



St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School

Hardy Avenue
Weymouth DT4 0RH
Tel: 01305 782600

E-mail: office@staugustines.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs. Emma Berry



Autumn 2 Newsletter 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

The children have enjoyed yet another busy half term leading up to Christmas. We do hope that you have enjoyed the Christmas productions that the staff and children have worked tirelessly to prepare.

Catholic Life

We have had a really busy half term and it's been so lovely to feel the buzz of Advent activities in the lead up to Christmas.

We are proud of our group of Year 5 and Year 6 children who make up our Mini Vinnies and have been involved in regular meetings throughout this half term, helping the parish publicise and welcome people in from the cold by making posters for the Warm Welcome Campaign. They have also helped co-ordinate and publicize our Operation Christmas Child Appeal. It was lovely to meet the team who collected the boxes to deliver them to children in Ukraine in time for Christmas.



We have been very busy preparing for plays and concerts. Our



Reception Class and Years 1 and 2 have shared really entertaining nativity plays with their families. It was so wonderful to see all children grow in their understanding of the importance of Christmas. At the very end of term, our Year 3 class led our traditional Carol Service with their families at school. The children sang beautifully. The feedback from parents was that the children showed great maturity and reverence. We completely

agree and are so proud of our children.



Our school choir have worked closely with our Parish of Our Lady Star of The Sea in Weymouth this Advent on a joint Advent Carol Service. The children read and sang so beautifully. It was a really special candlelit celebration enjoyed



by our families and parishioners.

We thank Father Anthony, Deacon Geoffrey and Deacon Jonathan for their support throughout this year with liturgical celebrations and for helping us develop our catholic life here at school.

Christmas Productions

On Thursday 8th December, the children who participated in the Drama club performed 'Scrooge'. Thank you Miss Samways and Mrs Ayles for working hard to support the children with their roles.

On Friday 9th December, the children in Reception acted out the story of the birth of Jesus. It was a wonderful occasion as everyone joyfully sang, danced and acted. A super effort by all - well done children.

On Wednesday 14th December, Years 1 and 2 performed their Christmas production 'Born in a Barn'. The children were incredible and played their parts fantastically well. It was very impressive how well the children learned their lines, songs and actions, as well as supporting each other during the performances. Thank you to the children for their brilliant performances, the staff who helped make it possible and to the parents for supporting their children with learning their lines and providing costumes.

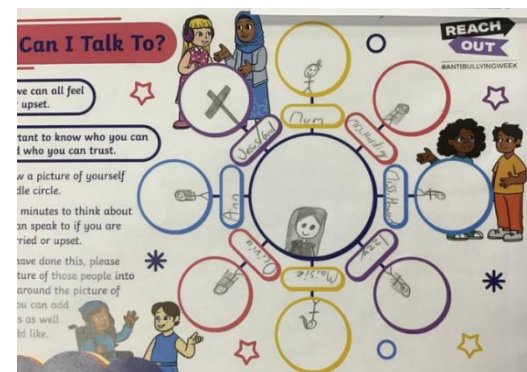
Anti Bullying Week - 14th-19th November 2022

During Anti-Bullying week, children across the school explored the theme of 'Reach Out'. The children were great at identifying what bullying was and how each person could reach out to stop bullying or help someone being bullied.



Children designed their own "reaching out" hands, which are displayed around the classrooms. Children included ways to reach out following our Catholic Virtues and Gospel Values.

Each class explored strategies that can be used when they are feeling frustrated or upset so that they can calm down and maintain positive relationships with others.



The Curriculum

Reception

It has been a really busy and fun-filled half term in Reception. The children have worked hard to settle into school life and we've had many opportunities to enjoy our learning. As part of our topic work, the children have learned about where they live in understanding the world and have designed and made houses from junk as part of their work in expressive art and design. Here is some of their work.



We have also had visitors to Reception. In November, we had Heather and Bea from CAFOD who came to our class to talk to us about care for others the important work the charity does to help people all over the world, placing Christ at the centre of their work. The children were really interested in learning about this work and came to learn a little more about cultures and traditions in other parts of the world.



During Advent Father Anthony has been helping us learn more about the Sacrament of Baptism and we went into the chapel where the children enacted a Baptism and learned about the Oils used for anointing.

We thank Father for bringing Baptism to life for us.



Reception Class performed their Nativity Play beautifully. It was a very special time and the children worked hard to learn all the words to the songs and learned so much about the birth of Jesus. It was lovely and set us off on our path to Christmas.



Year 1

Wow! What a super busy half term we have had. It started off with a trip to the Teddy Bear Museum which we thoroughly enjoyed. The children loved exploring the different rooms and looking at all the old toys. In class, we have been learning all about fruit and vegetables in DT. We have tried lots of them and have even made smoothies - delicious! The children have been working on their dancing in PE this half term and we have learnt that dances work in an 8 beat rhythm. They have been creating movements and short pieces using the seasons and weather. We have made shapes like snowflakes, moved around like wind and floated like clouds. This linked perfectly to our Science topic where we have been learning about the four seasons and the changes we see during the year. In one of our lessons, we were looking at how much the weather can change in a single day. Luckily, we chose a great day for this and saw fog, wind, rain, clouds and even some sunshine!



Year 2

WOW! What an amazingly busy, but fantastic second half of Autumn Term we have had. The children have continued to make us smile and laugh every day and it has been wonderful to see the confidence and learning flourish. Early on in the term, as a school, we took part in lots of anti-bullying week activities. The children thoroughly enjoyed this and were able to reflect deeply on who they could 'reach out' to and how they could provide support to their peers.



Across the curriculum the children's knowledge and understanding of concepts and skills have developed and it is evident that the children have engaged and are enthused by their learning. In English, we have explored the story of Flat Stanley through drama techniques and role-play and poetry with a Christmas feel. In RE, the children loved learning all about Judaism and more recently Advent and how important it is to prepare our hearts for Jesus. In DT, with Mrs Harding, the children designed and made moving monsters applying their knowledge of linkages and mechanics to achieve a successful end product! Finally, as we're sure you will all agree the children should be congratulated on their fantastic Christmas production performance. They have made us so very proud and it was lovely to see the hard work and dedication the children brought to it.

Year 3

The Y3 children have enjoyed a very busy, productive half term in our topic work. In Science, we looked at different light sources. This included looking at reflection, shadow and an experiment around how it is possible for an eclipse to take place, despite the relative sizes of the sun and moon. The children also enjoyed designing their own, new, reflective, material that could be of use in day-to-day life. In DT, the children enjoyed designing, constructing and evaluating our pneumatic toys. The class took to this with great enthusiasm, with this being evident in the finished product. Before making them, we discussed the purpose of making and designing a product, along with the importance of evaluating it. As you can see, the children thoroughly enjoyed the making stage!

In Geography this term, we have been learning about the regions of England, with a focus on the south west and the north west. We have explored some of the physical and human features from these regions and made comparisons between the two. We have also looked at land use and some of the ways that this has changed over the past 100 years. We have used lots of different maps, including some from a century ago, and have practised using compass directions to help us find our way around these maps. We really enjoyed using this resource from the National Library of Scotland to see how land use has changed over time:

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=14.0&lat=54.07377&lon=-2.86087&layers=6&b=1>

In French this half-term, we have been building on our French vocabulary and pronunciation. The children have learnt some more numbers and colours, and should be able to ask you what your favourite colour is. We have really enjoyed testing our Y6 house captains when they come to count our house points on Fridays! We are now beginning to write in French, as well as continuing to improve our speaking and listening skills.

Year 4

Year 4 have had a very busy half term! In DT, the children have enjoyed exploring, designing, making and evaluating torches. They learnt how to create an electrical circuit before designing their own. In Geography, the children have been learning all about Brazil. See some pictures below of their presentations on the three regions of Brazil. In science, the children have been learning about food and digestion. They finished off their unit by teaching the rest of the class how the digestive system works. In computing, they designed and made prototypes for interactive toys. The children then pitched their toys to the class who gave them feedback on the designs and coding. Over the last few weeks in English, the children have been learning about the features of a persuasive letter. For their final pieces, they wrote a letter to The FA either arguing for or against male and female footballers being paid the same. Their letters were fantastic and very persuasive indeed! Miss Mayes and Mrs Smith have been thoroughly impressed with the children's super efforts and enthusiasm this half term.





Year 5

Year 5 began the half term with a wonderful class assembly which summarised all of the learning we had been up to and were heading into for the upcoming half term. The children all did a brilliant job to prepare and perform their assembly.



This half term, Year 5 have been learning all about 'Energy' during our Science lessons. As part of this, the children thoroughly enjoyed conducting some practical experiments whereby they had to explore the best way to transfer energy in order to move a cotton reel—we had lots of very creative ideas using elastic bands and balloons!



In Geography this half term, Year 5 enjoyed learning all about World Trade. Out of all of our lessons, we know that our favourite lesson had to be using Digimaps on the Chromebooks in order to locate all of the physical geography of South America and how this helped to provide lots of natural resources to the continent, ready for trading!



During DT, Year 5 have enjoyed getting stuck into creating their interactive pop-up books ready for Year 1 children to enjoy. The children worked incredibly hard to add a range of mechanisms and structures, including levers and sliders, to make their fairy tale story come to life.

In amongst all of the children's hard work in Maths and English, they have also enjoyed two visits during this half term, including a trip to Weymouth Pavilion to see the Children's Bookshow, and a visit to Budmouth Academy to watch their performance of *We Will Rock You!*

where we all had a marvellous time!

Year 6

We have had an extremely busy half-term as always! If you watched the class assembly, you will know that some of our work across the curriculum was based on our Guided Reading text, Darwin's Dragon's. This half-term we have finished this by looking at Charles Darwin's life and writing a biography in English. This linked beautifully to our science curriculum and our studies of adaptation and evolution. In Geography, we have been looking at the shocking implications of plastics in our lives and how it is hugely contributing to the plastics in the ocean and the destruction of wildlife.

We are very keen to get out and do our bit (next term) with a beach clean. Our new Guided Reading text, *The Wild Folk* supports this eco theme and the part we can all play in sustaining our world.

In Maths, we have looked at statistics and measures. The children are now well equipped to measure up for carpets and find area, amongst other things. During our music lessons, we have been looking at the Baroque period of music, learning to read notation and play Vivaldi's Spring from 'The Four Seasons.' Lastly, in DT the class have been designing and building their very own playground. These should come home with the children at the end of the week, if they survive the trip! On Friday, the last day of term, the children have earned their 'pasta party' and a chance to relax a little after a very hard-working half-term.

A letter from our School Council

Dear Parents/Carers,

This term, the school council, with Mrs Harding, have been focusing on single use plastics and how we can use less of them. We had a survey in our classes of the single use plastics that are in our lunch boxes and we found that we are causing a lot of unnecessary waste. In light of Pope Francis' message in *Laudato Si* plus the messages that are clearly being put out in the media, we are committed to reducing this waste and we are now asking for your help.

In the New Year, please could you consider using alternatives to single use plastics in your children's lunchboxes. We have come up with some alternatives that you could use:

- Multiple use plastics - such as plastic sandwich boxes, plastic bottles for water/juice.
- Wax paper wrappings for sandwiches.
- Sandwiches wrapped in foil, which can then be recycled.
- Plastic pots for snacks and yogurts.

In addition to this, next term we are hoping to look at ways to reduce food waste at lunchtime too so please could you talk to your child/children about this so that they have some ideas to offer to the discussion.

Thank you for your help with this,
From The St Augustine's School Council.

A message from the Friends of St Augustine's (FOSA)



It has been a very busy few months for our FOSA team with bake sales, wreath workshops, coin bucket challenge, Christmas craft workshop and Christmas raffle, to which they are delighted to announce they have raised over £1000 from these events to go towards our school. This is an amazing achievement by this small team, well done and thank you very much!



After Christmas FOSA will be planning more events, watch this space.

Staffing

Congratulations to the new Mrs Hutton (Miss Lane) who got married on 3rd December in a beautiful ceremony at Upwey Wishing Well.

Sadly, we are bidding farewell to Mrs Tonkin at Christmas as she has decided to pursue her interests outside of the teaching profession, and taken a job working at Shire Hall Museum. We are extremely grateful to Mrs Tonkin for her continued hard work, professionalism and conduct over the years in every classroom. We wish Mrs Tonkin all the best of luck for her future ventures.

Mr Boucher will also be leaving us at Christmas to take up a new role in supporting children across Weymouth with their learning. We would like to thank Mr Boucher for his hard work over the past few years and his support for the children of St. Augustine's.

After Christmas, we welcome Mrs Moore to St. Augustine's teaching team. Mrs Moore will be teaching Year 1 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday mornings, alongside Mrs Hutton on Wednesday afternoons, Thursdays and Fridays.

Mrs Gardner and Miss Samways will also be leaving us at Christmas to take up new roles. We thank them both for all their hard work and wish them all the very best for the future.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

Finally, from all the staff at St. Augustine's, we hope that we have added a sparkle of joy to your Christmas preparations and we would all like to wish you a 'Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year'

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday, 3rd January 2023.

All the Staff at St. Augustine's