



St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School

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Spring 2 Newsletter 2020

Welcome back after half-term. I hope you managed to make the most of the weather and enjoyed the time with your children.

Catholic Life

We are happy to inform you that we now have 26 children from Years 5 and 6 who have been registered as Mini Vinnies (the junior section of The St. Vincent de Paul Society.) We invited Mr Logan into school to present the members with their badges and certificates. We are proud of the way these children help others in their role and also lead fundraising campaigns and prepare and present prayers for our Liturgical events.



Our school continues to work in partnership with the Parish in helping with the singing, prayers and readings at the Sunday Morning 10am Mass at St. Joseph's Church in Weymouth once a month (dates of Masses are in our dates list issued at the start of each term.) We are very proud of the way our children represent the school at Mass and we thank the children who are altar servers and assist Father Stephen and Deacon Geoffrey and Deacon Jonathan on a regular basis.

This Lent we continue to support The St. Vincent de Paul Society with our Indian Child School Sponsorship Scheme. We ask for your continued support in helping us raise as much money as possible to continue to help our seven children with their school expenses. After Easter, we will let you know how much money we have raised.

RE

This week as part of our work on other faiths, we have been teaching the children about the Jewish Faith. We continue to work on our Gospel Values and this week have linked our Gospel reading at Monday's Liturgy to the theme of Forgiveness. On Tuesday, we celebrated Pancake Day with our annual pancake races and on Wednesday, Father Stephen and Deacon Geoffrey joined us as we distributed ashes for our Ash Wednesday Liturgy.

The children will be studying Lent for the next 4 weeks and after this topic, will learn about the events of Holy week. Class teachers will keep you informed of the focus for each class through the weekly Parent

in Partnership (PIP) Newsletters, which are available on the class pages of the school website. Year 5 will be leading the next Class Mass in the School Chapel on Thursday 12th March at 2pm, and Year 6 will be leading our Easter whole school Mass on Thursday 23rd April at 2pm (all are welcome to attend.)

British Values

The School Council have been working very hard since November. Their main topic of discussion has been about having a quiet area on each playground. They have since found these areas, put up posters and, explained to all children and staff that these areas are for children to go when they need some quiet time to gather their thoughts, or just some time out. In addition to this, they have organised a book drive to coincide with World Book Day to give children something to do at lunch times in the new quiet areas.

Every other week, through the School Council meetings, each class has been nominating a member of staff to receive a certificate for demonstrating the Gospel Value that the whole school is working towards. So far the staff who have been awarded a certificate are:

- Mrs Evans for the Gospel Value of Integrity.
- Miss Taylor for the Gospel Value of Kindness.
- Mr Trevett for the Gospel Value of Forgiveness.

For the next few weeks, the School Council will be discussing behaviour at school. Their focus will be on how good behaviour in class always resonates out on to the playground. We look forward to their ideas and discussion points. Thank you to Miss Taylor who has been working hard with the School Councillors.

Curriculum

Last half term, Year 3 were learning about the Romans and thoroughly enjoyed it! To end the topic, Year 3 had a visit from Dorchester Roman Tours and 'Centurion Callum' led a fantastic afternoon. The children were able to try on Roman helmets, write on Roman slates, hold Roman coins and hear all about a day in the life of a Roman. The children then went into the hall to practice holding Roman shields and try out some impressive Roman Army formations. Once they had all tried out the formations and learnt the correct way to hold the shield, 'Centurion Callum' set up a mock battle, which involved everyone. The feedback from 'Centurion Callum' was excellent, he emailed to say, "The children were brilliantly behaved and really are a credit to the school".



Science Week is rapidly approaching – 9th to 13th March. Staff and pupils will be carrying out science investigations and there will be a competition for the children to enter relating to all things Science. Watch out for news in the class PIP newsletters next week.

During Science Week, we are lucky to host the CORAM Life Education mobile classroom. The sessions provide high quality inspiring enrichment experiences, developing essential life skills. The children will take part in sessions, which include taking care of themselves (physical/mental health), what their body needs to be healthy, feelings and friendships. They also get to meet Harold the Giraffe! To help cover the cost of these sessions, we are asking for a contribution of £4 per child. Please place the correct amount in a sealed envelope marked with your child's name by Thursday, 12th March. Thank you.

Please refer to the 'Curriculum' page on the school website for more curriculum updates: www.staugustines.dorset.sch.uk

Sport

On Tuesday 11th February, the school Football team had a match against Chickerell Primary School. The children played well and worked very hard. Miss Lane said that the children never gave up and demonstrated great integrity and humility throughout the game, despite the match defeat. Miss Lane is looking forward to taking the football team to The Nash Cup tournament on Friday 6th March, where the team will play against other small schools in our local area. We wish them good luck!

Miss Lane has entered the school Orienteering team into a series of orienteering events. The first one will take place at Conifers Primary School on Tuesday 3rd March, which will be followed by another four fixtures at various local venues, the final will be held at the Nothe. The children will couple up, read from a map, and follow a course to write down the controls at each point on the map. Good luck to all involved!

The school Netball team have been training really well together on a Monday afternoon and working hard on their netball skills. They will be representing the school at the Bee Netball Tournament on Thursday 12th March. Miss Lane, and the children, are very excited as they are hoping to continue their winning streak at the tournament- good luck team!



The Schools' Swimming Gala will take place on Thursday 19th March for children in KS2 (these children will be selected at a later date) at Weymouth Swimming Pool. Mrs Wilkins and Mrs Harrop are very much looking forward to taking children to this event, as they really enjoy the 'team' atmosphere of supporting each other and cheering each other on.

The Code Show

It was lovely to see all children from every year so enthused by 'The Code Show.' The children were able to see first-hand the development of the computer over the last 50 years as they engaged with: typewriters, machines linked to the NASA space race, the first 'home' computers, the latest gaming consoles, sat in a Sinclair C5 (particularly topical at the moment as an electric vehicle), and all points between.

The children learned how computing and coding are crucial to almost every aspect of modern life and they were inspired by the stories of technological pioneers, both men and women, whose achievements include the moon landings, mapping the human genome and the development of games played by millions of people across the globe.

Jack, in year 6 remarked that, "I couldn't believe how much progress has been made in such a short time; being able to play and use all these different machines has been brilliant." Whilst another pupil added, "Gary was great and I thought it was so exciting that a woman called Katherine Johnson plotted Apollo 11's flight to the moon. I'd love to be a coder when I'm older."

Many thanks to Mr Gary McNab for bringing his travelling collection of technology all the way from Aclington in Lancashire. His knowledge and enthusiasm certainly rubbed off on every class, and in turn, he was impressed with the children's thirst for knowledge and appetite for the subject.

Please visit the 'News' page for January 2020 on our school website for photographs of the event.

Children's Mental Health Week

Mental Health Awareness Week highlights the importance of children and young people's mental health. This recently took place on 3rd – 9th February. The theme was 'Find your Brave.' Year 5 were writing and practicing for their class assembly on the 12th February. Activities linked to this theme included being responsible for creating your own part, speaking in front of an audience, singing, dancing and acting.

Within the 'Find Your Brave' theme, our focus was having a go at something new, stepping outside of your comfort zone and challenging yourself. Children were encouraged to share any worries and to ask for help. Many discussions were held about the benefits of working with others to overcome any challenges, confidence, self-esteem, improvement, the benefits of positivity and the impact praise can have on another person. Little things make a big difference.

Mental Health Awareness Week will take place again from 18-24 May. The theme is 'sleep' and will focus on the connections between sleep (or lack of it) and mental health.

We know that the emotional wellbeing of children is just as important as their physical health. Good mental health allows children and young people to develop the resilience to cope with whatever life throws at them and grow into well-rounded, healthy adults.

To ensure that we understand and fully value the importance of mental health, Mrs Wootton recently completed a training course and received a qualification in Mental Health First Aid. The course has provided Mrs Wootton with the skills necessary to encourage children's wellbeing and to recognise the

signs of mental ill health, offer appropriate support and help children to find any additional support that they need. As Mrs Wootton is the school's Mental Health First Aider, she is happy to discuss any concerns you have about your child's mental health. Please contact the School Office to make an appointment.

Safeguarding Week

During Safeguarding Week, the children's PSHE lesson focussed on keeping and staying safe in everyday situations and online. At the end of the week, the children completed a questionnaire about safeguarding. These results are in the process of being collated and will be shared with you shortly. In addition to this, our Safer Schools Community Officer visited Year 5. With the children, he focused on online identity and safe ways to share information online. Issues such as sharing photographs, profile pictures and live streaming were discussed. The class were presented with different scenarios and considered whether the situation fell into the 'always', 'sometimes' or 'never' categories. The children responded brilliantly to the thought-provoking discussions. If you are concerned about your child's online activity and need guidance or parenting tips please speak to Mr Trevett as he is our E-Safety Lead, with any other Safeguarding concerns please contact Mrs Berry, Mrs Bladon or Mrs Evans.

Chesil Family Partnership Zone

Charlotte Kinghorn continues to support the school in her role as Family Partnership Zone Worker. If you or any family member has a concern about behaviour, housing, finances, relationships or emotional health, then please drop-in to her sessions on Thursday mornings (8.30-9.30am on 12th March, 14th May, 11th June and 9th July).

The next newsletter will be written the first week back after Easter.

I thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Emma Berry
(Headteacher)