



Mrs Lawlor writes

9<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

January has come and gone and we are in touching distance of half term. The cold weather has certainly been a challenge and I hope that more spring like weather will be with us soon.

This half term we have had two school improvement visits which has been useful to help secure the work of leaders within the school to further improve provision and outcomes for our children. On the visit from the Diocese the advisor observed a Key Stage 2 assembly (collective worship) which was led by our Year 6 Faith Leaders. It was a truly wonderful experience for everyone involved as the Faith Leaders did a wonderful job in celebrating the Gospel and encouraging all children to participate. The feedback from the Diocese was exceptional and we are very proud of the good work that is being undertaken to improve the teaching of RE and ensure the Catholic life of the school is central to our school and ethos. I would like to record my thanks to the Year 6 Faith Leaders for being proactive and creative in the work they do in school, Mrs McGrath in her capacity as the overarching RE lead, she has been instrumental in driving the improvement agenda, Mrs Osman who leads on Catholic Life and supported the Faith Leaders in their preparations and to Mrs Barnes our school chaplain who continues to support teachers and children with preparing collective worship sessions in classrooms. Watch out on the Website to see the improvements we are making to ensure we capture the Catholic life and the work the children do around Catholic Social Teaching.

### St Vincent de Paul Society



On Thursday 5th January, our Faith Leaders performed some songs from our Carol Service to the members of the St Vincent de Paul Society at a tea party in St Joseph's Church Hall, Redhill.



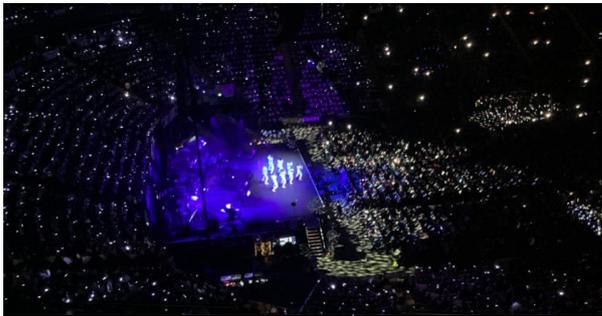
A couple of comments from the SVP members. "It was a delight to hear young voices singing Christmas Carols". "I was also impressed by the 'School Creed'. I'm so pleased the school continues to uphold the values of the church."

### Young Voices

I was thrilled to attend the Young Voices concert on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January at the O2. It was an amazing spectacle with some excellent performances which the children were thrilled to be part of! Thank you to the children for representing St Joseph's so admirably, thanks to Mrs Tackie for inspiring

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the Young Voice choir and for the work that she put into preparing the children, my thanks to the staff and parent volunteers for supporting the children all day- it was a long day! We look forward to the next group of children taking part in January 2024.



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### Parent Governor

It is great testimony to the school that we received 4 applications for the role of parent governor. We are delighted to introduce Mrs K Costello and Mr J Hart as our new governors. I very much look forward to working with them.

### Sports Hall Athletics

Congratulations to our Year 5+6 Sports Hall Athletics team who will now be competing at Guildford Spectrum in March. The team competed against 12 local schools early in the month, coming third to secure their place in the next round.



### KS2 Stationary Request

Thank you for the support we have already received from our email with regard to providing children with items of stationary. This has been incredibly useful! It is a sign of the times that schools now need this additional support.

### Harry Potter Studio Tour

Year 6 were lucky enough to visit the Harry Potter Studio Tours on Monday 6th February. Everyone had a fantastic time seeing the real life sets of the franchise and in a special lesson we got to hold props that were used in the movies too. Pupils even got the chance to fly on broomsticks and sit on a carriage of the Hogwarts Express! We all felt very fortunate to be able to end our half term with this trip and see the children enjoy themselves.



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## Year 6 Northern Lights

As part of our Year 6 Topic work on 'Frozen Kingdoms', pupils created their own landscape scenes of the Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) using pastels.



## Year 2 Monarch Day

To celebrate the end of our topic, 'Magnificent Monarchs', Year 2 decided to have a super royal theme day! We had a procession, wrote royal decrees, drew each other's portraits and had an amazing regal feast. What an exciting day!



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On Friday's INSET Day the staff will be attending face to face training delivered by an organisation called – The art of brilliance. This is a staff well-being sessions that promotes building confidence. We are joining our colleagues from across the Deanery at the PNL centre for what I hope will be an inspirational day!

May I wish you a happy, healthy and relaxing half term. We look forward to seeing all the children back on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February.