



Love it or loathe it, most of us are aware that it's St Valentine's Day in February – but did you realise that February is also when the church celebrates the Month of the Holy Family?

It's during this, often-chilly, month that, as Catholics, we turn our eyes to the powerful example of real-love-in-practice that Mary, Joseph and Jesus showed the world and one another.

Mary was pregnant and gave birth to Jesus amidst super-challenging circumstances – God gave her a choice, she could have said no! She risked her life, shelter and reputation in order to do what God asked of her and to love the incredible child that God was to bless her with.

Joseph, too, chose to love and care for Jesus and Mary in the face of a society which taught him to reject her. Again, he could have said no! A carpenter by trade, he worked hard every day to provide for his family and to share his skills, wisdom and love with them.

As a child, Jesus obeyed and respected his parents and, even as a grown-up, chose to miraculously turn water into wine at the Wedding of Cana when his mum asked him to and even though he knew that 'his hour [to perform miracles] had not yet come'. He did as she requested.

The happenings at the Wedding of Cana also remind us that Jesus cared that the bride and groom would be embarrassed if the wine were to run out. Jesus cares about our everyday concerns and the practical matters of our life. If anything worries you, bring it to the cross and ask Jesus to help you. He will not let you down, even if His answer doesn't come in the form you first expect.



In the rest of this newsletter, I hope you enjoy learning of some of the many little acts of love taking place across our Trust family this term.

True love comes in lots of different forms, not just the romantic love that the world idolises on St Valentine's Day. It is all around us.

Charlotte Blanch

Mrs Charlotte Blanch, CEO, Little Way Catholic Educational Trust



The past few weeks at **St Gregory's** have been filled with joyful moments that truly reflect our school values of hospitality, justice, community and respect.

We have launched our very own St Gregory's podcast, which the children have absolutely loved. This has been a fantastic opportunity for pupils to share their voices, listen to one another and grow in confidence, strengthening our sense of community.



Our Hot Chocolate Club with our new headteacher was a wonderful example of hospitality in action, creating a warm and welcoming space for our Students of the Week to feel celebrated and valued.

Our older pupils took part in an inclusive sports curling session, where fairness, teamwork and encouragement were at the heart of the experience.

A great reflection of justice and respect for others.



All children also enjoyed a musical instrument taster session this term, giving everyone the opportunity to explore something new and celebrate the diverse talents within our school community.

What a joyful few weeks it has been, living out our values together!



It has been a joyful and inspiring term of learning at **St Thomas More's Primary School**, with pupils fully immersed in memorable experiences.

Reception students have been enjoying a wonderful learning journey all about toys from the past. We began by sharing the much-loved story Dogger and watching episodes of Old Bear, which helped us think about how special toys can be and how long they can last.



To bring our learning to life, we held a very special teddy bear picnic, where children brought along their beloved bears to enjoy stories and snacks together. We were also lucky to welcome some grandparents into school, who shared their own memories of playing with toys many years ago. The children were fascinated to learn about the toys that were popular in the past and are looking forward to designing their own toys next, using junk modelling materials!

Year 6 pupils showed real maturity and enthusiasm when studying World War II, engaging deeply with drama, historical sources and discussion to bring history to life.

We have enjoyed looking at primary sources (diaries, photos and postcards) and have used these to inform our learning.

Adam said, 'I thoroughly enjoyed every lesson of this unit. It brought me back to Year 1 when I dreamed of topics like this!' Sri added, 'I loved this unit, it was fun, enjoyable and factual. I can't wait to learn more!'



Year 4 pupils stepped back into Roman times during a fantastic visit to the Corinium Museum, dressing up, exploring artefacts, and discovering what daily life was like in Roman Britain.

Across all year groups, pupils have demonstrated tremendous enthusiasm, curiosity and pride in their learning — a wonderful reflection of our vibrant school community.



It has been a fantastic and uplifting start to the term at **The Rosary Primary School**.

We were incredibly proud of our Young Voices Choir, who took part in a truly special performance at the BP Pulse Live Arena in Birmingham, singing alongside over 6,000 children. The pupils represented the school with enthusiasm, confidence and pride, giving their all in a spectacular concert. We sang songs such as a Wicked medley, sea shanties and a pop medley. There were also guest singers and dancer there for the evening and the children enjoyed the variety of performances. It was an amazing experience for us all. This was the first time the school has participated in Young Voices, and we look forward to doing it again in the future!

Thank you for all the support from the families for time practising at home and those who came to see us in action!



In January, the whole school enjoyed a fantastic day taking part in Glow in the Dark Dodgeball as their special Values Treat for filling our school Values Jar at the end of last term.

The children had an amazing time learning new skills, building on those they had already been taught, and challenging themselves in a fun, high-energy and supportive environment.

Across all classes, pupils showed great teamwork, encouragement and sportsmanship – celebrating one another's successes and supporting each other when things felt tricky. It was a joyful way to celebrate the children's commitment to our school values, and a wonderful opportunity to see those values in action through cooperation, resilience and respect.

A huge well done to everyone for earning and enjoying such a well-deserved treat!





It has been another vibrant and enriching period of school life at **St Catharine's Primary School**, with faith and creativity at the heart of all we do.

In January, pupils enjoyed an exciting visit from Rocksteady Music School. Students were treated to a Rocksteady school assembly and were then take part in contemporary music workshops.

These inclusive band lessons were designed to amplify children's self-belief, support wellbeing and to help maximise students' potential back in the classroom.

The children had such a brilliant time!



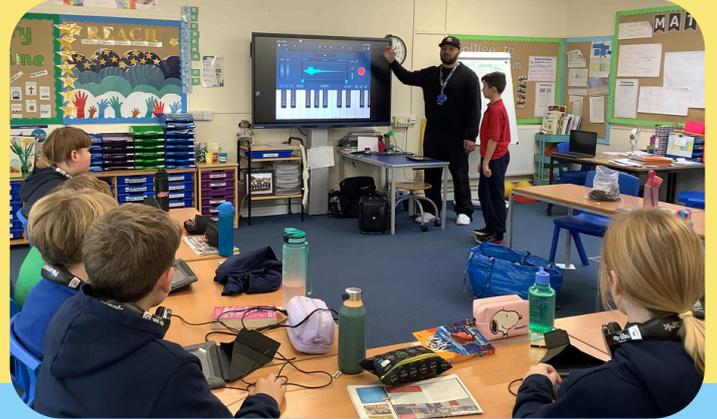
Alongside this, our Rosary Club has continued to flourish, offering a calm, prayerful and welcoming space for pupils to deepen their understanding of faith. Children have enjoyed colouring rosaries, learning how to use them, and are now preparing to make their own set of rosary beads, helping them to reflect and grow spiritually.

Together, these experiences are aiming to nurture the whole child — academically, creatively and spiritually — within our caring school community.



There have been some wonderful things taking place at **St Joseph's Primary School** this term!

Year 6 enjoyed The Music Works and learnt how to use 'Garage Band'.



Using this App, in pairs, they composed a piece of music using instruments from all over the world.

They are looking forward to performing these to their younger peers in their 'DJ set' this term!

Year 5 & 6 took part in the Renishaw Knex challenge, to design an automated warehouse.

The children had to use their problem-solving skills, critical thinking, and resilience.

Our winners will be going to Renishaw to compete in the county finals.



Year 3 have been inspired by St Therese and her Little Way.

After reflection, each student picked someone who helps them, and made sure to recognise this with Little Acts of Kindness.

What a beautiful bouquet!



This term we have witnessed some amazing examples of love-in-action from the indomitable team of Mini Vinnies over at **St Peter's Primary School** who were joined this term by a batch of new recruits!

Mini Vinnies are the youngest members of the St Vincent de Paul society who find ways of helping people in need in the local area through action and prayer.



In a quest to live out their motto of 'turning concern into action', this term, our Mini Vinnies decided to make Easter Cards which we will sell in order to raise money for the homeless people of Gloucester.

They have also worked with local parishes to collect & sort a big number of plastic tubs which will be recycled to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The Trust also received a very special letter from the Secretary of State for Education this term.

Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson wrote to send a Letter of Commendation to everyone at St Peter's Primary School in recognition of the brilliant progress and achievements being made by our pupils who face some of the biggest challenges. The positive outcomes for our disadvantaged students are among the very best in the country.

Well done, everyone, for your dedication, consistency and hard work to ensure everyone can shine and meet their potential.

