



St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs. Emma Berry



Spring 1 Newsletter 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

The children have had a fabulous half term and have definitely been conducting themselves with a spring in their step and been producing some brilliant school work. As you are aware, Ofsted visited us this half term. The children represented the school beautifully and truly highlighted the Catholic ethos and culture of the school. We were very proud of them. I would also like to thank our amazing staff and Governors for all their hard work and commitment during the process to show what an amazing school St. Augustine's is.

Catholic Life

We have started 2023 with different enjoyable liturgical events. These have included class liturgies, weekly whole school liturgies, daily class reflections and a whole school mass led by Year 4s on Candlemas Day, 2nd February.

We held a lovely Epiphany Service on 6th January and the children added to our crib with figures of the 3 Wise Men. We sang and prayed with enthusiasm and we thank our Mini Vinnies and Father Anthony for their involvement in leading the service.



Thought for the Week

Gospel Values
Justice

Presented to for working for a fairer world this week.

How can we stay connected and let our lights shine by being fair and just this week?

LET'S CONNECT

Our Laudato Si' thought for February:
Think about love and care for the world.
Think about ways to save energy this month.

We have continued to explore Laudato Si' themes during our weekly Liturgies and have continued a weekly focus on our Catholic Virtues and Gospel Values. Every week we launch our thought for the week and we look for children who have been following in Christ's footsteps throughout the week. These children are given certificates for their efforts in our Gospel Value Assembly every Friday afternoon. This week, as well as focusing on letting our lights shine (following on from Sunday's gospel reading), we are also linking our thought for the week to Children's Mental Health Awareness Week.

Our Busy Mini Vinnies

Our Mini Vinnies have been very pro-active this year! Having listened to some amazing speeches, the children have voted for 2 new presidents to lead our work over the coming months. We will be actively involved in planning and leading our Ash Wednesday Service and are planning fundraising activities and events for the Lent Season. Minni Vinnies meet every Wednesday lunchtime, we thank our 35 members for the time they give up each week to serve and pray for others.



The Curriculum

Reception

In Reception as part of our work in RE on how the parish family celebrate in church, we had a reception 'wedding!' It was a great way to help teach our children about this special celebration and the role of the priest. We thank all the children for role playing so well and bringing their learning come to life. We had a bride, groom, best man, father of the bride, 4 bridesmaids, a priest and lots of very happy guests. It was a real treat!



As part of our work on Understanding the World, we have been learning about Chinese New Year. The children have had fun learning about the Chinese Zodiac and how the years were named. They have enacted the story and learned to tell the story using animal actions.

The children have also joined in with the Chinese Dragon Dance, played musical instruments and have role played creating and eating Chinese food, learnt to place the Chinese animals in order, made paper lanterns and have even tried to write Chinese letter characters. It's been great fun!



Year 1

Year one have had another busy half term! We have worked really hard across the curriculum. In English, we did some wonderful instruction writing based on the book 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth'. We were learning how to use bossy verbs and time connectives in our writing. We have been working on our numbers to 50 this half term, looking at place value and comparing numbers.



In Science, we have been learning about materials and their properties. We have been deciding what different materials are used for and we have planned an experiment which we will carry out after half term to try and decide the best material for a pirate ship!

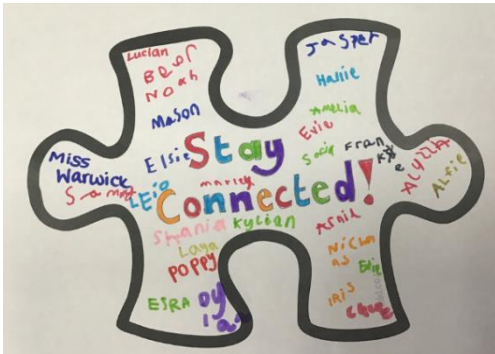


In PE we have been doing gymnastics and we have been working really hard on our jumps, balances and rolls. We have been learning to jump with control and how to land safely and softly. We have had some fun making castles out of junk modelling and we really had to think about what types of 'junk' we needed to make the base, turrets, and drawbridge. This tied in nicely with our history topic that was learning all about 'Grace O'Malley', a female pirate back in the 16th Century. The children loved learning about all the facts we could find out about

her!

Year 2

What an extremely busy half term Year 2 have had. The children have worked so hard and continue to show how fantastic they are in all areas of school life. There have been so many highs from the half term, in particular the children have completed some brilliant writing tasks in English. They created non-fiction leaflets about recycling and have recently described a setting from our new class text 'Space Tortoise'!



In RHE, we have been discussing our emotions and relationships with friends and family and the importance of forming positive and healthy ones with those around us. This has tied in with our work for Children's mental health week; we thought about 'Staying connected' and how this can help to promote a positive mental health and wellbeing.



In History, the children have thoroughly enjoyed the topic of 'The Great Fire of London'. Within this topic we were lucky enough to have a lady from the National Archives deliver an online session to us in class. The children were involved in looking at real-life sources and documents from the archives and this helped to consolidate their learning. We are really proud of what the children have achieved throughout this term and we are so excited to see what Spring 2 brings us!



Year 3

The Year 3 children have enjoyed another very busy, productive half term in our topic work. In Science, we looked at biology and examined the different features that would result in a healthy human body. This included discussing the different jobs of certain muscles and the different bones in the human skeleton.



In Art, the children enjoyed looking at the background and details of Roman vases. They made links with this across several subjects. Once we had a grasp of this, we moved to carefully design the vases before making the paper mache vases themselves. They then enjoyed painting the vases before finalising them and reviewing the final vase in relation to the first design.



In History, this term we have examined Ancient Rome and a number of features around this. This included a look at the history of how Rome was governed (and comparisons to how this relates to the modern day) along with the different roles that people had in society. We also examined Julius Caesar and his reasons behind wanting to invade Britain. As with the previous topic, the children have shown great interest in this and we are sure that they will be able to tell you a number of facts!

In French, this half-term, we have looked at different shapes and their names. Along with this, we have continued to steadily build our vocabulary and we often answer part of the register in French when saying how we feel that morning or afternoon.

In P.E, Year 3 showed great enthusiasm in their dance topic. This was particularly evident with the Haka that was led by our coach, Julian. Many rugby teams would be impressed with how professional this looked!

In computing, while starting to consider the early stages of how to build a database, we have also done further work on how to stay safe online. We completed a quiz around this and thought about what to do if we were uncomfortable in certain situations.

Year 4

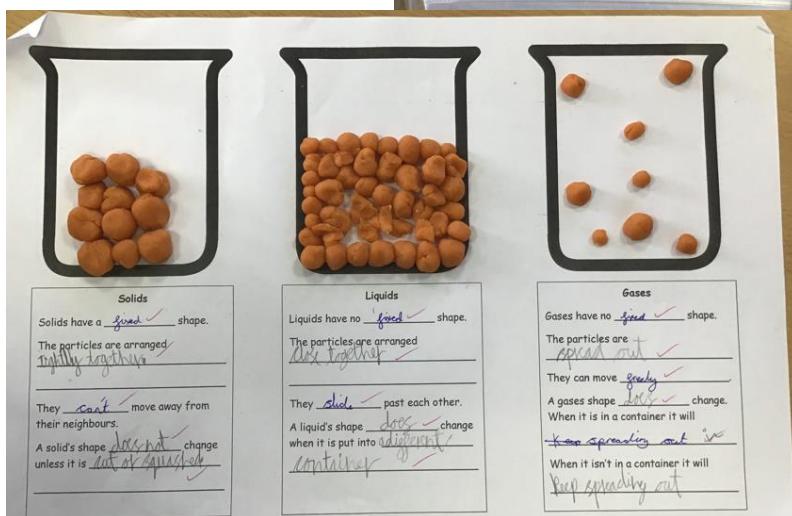


Year 4 have had a very busy half term! In art, they have been working on making clay relief tiles. The children will be painting the tiles this week and then putting them together to make a whole class piece of art.

We had a visit from Weymouth FC where we asked lots of questions such as "what inspired you to want to be a footballer?" and "have you ever had any yellow or red cards?" We enjoyed hearing about their passion for the sport and the effort and commitment they put in.

In science, we have been learning about states of matter and have done lots of experiments to help us with this, such as testing how long an ice cube takes to melt in different materials, making a water cycle in a bag and testing evaporation rates. We finished off our unit by presenting in pairs and teaching the class what we have learnt about solids, liquids and gases and how they change from one state of matter to another. We have

really enjoyed this science unit and are looking forward to another half term full of exciting learning!



Year 5

Year 5 have had a fantastic and very busy start to the Spring term! We have really enjoyed our Ancient Maya topic in History and it has been lovely to see the children being so inquisitive and coming up with fantastic questions. It has also been wonderful to see so many lovely pieces of homework being created based on the Maya, including models of the temple Chichén Itzá in both 3D and digital form! The children also enjoyed putting together, practising and performing their class assembly based on ancient Maya. As part of this, they retold a Mayan folktale, 'The Chocolate Tree', a story which explains how the Maya came into possession of chocolate as a gift from the gods. In Art, the children have been creating their very own Maya masks which we are very much looking forward to completing with collage materials.



This half term, Year 5 have been busy helping to improve and develop our library. The children rolled up their sleeves and popped on their aprons to help Mrs Phelan paint the literary-themed mural—a job enjoyed by all involved! The children also appreciated taking some time to get stuck into a good book in our new seating area and created some journal entries in their reading journals. We even had some children taking on the role of librarians as they helped to arrange our wonderful books.



Year 6

In all core subjects the children continue to work to 'be the best that they can be'. In English, we have linked our learning tasks to our Guided Reading book: *The Wild Folk* (which has a strong eco theme) and produced a Newspaper Report. We are just finishing a non-chronological report on Plastics - their use, impact on the environment and ways forward.

In History and Art this half-term we have linked the theme of Islam throughout our work. In History, we have been learning about how advanced the early Islamic civilisation was around CE 900 and comparing that to the Anglo-Saxons in Britain.

In Art, we have taken the Islamic geometric patterns and created our own Islamic collage and have written our names in Arabic using calligraphy pens and ink over the designs. In science, we have looked at light and had many opportunities to discover, via conducting and writing our own experiments. Music has been a big hit (literally) this half-term! We have been looking into Djembe drumming and noisy, as it has been the children now know how to produce a polyphonic, call/response and imitation piece. We are awaiting some drums to produce some final compositions in all their glory!

Sport



On Monday 30th January, the boys Y5/6 football team took part in their first match wearing their new kit, sponsored by The Pet Experience, by travelling to Southill. As always, Southill were well organised and passed the ball around nice and quickly. However, St Augustine's pressed well and Harry picked up the ball and drove it into the corner of the net to put us one up. After withstanding another spell of pressure, Harry used his quick feet to his advantage and won a penalty. He nearly ripped the net off, as he powered it past the goalkeeper, who made a valiant effort to save it. Southill quickly got the

goal that their play deserved. A superb save from George stopped an equaliser moments later. This spurred St Augustine's on and, just before half time, Xavier flew past several defenders before slotting past the keeper to put us 3-1 up at half time.

We started the second half very strongly; slick passing was on show and every single player showed the desire to win the ball back the instant it had been lost. This determination and teamwork led to several goals being scored. Harry continued to live up to his reputation as a confident goal scorer, adding two more to bring his total to four. Archie B got the goal that his overall performance warranted, driving from midfield in a typical forward burst and firing into the far corner. Arley completed the scoring in his first game for the school, calmly finishing into the corner of the net. This brought the game to a conclusion with a 7-1 victory for St Augustine's.

Southill were highly competitive throughout the match and the St Augustine's defence needed to be switched on at all times. We thank Southill for hosting and, as always, playing the game in a great spirit.

Weymouth Football Club

On Tuesday 7th February, players and other representatives from Weymouth football Club came to visit! This included the team captain (Tom Bearwish), the manager (Bobby Wilkinson) and the CEO (Paul Maitland). The children were able to ask questions to find out about the lives of these local heroes!

Do you always play in one position?

No, I play in a number of different positions at the moment.

If you don't turn up to training are you allowed to play?

No, you must train to be picked.





Are you the greatest team?

We are a good team and we play for Weymouth!

How many goals as a team have you scored?

38-45 goals

Who is your favourite football player from any team?

Messi

What was the best goal you ever made? (Tom)

When I was 10 years old playing for Portland where I scored a goal from a bicycle kick.

Do you like playing for Weymouth?

Yes—it's like playing football with your friends every day.

All of the children loved meeting the team and we thank them very much for giving up their time to come and visit. We wish them all the very best for the rest of the season (Mr Pask hopes that they can keep this winning run going!).

Match report v Chickerell, Thursday 9th February 2023

A rotated St Augustine's side put up a gallant performance against a talented Chickerell team. Chickerell were quick out of the blocks, and it soon became clear that they were a well organised team with dangerous attacking players. However, rather than shirking the challenge, St Augustine's did the exact opposite. Each and every player battled, throwing themselves in front of every shot and working together to repel every attack. When an attacker did manage to get a shot through on goal, it found Riley in the way, resolute and reliable every time that he was called upon.

After withstanding a lot of pressure, a quick break from St Augustine's led to a corner. Xavier delivered a fantastic ball that Arley watched all of the way and managed to get a touch on it, putting them 1-0 up. A similar pattern followed in the lead up to half time, but with a few minutes remaining, Arley again picked up on a ball through the middle. He took one touch and calmly slotted it into the bottom corner, giving St Augustine's a 2-0 lead at half time.

Chickerell stepped up their attacks in the second half but St Augustine's were equal to everything that was thrown at them. Arley led the pressure from the front and Seth, Sammi and Elwood did not stop running in midfield. Emilia and Isla threw themselves into every tackle and block to stop the ball making its way into the net, while Declan and Xavier remained calm and composed as they too put on an admirable performance. Finally, the player of the match, Riley, put in an outstanding performance in goal, with a standout save from a well-taken corner, one that will live long in the memory. All of these performances meant that St Augustine's managed to hold on to win 2-0. They can, as ever, be incredibly proud of their performance and attitude. We thank Chickerell for a great match and we look forward to another game soon.

Team: Riley, Emilia, Declan, Isla, Xavier, Seth, Elwood, Sammi and Arley (2 goals)

Player of the match: Riley

Pre-loved School Uniform

A clothes rail of 'pre-loved' school uniform has been installed in the School Office Foyer for Parents/Guardians to select items either for a donation to FOSA or to swap for school uniform your child has grown out of. Please feel free to pop in to have a browse through the rail.

Staffing

This half term, we welcomed a new teaching assistant to the team, Miss Gale. Miss Gale will be based in Year 5 but working with children across the school at playtimes and lunchtimes.

We also welcome the return of Mrs Gray from maternity leave after half term. Mrs Gray will be working alongside Ms Rook in Y6.

We hope that you have an enjoyable half term. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 21st February 2023.

Kind regards

Katie Bladon
Deputy Headteacher



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Dates for your Diary Spring Term 2023

- Friday 10th February - Break up for half term 3.15pm
- Monday 20th February - INSET Day**
- Tuesday 21st February - Children return to School
- Wednesday 22nd February - Ash Wednesday Service led by Mini Vinnies 2PM
- W/c 27th February - World Book Week**
- Thursday 2nd March - Due to the planned NEU Strike Action on World Book Day we will be celebrating World Book Day on Friday 3rd March - details to follow.**
- Wednesday 1st March - Year 2 Class Assembly 2.40pm
- Wednesday 8th March - Year R Class Assembly 2.40pm
- Monday 13th March - Assessment Week
- Wednesday 15th March - Year 3 Class Assembly 2.40pm
- Monday 20th March - Last week of afterschool clubs
- Monday 20th March - ISP Meetings this week
- Wednesday 22nd March - Year 4 Class Assembly 2.40pm
- Thursday 23rd March - Whole School Mass - Lent Led by Year 3 2PM
- Monday 27th March - Holy Week
- Tuesday 28th March - KS2 Y3,4,5, Parent Consultations
- Wednesday 29th March - KS1 YR,1,2, Parent Consultations and Year 6
- Friday 31st March - Break up for Easter 3.15pm
- Monday 17th April - Children return to school summer term