

# School Newsletter

April 2023



ST. ALBAN'S  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL  
LEAD THE WAY

## End of Spring term 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been such a busy term, full of wonderful learning and experiences. There have been exciting trips, with Reception enjoying a fun-packed day at Bocketts Farm, Year 2 immersing themselves in the Victorian era at The Museum of Rural Life and Year 4 walking the Stations of Cross at Wintershall.

Science has been a focus this term, with Years 3 and 5 holding their own science fair and Computer Science week held across the school. We also had World Book Day, there has been road safety training, Fair Trade Fortnight – the list goes on! I have thoroughly enjoyed walking around the school seeing all of the children's great work and seeing their enthusiasm.

I want to wish you all a peaceful and holy Easter period and look forward to seeing the children back to school in April, ready for another term of fantastic learning.

God bless, take care.

**Mr Brannigan**

# Happy Easter!





## Reception

This half term we have been learning about farms. The children have been excited to learn all about the animals that live on farms and what their roles are. Some of us knew how cows help the farmer by making milk, sheep provide wool and horses' manure helps to grow the crops. We have had great discussions about animals and their babies. We tried to name all the different types of young and match them to their parents. This term we were lucky enough to go to a real farm! We had lots of fun at Bocketts farm meeting the animals and stroking some of them. We went on a tractor ride and spotted the animals that live out in the fields. At the end of the day we got to see the pigs racing each other. We waved flags and cheered on the different pigs that had some funny names! We have had some special visitors from CAFOD who came to tell us about a boy called Musa from Bangladesh. We discussed how his life is different from ours and we learned a song about human dignity.





## Year 1

### Geography – The UK

We have been looking at the UK this term in Geography. We have found out lots of exciting features of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. In class, we have explored these features using iPads, maps and atlases.



### Art – Lines

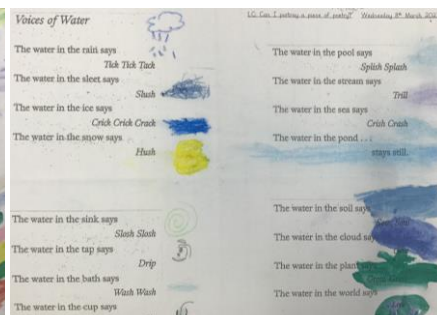
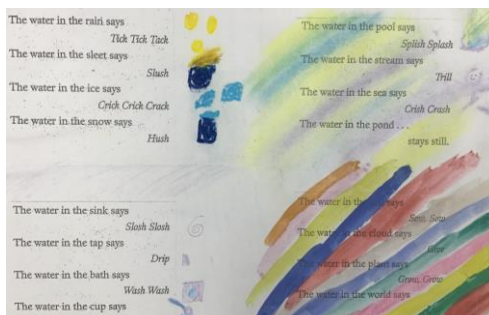
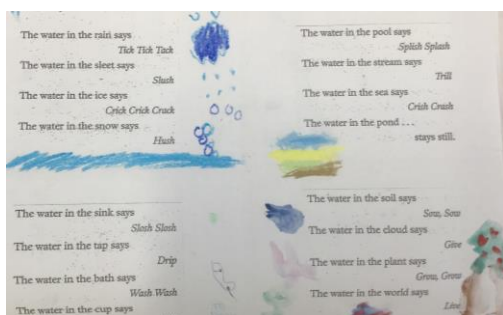
Our focus in art has been lines. We have looked at the artists Bridget Riley, Etal Adnan and David Hockney. We explored using horizontal, vertical, diagonal as well as wavy, straight and cross-hatched lines. We have then gone on to create our own line art work inspired by these artists.





## English – poetry

In English, we've been studying Tony Mitton's poem *Voices of Water*. We used our senses to describe how it looks and sounds and then portrayed it using different art mediums before performing it.



## Science – material

Continuing with our materials topic, we've been looking at different properties. We used our scientific knowledge to set up a fair test to explore the most suitable material for an umbrella.





## Year 2

Year 2 have had a great half term learning all about the Victorians. We have been learning about Queen Victoria and her reign. The children have enjoyed learning all about what life was like in Molesey during the Victorian era.

### Museum of Rural life

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. During the trip, they then had time to enjoy exploring the extended Museum site, which includes reclaimed buildings from all around Surrey.



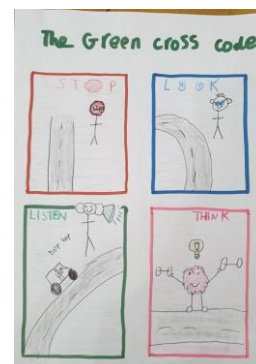
### DT/Science

The children have been learning about what it means to have a balanced diet. The children have been exploring the Eatwell plate and the importance of making sure we have a balanced diet and exercise. The children have designed and created a healthy snack for them to have which includes different parts of the Eatwell plate. They considered what food groups should be in their snack and the cost of purchasing the items. The children have used their food skills including chopping and grating and have created yummy healthy snacks.

## Year 3

This half term in Year 3 the children have been very busy!

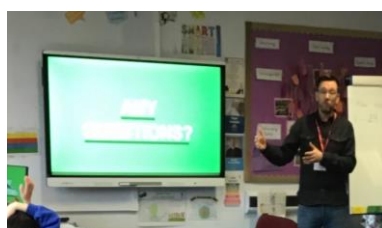
Early on in the half term, they got to start their road safety training with Surrey County Council by taking part in walking training. The children learnt all about the Green Cross Code and how to identify different crossings.



As part of our Geography topic the children took part in a workshop with a company who came into school. They learnt about the myths and legends behind why volcanoes and earthquakes came about and recreated the stories through drama. After that they learnt the science and geography behind volcanoes.



Science has been an on going theme throughout this half term. During the first week back we had a great time during Computer Science week where the children had to complete a series of 9 coding missions based on Amazon robots. During this week we also had the pleasure of having some parent volunteers who work in the world of computer science. The children were fascinated to learn about their job roles and hear about real life experiences. They certainly asked plenty of questions!





Our passion for Science continued with a Science Fair with Year 5. The children were given an optional challenge to come up with a Science Fair entry on anything they wished and to share it with Year 5. From this the winning 10 children will be taking their entries to a grand final with all the other Xavier Schools to compete in a larger Science Fair!



On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March we celebrated World Book Day. It was so lovely to see the children taking part in all the activities and sharing their reading with others across the school. Year 3's responsibility was to share their reading with the Reception children, they even took part in a quiz all about different book titles.



During our Design and Technology this half term we have been looking at making watering systems for our Wild Life Garden. The children have had great fun exploring how to use gravity to provide the water supply and how we can change properties of materials to benefit our project.



## Year 4

### DT

In DT this half term we have designed and made biscuits. The children were given a budget and in groups they worked together to choose a product name and logo and different ingredients. They had to ensure that they were within the budget and that their biscuits would appeal to their customers! The children then worked in groups to follow the recipe and create the biscuits they designed. We were very impressed with the results!



### Science

In Science this half term we have been learning about sound. We have carried out investigations into what materials insulate sound the best. We have investigated how to change the pitch of a musical instrument. We also made string telephones to investigate how sound travels.



### RE – Trip to Wintershall

On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March Year 4 went to the Wintershall Estate near Guildford to walk the Stations of the Cross. We enjoyed hearing the Bible readings and joining in with prayers and reflections linked to Christ's Passion. Each child brought home a 'pilgrim bag' of mementos from their journey through the Stations of the Cross.







## Year 5

We have had a very busy and exciting half term, it's been so much fun!

### Class Assemblies

Both classes worked extremely hard on their class assemblies and everyone performed confidently, with loud voices and excellent singing.



### Art

In Art, we have been learning about Design, Craft and other materials. We have made clay animals using different methods and then painted them. This was a good learning curve for everyone as we had to overcome lots of challenges that the clay presented to us. We have also been studying the work of artist Mark Hearld, then designing and creating our own multi layered birds.



### History

We have been finding out all about the ancient Egyptians- we have absolutely loved it! We explored ancient artefacts, discussing their uses and how they compared to artefacts we have learnt about from other ancient civilisations.





## Science

We have loved learning about Materials this half term. It has allowed us to use our enquiry skills and work scientifically. We have been able to investigate questions such as 'Which is the best thermal insulator' and 'What happens to solids when combined with a liquid.'

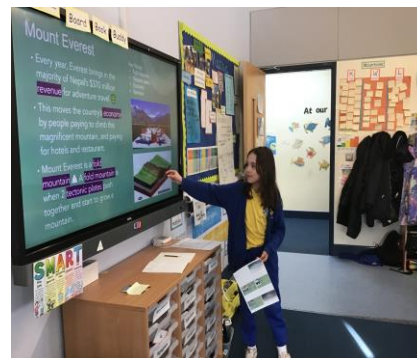
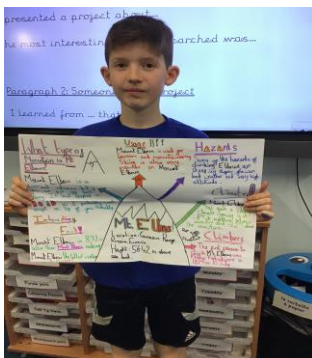


We held a wonderful Science Fair with Year 3, that really showcased our enthusiasm for this subject. There were so many brilliant investigations that have been so wonderfully thought through and presented. 10 children were then chosen who will represent the school at the Xavier Science Fair Final later this month.



## Geography

In Spring 1, we completed a research project on our topic of 'Mountains.' We then brought them in after half term and presented them to the class. There were some fantastic presentations, which showed an excellent understanding of the learning done in class.







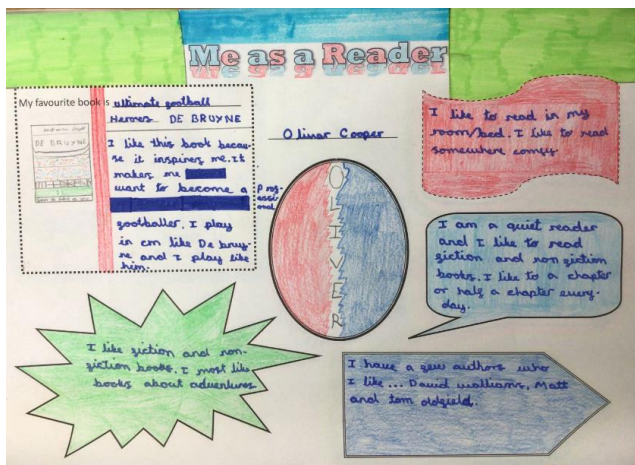
## Year 6

### English

Year 6 have been incredibly busy in English lessons, studying a vast array of text types: we have continued reading Journey to the River Sea; joined Floella Benjamin as she was 'Coming to England' and discovered interesting facts in the non-fiction book, 'Journeys' as well as sharing poetry and shorter pieces of writing.

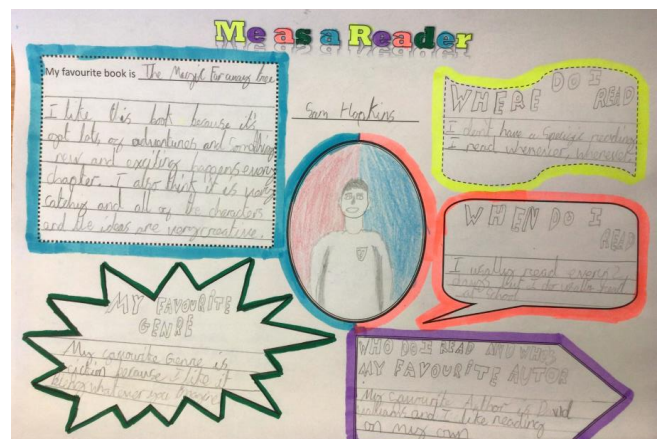
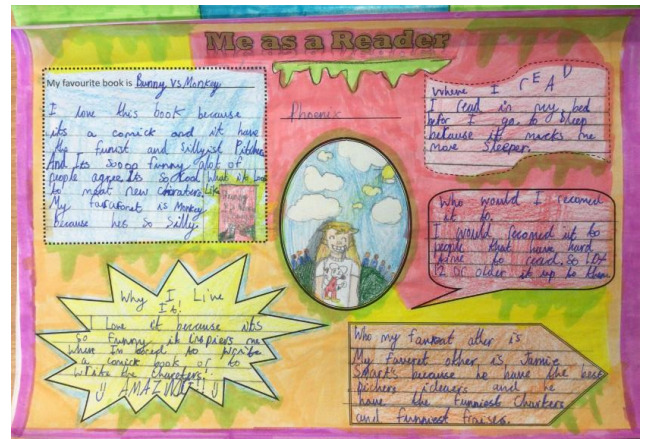
### World Book Day

We absolutely loved being involved in World Book Day on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. It was great fun seeing friends and teachers dressed up as different characters. We laughed a lot at Adam Kay's 'Brilliant Brains' and then unpicked our own brilliant brains to share what kind of readers we are. We then wrote some fabulous poetry inspired by Children's Laureate, Joseph Coelho, which demonstrated the power of books to transport us to different worlds.



### Computing

Diving further into the complexities of Scratch Programming, Year 6 have been designing and coding their own games. We have worked hard to iron out any bugs in our code so that our sprites act in accordance with their algorithms.





## Art

During Fair Trade Fortnight, we learnt about the Foundation and its aims. We reflected on how we could make an impact and then studied the logo, thinking about how the design had been carefully crafted with poignant symbolism. We felt it had a resemblance to the Yin-Yang which represents harmony and balance. We then created our own logos. In other art adventures, we have painted shells, created self portraits and sketched illustrations inspired by our reading.



## History

Our history topic has continued the themes explored in our English lessons where we have been looking at the history of migration to the UK. We worked in groups to research individuals from Africa and the Caribbean who had been influential in the armed services and presented to our classes. It was fascinating to study a primary source – the passenger list from the Empire Windrush and to hear personal accounts of the journey. We reflected on some heartfelt poetry and tried to empathise with the passengers through writing our own.



### England Coming to Me?

Is England coming to me?  
Although it is my destiny,  
It's cold but is it what my  
Life needs?

On the boat, wind blowing my hair as  
If it were leaves,  
Reaching the sky.  
Some sigh, some cry.  
England I am coming  
But.. Who am I? Where am I?





## Xavier Science Fair

Years 3 and 5 held their own Science Fair in school, with lots of children creating and presenting their own investigations. It was wonderful to see so much enthusiasm for Science and everyone thoroughly enjoyed seeing each other's fantastic learning.

From the children who took part, 10 were chosen at random to take part in the Xavier Primary Science Fair Final at the Royal Holloway Campus in Egham. There was the opportunity to listen to speakers, do practical Science with Scientists and visit the other participating schools' exhibitions. The children were also able to demonstrate their investigations to other children, parents, staff and scientists. It was a fantastic experience for everyone involved.





## Badminton



### Y3 Badminton County Finals

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March, two teams went through to the Surrey badminton county finals. The teams rotated around eight different badminton activities. One team managed to place 3<sup>rd</sup> and received bronze medals. Well done to all the Y3 pupils who participated.

*"Badminton made me feel like we are in it together. We kept supporting each other when we didn't have confidence. Even though we didn't win, I am happy we did it"*

Isabel St. Elizabeth Y3

*"I like it because it was very sporty and fun. There were lots of activities to do. The people there were also very nice to us and always smiled. It was fantastic; everyone explained how to do the activities"*

Belle, St Elizabeth Y3

## Football

### St Albans A VS Hinchley Wood

Well done to the football team who lost in the semi final to Hinchley Wood 4-1. Here are some thoughts from some of the team members:

*"The game was really fun and we were a very connected team. For most of the game, we had to fight and push hard because we were 1-0 down, but we didn't give up and when we missed a chance we pushed harder and scored a very late goal."*

Jensen, St Teresa, Y6

*"Despite the efforts of St. Albans, Hinchley Wood managed to pinch a goal in extra time after an intense 1-1 draw. The game was end to end and both teams had many shots on target. We were disappointed at the final whistle but we played well"*

Bea, St Teresa Y6





## Y4 Football Tournament

### Y4 Football Tournament

*"I enjoyed the football tournament so much. It was all about teamwork and making sure everyone had fun. I would love to do it again because it doesn't matter how you do, as long as you have fun and try your best."*

Lulu, Y4 St Josephine

*"It was really fun. I enjoyed it a lot and it felt good to play. I'd never played before and it was great fun. I now want to do football"*

Mia, Y4 St Josephine

*"What I liked about the football tournament was having a nice fun time with my team"*

Stanley Y4 St Josephine

*"I liked the football tournament because it was nice to play with my friends and represent the school."*

Alex Y4 St Josephine

## CHAMPIONS!



### St Albans VS Claygate (FINAL)

*"I really enjoyed the match. It was really muddy and we all did very well. "*

Lochlan Y6 St Teresa

*"The mud was hard to play in, but we played the best and won!"*

Charlie Y6 St Oscar

*"I enjoyed the match and it was so fun that we won and I scored – although it was a terrible pitch!"*

Zach Y6 St Oscar

## Netball



### Y6 Netball Team

Our netball team have worked really well as a team and won all their league matches – congratulations!

#### St Albans Y6 VS Hurt Park

*"I felt like the other team were pretty good and found out some of our weak points, but we outplayed them. I enjoyed the match and being very active and scoring a few goals. Although at many points I felt tired, I never gave up"*

Tadeusz, St Teresa Y6

#### St Albans Y6 VS Hurst Park

*"I think we played very well against Hurst Park showing excellent teamwork and communication in all four quarters of the match. In the first quarter, we were trying to find out their tactics so we could make it slightly easier to win. For the rest of the match, we did some excellent intercepting which resulted in a 11-3 win."*

Dominic, St Oscar Y6

#### St Albans Y6 VS Chandlers Field

*"I found the netball match very thrilling and very fun. I was extremely glad to be part of the match. It was my first netball match and I really enjoyed it. I was pleased to score 3 goals which contributed to our 8-5."*





## Cross Country

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March, a group of Y4,5&6 pupils participated in the annual Esher district cross country event.

Pupils were invited to a running club each Wednesday as part of preparing for the event and developing an interest in long distance running.



Running Club:

*"I enjoyed running with my friends and practicing the gears 1-4 on our running track. I also enjoyed the games we played to get us ready for cross country"*

Olivia, St Mary Y5





## Cross Country

*"Although there was loads of mud, I loved the running and it was very fun to have my friends near me. As well as this, it is fun to cheer everyone else on."*

Thomas Y5 St Mary

*"I enjoyed cross country because I love running and I think it is good to do a race for my age and I loved how St Albans did so well."*

Callum Y6 St Teresa

*"I enjoyed cross country because I love running. I think that it was a good experience. I am very thankful for the teachers that run running club because it really helped me boost my confidence. I am proud of my achievement and hope to do it again."*

Joel Y6 St Oscar



*"I enjoyed cross country because I felt like I pushed myself so much and I know that because I came 5<sup>th</sup> out of 52 people and I felt sick afterwards! I got cheered on loads and everybody in my family was so proud of me"*

Daisy, Y4 St Josephine







## Football



On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March, a group of children from Y4-6 attended a football festival at Fulham training ground. Together they worked as a team to play a sequence of matches and had the chance to see where Fulham FC train!

*"All of the coaches were amazing. We had so many fun activities. The matches were carefully played by everyone there. Everyone was kind and helpful"*

Alex, Y6 St Teresa

*"It was fun and great and a lot of fun!"*

Ollie, Y4 St Josephine

*"The football tournament was fun, we got to do fun activities. Sadly, we lost every round, but it's not about winning, it's about teamwork!"*

Ernest, Y6 St Teresa



## Fairtrade Fortnight

As part of Fairtrade fortnight, our RE school governor Fr Marco delivered an assembly to the children about what Fairtrade is all about.

A special mention to Aliyah, who voluntarily created a poster about Fairtrade. She's now put up copies of her poster for other children to read about Fairtrade and some ideas for what Fairtrade products they can buy at the shops.







## Information from the school office

### Attendance Expectations for This Academic Year

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive) they will be liable to receive a penalty notice. Currently the amount payable under a penalty notice is £60.00 per parent/carers per child if paid within 21 days. Thereafter the amount increases to £120.00 if paid between 21 and 28 days. If the penalty notice remains unpaid after 28 days, the Local Authority will consider a prosecution in the Magistrates Court. Please note that penalty notices are issued per parent/carers per child so a family of two parents and two children will receive 4 penalty notices.

If you feel that your absence should be considered for exceptional circumstances to have leave approved, please complete a 'Request for leave of Absence' form that is available from our school website. The form should be submitted to the school office and at least 2 weeks' notice is required. Please see attached letter regarding Penalty Notices.

### Outstanding ScoPay Payments

Please can you check your ScoPay account and settle any outstanding debts for historic and upcoming trips/workshops.



## 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

## 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
Mrs L Atkinson	SLT

### SEN Team

Mrs C Martin	SENCO
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### 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](mailto:dsl@stalbans.surrey.sch.uk)





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**Thursday 13 April 2-4pm @ Surbiton Hockey Club**

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\*All players should wear shin pads, mouth guards, sports kit & trainers and bring a water bottle