

School Newsletter

November 2018



ST. ALBAN'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
LEAD THE WAY

Autum term 2

Welcome to Autumn term 2, always a busy period in the run up to Christmas. This year has been no exception, with FoSA kicking off November with another wonderful fireworks display!

Following this, the month has progressed with a series of educational and thought-provoking activities both in and around the school. Early in November, children in KS1 and 2 learned all about the Jewish faith and practices and received visits from the NSPCC who reinforced the importance of always SPEAKING OUT. November was Black History Month and children across the school were tasked to complete independent research about the life of Cesar Picton, a local resident born in the late 18th century. Our KS2 children were also lucky enough to receive an inspirational visit from the author Dr David Waugh, who introduced the children to his books and described the work involved in bringing his stories to life.

St Alban's also marked the 100 year anniversary of WWI, with children from every class participating in a poignant Remembrance service. We were honoured and moved to receive so many photos and memories of the children's relatives who had served in some way and we were very proud to display these in our reception area for all our visitors to see.

Aside from our learning, we were thrilled to receive a very positive reply from Ofsted following their recent inspection. It confirmed that *'The school remains good and there is sufficient evidence of improved performance to suggest that the school may be judged outstanding if it received a section 5 inspection now'*. Mr Brannigan is delighted to confirm that this is the outcome we received and the school will undergo a Section 5 inspection within the next 1-2 years. Again, we would like to thank all children, parents, staff and governors for their invaluable contribution towards achieving this outcome.

Hopefully you should have all received a letter from the RE Council on Prayer, issued last week. We hope this is of interest to you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Brannigan




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November highlights

Memorial service and laying the wreath

On Monday 12th November we held our very own Act of Remembrance to mark the hundredth anniversary of the end of WWI. Children from each class laid poppies at the front of the hall and everyone joined in reflections and prayers for all those who suffer the effects of war. It was particularly moving as so many families had sent in photos and memories of relatives who had served in different ways, as well as those who continue to serve around the world. Year 5 pupils laid their wreath down in the Molesey memorial garden and wrote a prayer on each poppy to remember those who had died.



"For those who gave their today for our tomorrow"

Judaism assembly

We really enjoyed Mrs Alston's assembly about Judaism and have learnt lots about Jewish artifacts (including a mazuzza which Jews hang near their door to remind them of their faith) and we have learnt about Jewish festivals, including Rosh Hashanah (the festival of the Jewish new year).

In class we have made Rosh Hashanah greeting cards and have learnt how the shofar (a special horn made from a male sheep's horn) was used in a battle. We think learning about other faiths is important because we learn to respect and understand other beliefs and we can make links between these beliefs and our own faiths.

(Thank you to pupils from Year 6 for writing this article)



NSPCC visit

On Thursday two ladies came in to talk to our class about the NSPCC. This stands for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. The ladies told us about the different types of abuse children can suffer and we all wrote down who we thought we should go to if this ever happened to us. We were taught to always go to a trusted adult and never to a stranger. We can even ring Childline 0800 1111 if we ever have a worry and don't know who to go to. The ladies told us the most important message was to SPEAK OUT and then we could share our worries and get help.

(Thank you to Josie, Mabel and Zara in Year 5 for writing this article)

Author visit: Dr David Waugh

On Tuesday 6th November, children's author Dr David Waugh visited St. Alban's. Dr Waugh carried out workshops with each KS2 class, where he introduced pupils to his books "Lottie's Run", "Girls Can't Play Football" and "Jessica's Other World."

The sessions involved reading extracts of the book and participating in hot-seating and role-play activities which the children thoroughly enjoyed. Dr Waugh also held a KS2 assembly where he discussed the inspirations for his books and also outlined the importance of editing our writing to check for fluency and accuracy. The workshops inspired numerous pupils to purchase his books and continue to read his stories for pleasure.





Black history month

Children across the school did amazing independent research on our Black History Month challenge: to find out about the life of Cesar Picton, a local resident of Kingston and Thames Ditton in the late 18th century and early 19th century. After being captured by slave-traders in Senegal and transported to England, Cesar eventually became a wealthy landowner and Gentleman. Well done to everyone who managed to locate his houses, and find out the significance of other local landmarks. The story really captured the children's imagination, and years 1-6 took on the role of historians to write excellent accounts of his life.



1. Cesar Picton was born in 1755 in the West African country Senegal




2. In 1781 he was plucked from his home in Senegal, most likely as part of the slave trade. He travelled on a ship with Captain John Parr and was taken as a gift to Sir John Philipps along with a Parakeet and an African duck. Cesar lived with the Philipps family for many years at Picton (near Hambrook).

3. Coal was important in Cesar's life because he grew independent of the family and took Picton as his name not Philipps. When he was older he received jobs from Lady Philipps in 1782. With this money he decided to start his own coal trading. In a house in Kingston called the 'Coal House' he had a shop. The house was also his home and he still has changed a police house Picton.

4. Cesar died at All Saint's church in 1836. The church is in Kingston. He was buried in the garden of this church but his tomb stone was not seen when I went there.

5. This is Picton House on Thames Ditton High Street. When Cesar returned he moved to Thames Ditton. He bought the house for £4,000. Apparently, it has a very big garden.

6. This last building, also called Picton house is 15 & 16/17 High Street, in Kingston. Cesar Picton lived there 1798/1802. There is a plaque on the building to recognise Cesar Picton's successful life.

Who was CESAR PICTON?

Adeliah Jones year 5

BY Amber Moor

1. Cesar Picton was born in 1755 in Senegal, Africa.

2. Cesar Picton was captured from his home in Senegal's Fouta country, West Africa.

3. He arrived on a ship bound for West Africa. He was taken to England by the ship 'The Agincourt' and he lived in England for the rest of his life. He was buried in the garden of All Saint's church in Kingston.

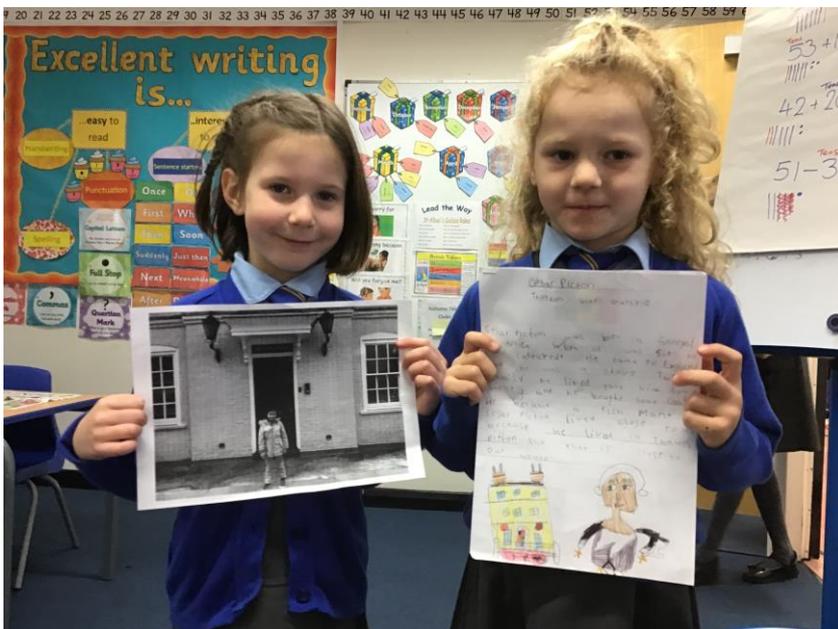
4. Coal was important to his family because he found a way to get coal from the mines and sell it.

CESAR PICTON











Sporting news

Football matches

Thank you to our coach Mr Weeks, who works alongside Mr Evans, for providing the excellent round up of the Autumn term football matches below.

5th Oct – Year 5/6 vs Long Ditton St Marys

The first fixture of the year saw the boys face Long Ditton St Marys in a very close encounter. Neither side could find a winner with the score finishing 3-3.

17th Oct – Year 5/6 vs St Lawrence

A slow start to the game, saw us go a couple down early on, but the boys kept fighting to try and get back into the game. Although pulling one back and playing the better football we unfortunately lost 4-1

5th Nov – Girls vs St Lawrence

A friendly fixture for the girls before the start of their league campaign saw a brilliant effort in the rain and the final score finish 1-1.

7th Nov – Girls vs Thames Ditton Junior

An outstanding effort by the girls who narrowly lost 1-0 to a school who scored 13 past us last year! We had some brilliant chances near the end but no luck on our side.

12th Nov – Year 3/4/5 vs St Lawrence A

A year 5 friendly fixture, which saw us take a mixture of year 3, 4 and 5s. A great game which saw us narrowly lose 2-1 in the last few minutes when pushing forward for a winner ourselves.

19th Nov – Year 3/4/5 vs St Lawrence B

Another year 5 friendly, saw us face a different St Lawrence year 5 team running out 5-0 winners. A great team performance with 3 of our 5 goals scored from year 3's!

21st Nov – Year 5/6 vs Cranmere

Another league game for the year 5/6 boys team as we welcomed Cranmere. After going 1-0 down, a brilliant work ethic and performance saw us run out 4-1 winners with team goals of the highest class.

We will include the most recent games in next month's newsletter:

- **26th Nov Girls vs St Lawrence @ Home**
- **28th Nov 5/6 Boys vs Hurst Park @ Home**



Upcoming initiative

Just Jog

To help the children build their physical fitness and stamina, we are going to be introducing Just Jog. Once each half term, all the children will have the opportunity to jog! KS2 will jog for 20 minutes, KS1 will start with 10 minutes. We will be teaching the children the difference between jogging and running as it will not be a race. During this time they may need to slow down and walk but they will all be encouraging each other to keep moving. Teachers will be helping them to record the number of laps that they do in this 10 or 20 minute period. The idea is for them to compete against their personal best in each half-termly Just Jog session. We will be starting in the New Year.

In the meantime, we hope that families will also take up the Just Jog Challenge and that the children will get lots of stamina building practice out of school. One opportunity to have fun and run is the Bushy Park Junior Parkrun. It is a 2km run for children only (4-14 year olds). It is run on the first Sunday of every month at 9:00am, in Bushy Park. Meet in the Diana Fountain carpark. It is free but you need to register before your first run and bring a printed copy of your barcode on your first run. You can join in and run whatever your pace! Parkrun marshals record the children's time and email them so that children can see how they are progressing.





Information from the school office

Job vacancy

The Xavier Catholic Multi Academy Trust is advertising for an experienced Assistant Estates Manager to assist the Estates Manager in running it's estate of 11 schools. If this is of interest, please see the attached job advertisement.

Labelling school uniform

A friendly reminder to label all items of school uniform with your child's name. We currently have a large amount of lost property which we are unable to return as it is not labelled. *Please note that anything not collected by the end of term will be disposed of.*

Snow Friends

We are looking for volunteers to offer their help clearing snow, in the event of a heavy snowfall. Our 'Snow Friends' would need to be contactable and available to come to school before 7.30am, to help the Caretaker clear snow ahead of the school day. Obviously this is an infrequent event but we would love to build up a list of willing volunteers should we ever need to call them. If you think you could help, please email your name and preferred contact number to the school office: admin@stalbans.surrey.sch.uk
Please note that volunteers would only need to come in to help *if contacted* and help would be offered at one's own risk. Volunteers would need to wear suitable clothing and footwear. We would be most grateful for your kind offer of assistance with this.

Healthy snacks

Parents of KS2 children are reminded that morning snacks must be healthy. Please ensure your children are bringing in fruit, vegetables or a healthy savoury snack such as crackers or pitta. Unhealthy snacks such as crisps or chocolate are not permitted.

Parking

Please can all parents/carers always show consideration to our neighbours when parking their cars at drop off and pick up. Please ensure cars are parked legally and be careful not block driveways.



Attendance Cup winners

Every month our 'Attendance Cup' is awarded to the class with the highest attendance.

Attendance figures 16/10/2018 – 23/11/2018	
	
St Bernadette	97.90%
St Francis	98.47%
St Thomas	97.70%
St George	93.96%
St Peter	98.68%
St Joseph	97.85%
St Paul	98.13%
St Elizabeth Ann Seton	98.51%
St Josephine	98.96%
St John the Baptist	98.21%
St Mother Teresa	97.57%

Well done to St Josephine who achieved the highest attendance over the past month. Congratulations also to St Peter who came in second place and St Elizabeth Ann Seton who were third. Every class that achieves over 97% receives a house point each. Therefore ten classes will receive a house point this month.

Attendance stats

Salesian school recently presented some statistics regarding attendance. We would like to share these with you as we think they are very interesting.

- 90% attendance = ½ day missed every week
- One school year at 90% attendance = 4 whole weeks of lessons missed
- 90% attendance over 5 years of school = half a school year missed!



Autumn Term 2 timetable

Friday 30th November		Yr 6 St Mother Theresa fundraiser
Monday 3rd December	All day	School closed (school closure across all MAT schools)
Tuesday 4th December	9.30-10.30am	Prospective Parent Open Morning (for September 2019 entry) No booking required
Thursday 6th December		'Crazy hair' Day (Donation: Chocolate)
Saturday 8th December	11-2pm	Christmas Fair
Monday 10th December	2.15pm	Reception Nativity
Tuesday 11th December		Y2 St Joseph to Rose Theatre
Wednesday 12th December	11.45am	Early Christmas Lunch Y2 St Peter trip to Rose Theatre
Friday 14th December	1-3pm	Junior Disco
Monday 17th December	2.15pm 6pm	KS1 Nativity KS2 Carol Concert at St Barnabas church - KS2 families welcome
Tuesday 18th December	6pm	KS1 Nativity
Wednesday 19th December	1pm	Early lunch KS1 Christmas party
Friday 21st December		End of Autumn Term 2 - school closes at 1pm

School reopens at the normal time on **Monday 7th January 2019**.