

School Newsletter

December 2022



ST. ALBAN'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
LEAD THE WAY

End of Autumn term 2

Dear Parents,

I can't believe Christmas is just around the corner and we're almost at the end of 2022!

For everyone at St. Alban's it has been another very successful year. Over the past 2 weeks, we have enjoyed numerous Nativity plays and carol services from reception to Year 6, in school and at church. The expression, humour, confidence and story-telling brought the Christmas story to life in such a moving way. And all the children sang like angels! All the soloists also deserve a special mention. Well done to everyone involved!

The staff have worked tirelessly this term and your kind words of support are always appreciated. Many thanks to every member of staff at St. Alban's, you've been wonderful this term.

I hope that you have a truly wonderful Christmas and I wish you all the best for 2023.

Thanks for your continued support.

Merry Christmas

Mr Brannigan



Image by katemangostar on Freepik

Reception Admissions 2023/24

Reminder that the closing date for Reception applications for September 2023 entry is **15 January 2023**.

Guidance on how to make application can be found here [Apply for a place at a primary, infant or junior school – Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/primary-infant-junior-school)



Reception

Reception have had a fantastic Autumn term. We have been learning about the Christmas story and practising for our Christmas Nativity. We learned about Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and used boxes to create our own little town of Bethlehem.



We have also enjoyed making special angels using lollipop sticks, paper plates and wool. We made sheep for the shepherds and added them to our special display. We made stained glass windows of the star that led everyone to baby Jesus. We also had a go at making our own starry path outside using chalk. We have been taking home a toy donkey each day to help us make our own Advent prayer with our family. We have learned about how different people around the world celebrate Christmas and we have shared our own Christmas traditions with the class.



Year 1

English – Winnie the Pooh

This half term, we have been looking writing our own Winnie-The-Pooh stories. We began by going on a hunt for clues using our maps to try and solve the mystery of Eeyore's missing tail. We have then written and illustrated our own stories about what we found out.



Geography

We have been looking at aerial maps to identify features of the school and its immediate surroundings. We started with our classroom using our observational skills to construct 'messy maps' 3D aerial plans of our classroom.





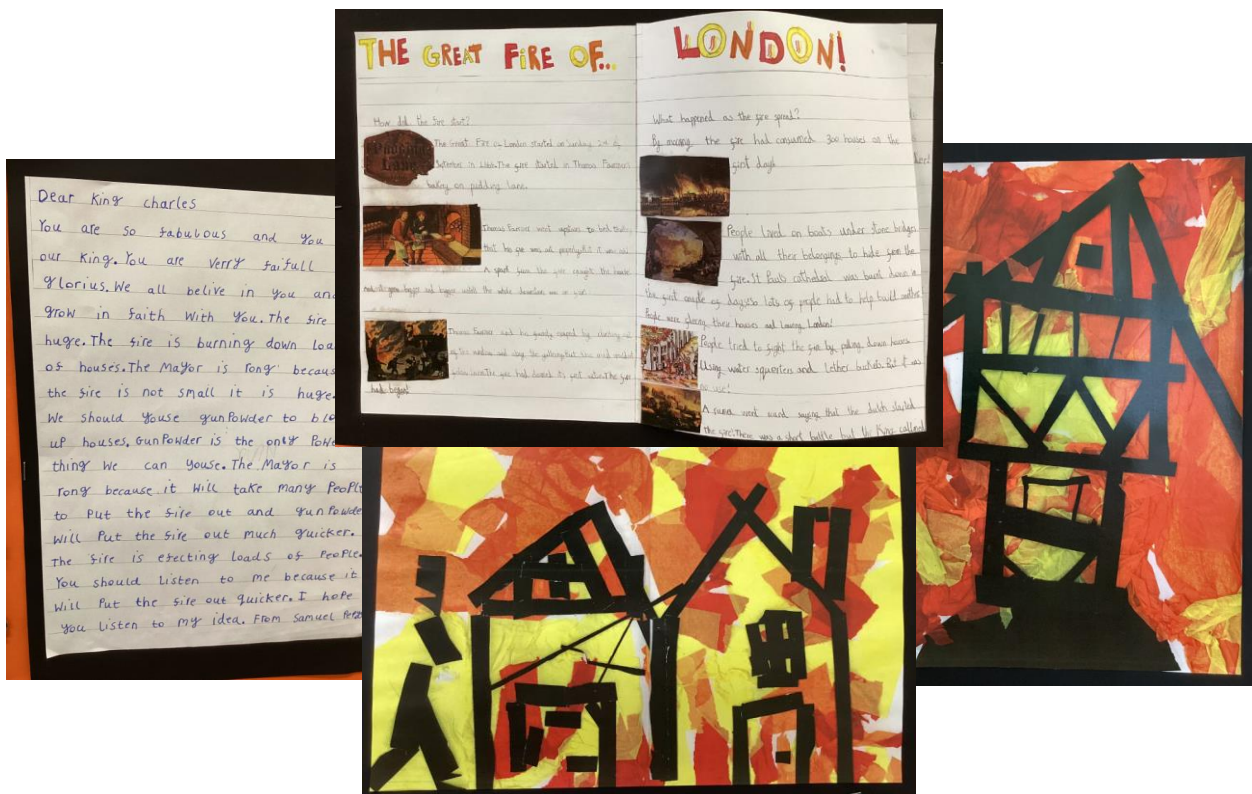
Computing

We have been using the iPads and Bee-bots to program. We have been making our own codes to get our bot to move around the maps without falling into the water.



Year 2

Year 2 have had a very busy half term finding out about the Great Fire of London. Children have used their imagination to write recounts of walking through London before the fire in 1666, have created their own dramas to re-enact the start of the fire, and written letters (as Samuel Pepys) to warn the King of the dangers the fire posed. They have also compared drawings of London made before the fire and in the present day, identifying that some buildings are unchanged whilst most of the skyline is unrecognisable!



Fire Safety Workshop

During this term, we were very lucky to have a member of the London Fire Service come and talk to the children about how to be safe with fire. The children learnt about what they can do if they see a fire and how to be safe with fire.

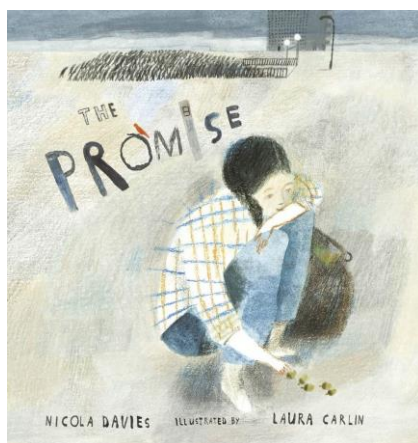
Computing

The children have been exploring the Blue-bots within our topic of programming. The children have been making algorithms to program their bots to move around the maps. To challenge them, the children have used their iPad to program their bots to move as well. The children have loved debugging their codes in order for the algorithm to work.

Year 3

English

This half term, in English, Year 3 have been using the book *The Promise* by Nicola Davies to inspire their writing. The story starts by describing a city that is 'mean, hard and ugly' and so were the people that lived there. To inspire some setting descriptions we created art pieces based on the adjectives we could find in the book.



As the story develops the main character has a change of heart. She starts to plant acorns which turns the grey and ugly city into a beautiful, green city. The children wrote some fantastic diary entries pretending to be the main character. The whole of Year 3 felt so inspired by the main characters change of heart that we too planted acorns and even had a go at growing something from discarded avocado seeds.

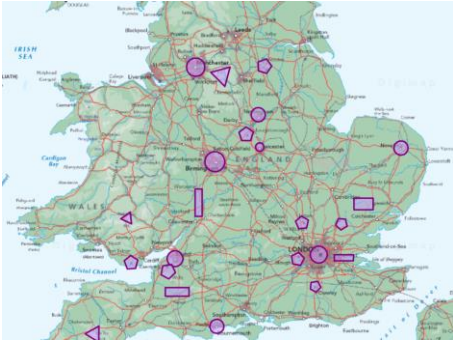


The final part of our learning that came from this book was based on the environmental message embedded throughout. The children used their knowledge to develop non-chronological texts all about climate change and the human impact.



Geography

In Geography this term we have been looking at counties and different settlements. The children have used a range of practical resources to show their learning in different ways. During our symbol lesson the children used Digimaps to find geographical features and create symbols for them.



We then took our learning outside the classroom and onto the streets of Moseley. The children had to record data about different features they could see. We then took this back to the classroom and used it to compare Surrey with another county, Lincolnshire.



DT

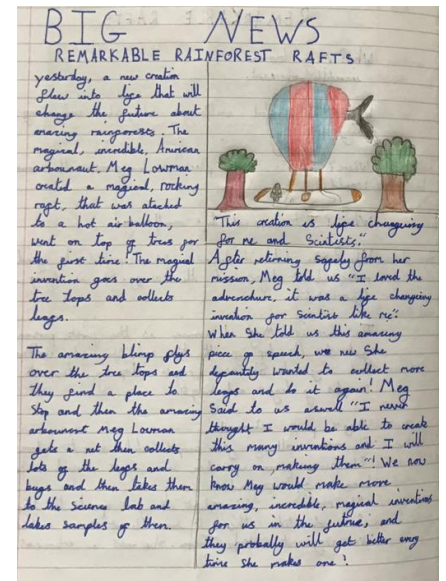
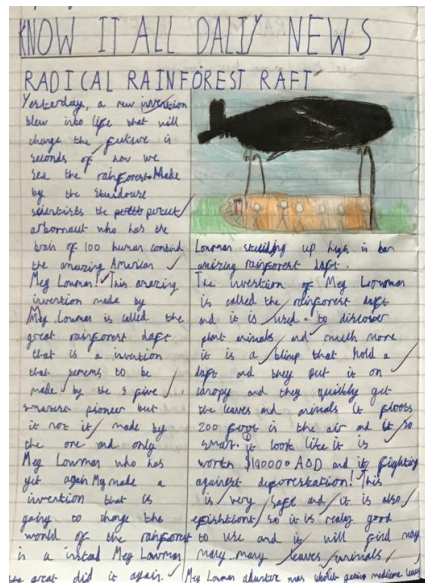
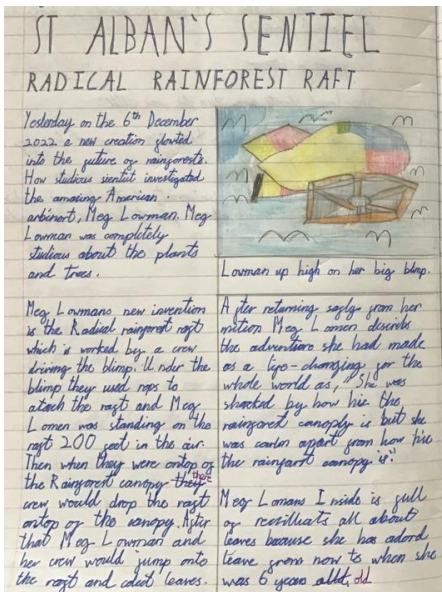
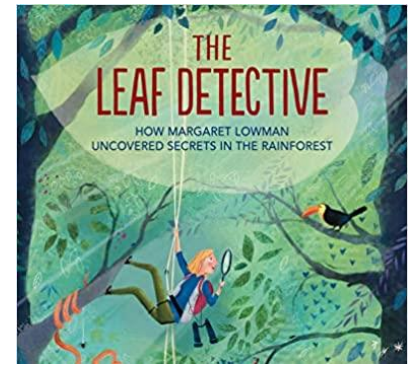
In DT this half term we have been designing, making and evaluating our very own Christmas mittens. The children worked hard to design something that would be suitable for Operation Christmas Child. They then had the challenge of sewing on their design and sewing together the two sides of their mittens. Finally the children evaluated whether their product met the brief and what changes they would make in the future.



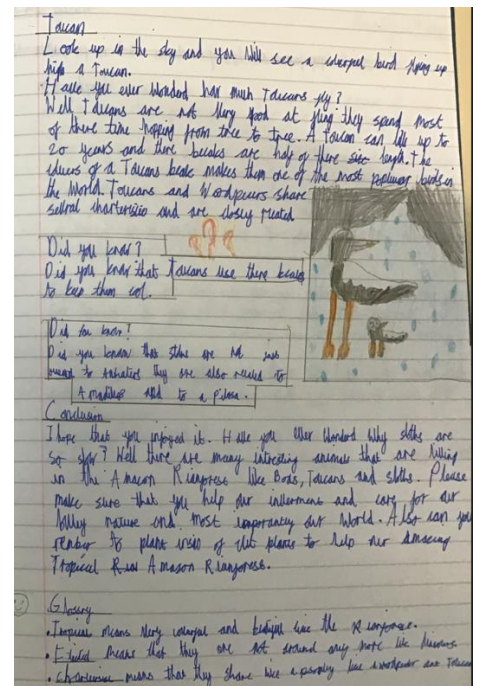
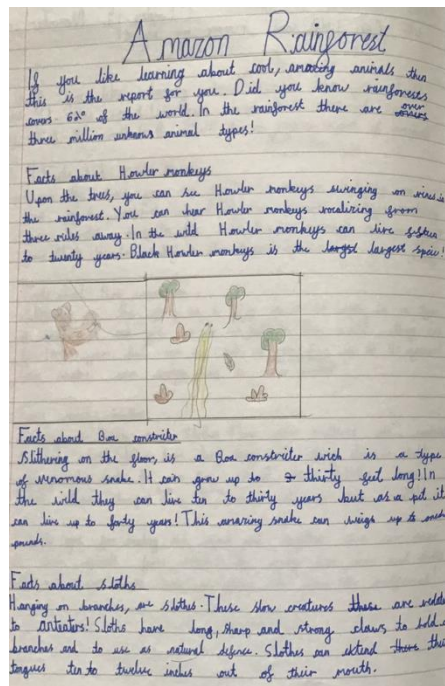
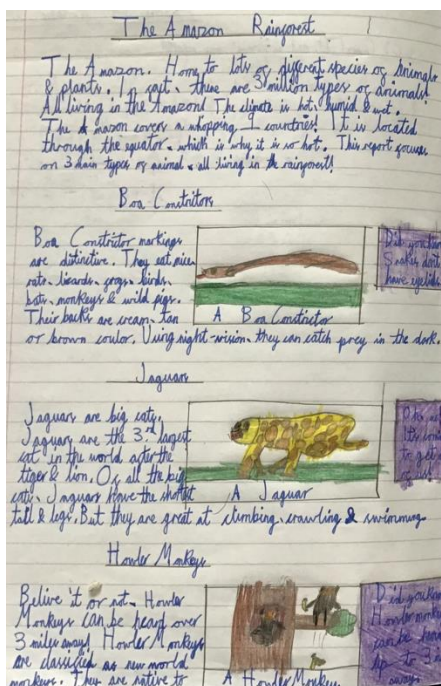
Year 4

English

We have been studying the picture book biography 'The Leaf Detective' all about the life of the ground-breaking female scientist Meg Lowman. The children have written newspaper reports in order to publicise some of her most inspirational inventions. Read all about it!



As part of our rainforests topic, Year 4 have learned about the devastating effects of deforestation and the harmful impact that climate change is having on our planet. Determined to make a positive difference in their community, the children have written persuasive letters suggesting solutions to these issues as well as non-chronological reports about some of the animals endangered by the actions of humans.



Geography

This term in Geography we have looked into the ecosystems of rainforests which has given us an incredible insight into the diversity of life in these tropical regions. Did you know that Amazon rainforest alone is home to over 3 million different species? We have also studied how this area of immense natural beauty plays an important role in limiting climate change because the rich vegetation takes carbon dioxide out of the air and releases oxygen. Finally, we have researched how humans live in the Amazon rainforest, comparing our own lives to a child from the Awa tribe.



Music

Over the course of the Autumn term, Year 4 have been learning how to play the clarinet. As well as learning how to assemble these instruments, the children have played music following a four-bar beat and have performed in class individually and collectively.

DT

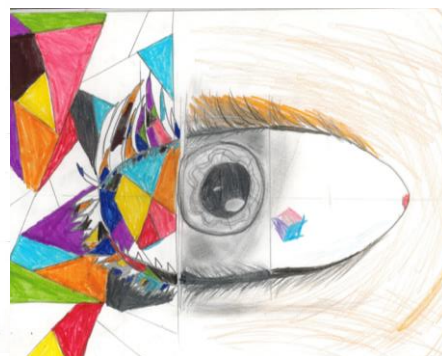
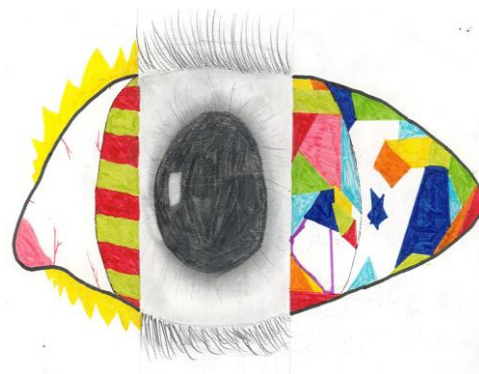
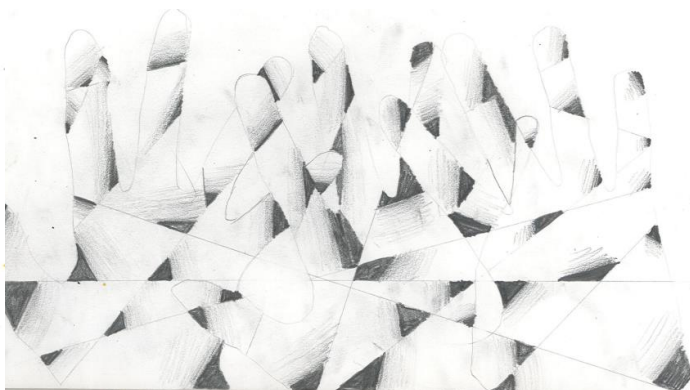
In DT this half term the children have been creating their own Christmas stockings, showing a remarkable amount of creativity and focus to produce some fabulous efforts. They were challenged to incorporate a variety of stitches in their stockings, as well as learning about the merits of various fastenings. Both classes also evaluated their work, identifying what went successfully as well as suggesting areas for improvement in their future endeavours.





Year 5

In Art, Year 5 have been putting their drawing and shading skills to the test. We have explored how to add shattered values to two different styles of art: Cubism and Realism.



In History, we have been learning about Ancient Civilisations. We learned that the Ancient Sumerians had their own writing system called *cuneiform*. We used it to write our own names.



This half term, Year 5 have been using Microbits and Scratch to learn to code. We have really enjoyed creating more complex code and seeing how much we could do working with a partner.

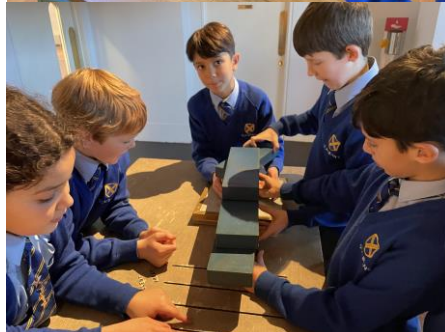




We have been reading 'Wonder' by RJ Palacio. We were able to use lots of different drama techniques to explore the text, such as hot seating, freeze frames and conscience alley.



As part of our Science learning, we visited the Science Museum to find out all about Forces in the Wonderlab. We all particularly enjoyed the friction slides!



Year 6

Grow a Pound £

This half term, each year 6 child was given a £1 coin. With this coin, the children were asked to 'grow' their pound by spending/investing the money. The idea is for pupils to use their entrepreneurial skills to come up with an idea for spending their £1 and then selling the good/service for a profit.

On Monday 19th December, pupils brought in their final total amounts and presented their business plans to their class. Collectively both classes have raised over £500.

They have then had the option of selecting how they spend their money and to what charities the money will go towards. The children have looked at the CAFOD World Gifts page and selected chosen gifts within their class budget.

<https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

We are very proud of Y6's entrepreneurial skills and been very impressed with their inventive ways of growing their £1.



Ernest created a video presentation explaining how he baked cupcakes and also put a jar of skittles in the staff room and asked teachers & staff to guess how many were in there.



Adele created a presentation about her handmade creations which she sold at the local parish Church. She also offered a gift bag to her customers and created a poster for advertising

Brianna created a video presentation which included what she had learnt about business 🕶️



business.





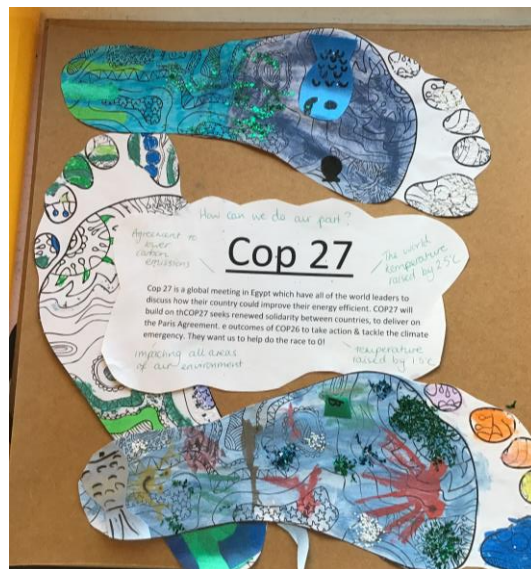
Jess, Isla, Grace, Lottie, Laila and Isra made Christmas decorations out of clay. They sold them in school and some of them even spent time at a Christmas fair selling their creations.



Green Team

This half term the Green Team have been hard at work ensuring the premises is working positively with the environment.

During one of our meetings we learnt all about COP 27 and how countries are working together to lower their carbon emissions. We had a look at parts of the school and discussed ways that we could reduce our carbon emissions.



One of the areas that stood out was the lost property . To ensure the clothes were easily accessible and organised, the children labelled the boxes and organised the items. We thought this would be also a good opportunity to recycle any unwanted items.

Our next focus was or lovely garden at the end of the school field. The school has been lucky enough to gain a green house! The children were very excited to start planting some bulbs to test out their new project.





The final thing we have managed to do this half term is create our own bird feed to put in the bird feeders in the garden. This was a very messy job but lots of fun and we hope the birds enjoy the treats!



School Parliament

This half term, the School Parliament has reopened Library club for all children to use. Each year group is allocated a breaktime/lunchtime to visit the Library if they would like to. The Library is supervised by members of School Parliament, who read to younger children, support children with finding fantastic books and make sure that the Library remains a calming, peaceful place to visit.



Our school was invited to take part in Dominic Raab's Christmas Card Competition. School Parliament decided to open this up to all children and we had so many wonderful entries. We managed to finally decide on 3 winners to be sent on to the Houses of Parliament to be judged alongside the winners from other schools.



Congratulations to our 3 winners:



Devon Y3



Olivia Y4



Zainab Y6

Early in December, we received the fantastic news that Zainab had been chosen as the overall winner- beating hundreds of others to be selected as the Deputy Prime Minister's official Christmas Card! A fantastic achievement, well done Zainab!



Image by starline on Freepik



Information from the school office

Parking and road safety

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

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.

- **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

Attachments

- Parenting Puzzle Leaflet
- ESP Inclusive Sporting Sessions
- Surbiton Hockey Club Christmas Camps



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	Deputy Headteacher
Miss C Clarke	Assistant Headteacher
Miss E Daly	Assistant Headteacher
Mrs A Mettrick	Assistant Headteacher

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
Miss E Daly	DSL

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

dsl@stalbans.surrey.sch.uk