

DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY
OUR LADY OF PITY ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
A VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



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HEAD OF SCHOOL: MRS BERNADETTE GALLOWAY

Dear Parents/Carers,

Another week has been filled with wonders and insight as your children delight in new learning. Royden trips to the Green Woodpecker Trail have started. Our Year 2 children found all manner of interesting things along their way on Monday (see our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/OurLadyofPitySchool/>). The children returned to school with scientific diagrams, measurements, and photographs and with questions in abundance to focus future research over the coming weeks.

This week's 'Science Talkabout'

This weekend, why not spend a little time talking about the stars with your child?

You might find it interesting to find the North, or Pole Star - a star named Polaris. (See the end of the email for a guide to finding the North Star.)

This is a star which is almost exactly lined up with our earth's axis, at the North Pole, so wherever you are in the Northern Hemisphere, if you face the Pole Star, you are facing north. Finding Polaris is an incredibly useful night time navigation technique that's helped everyone from the Egyptians to the Vikings find their way on the open seas.

If you would like to explore the sky further, the iPhone application - Star Guide - might be worth a look - alternatively, Stellarium Mobile for Android phones; both apps will enable you to hold your phone up to the sky and see the constellations mapped out in your hand!

A Prayer for our Time

We shared this poignant prayer together yesterday, in the week of National Mental Health Day - October 10th.

"Blessed are those who don't have it all together.

Blessed are those who have run out of strength, ideas, will power, resolve or energy.

Blessed are those who ache because of how severely out of whack the world is.

Blessed are those who on a regular basis have a dark day, in which despair seems to be a step behind them wherever they go.

Blessed are you, for God is with you.

God is on your side, God meets you in that place."

Children in Need

We start our collection on Monday for Children in Need - we invite you to send in a £2 coin as we build up to Children in Need day on November 16th.

Thank you!

A big 'Thank You' to our Key Stage 1 parents for standing away from the exit area on the playground so that we can dismiss the children safely.

Finding Polaris... A guide for the keen!

The simplest way to find this star - which is not particularly bright - is to find the Big Dipper (Ursa Major) - a large, saucepan-shaped constellation - and follow the line formed by the two stars on the side of the pan furthest from the handle. These 'pointer' stars lead your eye to the North Star.

Luckily, not only is Polaris in line with two stars from the Big Dipper, it is in fact a part of the Little Dipper - a smaller saucepan-shaped constellation - which makes it easy to check if you're looking at the right star. Like the Big Dipper, the Little Dipper (Ursa Minor) is composed of seven stars, three in the handle and four forming the pan. The Little Dipper floats above its bigger brother, and is angled as if it were upside down, pouring water into the larger pan. Polaris is the last star in the handle of the Little Dipper.

Have fun, star-gazers!

Warm wishes,

OLOP team