



This half term,
our School Value is

Forgiveness

and our Worship Theme is

Compassion

'Clothe yourselves with compassion,
kindness, gentleness and patience'

Colossians 3.12

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

I hope you had a fantastic half term break and your children are looking forward to an exciting, yet busy term ahead. Thank you for kind donations to our Harvest collection; both Birmingham City Mission and St. Bart's Pantry have expressed their thanks.

There were a lot of highlights in the first half term of the year: Year 6 loved their trip to York and those who were able to go to Parliament, had an excellent day; Year 5 enjoyed heading down to Woodgate Valley and the start of their Growing Gains unit; Year 4 had a great Fabulous Finish on the last day of term, showing off everything they know about the Ancient Egyptians and the Year 3s have settled in incredibly well, enjoying their Scavenger and Settlers unit as well as the OPAL lunchtimes that have continued to have a huge impact. It was also great to have the Bishop of Birmingham join us for a morning — the pupil leaders proudly gave him a tour of the school after worship.

We apologise for the slight inconvenience in the front playground as we have a path made to the outdoor classroom, making this useable throughout the winter. We hope this will be completed in the first two weeks of this half term.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Mr Murphy, Headteacher

Please visit the year group pages of the website to read the half termly curriculum newsletter from each year group.



Attendance

Attendance	Whole School October :	95.44%
	Class with best attendance:	6M - 98.3%
Punctuality	Whole School October :	98.3%
	Year with best punctuality:	Year 6 - 99.53%

Uniformed Groups

Please be aware that we actively encourage children to wear the uniforms from their youth group, i.e. Scouting, Guiding and Brigade groups on British Saints Days and Remembrance Day. Therefore, if you are part of one of these groups, we would love to see them being worn on Tuesday 11th November for Remembrance Day, Monday 1st December (St. Andrew - falls on Sun 30th), Monday 2nd March (St. David - falls on Sun 1st March), Tuesday 17th March (St. Patrick) and Thursday 23rd April (St. George).

Pupil Leadership Team!

Mr. Murphy had a really tricky decision to make as over 30 children in Year 6 applied to be part of the pupil leadership team. We are really pleased to announce that the leadership team will be:

Head Boy and Girl: Kieran and Jean
Deputy Head Boy and Girl: Archie and Esther
Ambassadors: Emily, Sophia, Ben and Arthur

November Diary dates

Date	Event
10th November	School Photos
11th November	Remembrance Day—uniformed groups
10th - 14th November	Anti - Bullying week
11th and 13th November	Parents Evenings - please see Arbor Book Fair / Pre loved uniform available
12th November	Odd Socks Day - Anti Bullying Week
14th November	INSET DAY—No children in school
17th - 21st November	Interfaith week for whole school
21st November	Interfaith exhibition afternoon 2:40 - 3:10 Parents welcome in the school hall
25th November	Year 5 Fabulous Finish 2:45

Star Pupils!

Well done to all the children who were named as star pupils for the first half term! They enjoyed hot chocolate and biscuits as a treat!

Yr 3 - Eddie, Amelia, Georgia

Yr 4 - Isla-Rose, Betsy, Thiago

Yr 5 - Aurelia, Beulah, Hafsa

Yr 6 - Isaac, Maisie, Ava

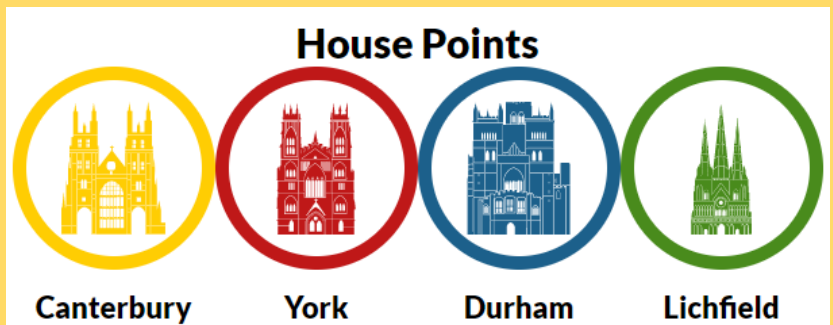


Clean-Up UK assembly on Litter

On Thursday 16th October, William Gay, from Clean-Up UK who, coincidentally, was a former pupil of St Laurence, came to lead an assembly on the subject of Litter. After he had wowed the children with stories about what our school was like back in the 1970s when he attended (and a picture of himself in the same St Laurence tie as the children wear today!), he told the children some astonishing facts about litter (how long do you think it takes for a plastic bottle to break down?), before talking about forming litter picking groups in our local area and how Clean-Up UK can support us with this; both with the organisational factors and the providing of equipment. William then had a more in-depth meeting with our newly formed Eco-Council to discuss ways of developing our St Laurence litter-picking activity, to help clean up and care for our local environment. We can't wait to put our plans into action! If you too are interested about finding out how you can join or set up a local litter-picking group, then please visit <https://cleanupuk.org.uk>.

Housepoint Winners!

We amassed over 9,000 housepoints during the Autumn 1 half term and our winners with 2512 points were Durham! Well done if you are in Durham, we hope you enjoy your extra 15 minutes of breaktime with members of your house!



Bags2School

Thank you to everyone who was able to donate in our Bags 2School collection, all donations were gratefully received.



Safeguarding

Please be aware that our Designated Safeguarding Leads at the school are Mrs. Haden, Mr. Murphy, Mrs Mulrain and Miss Hussain. We are contactable by email on enquiry@stlrcnj.bham.sch.uk or if more urgent, by phone on 0121 4646499.

We have loads of useful links on the safeguarding page on our website

[Safeguarding | St Laurence Church Junior School](#)

as well as our Online Safety page, which will continue to be updated weekly

[Online Safety | St Laurence Church Junior School](#)

Please do not hesitate to get in contact should you require any information or support.

Friends of St. Laurence PTA



Thank you so much to everyone who supported our events last half term.

We hope that everyone enjoyed our Welcome Disco and huge thanks also for so many wonderful donations to our Bag2School collection and of course, for purchasing Krispy Kreme treats.



Please take a look at the dates below – there are lots of Christmassy events coming up, and not just for the children!

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday 28th Nov - Christmas Wreath Making evening (adults only)

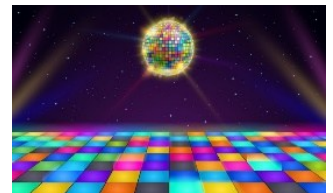
Please purchase tickets using this link by Friday 14th November <https://fosl.sumupstore.com/product/christmas-wreath-making-evening-2025>



Tuesday 2nd Dec - Festive Film Night (info to follow)

Friday 5th Dec - Non Uniform Day – bring a gift for the “Treats Tombola”

Thursday 11th Dec - Christmas Fair prep evening from 6pm (adults only)



Friday 12th Dec - Christmas Fair (during school day for the children, continuing after school for families to attend)

Monday 15th Dec - Tinsel Disco (info to follow)



JOIN US!

We welcome volunteers at events throughout the year - never more so than at busy times like Christmas and the summer. If you can assist at any of the above events, we would love to hear from you!

Come and see Father Christmas at our

CHRISTMAS FAYRE



Saturday

15th November

11am - 2pm

St Laurence Pastoral Centre

Church Road, Northfield B31 2LZ

Cakes Tombola Christmas Hamper Raffle Books Toys
Christmas Goods Gift Bag & Mug Tombolas
Refreshments and much more

Enquiries 0121 475 1518 [email: enquiries@saintlaurence.info](mailto:enquiries@saintlaurence.info)
Registered Charity: 1132975

Please see info
about church
events

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



Pictures from 2024 Festival!

St Laurence Church

173 Church Road, Northfield B31 2LX

Come along and enjoy the church filled with Christmas trees decorated by local community groups, schools, individuals and others

Saturday 29th November 10am – 4pm

Sunday 30th November 11am – 4pm
(including Liz Clarke Pottery)

Free entry but donations always welcome
Refreshments available

enquiries@saintlaurence.info 0121 475 1518
Registered Charity: 1132975

Year 6 Trip to the Houses of Parliament in Westminster—written by Sophia in 6P



32 Year 6 children filed into Northfield Train Station, all buzzing with excitement for the journey ahead. We all got registered and were given Hi-vis jackets, joining the group that we had been assigned to. The train came and we hopped on. Once on, some of us played quiet games while some of us tried to sleep. Some simply stared out of the window as the passing countryside trees turned into tall buildings and skyscrapers. We all had to hold in the excitement and anticipation for the experience ahead.

After a long two or so hours, we disembarked, got into partners within our groups and started walking. The next stop on the long journey to the houses of Parliament was going on the London Underground. We were all prepared for it to be absolutely packed as we were now in the capital city of England. It was. As soon as we entered the station, the number of people increased and the sound of the wind rushing as the trains accelerated filled the chamber. We hurriedly boarded the

steep escalator in single file and boarded the train. It was incredibly hot and swarmed in there and most of us had to stand up and rely on only the scratched poles as the carriage knocked us about.

Finally, we got off the busy train and departed from the station, much to our delight. Then, we walked as we gazed at the iconic views like the London Eye and Big Ben. On the way, we took a few pictures until we arrived. The outside of Westminster parliament was even better than we had expected it to be; the height, the carvings and the history spilling out of it left us with no words. We didn't have much time to stare at it as we had to enter the building. We were given a lanyard each and were scanned through a tall device as well as our backpacks. We put all of our bags in a rack and were each given listening devices which made our tour guide's voice stand out of all the other noises in the building. Emma (the tour guide) showed us all of the rooms and the famous parliament benches. We learnt how our laws are made and about the House of Commons and the House of Lords. We were even lucky enough to see a copy of the original Magna Carta! The inside of the palace was absolutely astounding. All of the rooms were furnished with such exquisite objects from dressing stands to giant statues and thrones.



After an information-packed hour or two we had a talk with an actual Lord called 'Lord Russell of Liverpool' whose ancestor received the title in 1919. We asked him questions all about what it was like to be a Lord and about what he did daily. Afterwards, we had a game where we had to guess what object was in the bag and then had our packed lunch. I'm sure we were all sad to leave but we were all exhausted.



We began the long journey home, reflecting on the whole experience and thinking about the laws all stored up behind the face of Big Ben. It still amazed all of us that we stepped in the exact same places as King Henry VIII, Queen Victoria and so many MPs, Lords, Baroness', Dukes and many more people who had changed history to make the world we live in today. The tube was just as busy as it had been on the way there and the train to Birmingham New Street felt just as long as we said goodbye to London. This trip was so inspiring and I'm positive that every single person that went found it amazing in their own different way.