



St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs. Emma Berry



Summer 2 Newsletter 2023

Dear Parent/Guardians,

As we reach the end of this school year, it's lovely to reflect on the way our children, staff, parents, governors and clergy have supported developing our Catholic Life, RE and Worship in such a meaningful way.

We thank everyone for the commitment they have put into making our school a faith community where all are welcome as we continue to place Christ at the Centre of our work here at school.

Following the wonderful retreat day we shared with the children at the end of last half term, we have continued to celebrate as a school faith community. We particularly enjoyed celebrating with the parish community on Sunday 25th June, 16 of our children receiving the sacrament of First Holy Communion.

It was such a joyful day and it was so moving to join the children as they received Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. Father Anthony, their catechists and parents were so proud. We thank the parishioners for their support. On 29th June, as part of our St. Peter and St. Paul Mass, the children who had made their First Holy Communion, together with our Year 3 class, led our prayers and readings, this was a very uplifting mass enjoyed by all.



This June we also welcomed Bea Taylor into school to thank our children for their work for CAFOD (The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) during this academic year. Bea Taylor complimented the work we have done in each year group on The Universal Church and spoke of CAFOD's work in promoting Catholic Social Teaching and the importance of working in partnership to support those in our world who need our help and prayers.



We thank Bea for all the volunteering work she has done for our children over the years in teaching us all about the amazing way we can work in partnership with CAFOD. Our Big Lent Walk for CAFOD was such a success and it was great that Bea came to walk with us that day.

We'd like to finish this part of our newsletter by thanking Our Mini Vinnies for all their amazing work this academic year in supporting others. Here are just a few of the amazing ways they have worked for the good of others this year.

They've:

- helped plan and lead the Harvest Mass and prepare the donated food to go to the foodbanks.
- led prayer sessions and services in the chapel for other children to attend.
- given up time to lead the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.
- helped coordinate our Operation Christmas Child Appeal.
- met regularly to pray for others and written prayers for others.
- helped to coordinate and lead our Big Rainbow Lent walk.
- coordinated a campaign for children to create art work to donate to a local children's hospice.
- helped plan and support our Retreat Day.



In addition, our Mini Vinnies led the prayers, the procession and singing at our Crowning of Mary Service and after the service, they prepared the flowers to donate to the residents of Anning House Care Home.

We are so proud of these children and the way they live our Gospel values and Catholic Virtues. We wish all the members of our group the very best as they go on to achieve amazingly at their Secondary Schools and we look forward to welcoming Year 5 and Year 6 children into the Mini Vinnie group next year.

Curriculum

Reception

It's such a pleasure to come to the end of a school year and to reflect on the amazing progress the children have made. Our class have worked so hard throughout their first year at school and the Reception team are so happy to moving up to Year 1 with them.

Here are a few pictures that we would like to share with you.

Our Spiritual Retreat Day





A Sensory Walk in the garden



Collage Work



Year 1

Year 1 have had another busy half term! We have worked really hard across the curriculum. In English, we have been looking at postcards and how to write one. We have also been practising our story writing. We have been working on our numbers to 100 this half term, also showing halves of shapes and time.

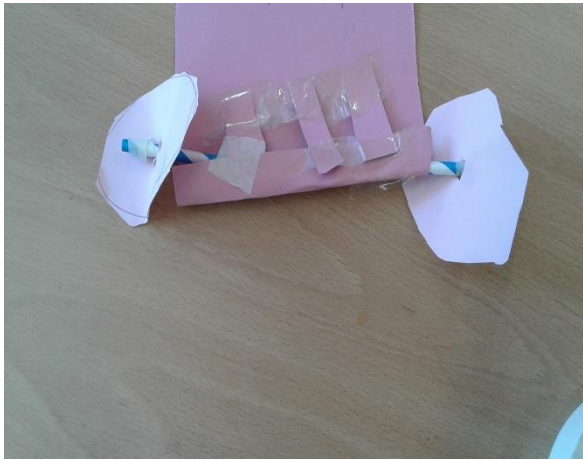
We have had some fun making wheels, axles and axle holders out of junk modelling in DT. We really had to think about what types of 'junk' we needed to make the wheels, and the body of a vehicle.

In Geography, we have learnt all about the continents and how parts of Kenya are rural and urban!

In Science, we have been learning about animals and humans. To support our learning we had a bug day and this included a visit from BugFest which was brilliant! We got to see and handle some really interesting bugs and hear lots of interesting facts. We kept the bug theme going by making bug masks, going on a bug hunt and learning a bug dance.



The children have done so well in their phonics this year and are quickly becoming really competent and fluent readers and also brilliant spellers. We have been so impressed by their willingness to learn spellings! We have had such a busy and wonderful year of learning! Thank you to all of Year 1 for your efforts, smiles and determination this year. We hope you have the most wonderful summer holidays!



Year 2

WOW, what an absolutely brilliant last half term we have had in Year 2! Although it has been jam packed with lots of learning, the children have all continued to make us proud with their hard work and enthusiasm. In English, it has been all things poetry. The children have immersed themselves in a range of different poetic techniques and poem types. We focused initially on the works of Michael Rosen and from this the children innovated many of their own poems. We wrote a class poem inspired by Rosen's 'Don't' (pictured below). In RE, we explored the faith of Islam, the children thoroughly enjoyed learning all about Muslim life and culture and made some beautiful links and comparisons between their faith and our own.

In Computing, we have learnt all about digital music, using a programme called Chrome Music Lab, the children have created their own pieces which are truly wonderful! In DT, the children have been learning the skills required in sewing. They have produced their own pouches for functional use. Mrs Wilkins, has been very impressed with the pouches they have made and has really enjoyed creating these with the children.

A final highlight of this half term has been our Geography topic of 'bodies of water' and the impact these have on land use. As a result, we ventured down to Weymouth Beach on a class trip to explore how the sea has impacted how we use the land. We had a really lovely day and the children had a fantastic time. The children enjoyed completing activities and even a delicious ice-lolly in the rain! I just want to say a massive thank you for an amazing year and fantastic work! Well done year 2, it's been fabulous.

Don't - A poem by Year 2

A poem inspired by Michael Rosen

Don't hit or hurt Burt,
Or he will fall in the dirt.
Don't jump on the bed,
Because your mum said!
Don't mess up your room,
Or a witch will come on a broom!
Don't eat too many sweets,
Or the dentist you will meet.
Don't run down the stairs,
You might get chased by bears.
Don't play games that cost money,
Your nanny might dip you in honey.



Year 3

We have had a great end to the school in Year 3; we have enjoyed different aspects of learning across a variety of subjects.



In D.T, we have enjoyed designing and completing our castles. In order to complete this, we were very careful when constructing our nets to make sure that they stuck together correctly. Not only was an exciting D.T project, we also managed to link it to our shape work in Maths!

In Geography, we looked at tourism and the impact that this has across Europe. Within this, we focussed on different countries in Europe and their landmarks. We also looked at some places individually and what would attract people here; the children were able to give many reasons for Bournemouth being visited.



In P.E, the children have enjoyed taking part in a number of athletic lessons. This has included jumping, throwing, and of course, running. They managed to transfer these skills wonderfully to their Sports Morning, where everyone competed admirably and displayed the Gospel Values for all to see.

In Science, we have looked at how, and why, magnets work. The activities that we completed have included predicting and then testing, with our magnets, what they will attract within the classroom.

In R.E, we had a fascinating week studying the Sikh religion. We enjoyed learning about what was important to them in their faith, and how this led them in their daily lives. While there were some differences, we noticed that the values they held dear had a number of similarities to Christianity. We also enjoyed our topic of Special Places, which culminated in a wonderful liturgy, and led the school mass on St Peter and St Paul. As always, they acted with grace and dignity which made for a wonderful service.

Year 4

Wow! What an amazing year, Year 4 have had! The children have had a very busy half term and particularly enjoyed their trip to Minstead Study Centre. On their trip, they took part in lots of different activities including fire lighting, stream dipping, hiking and orienteering.

In Geography, the children have enjoyed learning all about earthquakes. They have made their own TV news broadcasts about the Haiti earthquake, compared the responses to the Haiti earthquake and the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, and rated ways to minimise effects of earthquakes.

In DT, we have been learning about fastenings and have finished our unit by making our own book sleeves with fastenings. We used sewing to add the fastenings and decoration.

In RE, we have been learning about Saints and martyrs. We enjoyed working in groups to find out about a different Saint and then told the class what we had learnt about them.

We have also had our class party after filling our pasta jar and lots of fun was had by all. Well done for a fantastic year, Year 4.



Year 5

Year 5 have had a wonderful end to the school year and have enjoyed their learning in and out of school. During this half term, Year 5 took part in an online webinar with author Steve Cole (author of Doctor Who books and his science-fiction series Astrosaurus) organised by Dorset Libraries. The children thoroughly enjoyed the talk and spent most of their time giggling! It was wonderful to hear Steve talk about the stories he created as a child and discuss his process for creating interesting ideas for writing stories. We certainly have some keen writers in the class who were very much inspired by his words.



The children also thoroughly enjoyed their sailing experience with Year 6 where they teamed up to embrace the challenge of sailing and braved the water at the Andrew Simpson Centre.

Within the classroom, the children have enjoyed learning all about 'Earth and Space' in our Science lessons, have explored and performed a space piece of music in our Music lessons and enjoyed reading our class book called 'George's Secret key to the Universe', all of which helped the children learn many new space facts.

For our DT lessons, the children have been exploring what a healthy meal looks like and as part of this, they have tasted and evaluated, designed their own recipes and cooked a delicious and healthy bolognese sauce—yummy!



Year 6

We have had a very busy time in year 6 this half term.

To begin with, some of us represented the school in a swimming gala and whilst not winning we did ourselves and our school proud!

Next, PGL and I am sure most of the parents have seen the pictures on Google Classroom, but here are a couple more of some of us enjoying the giant paddle boarding activity. There were so many activities to enjoy - survival skills, giant swing, Jacob's Ladder and abseiling to name but a few. Everyone had a great time, despite the intensity of the heat!



After transfer day, our next big event was the Year 6 school production - Mystery at Magpie Manor. We had been rehearsing lots and were very relieved that things went well. We hope you all enjoyed the performance!

Lastly, in the penultimate week of term we had a lovely day sailing followed by a taste of college life with Primary College. The skills to have a go at are varied and we got to try lots of new subjects out - even bricklaying!

We all need a well-earned rest and time to sort our pencil cases ready for secondary school!



Sailing

Both Year 5 and 6 had a fantastic time sailing at the Andrew Simpson Centre this half term. The children arrived as novices, and after some spectacular teamwork and sailing, they left as sailing experts!

The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in some sailing relay races and navigating their boats around the obstacles in the windy conditions. Year 5 and 6 finished off an excellent session with a big splash as they enjoyed jumping off the pontoon.



Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge is back from 1 July to 23 September 2023 in Dorset libraries and community managed libraries.

This year's challenge 'Ready, Set, Read!' is all about games and sports. Join the superstar team and their animal mascots as they use their skills to weave their way through a summer obstacle course.

Developed in collaboration with Youth Sport Trust, the 2023 Summer Reading Challenge celebrates play and participation with games and sports by keeping imaginations moving over the school holiday.



You can join the Challenge online or at your local library or community managed library by signing up and collecting a card collector folder.

All you need to do is read 6 books and collect stickers along the way to add to your folder. Reading e-books or listening to e-audiobooks on the Borrow Box app also counts towards the challenge.

The Summer Reading Challenge website offers a great range of information, useful links, activities and games to compliment the challenge.

When you complete the challenge, you will get a medal from the library and a personalised certificate sent to your school for presentation. If you do not wish your certificate to be sent to your school you can collect it from your local library instead.

It would be lovely for as many children as possible to get involved!



Staffing

We are sad to announce that Mrs Moore will be leaving us at the end of this term to take up a job in Dorchester. We wish her all the best in the future. Ms Mullan will also be leaving us to continue her university studies, she will be missed.

As you are aware Miss Warwick, will be starting her maternity leave from September 2023, although she has promised to be in all the time with Baby Warwick – we can't wait to meet her!

We are pleased to welcome Mr Tom Edmonds to the teaching team, who has been in school this half term meeting the children and parents. He is very excited about joining the school in September.

I am pleased to announce that Ms Howard is expecting a baby and is due in January. We would all like to send our congratulations to her and her partner.

I am also pleased to announce that Mrs Phelan has recently been accepted on a teacher training course starting in September 2023. She will be working in Reception on a full-time basis alongside Miss Mayes and Miss Smith. Well done Mrs Phelan.

Staffing Structure – September 2023

- Headteacher - Mrs Berry
- Deputy Headteacher and Inclusion Manager - Mrs Bladon
- SLT - Mrs Evans and Mrs Gray
- Pastoral Lead - Mrs Harding
- Reception - Miss Mayes, Mrs Phelan and Miss Smith
- Year 1 - Mrs Evans and Mrs Harrop
- Year 2 - Mrs Gray, Mrs Newman and Miss Gale
- Year 3 - Ms Howard, Mrs Hutton and Mrs Miller
- Year 4 - Mr Edmonds and Mrs Me-in
- Year 5 - Ms Rook, Mrs Wilkins and Mrs Drinkhill
- Year 6 - Mr Pask, Mrs Smith and Mrs Vincent

Home Learning

This year, we have been assessing the impact of Home Learning. Parents working in partnership with the school is a vital element your child's education and we appreciate the time you take supporting your child with learning.

Next year, we will be streamlining the amount of home learning and the number of logins you have as a parent and have a focus on specific areas of learning:

- Phonics/Spelling
- Reading (login for Oxford Owl or Accelerated Reader programme will be sent home in September)
- Times tables (login for Times Tables Rock stars will be sent home in September)

From September, all home learning will be sent out as a hard copy on a Friday and placed on the school website in individual class areas. Therefore, we will not be using Google Classroom any longer. Important information will continue to be sent as a ParentMail and included on the school website.

Meet the Teacher Meetings

The children had a lovely morning meeting their new teachers and seeing their new classrooms. In September, you are invited to come and formally meet the class teachers and visit the classroom at our 'Meet the Teacher' session. These sessions will be as follows:

3.30pm Wednesday 6th September – Y2 Meet the Teacher

3.30pm Monday 11th September - Y5 Meet the Teacher
3.30pm Tuesday 12th September - Y6 Meet the Teacher
3.30pm Wednesday 13th September - Y3 Meet the Teacher
3.30pm Thursday 14th September - Y1 Meet the Teacher
3.30pm Friday 15th September - Y4 Meet the Teacher

Please meet outside the school office where you will be welcomed in by staff at 3.30pm and shown to your child's new classroom.

Thank you from Plymouth CAST

Thank you for your continued support for Mrs Bladon and the whole team at St Augustine's during Mrs Berry's absence. Mrs Bladon will continue to deputise until Mrs Berry's return.

Finally...

What a term!

What a year!

What an amazing bunch of children we have!

I am so proud of each and every one of you! You have worked incredibly hard, you have been enthusiastic and tried your very best whether in sports, school work or during our school events!

Each member of our St Augustine's family is special, important and welcome. I would like to thank all of the staff who have worked tirelessly this year, including through Ofsted! Their commitment and dedication is second to none and it has been a pleasure to lead such a wonderful team. I would also like to thank Fr. Anthony for his continued support and enthusiasm.

A huge thank you also to our wonderful volunteers who give up their time to support the children in school and on school trips and the amazing FOSA team for organising and running many funding raising events throughout the year. A special thank you also to Mrs Me-in for giving up some much of her own time to produce another fantastic Y6 leavers' book.

All of St Augustine's staff would like to wish all of our leavers - staff and children all the very best for the future.

During the summer, please take time to rest, read a good book and get outdoors to enjoy the sunshine! I wish you all a lovely holiday and look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 5th September.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Katie Bladon
Deputy Headteacher