



St. Anne Line Catholic Junior School



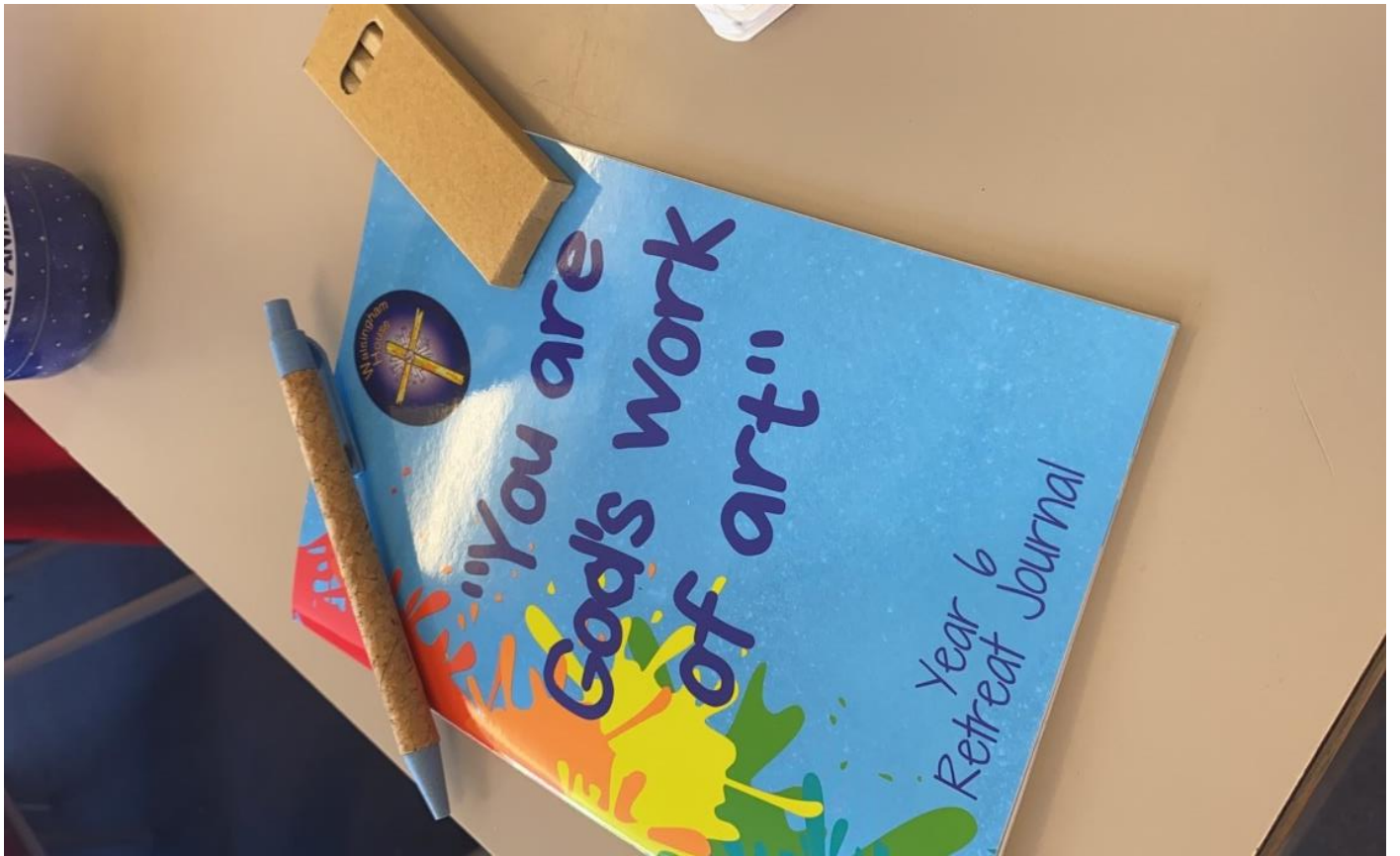
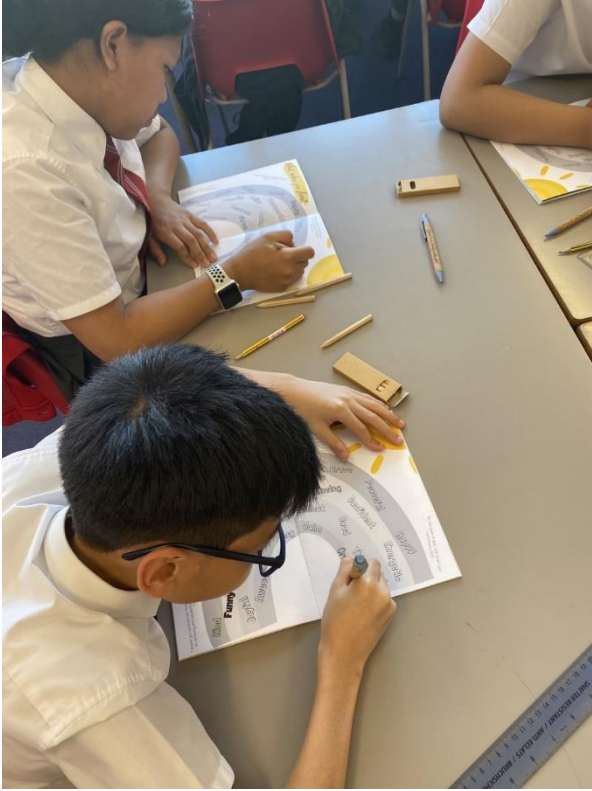
RETREATS

Annually in July, Year Six have a School Leavers' Retreat. Young people from our diocese volunteer by visiting the children in their own setting, helping them transition spiritually from Primary school to Secondary school. The types of activities that occur on a retreat are:

- Prayer
- Fun team games
- Reflection
- Meditation
- Singing
- Drama
- Art-work
- Discussion
- Video clips

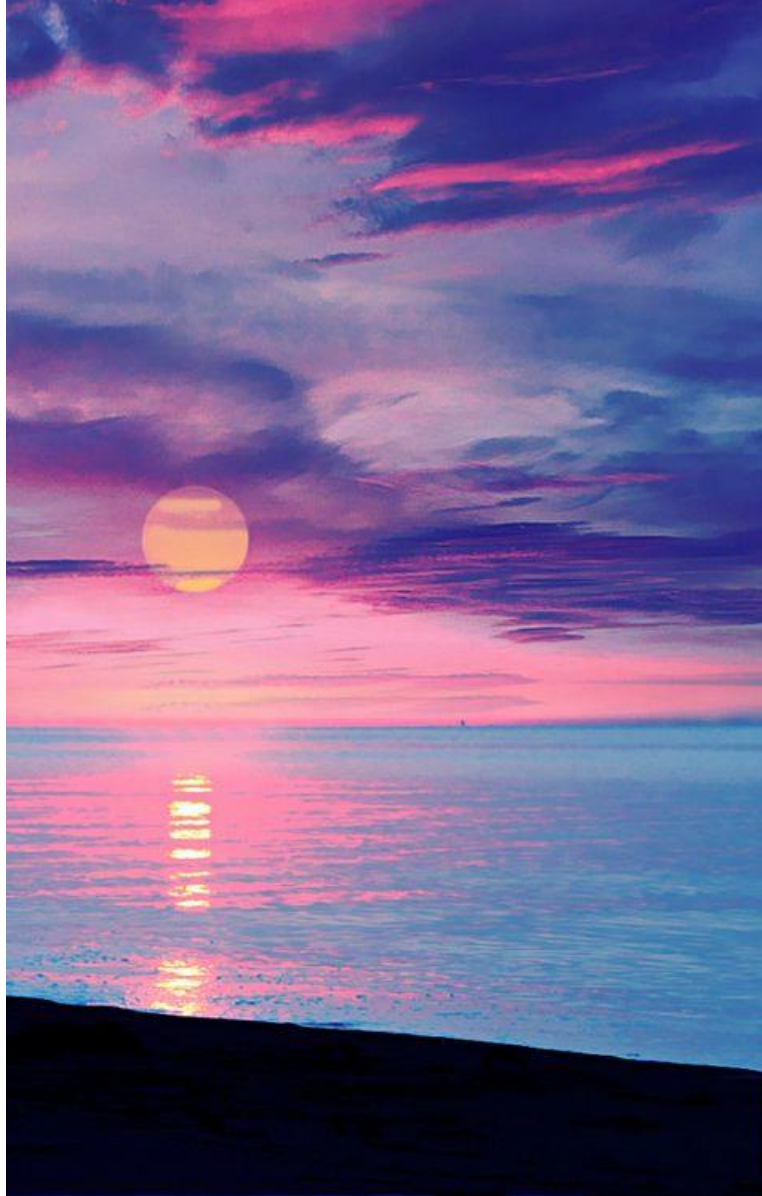
Here are some photos showing what happens on a Year 6 retreat! Below these photos is one of our Teachers' Retreats. These take place termly during a staff meeting.







St. Anne Line Catholic Junior School Staff Retreats



'Come thou Font of every blessing' by Elenyi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Z3pjXmNq2g>



'It's glorious' by Elenyi <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uTKC8q0JAUw>

Stories to reflect upon **Class 1 Teacher**

ELEPHANTS

A gentleman was walking through an elephant camp, and he spotted that the elephants weren't being kept in cages or held by the use of chains. All that was holding them back from escaping the camp, was a small piece of rope tied to one of their legs.



As the man gazed upon the elephants, he was completely confused as to why the elephants didn't just use their strength to break the rope and escape the camp. They could easily have done so, but instead, they didn't try to at all. Curious and wanting to know the answer, he asked a trainer nearby why the elephants were just standing there and never tried to escape.

The trainer replied; **“When they are very young and much smaller, we use the same size rope to tie them and, at that age, it’s enough to hold them. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free.”**

The only reason that the elephants weren't breaking free and escaping from the camp was that over time they adopted the belief that it just wasn't possible.

Moral of the story: No matter how much the world tries to hold you back, always continue with the belief that what you want to achieve is possible. Believing you can become successful is the most important step in actually achieving it.

The Butterfly **Class 2 Teacher**



A man found a cocoon of a butterfly. One day a small opening appeared. He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole. Suddenly, it stopped making any progress and looked as though it was stuck.

The man decided to help the butterfly. He took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily, although it had a swollen body and small, shrivelled wings. The man didn't think anything of it and sat there waiting for the wings to enlarge to support the butterfly. But that didn't happen.

The butterfly spent the rest of its life unable to fly, crawling around with tiny wings and a swollen body. Despite the kind heart of the man, he didn't understand that the restricting cocoon and the struggle needed by the butterfly to get itself through the small opening, were God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings. To prepare itself for flying once it was out of the cocoon.

Moral of the story: Our struggles in life develop our strengths. Without struggles, we never grow and never get stronger, so it's important for us to tackle challenges on our own, and not be relying on help from others.

Box Full of Kisses **Class 3 Teacher**

Some time ago, a man punished his 3-year-old daughter for wasting a roll of gold wrapping paper. Money was tight and he became infuriated when the child tried to decorate a box to put under the Christmas tree.



Nevertheless, the little girl brought the gift to her father the next morning and said, "This is for you, Daddy." The man became embarrassed by his overreaction earlier, but his rage continued when he saw that the box was empty. He yelled at her; "Don't you know, when you give someone a present, there is supposed to be something inside?"

The little girl looked up at him with tears in her eyes and cried; "Oh, Daddy, it's not empty at all. I blew kisses into the box. They're all for you, Daddy." The father was crushed. He put his arms around his little girl, and he begged for her forgiveness. Only a short time later, an accident took the life of the child.

Her father kept the gold box by his bed for many years and, whenever he was discouraged, he would take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of the child who had put it there. **Moral of the story:** Love is the most precious gift in the world.

'Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful'.

Quotes from Pope Francis **Class 4 Teacher**

1. "Teaching is about giving young people, especially trouble-makers, values and hope"
2. In a world where it is already difficult for kids to find a decent point of reference, they must find positive guidance from teachers, who "are able to give meaning to school, studying and culture,"
3. "Teaching is a serious commitment that only a mature and well-balanced" person should take on".
4. Young people expect a teacher to be "a guide, a compass, an answer" as well as someone who asks them "good questions."
5. Reach out to and "love with greater intensity" the children on "the peripheries" of our school: those who do not like studying, who are labelled as "difficult," who have disabilities, come other countries or face other problems and disadvantages.
6. "Jesus would say: If you love only those who study or who are well-educated, what merit does that have? There are those who try your patience, but we have to love them even more,"
7. In addition to teaching "the contents" of a particular subject, teachers need to build a rapport with all pupils, "who must feel welcomed and loved for who they are, with all their limits and potential."
8. Teach with passion and be witnesses of life and hope. Never, ever close the door, open all of them wide so that children will have hope."



REFLECTION **Class 5 Teacher**

1. What do you hope to accomplish this year....at school?
2. What is new for you this year?
3. Is there anything about this new academic year that worries you?
4. What are your own qualities that you bring to school each day?
5. How do you hope to grow, professionally this year?
6. Which joyful times did you enjoy last year in school with the pupils? With colleagues?
7. Which times were hard for you at school and/or at home?
8. How can we be helpful to our colleagues this year?
9. What is something you did last year that went better than you thought it would?
10. Which parts of the school day are your favourite parts? Why?
11. What might our biggest organisational challenges this year?
12. In what ways did you change the lives of your pupils this year?



'A Child's Love' **Class 6 Teacher**

A child's love is like a whisper,
given in little ways we do not hear
but if you listen closely it will be very clear.

They often do not say it loud but in how they come to you...
Dad will you play with me?
Mummy, tie my shoe?

...the many ways they tell you changes as they grow
Dad, I made the team today!
Mum, I've Got to go!

Dad, I need some money
You see there's...this girl at school...
Mum, I met a boy today and wow he is so cool...!

Dad, I've got something to tell you... I think she is the one.
Mum, He asked me to marry him. Would you love him as your son?

Dad, I've got some news for you...
It's gonna be a boy!
Mum, I'm kind of scared of this, yet I'm
filled with joy!

A child's love is like a whisper,
given in little ways we do not hear
but if you listen closely it will be very clear.

They often do not say it loud but in how
they come to you...
Grandpa, will you play with me?
Grandma, tie my shoe...

It is never ending
A blessing from above
Listen to the whispers of a child's love.



Sometimes the going will be tough....

But Jesus is always there for us.

All that I have <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTLGBfv4xaM>

'The Parable of the Mustard Seed' on You Tube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvFU69u0mjM>

'It's Glorious' by David Archuleta



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nomxXk6Q1rk>

'A Meditation for Teachers' based on 1 Corinthians 13 **Class 7 Teacher**

I may be fluent in all 94 languages spoken by the families of children at my school, but if I am not courteous and respectful, parents will say I am unapproachable; pupils will say I never listen; other members of staff will say I am arrogant.

A voice lacking in compassion is about as welcome as the sound of a dentist's drill. I may know how to assess, plan and teach the perfect lesson; I may have a higher degree in curriculum development or child psychology; I may even have faith in my ability to conquer the marking mountain that covers my desk; but if I do not love the students I teach I need to consider whether I'm in the right profession after all.

I may buy expensive things for the classroom with my own money; I may do countless hours of unpaid schoolwork every weekday evening and most term-time weekends; but if I do not love the students I teach then all I stand to gain by my heroic acts of self-sacrifice is a large dose of burnout, breakdown and bankruptcy.

Communication skills, subject knowledge, experience, qualifications, hard work and personal generosity – though important – are not enough. If a teacher does not LOVE her children her efforts are in vain.

A loving teacher is patient and kind. She builds confidence and self-esteem; she is sensitive to the fact that no two students ... or parents ... or colleagues are ever the same.

She gives words of encouragement and reassurance to every student; and she is prepared to explain a concept again ... and again ... and again until it sinks in. She makes positive eye contact and smiles a lot.

A loving teacher does not envy the fact that another teacher appears to have an entire class of perfectly behaved, straight-A students. Instead, she celebrates their success.

A loving teacher does not boast if she happens to have an entire class of perfectly behaved, secure plus children nor does she try to take all the credit for their achievements!

A loving teacher is always humble and polite. She is never proud or rude; she is never dismissive or condescending; and she never gossips, swears or blasphemes.

A loving teacher does not advance her own career at the expense of her class or her colleagues. Instead, she strives to protect her pupils by putting their needs first. She is confident and assertive, rather than selfish or pushy. At all times, she is considerate of the thoughts and feelings of others.

A loving teacher does not lose her temper every five minutes. She recognises those situations when she needs to stop and count to ten in her head before saying anything she might later regret. She knows that, when provoked, she should remain calm and in control.

Although a loving teacher may have to keep a record of misconduct in accordance with her school's behaviour policy, she steadfastly refuses to give up on those children who break the rules.



She is always fair and never holds a grudge.

She remembers that every child is made in the image of God; and she reminds her class that every lesson offers a new beginning.

She celebrates good behaviour and academic progress instead of getting hung up about a few minor misdemeanours or a handful of disappointing pieces of work.

She praises honesty in others and is honest herself; she trusts, and is trusted by, those around her; she is the embodiment of hope and perseverance.

A great teacher radiates PATIENCE, PERSEVERANCE and, most important of all, LOVE.

Is it any wonder then that the greatest teacher is Jesus?



'A Prayer of Thanks for all God's Children' Class 8 Teacher

Lord our God,

We thank you that you made each one of us in your image and likeness,
and that we are all your beloved children.

We pray for the children we teach.

We pray for children who

... make us smile;

... challenge our way of thinking;

... test our patience;

... we find easy to like;

... we find difficult to like;

... are bright;

... are hardworking;

... find learning tough;

... get on our nerves;

... are a delight;

... like to laugh;

... always look sad;

... always look lost;

... talk all the time;

... never say a word;

... are easily overlooked;

... are impossible to ignore;

... remind us of ourselves when we were younger!

We thank you for all the children/students who have an impact on our lives

and for the privilege of having an impact on their lives.

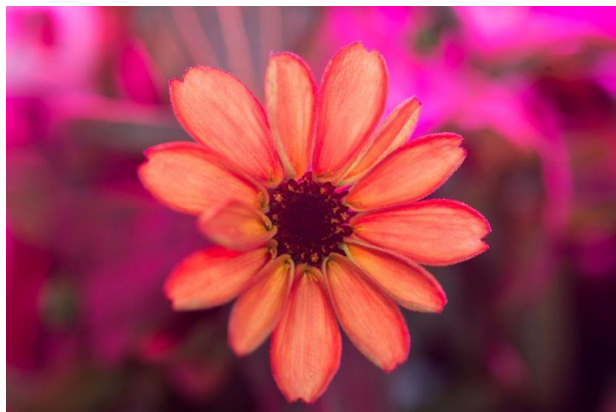
Lord, help us not to label those we teach or to fall into the trap of thinking we have them sussed. Help us to be open to new revelations and the work of your Holy Spirit
In each of their lives.

Lord, use those we teach to teach us. Help us to be Christ-like at all times;
seeing each one with your eyes and valuing them with your heart of love.

We ask this prayer in the name of Jesus the teacher.

Amen

Think about how we, as a staff, protect and nurture our children at St. Anne Line ...



'A Staffroom Prayer' **Head Teacher and Deputy Head**

Heavenly Father

Whenever we feel broken or lost

Send us a comforter with a friendly voice.

Whenever those we work with feel broken or lost

May we be their voice of comfort.

Whenever we make mistakes

Help us to forgive ourselves ... smile ... and move on.

Whenever those we work with make mistakes

Help us to forgive them ... to help them smile ... to help them move on.

Whenever we feel weak and tearful

Strengthen us so we can keep going.

Help us all Lord to have a happy, restful and enjoyable summer break

Amen

'We are Children of God' by Monica Scott

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgAy-jydfN8>

Lennon and Maisy 'I won't give up' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BcNkL6irfUQ>