

ISSUE

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Newsletter

Many of you will have noticed the lovely “**Peace Wall**” which went up over last weekend. The children’s ceramic tiles have been formed into two decorative patterns, with the quotations, which were chosen by parental vote, in the centre. Our huge thanks to Karl from Sants and his colleague Paul who generously gave up their Saturday to construct the tile wall, as well as thanks to Ceramic Café in Hersham who supported our project by running so many workshops in school. Last but not least, many thanks to staff members who gave up their free time to support last Friday and over the weekend. There are photos on the website if you haven’t seen the wall yet.

This week, one of our sports teams represented Cardinal Newman at the Olympic Park in a national final! Congratulations to all 6 members of our **Panathlon team** who had won the right to compete at the Copperbox on Wednesday. They had a fabulous experience and were delighted to receive medals celebrating their achievements. Other sporting events this week have included **Sports Crew training for Year 5 and Year 3 competing in a Mini Olympics** this afternoon. It is great to see so many different children having the opportunity to take part – and again, many thanks to all the staff and parent volunteers who make these opportunities possible. We couldn’t do it without you.

This afternoon, we have celebrated the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** in school. Year 6 led a short service and the Y6 children then had the opportunity to go to confession, or to chat to one of the priests in the school hall, before going to the Chapel to light a candle and have some quiet time in prayer and reflection. It was a very peaceful and prayerful afternoon – one of the children said “I’d like to do this again.” And so we shall. Our thanks to Fr Bill for organising the afternoon and for inviting several local priests to support this initiative. The Y6 Prayer Council also did a great job of chatting to the visiting priests afterwards over drinks and biscuits.

As Year 6 have begun their preparation for Christmas with Confession, so our thoughts turn to **Advent** and preparing ourselves for Christmas too. Mrs Sharp (our RE Lead) is organising a travelling crib for families to have overnight and spend some time in prayer thinking about the arrival of Jesus. The crib has the nativity figures as well as some suggestions for prayer and reflection. Reception Classes have their own travelling crib, but if there are any families from Y1 upwards who would like to take the travelling crib for an evening, please email the office and let them know so that Mrs Sharp can assemble a rota. There will also be an opportunity for families to join in two Monday morning Advent Reflection sessions with Fr Bill before school. We did this last year, lighting the Advent Candles and spending a few moments of quiet time before our busy weeks – this was well received by many families, so do look out for the dates in a couple of weeks time! All welcome!

Finally, thank you to the many parents who have spoken to me to congratulate me on the appearance of Cardinal Newman in the league tables for the top 250 Primary Schools in England. Since there are several thousand Primary Schools in England (4.2 million Primary age pupils), we are very pleased to find ourselves at number 180. This morning I was completing some of our regular teaching and learning observations and was delighted to see, from Reception right through to Year 6, outstanding teaching and excellent levels of independence in our children’s learning. We are blessed with a very committed staff and diligent pupils who enjoy learning. Thank you for all your support to make our Cardinal Newman family the best it can be! Long may it continue!

I wish you a wonderful weekend.

Catherine Burnham

