

School Newsletter

March 2022



ST. ALBAN'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
LEAD THE WAY

End of Spring term 2, March 2022

I want to wish you all a peaceful and holy Easter period.

The children and staff have been amazing again this term. We hope to share the result of our R.E. Inspection with you after Easter.

Thank you for all your messages of support this term, it really makes a difference!

Happy Easter.

God bless, take care.

Mr Brannigan

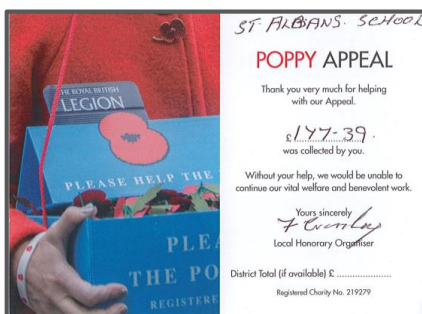
Thank you...



Thank you to Bonnie Jackson in Year 2, winner of our competition to design a poster regarding leaving your cars idling when parking.

Please look out for this wonderful eye-catching and thought-provoking poster outside the school gates when dropping off or collecting your children. A closer image of this poster has been included later in this newsletter.

Please always remember to turn your engine off when waiting.



We would also like to thank you for your donations to the Poppy Appeal.

Together we raised £177.39 for the Royal British Legion!



Whole school ~ World Book Day

Everyone joined in the celebrations for World book day with a day packed full of online workshops from authors, shared reading across the school, and time to just enjoy a favourite book with friends. At the end of the afternoon our Reading Champions helped to run a pop-up bookshop, where every child in the school could claim their free World Book Day book.





Spring term 2 highlights

Reception

Reception have had a lovely Spring term. We had fun going on a Spring Walk and drawing what we recognised as signs of spring. We have also visited our prayer garden.



We have been learning about the world. As part of this topic we looked at the Polar Regions. We used ice to make icebergs and we watched how they melted throughout the day. Some of us drew the animals that live in the Arctic.



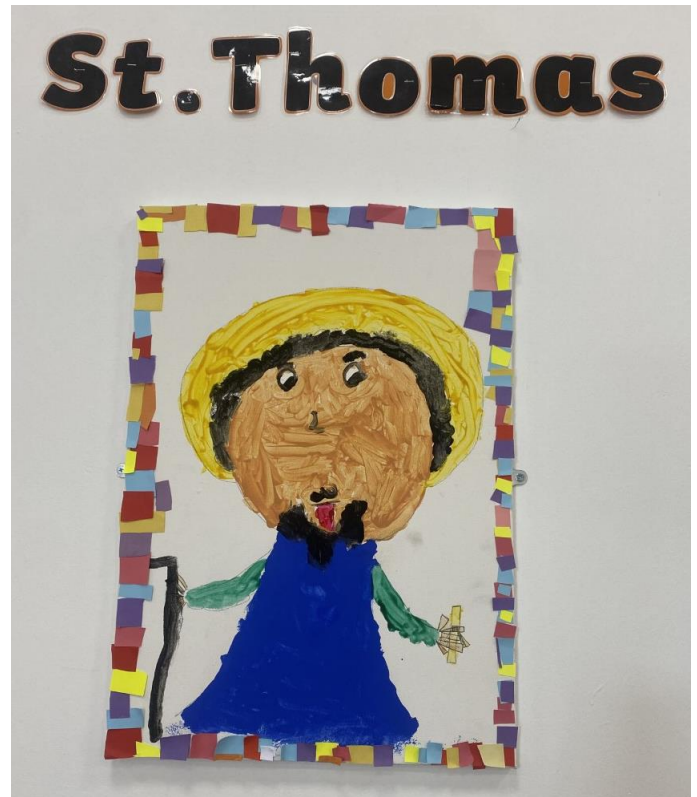
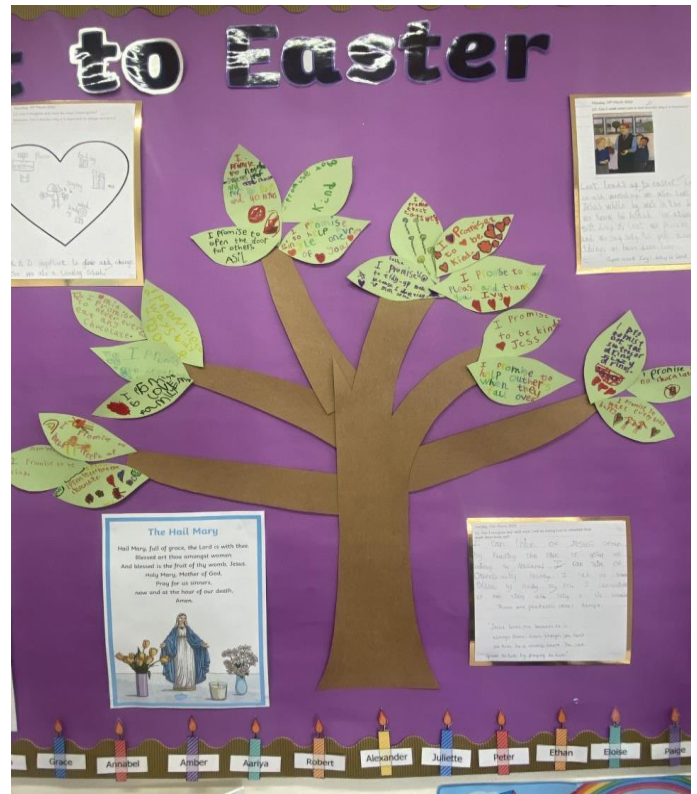


Year 1

This half term, Year 1 participated in World Book Day. We really enjoyed reading to and being read to by Year 5 and taking home our book vouchers.

We have participated in the whole school Lenten challenges, and created our own Lenten promises which we have displayed in our classrooms. We have worked really hard to learn the songs from our Gospel assemblies and loved having a visit from Bishop Richard Moth. We were able to ask him questions which was very exciting as we have been learning about "special people".

We have also been very creative and worked as a class to create a portrait of our class saint St George.





Year 2

As part of their history learning about life in Victorian times, both year 2 classes visited the Museum of Rural Life in Farnham. They took part in workshops about housework before electricity, and dressed up as Victorian children before being taught in the authentic Victorian classroom. On a beautiful sunny day they then had time to enjoy exploring the extended Museum site, which includes reclaimed buildings from all around Surrey.





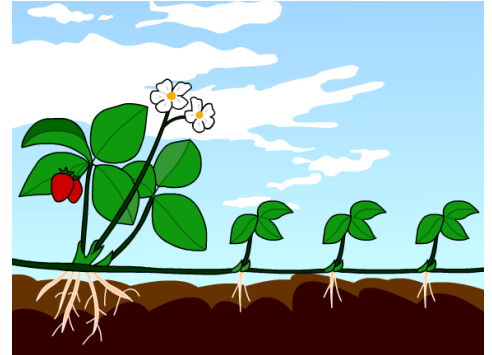
Year 3

RE

This term, the children have been learning all about what it means to give to others. We have followed Jesus' journey from Lent to Easter and thought about the types of giving throughout this season of the Church's year.

Science

This term, the children have been following on their learning all about Plants. We have explored asexual reproduction and how different plants reproduce over time. The children have enjoyed learning about how plants can grow and exploring the process of pollination and germination.

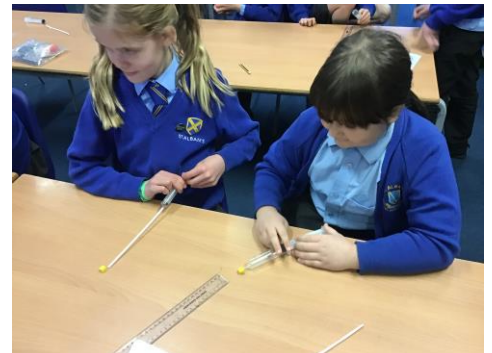


Geography

This term, the children have been learning all about the topic of Volcanoes. We set the children a chance to create a home project all about it and we thoroughly look forward to seeing the children present the research they have created over term. We are proud of how the children have independently taken on this challenge and how they have chosen to present their learning.

DT - Pneumatic systems

This half term the children have been learning about what makes a pneumatic system. The children are looking forward to creating their own erupting volcanoes to show the younger year groups. We will be creating a gallery of volcanoes alongside their Geography project to really showcase their learning across this half term.



Way of the Cross

We have been preparing for a special Easter Musical entitled 'Way of the Cross'. Each of the children have been casted a role in the play and have worked this term to learn their lines, embody the role of their character and show their beautiful singing voices. We look forward to presenting this next week!

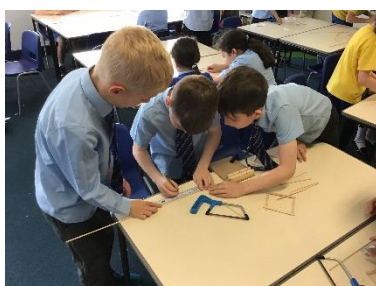
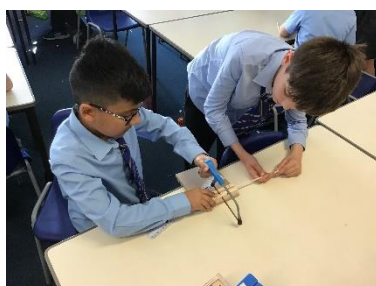


Year 4

Year 4 visited Wintershall estate on the 28th March and spent time walking around the Stations of the Cross that tell the story of Jesus's final hours. The children enjoyed exploring the artwork that marked each station and reflected on the emotions of all involved throughout the process.



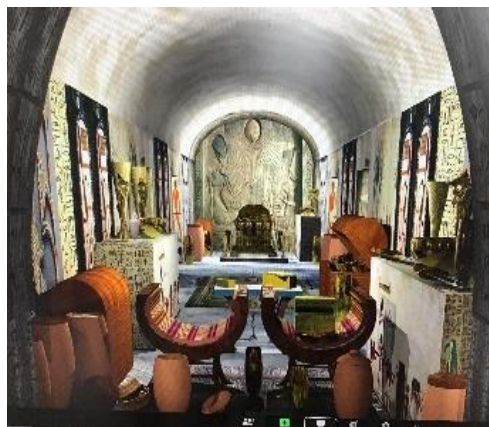
This term in DT, Year 4 have been making slingshot cars, which they have created using hacksaws and glue-guns when building their chassis. The children's attention to detail and maturity has been commendable and their hard work has been reflected in the quality of the cars that they have produced.





Year 5

Year 5 have had a wonderful half term and we have achieved so much! This half term we have been learning about the Ancient Egyptians and we took part in a fantastic virtual workshop with the British Museum. During this, we learnt all about the mummification process, as well as why the Ancient Egyptians constructed such elaborate burial chambers for the deceased.



In Science, we have been learning all about Forces. We had conducted lots of experiments and worked hard to understand why fair tests are very important to Science.



We had a wonderful time on World Book Day. We read with Year 1 children, listened to other teachers read to us and took part in an author masterclass about adventure stories.





As part of our Science learning, we visited the Science Museum to find out all about Forces in the Wonderlab. It was so much fun and we learnt a lot about our past topics of Materials and Space too. We all particularly enjoyed the friction slides!

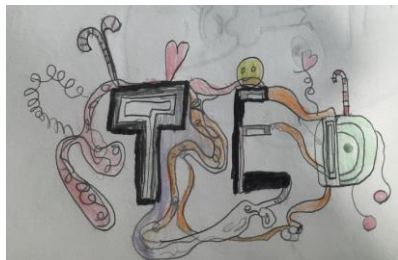


In Art, we have been learning all about clay and using it to make balloon clay animals. Everyone managed to make a wonderful animal and they all look so different. Once we have painted them, they will be coming home!



Year 6

Year 6 have enjoyed expressing their creativity when creating their very own graffiti tag in Art. They have enjoyed letting their personality shine through when creating their tag; using block lettering, serifs, contrasting colours and shadow.



KSI Gospel assembly by Asa

Every Tuesday Asa, Jack, Zain, Adelaide and Niamh host a gospel assembly for KSI. In the assembly we have explored different gospels in each assembly. Since Lent we have been following the TenTen pilgrimage where we have been following different children each week across the world and learning about what happened when Jesus was in the desert for forty days and forty nights.

Before each assembly, we sing different songs of worship each week so then when the children come in and sing the song of worship with us. We each take turns on different slides by reading out what is on the slide and asking the children questions about what they think the slide means. Once we come to a slide with a video explaining the bible scripture, we would start reading the Bible out so the children could listen and understand the scripture. We would also act out the scripture so they could see what could have happened in Jesus's situation.

R.E Council Staff Meeting by Jack

As a member of the R.E Council, it is my responsibility, and all the other members' responsibilities, to promote R.E around the school and make it a more enjoyable experience for all members of our school. To prepare for Lent, Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday, all of the R.E Council were invited to a staff meeting to discuss and consolidate ideas – with the teachers – that we were planning on using in the following term.

Everyone that participated shared their opinions, some examples of these would be: The Stations of the Cross, put toppings on pancakes to raise money for Children Change Columbia, having a Lenten Tree for writing Lenten promises on and making a Lenten Journey Board. All of those ideas were put into deeper thought in the later half of that meeting.

All the members of the R.E Council went to a teacher/multiple teacher to think about the meaning of Lent and what we need to do more of or less of in order to cut back and grow.

Yr6 R.E work by Adelaide

In RE, at the moment we are looking at Lent in the topic of giving. Our lessons have been on loss and death as well as resurrection and hope. In Yr6 in our exploring loss and death lesson we created our own Haiku's on the experience of loss and death.

Here's one by Aiza Bhat Yr6 St. Mother Teresa's:

'When losing someone, you have to move on,

Make sure you give prayers, because you care so much about them,

We all have to change and transition to new life.'

We feel with our loss and death experiences we can connect to the stations of the cross.

Whole school Lent activities:



As a school we have created a Lenten display board. With interactive activities to do each day. We will either say a prayer or do a good deed to someone.

As individual classes we each have to create our own collective worship celebrating a different station of the cross. These are to be planned and created with the method GATHER, LISTEN, RESPOND and GO FORTH. Then the plans for our act of worship are carried out in the prayer garden.

Last term we got our R.E council members to plan a collective worships that we would show to parents. Our collective worships are a time for us to reflect and be close to God and Jesus.

Geography by Tia

In year six our current geography topic is called South America but we are specifically looking at Brazil. Previously, we learnt about urbanisation and it's impact on life. Our task was to write to a friend explaining the pull and push features and why we were considering leaving a place in Brazil called the Caatinga . Recently, we learnt about the bordering countries of Brazil and the different landscapes that the countries have. The biomes in South America include: The Caatinga, the Amazonia, the Cerrado , the Mata Atlantical.

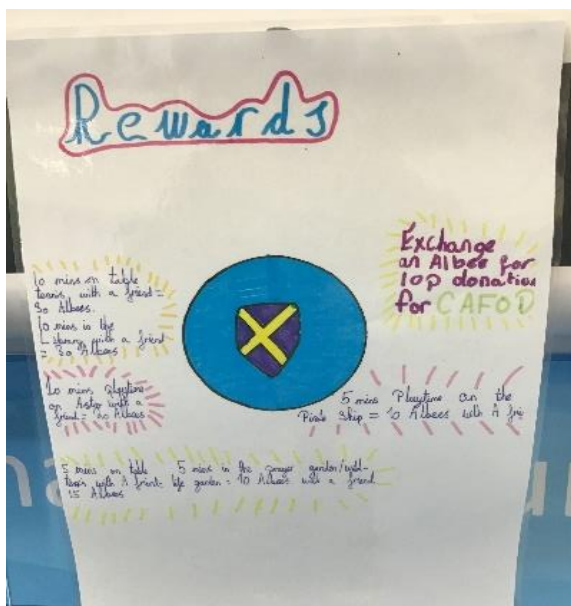


Interesting fact: The Pantanal is 20 times the size of Florida.



St Alban's Bank – Years 4-6

St Alban's Bank is up and running, with many children in Years 4, 5 and 6 receiving their Albees regularly. The Bank Managers have created a list of rewards for which children can exchange their Albees. Dom, Barney and Henry, who are three of our bank managers- are pictured below holding one of the Bank Record books and the Albees. Albees are awarded for a range of achievements such as exceptional learning and leading the way for others.

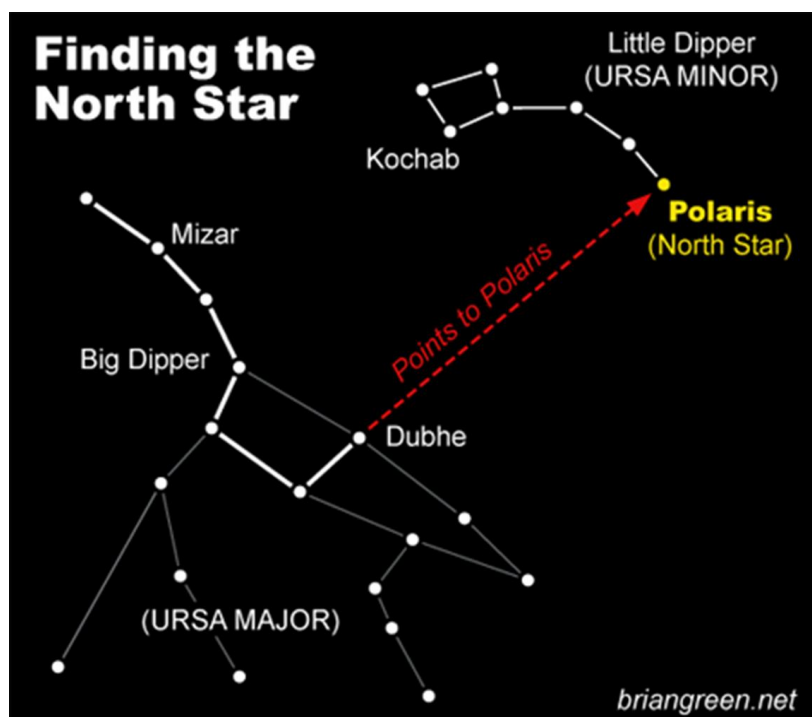


Stargazing event – Year 5 & 6

St Albans hosted it's very first family star gazing event where science ambassadors from Year 5 and 6 along with their families were invited to come into school in the evening.

During the event we learnt about the different stars and planets that are visible in the night skies above East Molesey. We also learnt lots of amazing space-related facts and were given guidance about how to become a stargazer/astronomer.

Some interesting facts we found out: The Sun is so large that the Earth would fit inside it more than a million times! There are more than 100 billion stars in our galaxy and more than 100 billion galaxies in the universe!



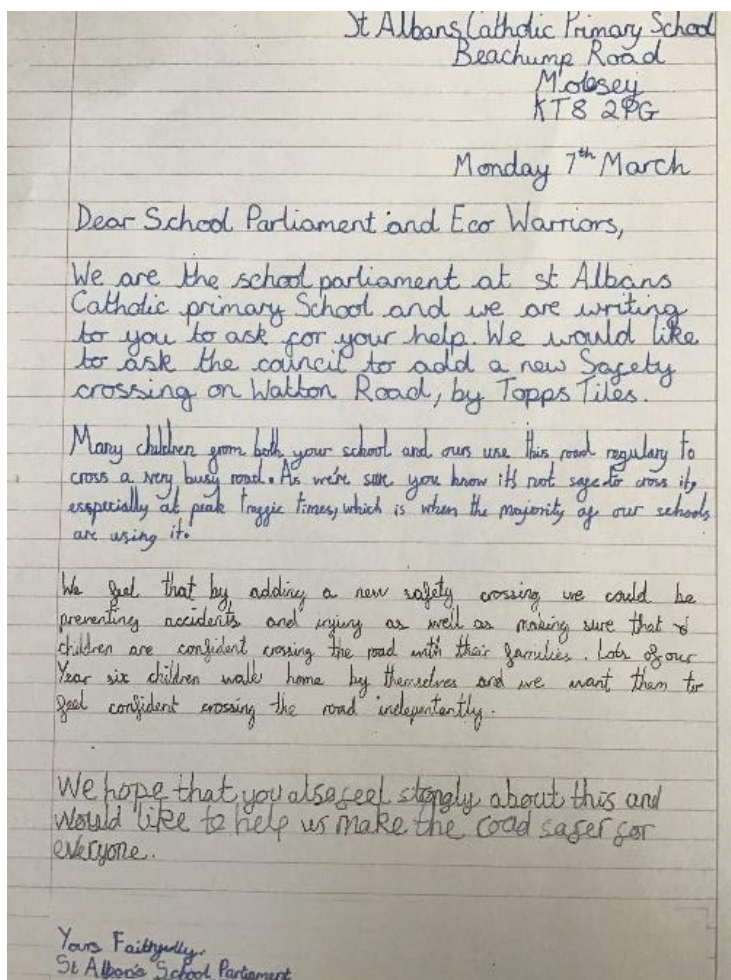
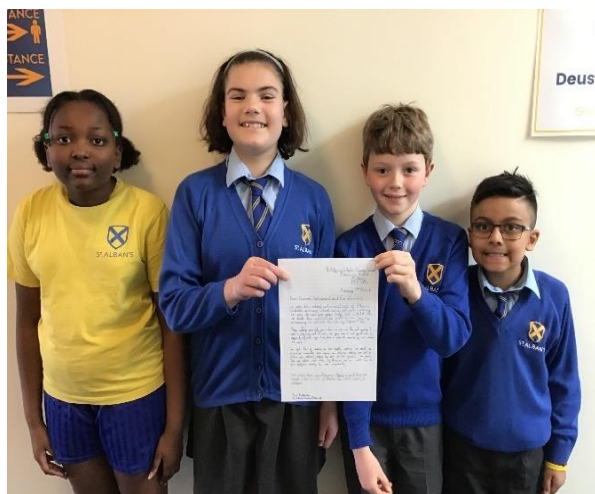
School Parliament – Year 5 & 6 Playleaders

This term, School Parliament has launched 'Playleaders' in both playgrounds. Our new playleaders went through an application process designed by the School Parliament and then training for how to be an effective playleader. We are incredibly proud of these children from Years 5 and 6, who are giving up lunchtimes to support others. It has led to lots of fantastic team games being played at lunchtimes, as well as new friendships forming. Next term, it will be expanded to cover breaktimes and some Year 4 children will also be joining the playleader team.



School Parliament have written to St Lawrence Primary School, to ask for their help in petitioning the Council to build a safety crossing on Walton Road, near to Topps Tiles.

Families from both schools use this road regularly and there are currently not enough safety crossings for everyone to cross safely.



Visit from Bishop Moth

On Wednesday 23rd February, Bishop Richard Moth visited St. Albans and blessed our prayer garden, wildlife garden and our new playground. Bishop Moth met with members of the RE Council and the Mini Vinnies to discuss their commitment to the Catholic life of the school and how they support charity initiatives. Together, they talked about the recent money raised for the CCC (Children Change Columbia) on Shrove Tuesday. They also discussed the message of Laudato Si and the importance of caring for our common home.



The Bishop also enjoyed a tour of the school with Mr Brannigan, where they visited each class in the school. The pupils were invited to ask questions and discovered some interesting facts about Bishop Richard.



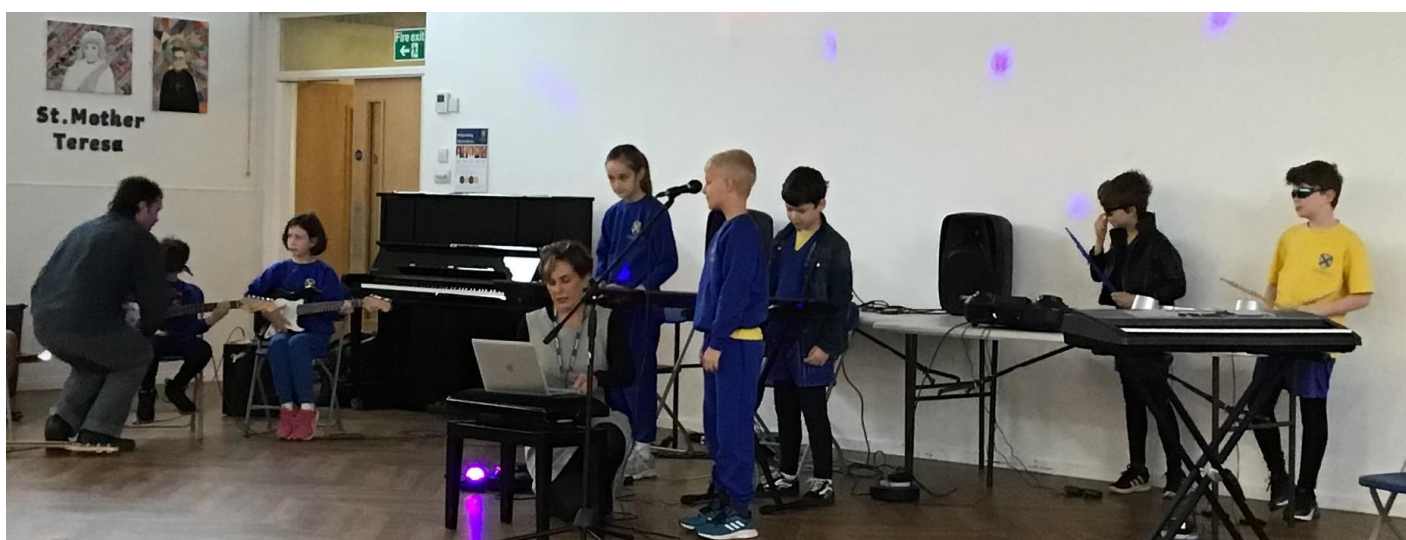
Overall, the trip was a wonderful opportunity to showcase our school and our wonderful pupils.

Rockband – Years 3-6

ScalesandTales Rockband launched on the 26th January at St Albans Catholic School for all years 3 to 6. The children in the club attended 8 weeks of lessons working towards an end of term performance!

On Wednesday 30th March, Y3-6 were given the opportunity to watch the four different rock bands! Each rock band performed a pop/rock song. The order was as follows:

- Year 3 Rock Band: Shotgun (George Ezra)
- Year 4 Rock Band: Something just like this (The Chainsmokers & Coldplay)
- Year 5 Rock Band: Seven Nation Army (The White Stripes)
- Year 6 Rock Band: Believer (Imagine Dragons)





Each rock band included guitarists, drummers, vocalist and a keyboard player. The pupils had to work together to keep in time with the pulse and were being conducted by Mrs Hart & Mr Essex.

Overall, the whole school was in awe of the children and the progress they have made in just 8 weeks as a band. We look forward to the summer concert and seeing the next performance.



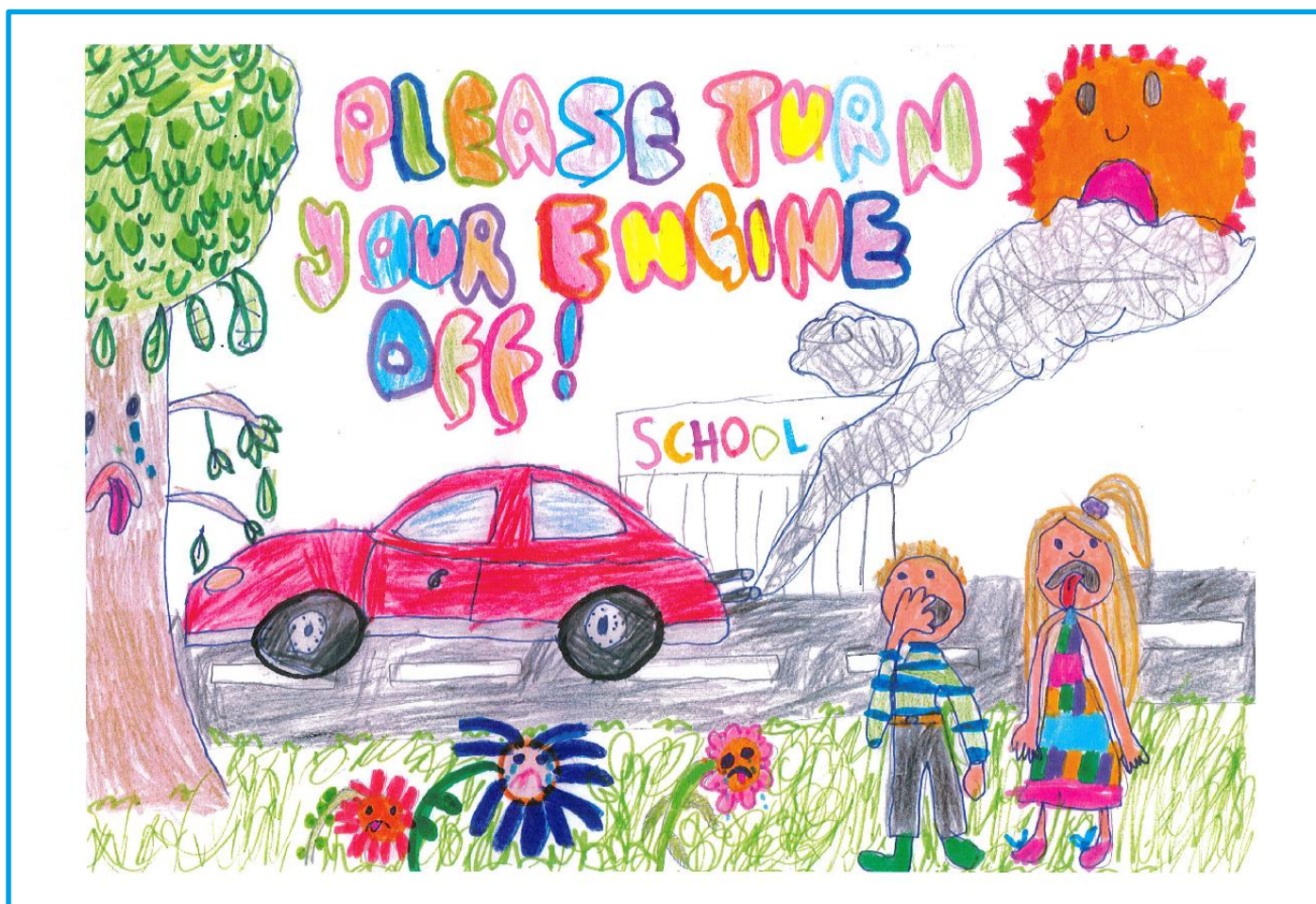
Information from the school office

Parking and road safety

We would like to remind and encourage all parents to park safely and considerately.

- **Always looking for a safe place to park** – Beauchamp road is very long with lots of parking available a short walk from the school gates
- **Never** stop in the middle of the road to let your children out
- **Never** let your children exit the car straight onto the road
- **Never** park on the zig-zag lines
- Drive well within the speed limit and be **extra vigilant** when approaching the school
- If **you live close enough to walk** then please do – walking is a great way to start the day with fantastic health and well-being benefits

Please always bear in mind that by not parking safely the consequences of your action can be life changing. Please support the school in this very important matter.



Attachments

Please find attached, information which may be of interest to you:

- Local Stay and Play Easter activities
- Upcoming Parenting Puzzle course
- Hopscotch Shoes



Key staff teams

For our new parents, we would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our key SLT, SEN and DSL members.

Senior Leadership Team

Mr M Brannigan	Headteacher
Mrs C Martin	Acting Deputy Headteacher
Miss C Clarke	Assistant Headteacher
Miss E Daly	Assistant Headteacher
Mrs A Mettrick	SLT

SEN Team

Mrs C Martin	SENCO
Miss S Alston	SEN Consultant

Safeguarding Team

Miss C Clarke	Designated DSL Lead
Mrs C Martin	DSL
Mrs A Mettrick	DSL
Mr M Brannigan	DSL

For any confidential matters, please email the DSL team at:

dsl@stalbans.surrey.sch.uk