



# St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs. Emma Berry



Autumn 1 Newsletter 2022

Dear Parent/Guardians,

All of the children have made an excellent start to the new school academic year. They have demonstrated a super attitude towards their learning and conducted themselves beautifully around school. I would like to congratulate our new Reception children, new children in other year groups and new staff for settling into St. Augustine's extremely well.

## Catholic Life

The children have predominantly focused on the Catholic Virtues of Faith and Compassion this half term alongside weekly Gospel Values introduced to the children at our Monday morning Liturgies. Last Monday's Liturgy and daily prayer focused on our relationship with God and the importance of prayer in our lives. From a pupil voice exercise that I conducted this week, it is clearly evident from the children's responses that our Catholic Virtues and Gospel Values really do support everything we think, everything we do and everything we say.

## Mini Vinnies

The Year 5 and Year 6 children have been invited to attend Mini Vinnie meetings led by Mrs. Evans. If these wonderful children continue to show commitment in attendance and the ethos of the school, they will be later commissioned by Father Anthony and become a fully-fledged Mini Vinnie! The uptake so far, has been fabulous. They worked together alongside myself and Mrs. Evans to help pack the food produce, collected at Harvest Mass, so that it could be taken down to the local food bank- thank you team!



## Harvest Mass

Thank you to Father Anthony and Year 4 for leading a lively Harvest Mass and thank you to all for bringing in so much food produce in hardened financial times. The local Weymouth Food Bank at St. Albany Road were very appreciative of our efforts.



## Samaritan's Shoebox Appeal

Our next charitable focus is 'Operation Christmas Child' which you would have received the details via ParentMail yesterday. Again, as with the Harvest goods, please do not feel like you have to give as we are merely supporting this as a means to support those who want to give and can afford to give in these difficult financial times. May I reiterate that you do not have to complete a whole shoebox; you may bring in some items and we can piece items together to make one whole shoebox. Another idea is to bring in an empty, wrapped shoebox as we can often utilise these with a mixture of gifts. I thank you in advance for any support.

## Year 6 retreat

We are looking forward to taking our Year 6 children to the Convent on Wyke Road as we have organised an afternoon retreat for them on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November. We are working with Father Anthony and the Sisters to plan a reflective afternoon to support the children's spiritual journey before they prosper onto new beginnings at secondary school. Further details will follow after half-term.

## Curriculum

### Reception Class

It has been a pleasure to welcome our Reception class into school and we are so proud of the way they have learnt to get to know each other, learnt about our gospel values, to follow our class routines and to do their very best in all areas of their learning. We have been delighted with the progress they have made in such a short amount of time. At the end of September, they led a super class assembly where they sang songs, shared some of their learning and showed our children and their families some of the prayers they have learnt at school.

During curriculum work, they have made a great start on learning their phonics and in maths have been concentrating on understanding how to count and compare numbers in the 1-5 range.



In topic work, the children have been learning about 'Ourselves and the World Around Us' and are proud to share some of their natural transient art.

### Year 1

The Year 1 children have been learning all about toys from the past and present and are looking forward to going to the Teddy Bear Museum after half term.

In Computing, the children have had fun thinking about and writing instructions for a pirate on a desert island, who had lost his treasure and the children helped him find it again by using directions. The children have also had fun giving instructions to a tiny robot on the computer. In Science we have been learning all about trees and plants. The children went on a leaf hunt and had to work out which trees were evergreen and which were deciduous. The children have been really enjoying their PE sessions with Julien and have been working on vital team building skills. They also had a brilliant trip to the WOEC in September and were lucky enough to participate in lots of climbing, going through tunnels and putting teamwork skills into practice. What a great start to Year 1!





## Year 2

The Year 2 children have had a jam-packed half-term across all curriculum areas. Miss Warwick genuinely could not be prouder with them as they, and the whole school, have made her feel so welcome. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about Mary Anning and her life; they shared their knowledge of this in their class assembly which was lovely to see.

In science, the children have been carrying out an investigation to test the optimum conditions for plant growth. It was interesting to see if the children's predictions were correct having learnt about what a plant needs to grow successfully. In Art, the children developed their technical drawing skills through their study of L.S Lowry. They have produced some fantastic artwork with Mrs Harding, creating structural drawings of the school and experimenting with colour to mimic the style of Lowry. In Maths, the children have been working really hard to improve and extend their knowledge of number and place value and are now moving on to apply that knowledge through learning methods like column subtraction and addition to solve problems, super impressive work!



## Year 3

In history this half term the children have been learning about the changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. They have explored the historical evidence and discovered that the people of the Stone Age were interested in a lot more than just hunting and gathering. They have looked at the amazing remains at Skara Brae and considered what they can learn from them, before learning about life in the Iron Age and asking questions about some of the most significant changes. Finally, they have looked closer to home and investigated the mystery of the skeletons of Maiden Castle! As well as learning new historical vocabulary (such as Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic), the children have also been learning a whole new language this half term.

The children are really enjoying their French journey so far. They have learnt how to greet different people, how to ask for and give their names and how to ask and say how they are feeling. They are now looking at numbers and colours, and will continue this after the half-term break.

We have linked aspects of our Art lessons with our historical investigations, looking deeper into cave art and how and when it was discovered. The children have enjoyed building up to using cave art as an inspiration to paint, ensuring that they only used colours that were available at the time. Recently, the class looked at a graffiti painting from Banksy which depicted cave art being taken down. This led

to some fascinating discussions and inspired the children to sketch some further cave art inspired by the work from Banksy.

In Science, Year 3 have been looking at different rocks and have carried out several investigations around this. They have looked and learnt about igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks, along with the process in which they were developed. Along with examining the rocks and sorting them into a Carroll Diagram, the children dipped the rocks into water to see if they were permeable or impermeable. The fizz, or lack of, gave the children the information that they needed.

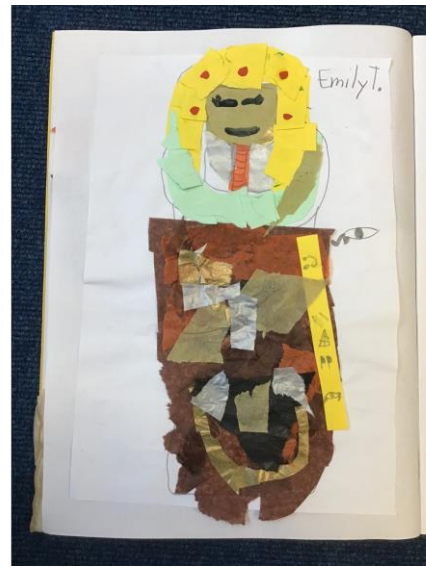
Finally, the Year 3 children have also been enjoying their learning in Music and Computing. In music, they have been listening to different types of music and working hard to not only recognise the beat, but also to look to count the time of the piece (the metre). Alongside this, Year 3 have also looked at introducing more musical language to deepen the learning. In computing, they started to design and develop scenes using the programme 'Scratch'. The children used a template to aid with their design and began the process of developing it on the Chromebooks. A knowledge-rich half term Year 3- Well done to you all and Mr. Pask!



#### Year 4

Year 4 have really enjoyed learning about their Ancient Egypt topic in history. It has been lovely to see the children being so inquisitive and coming up with fantastic questions. They thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the Tutankhamun Museum and found out so much about the discovery of his tomb. They have just written some amazing newspaper reports about the discovery of the tomb! In Art, the children have completed their final pieces - a sarcophagus made using collage. See some of their fabulous creations below. The children have enjoyed looking at and listening to each other's homework tasks related to Ancient Egypt. Miss Mayes has been particularly impressed with the children's effort with this topic.

Year 4 also had their Class Assembly and Harvest Mass which the children performed beautifully in. Miss Mayes is very much looking forward to the next half term with Year 4!



## Year 5

The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about crime and punishment through time as part of their History lessons. As part of this, they had a very special visit from Stuart Hann (Safe Schools and Communications Officer). Stuart shared lots of interesting facts about the laws of today and the technologies used to catch criminals in comparison to the Victorian times! The children really enjoyed taking part in some debates about whether they believed certain crimes should be punished and how.

This term, the class have really got stuck into their class text 'Pig Heart Boy' by Malorie Blackman, which has been influencing all their writing within their English lessons. The book has created lots of interesting discussion points, such as should animals' organs be used in human transplants? Through these discussions, the children have then written some very well thought out balanced arguments.

The children have also worked incredibly hard to create their own 'reverse acetate self-portraits' in the style of the famous Pop Artist Andy Warhol this half term. They enjoyed mixing a range of warm and cool colours to create effective contrast in their portraits and we were all really pleased with our finished outcomes. Well done children and Miss Howard!





## Year 6

The Year 6 children have had a whirlwind of a first half term! In Science the children have been learning about series and parallel circuits and this concluded with an investigation that they devised in small groups. A typical question that arose was, 'What will happen if I add bulbs to a circuit - will they shine more brightly or not?' Miss Rook is adamant there are a few electricians in the house!

In History and across the Art curriculum the children have been looking into ancient Greece. The children have been learning about ancient Greek life including: daily life, democracy, the Gods that were worshipped and things in today's society that are still evident from these ancient times. In Art, expect to see a beautifully re-constructed Parthenon coming home at the end of term.

In English, the Year 6 text for Guided Reading is 'Darwin's Dragons' and the writing the children have achieved so far has been based upon this text. The children have written stories about being marooned on a desert island and written a balanced argument on the question, 'Did Dragons ever exist?' Miss Rook enjoyed reading them all. In Maths, Year 6 have revisited the 'four operations' and are currently extending their knowledge of fractions.

Lastly, in PE the children have taken advantage of the mild weather to pack in some more athletic skills before turning their attention to gymnastics next half term. In computing, the children have been looking at IP addresses, data packets and how information is sent around the world. Music, has been note reading and rhythm focused this half term, with the children learning to read the notation

of a 'new language.' Miss Rook feels certain that next half-term will be just as action packed! Well done Year 6!

Further congratulations to our wonderful team of Year 6 children who have been recognised for being brilliant ambassadors of St. Augustine's over the years and been rewarded with roles and responsibilities within our school community. Please see the photograph of these children below. Role and responsibilities include: Head Boy and Girl, Headteacher Prefects, Library Prefects, Office Prefects, Sports Captains and Vice Captains.



### **School Councillors**

Mrs Harding has met with the newly appointed School Councillors. This term their initiative supports our curriculum focus of Laudato Si as they have been looking at single-use plastics in lunchboxes. Please ask your child about this and also watch this space for further initiatives to come.



Finally, I would like to thank you in advance for ensuring that your child returns to school on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November wearing their full winter uniform.



Enjoy your spooky half term antics! St. Augustine's hard working school team look forward to seeing you all from 8.40am on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Emma Berry  
(Headteacher)