supporting the school and the federation, keep up to date with developments by checking out our new blog [www.stninian.com](http://www.stninian.com).

I am sure that you will all be impressed by what our children have been up to this term; be it in the classroom or on trips and visits, our children truly are a credit to their families.

Your support this year has been fantastic, and it was equally wonderful seeing so many of you at our record breaking fair and at our Christmas performances. Furthermore, it has been really lovely to see both the school and Parish working alongside each other to promote both our important roles within the community.

Mr Denny and I would like to say a huge thank you to the staff for their continued hard work.

I hope to see many of you over the holidays at Mass, remember the Mass times are as follows:

Christmas Eve

6.30 pm St. Margaret Mary

10.00 pm Christ the King

Christmas Day

8.00 am St. Margaret Mary

10.00 am Christ the King

From all at the school, God bless you and your families.  
Merry Christmas,

Mr C Wilkins - Executive Head Teacher

### Future Heroes in the Making



The Reception Class have been busy visiting the dentist and the Fire Station to learn about people who help us. The children thoroughly enjoyed the visits and, after speaking to the children and seeing how excited they've been, Carlisle needn't worry about having a shortage of dentists or fire fighters in the future. The theme continued as the EYFS was visited by the Police and sessions were held about their role in society as well as telling the children how to remain safe when they were outside of school. There was also an opportunity for the children to try on the Police's equipment and for them to have a look inside the back of a real Police van.



### Exercising our way to success

All children, from Nursery to Year 6 (and some staff too), took part in a sponsored exercise circuit session. The day was in collaboration with Sports for Schools and the children were visited by a paralympian who shared his own remarkable story with the children. The children raised over £1500 and has inspired the children in their thinking. On the back of the event our gymnastics class has gone from strength to strength as well as playtime dance classes which have been organised and delivered by Year 4 girls. Well done to all those involved.



### Celebrating the true meaning of Christmas

As this term draws to a close it was the perfect opportunity for us to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. The school hosted two different nativity plays, both well supported by parents, and our Key Stage 2 children took the lead in a Carol Concert organised by the Federation at Our Lady and St Joseph's. The concert included children from all the Catholic Schools in the city.



All of these, along with our community Christmas event, gave our children an opportunity to lead on the celebration of Christ's birth whilst also reflecting on the true meaning of this most holy holiday.

### Remembering Fallen Soldiers

Our children participated in the annual poppy design competition as part of our work to recognise Remembrance Sunday. Our children's designs - which are on display in the School Hall - marked the end of a week where the children focused on the importance of remembrance. Further to this, our newly appointed Head Boy and Head Girl, alongside those in the same post from our sister school, took part in a service in the city centre where they represented all our children. Thank you to Miss Robinson for organising this important event.



### God Jul from Sweden

Last year both Miss Jardine and Miss Robinson set up a link with a Swedish pen pals - this week our Year 6 children received Christmas cards from the school therefore we are pleased to announce that the link will continue in the new year. Our children will have the opportunity to not only write to their new pen friends but also Skype and discuss the differences between our schools, our culture and our faith.

This is an exciting time for the school, especially as we enter our 80th year., links like these are an opportunity for our school children to experience and discuss different cultures - who knows maybe one day the link will involve setting up a visit.

### Princess Diana Trust

#### Cyber-bullying Bus

Year 5 and 6 attended a fun and engaging session ran by the Princess Diana Trust about cyber-bullying this term. The thought-provoking workshop, which took place on an anti-cyber-bullying bus, explored a range of issues associated with using social media. The children were able to discuss their views on the topic and were told what action they should take if they ever see/experience cyber-bullying.



### Able Maths Day

A budding group of mathematicians from both Year 5 and 6 attended a fun and challenging workshop at



Pennine Way Primary School in November. The children worked in small teams to solve engaging maths problems in many different and creative ways. The children worked very hard and showed true flare and creativity that enabled them to solve a variety of challenges.



### Roald Dahl day



Our term started with the celebration of the author Roald Dahl. The children were given the opportunity to study some of his great works and focus centrally on what

makes him such an endearing author.

Our children were given an opportunity to dress as one of his famous characters whilst also raising money for charity. The schools corridors were filled with witches, foxes and friendly giants, it was a great day and thank you to all those involved.

### School Newspaper Club



An inquisitive team of children have been putting their writing skills to good use this term and are working together to produce a school newspaper.

They are investigating a range of subjects that they feel are important to inform their peers about. These range from the pros and cons of rules about healthy eating in school, who are the Saints behind the names of our four school houses and which author is more popular Roald Dahl or Michael Morpurgo. Look out for the next edition of the school newspaper in the New Year.

### Exploring History

Year 6 had a fantastic day at the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester. They attended an interactive workshop about forces and the science behind flying, learnt about the growth of cotton



mills in the North West and discovered that there is a long history behind the development of robots. The children had a great day and the experience will be remembered, Thank you to all the staff involved and giving the children a memorable experience.

### World Science Day

World Science Day highlights the significant role of science in society and It underlines the importance and relevance of science in our daily lives.



It underscores the role scientists play in broadening our understanding of the remarkable, fragile planet we call home and in making our societies more sustainable. The whole school took part and was enjoyed by all as children were given the opportunity to engage in practical sessions.