Live Simply Award
St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School
Autumn 2024

A snapshot of aspects of our school's 'Live Simply' journey as we strive to strengthen our relationship with God Our Father & our global family.

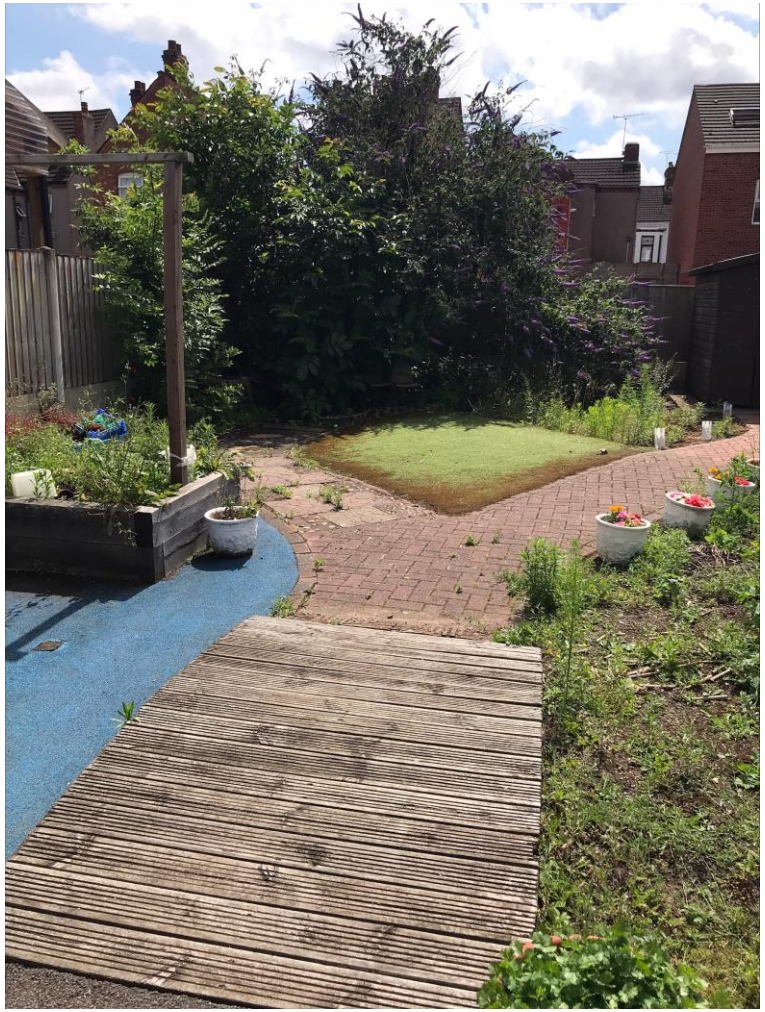
Main action: To create a prayer garden where pupils and staff can gather to reflect upon God's love for each of us, to listen and respond to His Word and to celebrate creation and our stewardship of creation

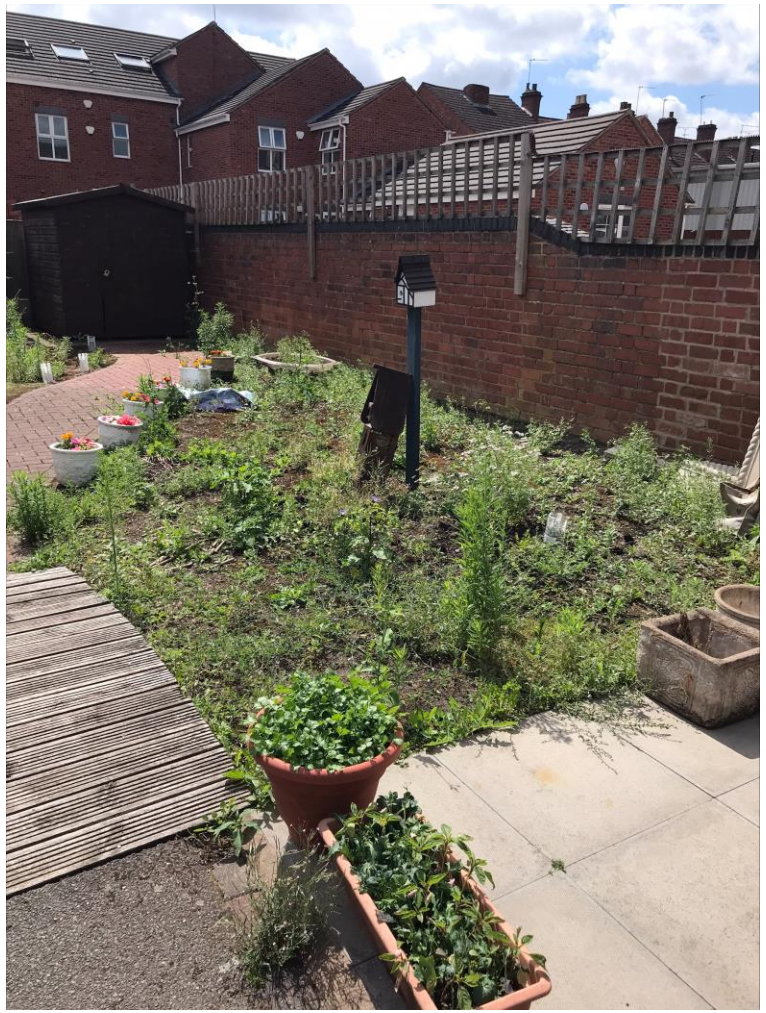


The identified space was an overgrown and unused area of the school which was once a play/growing area for our early year's children



The Challenge!

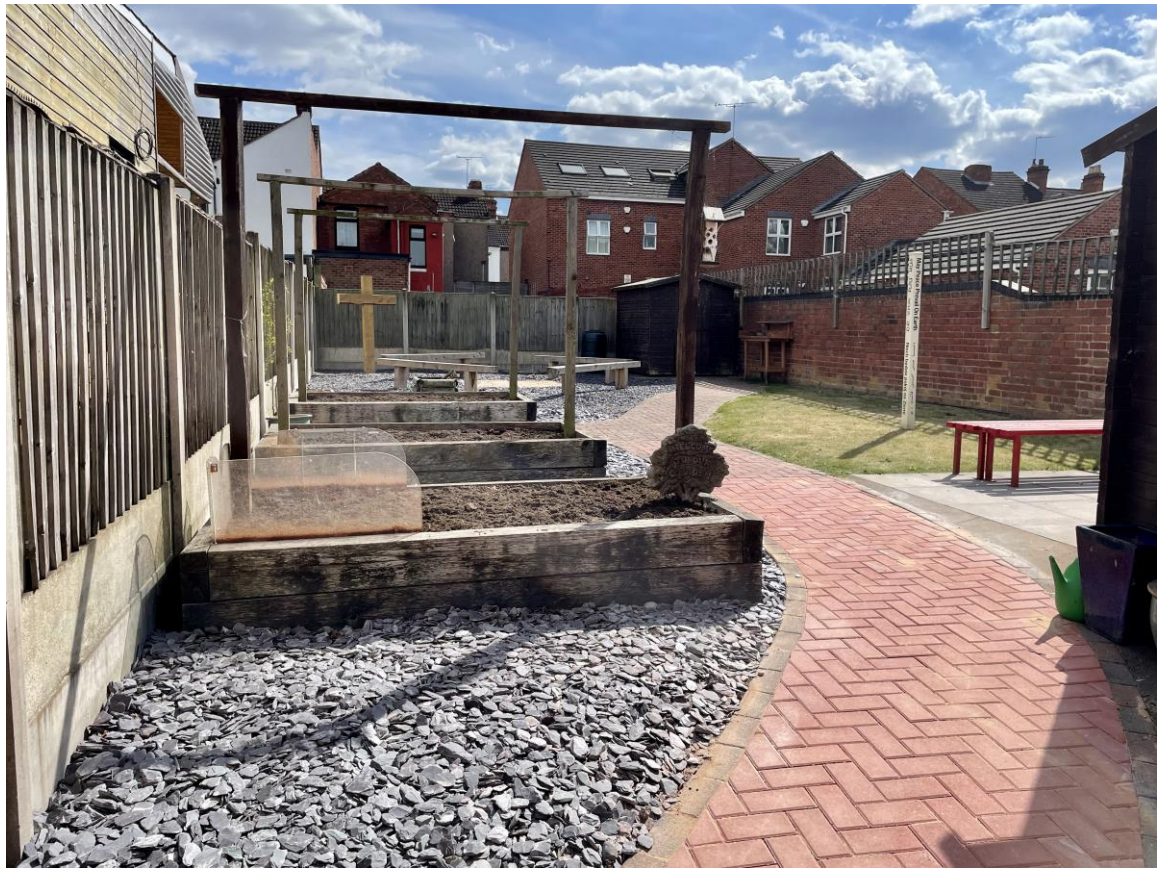




An opportunity to make a difference and to link our faith and learning:

This was an overgrown and unloved space with failed planting beds, an unsafe external wall, an area of old plastic turf and an unsafe entrance and ‘wooden bridge’. Our children created wish lists of things they would like to see within this area and ideas for how they could come to use it… so we got to work!

After many months of work…new paving, new seating, new turf and a focal point cross.







We partnered with our local Rotary Round Table organisation who kindly purchased a peace pole for the garden.







Alongside the cross focal point, we have added a number of prayers around the garden which our children have used, including the Prayer to St Francis.







Following a safety survey, we added buttresses to the external prayer garden wall to ensure its safety.

We also added a number of Stations of the Cross to the garden which are part of a stations trail around the school.

Connecting with God Our Father through the Earth







Our planters now have a selection of herb plants and small fruits which we plan to harvest for our school kitchen

Our prayer garden has been coming to life with our voices, our planting and our enjoyment of this special place.





Our Lady Chapel – another area for prayer & reflection



Beside our playground area, we have constructed an outdoor chapel dedicated to Our Lady. Our Chaplaincy Team look after this area, renewing prayer slips, sharpening pencils and tidying this area after every playtime and dinnertime.



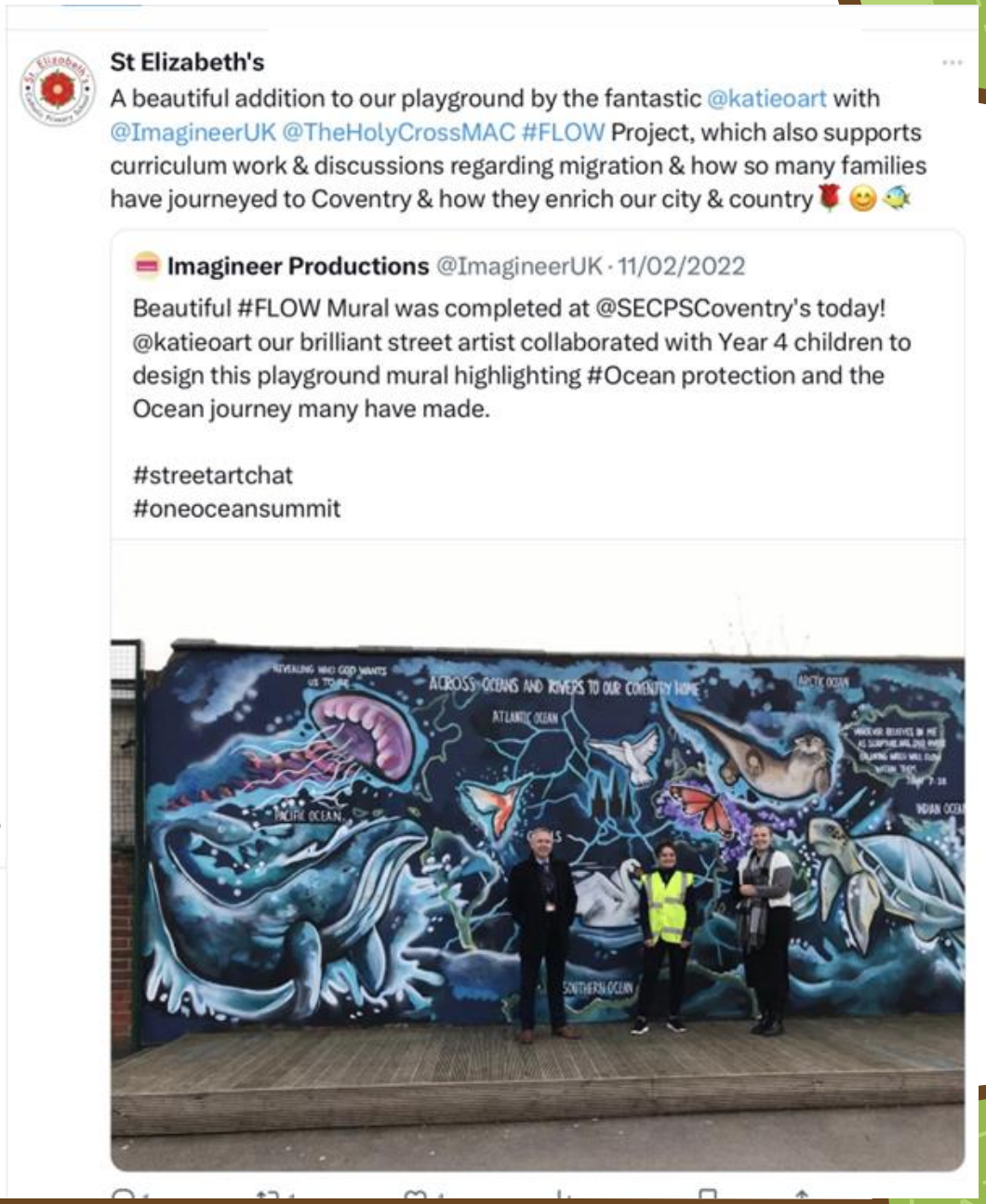


Actions to live sustainably with creation

Main action:
Year 4 pupils to participate in Coventry City of Culture FLOW (Future Life of our Oceans Wealth) project create artistic dance & movement linked to the importance and relevance of water and migration to Coventry whilst focusing on the importance of our world's oceans and seas.

The FLOW Project consisted of our Year 4 children preparing a special class dance set to narration and led by Imagineer Productions. The journey from Coventry to the sea, linked with an appreciation of migration. The children also designed a playground mural which was created for the school.

The children performed for parents and other MAC school children in a special Coventry showcase where all schools presented their learning. Our children's celebration of our God's planet and also their developed understanding of migration and the value of different peoples who have journeyed to Coventry.



St Elizabeth's

Fantastic experience for our children, bringing to life the crucial issue of environmental protection & how they can protect our seas/oceans from our land locked home of Coventry. We're looking forward to our visit to #DaimlerPowerhouse this week! @COP26 #SeasonOfCreation 🌹🌍💧

Imagineer Productions

#Navigate, part one of #Flow, sees us working with primary schools across Coventry (Christ the King, St. Augustine's, St. Elizabeth's, St. John Vianney and St. Thomas More) through an arts framework reconnecting young learners with blue spaces in their local area to..

1/4






The Flow performances we enjoyed at school, linked our children's learning, their faith and enjoyment.



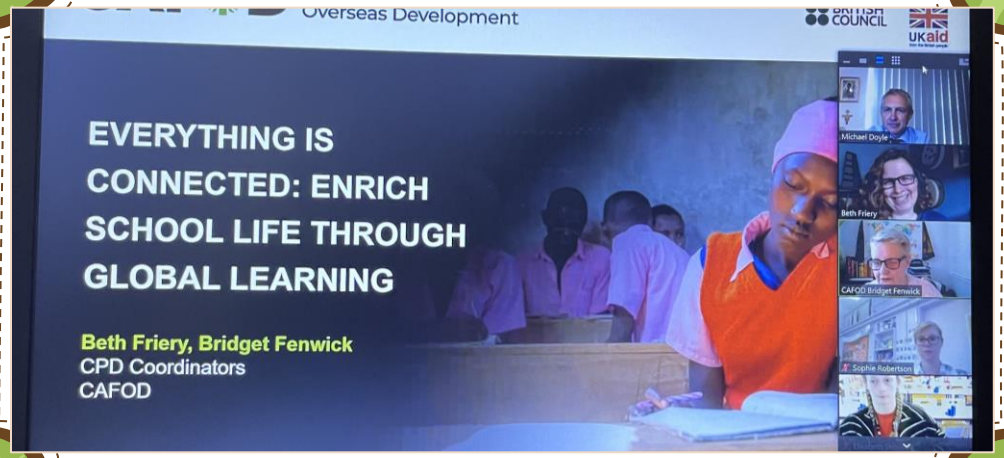
CAFOD Assembly July 2024… a thank you and update on how our fundraising for CAFOD has been spent and how our prayers and social action has made a difference to others



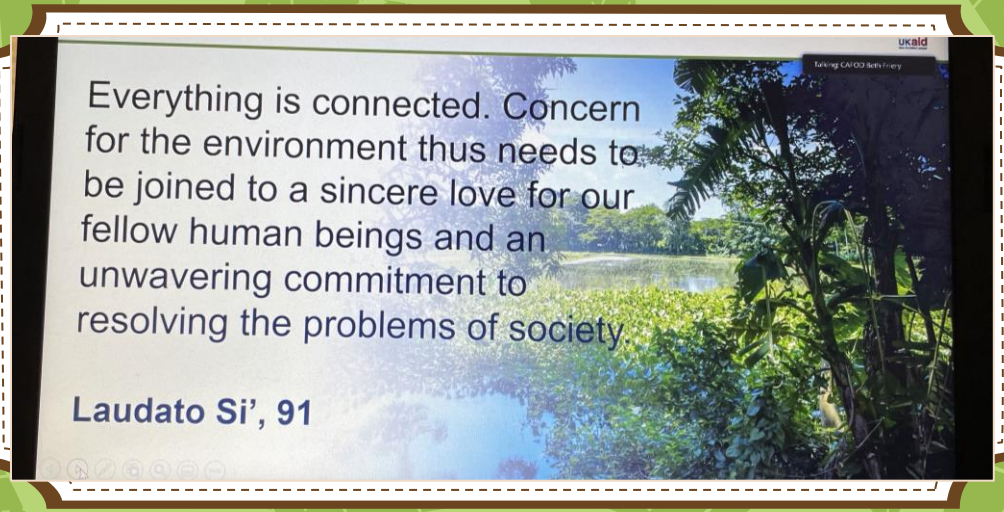


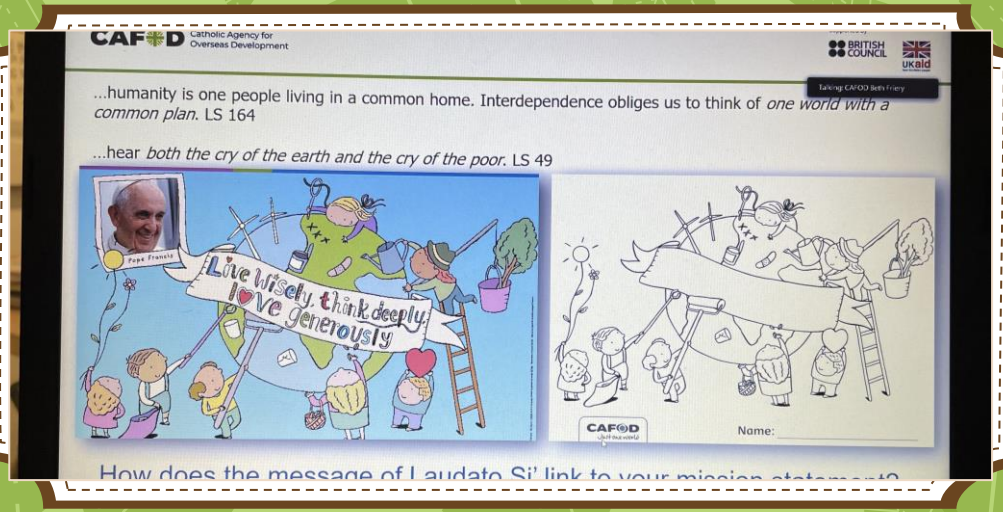


Our staff training by CAFOD…
Everything is Connected: Enriching school life through global learning



Catholic Social Teaching…Our CAFOD partners delivered two staff meetings for staff that have supplemented our continuing drive towards our understanding and action of CST





CAFOD National Assembly

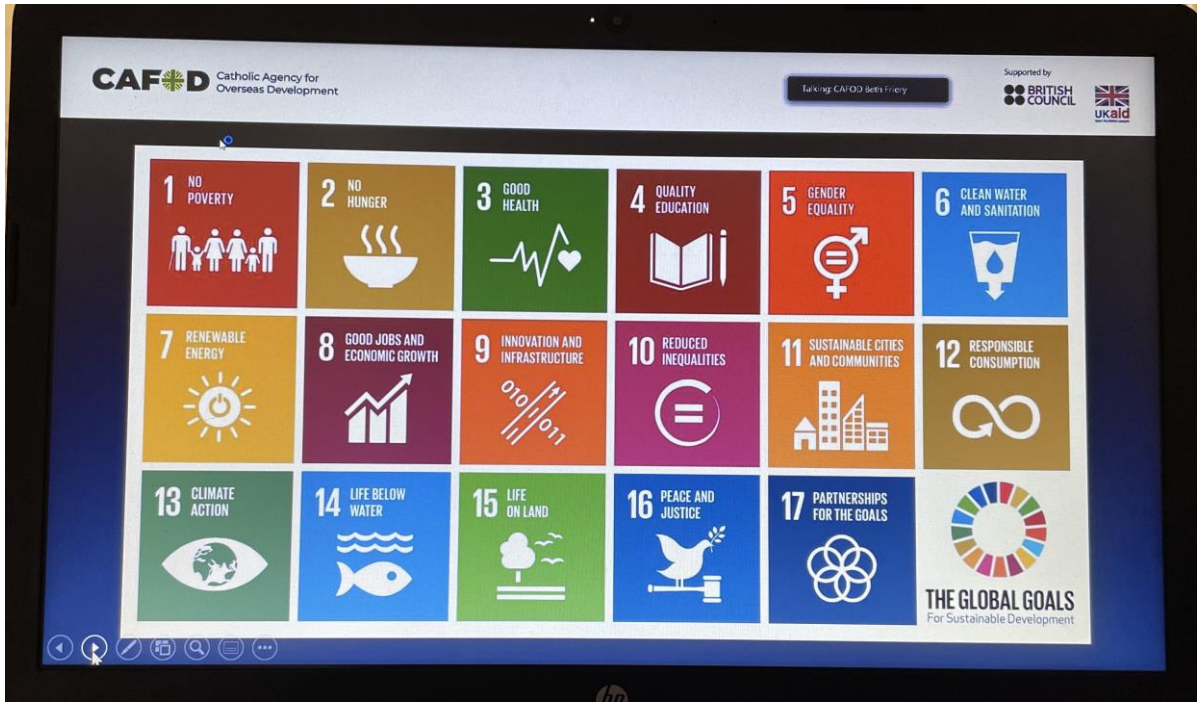






Our Advent and Lenten preparations are well supported by CAFOD and they provide a focus for our fundraising and almsgiving.

Global Goals…our next steps to build upon



Following our CAFOD training, and our increased understanding of Global Goals and also our successful Green Flag Award in summer term 2024, we will be working on Global Goals next year. Our shared involvement with our fellow MAC schools in the Holy Cross Catholic MAC, will look towards identifying key appropriate goals and working towards their successful development with St Elizabeth's and our MAC schools.

Catholic Social Teaching (in action!)

A key aspect of our work is our celebration and recognition of children's work and partnership with our wider school family and parish of St Elizabeth's.
Our school Class Dojo is a very valuable share point for our community. We share our community involvement and celebrate our Catholic Social Actions on a weekly basis. Please see the following slides which share a variety of CST in action!

St Elizabeth's
@SECPSCoventry

Thank you to Christine from @cafod for visiting us earlier this week and sharing how we can have a direct and positive impact upon the lives of those in need during Lent & beyond 🌹😊🤝 @CAFODSchools #CST #CatholicSocialAction





Living Simply works...

We passed our recent milk bottle and milk bottle top collections to a local plastic recycling company, Team Recycle, who used them and created these wonderful plaques for our school.

It is a very clear reminder to our children that recycling works and if we all choose to live more simply, we truly can reduce and reuse waste which helps to protect our environment and planet.

We are continuing to collect plastic milk bottle tops only. A collection box is in our school hall where children can drop them off when they come into school.

Recycling... it makes a difference!!





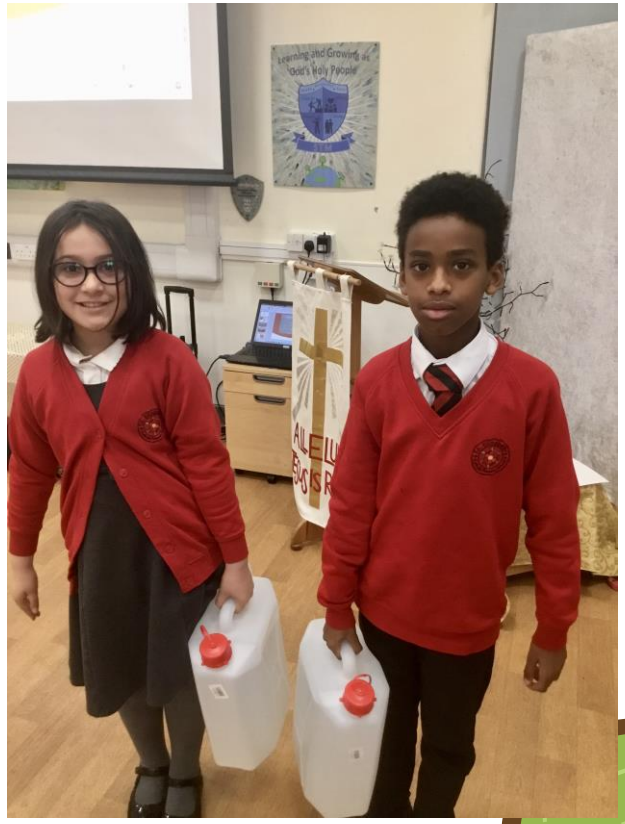
This week we reminded our children that they are invited to bring into school a number of items for recycling... e.g. used batteries, milk bottle tops. We are also now recycling any plastic items from our school lunches such as yogurt pots, plastic bags etc #LiveSimply #GoGreen 🌹💚🌎

Our weekly Monday morning Mission Assembly is a time when we thank God for what we have, pray for those who are in need and discuss and share the work we have done or will do to make a difference to the lives of other people.

Water Aid Assembly…understanding how we are so lucky to have what we have and why we should help those who don't have as much



Live SIMPLY





Keep Britain Tidy!

Some of our Year 6 children took part in litter picking around our school as part of the Keep Britain Tidy Spring Clean.
Anti-littering is such an important way to keep Foleshill and Coventry tidy, please continue to reinforce the anti-littering message at home. 🌹💚🌍

Do something at school, do something at home…

but do it simply!

live simply

Live Simply…

Spend time away from devices. We absorb ourselves in technology every day. Try switching time on your phone or watching TV for time outside, meeting up with friends or family, or reading a book!

Live Sustainably…

Ethical Easter Eggs…With Easter approaching, when buying Easter gifts, consider ways to find more environmentally friendly alternatives. For example, you could try to find eggs with plastic-free packaging and those with local, organic or Fairtrade ingredients. If you can't find what you're looking for, why not try making your own eggs instead or make a reusable egg to fill with ethical gifts.

Live in Solidarity…

Ahead of Easter, consider donating Easter eggs or other Easter gifts to your local food bank to support people in your local area. You could even go one step further and volunteer your time to the food bank too!

Charity & almsgiving… 2022/2023



We have a continuous focus on our charitable works and almsgiving, whether independently or in partnership with our Holy Cross Catholic MAC.

Please see below for our charitable donations for the academic year 2022/23:

- CAFOD – Advent almsgiving £168.52
- CAFOD – Disaster Emergency Appeal £155.65
- Mission Together – Day of Many Colours £136.77
- Mini Vinnies – Loose Change Appeal £ 36.63
- Foleshill Foodbank harvest food collection
- Parish Hall non uniform collections

The charitable donations, whether monies or food items, from so many children and families living in a parish located in the 6th percentile of National Deprivation is remarkable, and it illustrates the understanding and depth of feeling for the initiatives we share and their desire to help others.

Charity & almsgiving… 2023/2024

Please see below for our charitable donations for the last academic year, 2023/24:

- CAFOD World Gifts (Advent Cake Sale): £91.91
- CAFOD World Gifts (Advent Non-uniform): £166.47
- CAFOD Gaza Appeal (Smarties Tubes): £102.20
- Parish Hall non uniform collection
- Fr Hudson's Care £1 Pledge: £210.00
- Fr Hudson's Care Good Shepherd Appeal: £55.20
- Parish Centre Fundraising (Book Sale): £113.00
- Foleshill Foodbank food collections/contributions



Charity Work & Almsgiving…

CAFOD Cake Sales… supporting those in need overseas



Food Collection for Foleshill Food Bank…supporting those in need in Foleshill and Coventry



Thoughts from our children regarding charity and being active members of the Church…

- “Our prayers help because God always answers them – God wants to see how generous we can be, and God will reward us with something great”
- “We do charitable work like giving to people in need and raising money for charities. Our money goes to people who don’t have as much as we do”
- “We do charitable work because as a school we’re here to do God’s will first and our will second. We should do it because it’s the right thing, not for a reward”
- “Charity is giving your time to others; also giving time to God”
- “Charity can be mentally helping people to have a smile on their faces. It doesn’t have to be about giving stuff away, it can be about making people happy”
- “Do small things with great love (quote from Y5 child’s class saint). Just do small acts because this can be really generous to them. Giving food could be the only food they’ve eaten for ages”
- “We can pick up litter. This links to CST principle of Care for Creation, because when we pick up litter we’re saving God’s planet”
- “Sometimes we don’t have enough to provide for other people (e.g. financially) so we can’t offer to others what we don’t have ourselves but we can help in other ways like praying.”



Fundraising for Zoe's Place - September 2024

A new charity focus for September 2024…
Zoe's Place – a Coventry hospice supporting babies & children with life limiting & complex conditions & their families.











National Eco Schools Green Flag Award Autumn 2024



In September, we were awarded the National Eco Schools Green Flag Award in recognition for the continued environmental focus and work of the children, family & school as we continue to achieve together in faith…as stewards of God's planet.

live simply



Giant Laudato Si display school hall display…

key messages our children see every day!

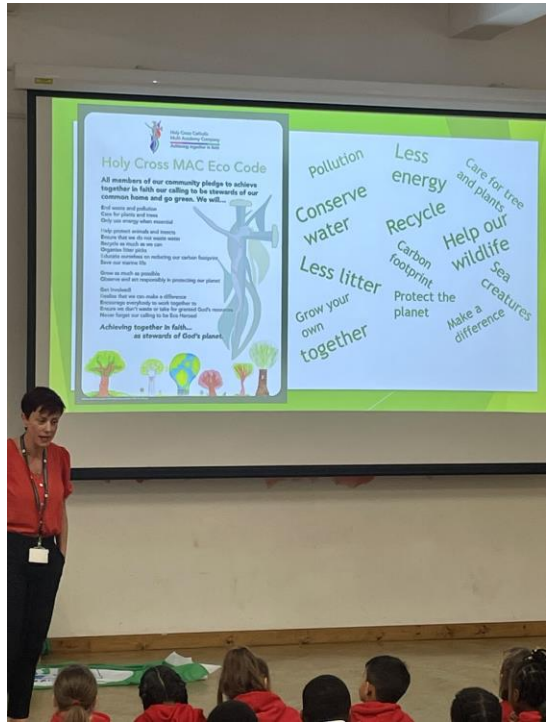
Using CAFOD resources, we have created a dedicated school display linking Laudato Si & Fratelli Tutti and specially chosen texts that our children read & share in class. The display and selection of books is refreshed very few weeks ensuring our children's understanding of Pope Francis' key messages are renewed.



Our Eco Heroes planning their next steps and action plan for the year.

Developing and linking our children's understanding of our role in protecting and caring God's wonderful world, our Eco Heroes planned their next steps for the year ahead and shared it with the school.







Action Plan – St Elizabeth's 2024-2025

Eco-Schools Topics	Action	Duration	Monitoring Method
School Grounds	1.Clear an area for gardening and decide what we want to do and grow. 2. Organise volunteers to help clear the area and improve raised beds 3. Organise an event 'Earth Day' to promote the planting of seeds and looking after our environment. 4. Get all children to plant a seed and bulbs, potentially in pots to begin with. 5. Create bird feeders (Year 4) and bird houses (Year 5). 6. Take part in RSBP Bird Watch Hour 31.01.2025	Next Term	Photographs of before and after areas and children getting involved. Birdhouse in situ, evidence from bird count. Seeds growing to show progress.
Aim- To improve the environment at school to promote wildlife and insects as well as encourage the growing of own plants.		Informing & Involving Plans Informing parents of what we are doing on weekly newsletters. Giving tips and reminders to parents. Get volunteers from the local community or parents if possible. Use 'X' to promote and share news.	Final Evaluation Have a new and improved area that allows children to grow their own vegetables and plants, encourages lots of different wildlife and biodiversity and benefits all staff and students. Successfully complete Bird Watch Hour. Successfully have bird feeders and bird houses in select places around the school grounds.

Our Eco Heroes linking everyday thinking to 'Living Simply'

Our Eco Heroes met on 23rd September for their first meeting of the year. Building on last year's Green Flag success, they have created our next steps linking our environmental drive with living simply.

Three key focus areas…

* **School Grounds**

Waste

Energy

Action Plan – St Elizabeth's 2024-2025

Eco-Schools Topic	Action	Duration	Monitoring Method
WASTE	1.scrap paper drawer in every classroom. 2. Reusable water bottles only, ban the use of single use water bottles. 3. Clearly and efficiently recycle paper. Make sure two bins are available to sort properly. 4. Buy bins to sort for each classroom. Yellow bins – paper, buy smaller bin- everything else. 5. Have monitors to reinforce proper sorting. 6. Get cleaners and caretakers onboard to empty bins at least once a week – use clear bags. 7. Recycle to Read Event with Holy Cross Mac – February. Textiles and Toy recycling event. 8.Look at how to recycle glue sticks. 9. Start pen recycling in school – create box for them by photocopier. 10. Continue and reinforce battery recycling.	The next half term.	1.Look at the use of paper and see if the amount ordered and used is reduced, 2. Ensure SSO is checking bins contents and feeding back. 3. Photo of new bins in situ. 4. Photos of Recycle to Read event taking place. 5. Evidence from this event of how much money is raised and books purchased. 6. Evidence of how many pens are being recycled in box.
Aim		**Informing & Involving Plans**	**Final Evaluation**
To reduce the amount of waste we send to landfill in school		Inform parents about our 'Recycle to Read' event where they are bringing in textiles and toys from home.	Successfully recycling pens, batteries and paper on school site. Using larger bins correctly.

Three key focus areas…

School Grounds

* **Waste**

Energy

Action Plan – St Elizabeth's 2024-2025

Eco-Schools Topic **Energy**	Action 1. Switch off Event 14th-21th November. 2.Energy free day as part if the day. No photocopying. Use books from the library. No IWB for the day. No chrome books. 3. Learn about Energy during that day. 4. Monitor the use of the meter. 5. Posters about turning lights off. 6. Monitor to turn off lights and IWB off on the way out. 7.Reminders on the light switches. 8. Talk to MAC about more energy efficient lighting on school site.	Duration next half term	Monitoring Method complete before and after audit. Photos of posters and reminder stickers.
Aim To reduce the amount of energy used on our school sites and raise awareness of the impact of fossil fuels and reducing our carbon footprint		Informing & Involving Plans Send information/factfile designed by Eco Heroes home to parents	Final Evaluation Using less energy and raising awareness.

Three key focus areas…

School Grounds

Waste

* **Energy**

Living Simply…a way of thinking and living each and every day



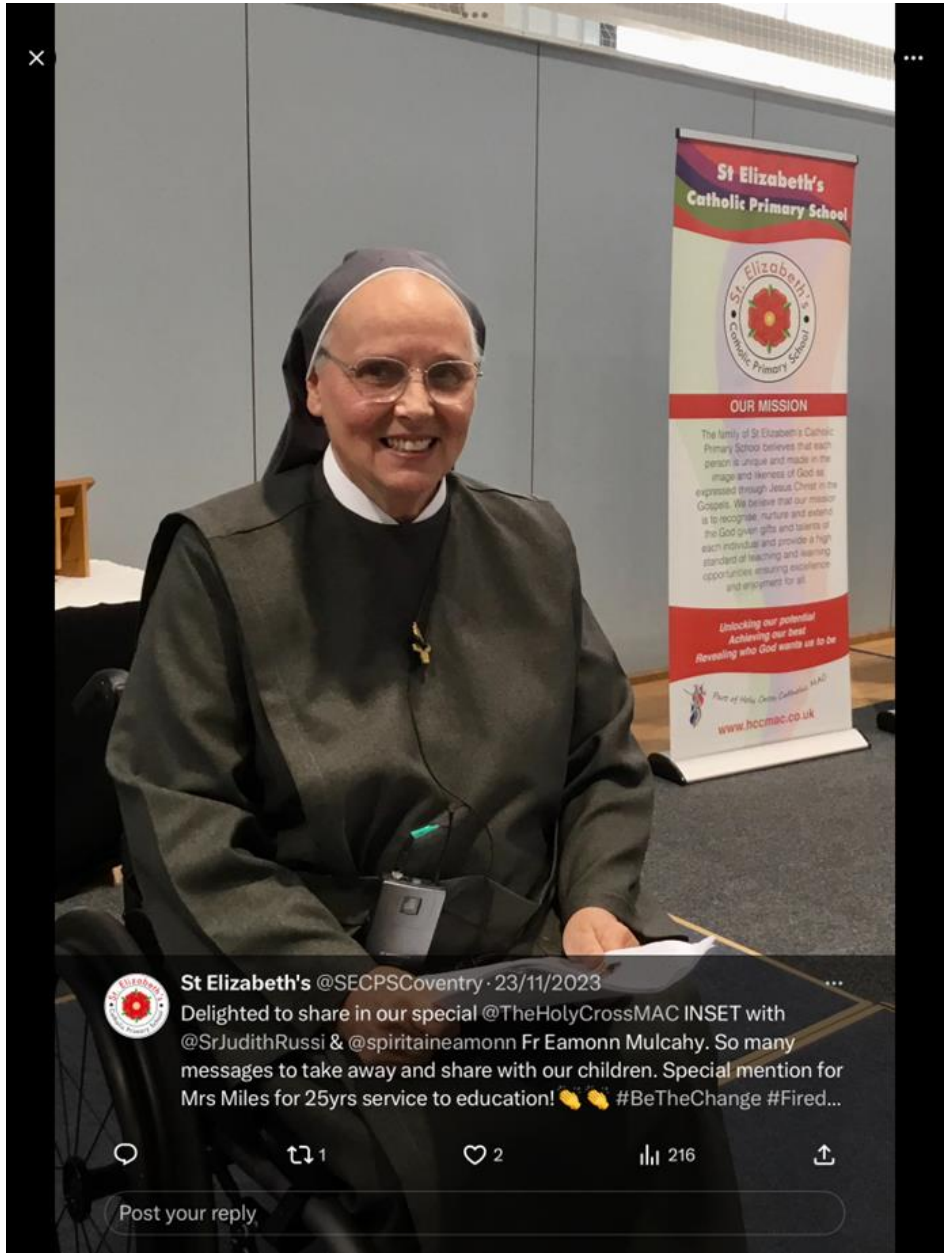




Actions to live in solidarity with the poor

Work with Holy Cross Catholic MAC schools to work with 3 Charities – local, national and global to support fund raising efforts for each of the chosen charities.

We have partnered with our MAC primary and secondary schools and other schools and organisations, working collaboratively to extend and develop our St Elizabeth's understanding of living simply and impacting upon the world around us.



Celebrating our Faith, outreach and partnerships as we strive to live simply



live simply



Celebrating our Faith and outreach with our MAC schools, Coventry schools and organisations



St Elizabeth's
@SECPSCoventry

Thank you to Crow Recycling for sharing how they collect waste & used items & recycle them. Our children have shared their learning & are thinking of more ways we can make more use of the resources we have in school to reduce waste & look after our 🌍 #LiveSimply @CAFODSchools



Holy Cross MAC CST Conference – a family and partnership for our children



We were delighted to send our Chaplaincy Team to our MAC CST Conference this summer where Sr Judith Russi spoke to our children again about the impact they should and can have on our world.





Non uniform for Earth Day!

Today is Earth Day! Earth Day is a focus on how we can all do more to protect our planet and this year's particular focus is 'planet Vs plastics' as we continue to look at how we reduce the amount of plastic we use in the world.
We are encouraging all of our children to wear blue or green today to help celebrate this special focus.
There is no charge/contribution required for



Today, our Year 3 children sang a song for the school that they've loved learning this week. The song is a cry for hell and action from the world's children regarding climate change.

If your child would like to learn it and join in with this song next week please see the YouTube link and lyrics below:

https://youtu.be/zl0XSWGsTqA?si=5p6_4fVFajvnoH6o

ES

Ms. Stowell
St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School · 25 Apr



Earth Day - 5 finger pledge
Year 5 pupils discussed the different things we could easily do to make our planet a cleaner place to live 🌱🌎

Local recycling company or national initiative, every experience builds on our children's knowledge and appreciation of their world

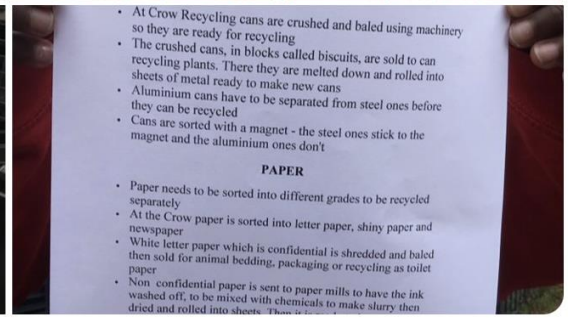
St Elizabeth's
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Tomorrow is 'The Great Big Green 'Book' Swap!! 🌍 ♻️ 📚

Pope Francis has called us all to hear and respond to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor. During the continuing cost of living crisis, the Columban Missionaries have suggested an opportunity which we are going to adopt tomorrow, Friday 14th June... The Great Big Green Book Swap!

We are inviting our children to bring into a school a book that they have read and are willing to swap with another child in their class. Books will need to be in good condition and one which they are happy to swap (without return).

This is an opportunity to increase our

Using a variety of subjects and experiences, our children have investigated their place in the world and how they can shape their future world



R & J from Year 4 have been representing the school our our recent Holy Cross MAC Eco meetings. The children have been sharing the eco work we have been doing in school and also bringing ideas back to school for us to consider working on in the future. One such idea was fundraising for Water Aid, a water charity that works across the world to provide drinking water an toilets in different countries across the world. Thank you to R & J for representing the school so well! 🌹🌍🌿 #EcoHeroes #GreenFlagAward

You reposted

St Mary &St Benedict

Today we are welcoming children from @SECPSCoventry @StAugustinesCov and @CorpusPrimary to our school as we host 'Mousike Ensemble'. 🎶
We are so excited to sing together and share our hopes for the future of the planet! 🌎 🌍 🌏



Feast of St Francis of Assisi
October 2024
Warwickshire Wildlife Trust







On the Feast of St Francis, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust visited Year 4 & Year 5 for a special assembly and workshops.

The Warwickshire Wildlife Trust Yellow Fish Programme

Our Y4 & Y5 children took part in the 'Yellow Fish Campaign' which raises awareness of surface water pollution that ends up in local rivers, with the message: "Only Rain Down the Drain!"

Linking our prayer & faith life to our protection of the environment, particularly on the Feast day of St Francis, connects our children's thoughts and actions…Catholic Social Teaching in action!







Fairtarde Fortnight 2024





Fairtrade…our CAFOD assemblies through the Fairtrade Fortnight explained why & how our children can make a difference to others through Fairtrade





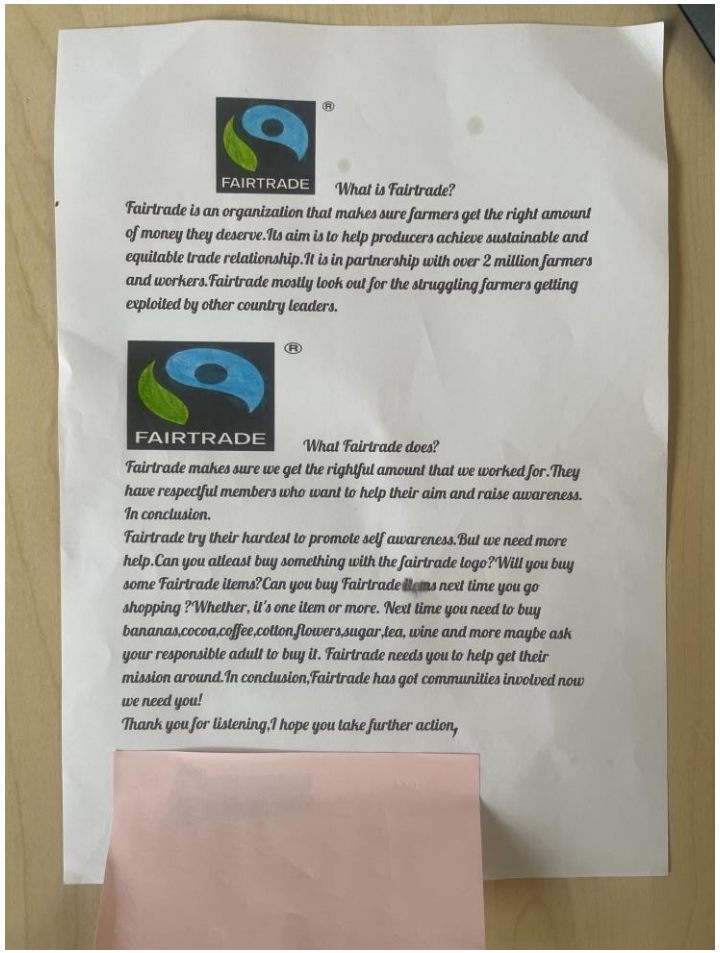
Our kitchen suppliers are investigating the use of Fairtrade produce for our school and our Holy Cross MAC

live simply





Fairtrade 2024…inspired to change



FAIRTRADE

What is Fairtrade?

Fairtrade is an organization that makes sure farmers get the right amount of money they deserve.Its aim is to help producers achieve sustainable and equitable trade relationship.It is in partnership with over 2 million farmers and workers.Fairtrade mostly look out for the struggling farmers getting exploited by other country leaders.

FAIRTRADE

What Fairtrade does?

Fairtrade makes sure we get the rightful amount that we worked for.They have respectful members who want to help their aim and raise awareness.

In conclusion.

Fairtrade try their hardest to promote self awareness.But we need more help.Can you atleast buy something with the fairtrade logo?Will you buy some Fairtrade items?Can you buy Fairtrade items next time you go shopping ?Whether, it's one item or more. Next time you need to buy bananas,cocoa,coffee,cotton,flowers,sugar,tea, wine and more maybe ask your responsible adult to buy it. Fairtrade needs you to help get their mission around.In conclusion,Fairtrade has got communities involved now we need you!

Thank you for listening,I hope you take further action,

Following one of our Fairtrade assemblies, one of our children was inspired by Fairtrade to write a letter to the school explaining in her own words what Fairtrade does and why it is important to support Fairtrade

Dear Lord, we ask your blessing on all who are involved with Fair Trade, lifting before you producers as they grow their crops and craft their works. Bless them, we pray, in their endeavours and grant them wisdom and discernment as they make decisions about how to use the benefits of Fair Trade. We pray also for people who transport Fair Trade goods to market. Grant, we pray, that they, too, may be fairly treated. For those who import and retail Fair Trade goods. Grant them, we pray, a genuine commitment to fairer trade for all. For all of us who shop where Fair Trade goods are for sale. Grant us an understanding of the impact of our choices.

We ask all these things in the name of Jesus Christ,

Amen.





Our staff team now have a selection of Fairtrade products in the staffroom, choosing to swap products they use each day for products that make a difference to others.

Fairtrade… Be The Change

St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School

Part of the Holy Cross Catholic MAC of schools

Newsletter 02 *Friday 13th September 2024*

Head Teacher: Mr M Doyle *Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs J Miles*

Telephone: 02476 687 527 E-Mail: admin@st-elizabeths.coventry.sch.uk

Twitter: @SECPSCoventry *Website:* www.st-elizabeths.coventry.sch.uk

Virtue & Value Focus: Curious & Active

Curious about everything; and active in their engagement with the world, changing what they can for the better.

This weeks school attendance: 96.04% *School target attendance 97%*

This weeks winning class is: Y5 100%

Year 1: 92.8% Year 2: 98.3% Year 3: 97.2% Year 4: 97.8% Year 5: 100% Year 6: 97.1%

Holy Cross Feast Day

We celebrated our special Holy Cross MAC feast day today, as the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross falls tomorrow, Saturday 14th September. As part of our celebrations, our Year 3 children travelled to Coventry Cathedral to take part in the Coventry Peace Trail, whilst our Year 6 children gathered with the other MAC Year 6 classes to celebrate mass at St. Thomas More Church to begin their Confirmation preparations. Happy Feast Day everyone! Holy Cross of Jesus ….. be our hope.

Earrings

Please be reminded that St. Elizabeth's is a 'no earrings' school. This decision was taken by the school governors a number of years ago for a variety of reasons, particularly to avoid the unnecessary risks of earrings at PE and playtimes and the problems of children removing earrings during the school day. Please ensure your child is not wearing earrings for school. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Confirmation Preparation Meeting

Our first Confirmation preparation meeting for Year 6 parents/carers and children wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year is on Thursday 19th September 3.30pm in the school hall.

Fairtrade 2024

Today, we shared the work of the Fairtrade organisation.

The children watched a video, examined some Fairtrade products and we talked about how we can fairly help other peoples and help them avoid exploitation. Please continue this conversation at home and consider popping one or two Fairtrade products in your weekly shopping basket.

Dear Lord, we ask your blessing on all who are involved with Fairtrade, lifting before you: producers as they grow their crops and craft their works. Bless them, we pray, in their endeavours and grant them wisdom and discernment as they make decisions about how to use the benefits of Fairtrade.

We ask this prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Political Change…
During the fortnight, each class wrote to Mary Creagh, our local Coventry MP, requesting the change required to improve the lives of others through Fairtrade.

Home School Partnership…
Our parents and carers have been encouraged to purchase Fairtrade products in their weekly shop to make small but important changes.

Fairtrade 2024 - Be The Change

Dear Ms Creagh,

Congratulations on your recent election. I'm sure you've already got an idea of how much fairness matters to people in our area.

So, as we mark Fairtrade Fortnight and 30 years of Fairtrade in the UK, I'm asking you to sign the Fairtrade Foundation's Be the Change pledge.

The pledge is a simple personal commitment to work with Fairtrade and fair trade campaigners here in the UK, and to listen to the farmers and workers around the world, to make sure policies developed at Westminster contribute to a future that's fair for all.

You can see the full details and sign up here: https://bit.ly/BeTheChangePledge

After you sign, I'd love it if you can share your commitment on social media so people can see our community cares about a fairer future.

Thanks for taking the time to read my email. Please let me know if you plan to sign the pledge.

Also, we'd love you to visit our school in Foleshill. Please get in touch, if you have an hour, to pop in and talk to our amazing children and see our great school!

Kind regards,

Michael Doyle

Head Teacher

St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School

St Elizabeth's Road

Foleshill

Coventry

CV6 5BX



St Elizabeth's Parish Hall…beginning October 2024

- Our children have held non-uniform days to fundraise for the new parish hall.
- Mr Doyle, Headteacher, has attended multiple fundraising meetings with, charitable organisations alongside Parish Priest, Fr Moses. These meetings have secured over £200,000 worth of donations for the parish hall
- Ground works to prepare the site are due to begin shortly



St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School

