

# School Newsletter

May 2023



**ST. ALBAN'S**  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL  
LEAD THE WAY

## End of Summer term 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first part of the summer term has flown by and it is great to see the weather improving each day. On my daily journeys around the school, I've been delighted to see such a wide variety of activities and learning taking place such as: Active Maths, Geography work using Digi-Maps, Coronation assemblies & many other brilliant activities.

Well done to all the children who have performed their class assemblies this term. Special congratulations to the 62 children who performed at the Surrey Primary Music Festival, at Dorking Halls, your performance was amazing!

Year 4 completed their residential visit to Sayers Croft, in the Surrey Hills. Enjoying orienteering, camp fires, rope courses and completing river and stream surveys. Well done everyone and thanks to the staff who made the trip possible.

Lochlan and Isabelle (Y6) represented the school at the 'Xavier Young Musician of the Year' competition and performed admirably. Well done to you both.

I would like to thank the staff for all their hard work and dedication this half-term. Thanks for all the extra things you do and going the 'extra mile' for the children.

Parents, thank you for all your support.

Have a good half-term, best wishes.

**Mr Brannigan**

## Reception

In Reception we have been learning about Minibeasts. So far we have looked at spiders, grasshoppers, ants and ladybirds. We have learned lots of different facts about them, written about them and made some arts and crafts minibeasts too!

We tried to see if we could jump as far as a grasshopper and used lollipop sticks to try to make the noise that they make with their feet so that we could make a band. We created our own ant colony and labelled the anatomy of a spider. We are looking forward to continuing this topic next half term where we will have some nice surprises for the children.



We have also had a trip to St Barnabas church where we looked at different parts of the church that make it special. For example, Tabernacle, Altar, Pews, Statues, Holy water.





## Year 1

### Wisley Trip

This term Year 1 went on a trip to RHS Wisley Gardens. We explored the gardens and saw all the amazing plants in the glass house and orchard. We then spent some time in a plants workshop where we found out about different types of seeds and planted our own Calendula plants to take home.



### Maths

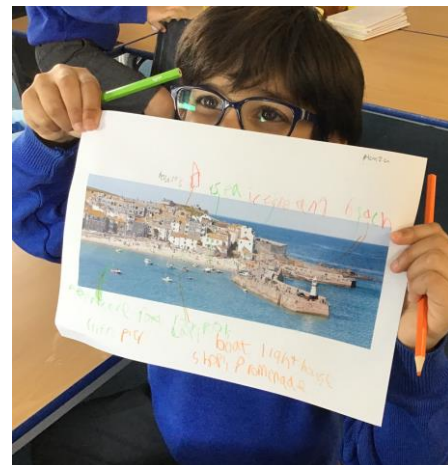
We've been getting in a spin learning about position and direction, looking at where people and objects are in relation to each other. We've had a lot of fun trying to direct our friends and teachers left and right, as well as learning about quarter, half and three-quarter turns.





## Geography

In Geography, we've been getting ready for the summer and have been exploring the seaside. Using our atlas to locate popular seaside resorts around the UK. We've also been looking at the physical and human features, as well as comparing seaside towns to where we live.



## Music

In music this term we have been listening to 'Fanfarra – Cabua – Le –Le' and trying to get to grip with its beat. We have been clapping and using untuned percussion instruments to do this. We have then worked in groups to create our own responses.



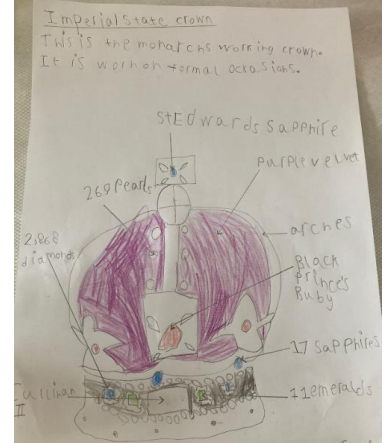
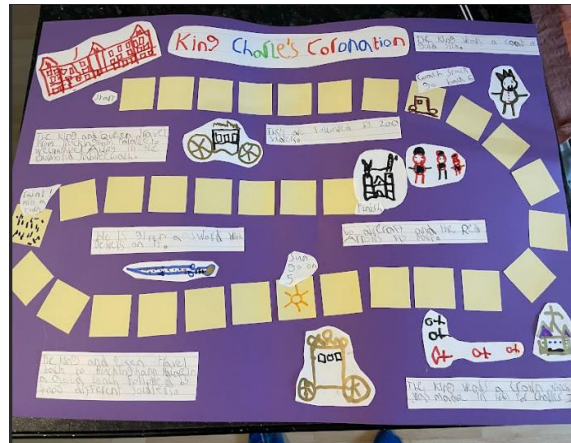
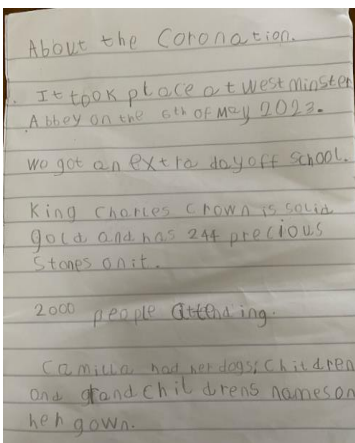




## Year 2

### Celebrating the Coronation

Year 2 enjoyed taking part in the Chertsey Museum Coronation Assembly and did some excellent research projects on aspects of the King's special day – from finding out about the ceremony to creating a board game based on the Coronation! We also enjoyed our very important (albeit cardboard) visitor...



### D&T

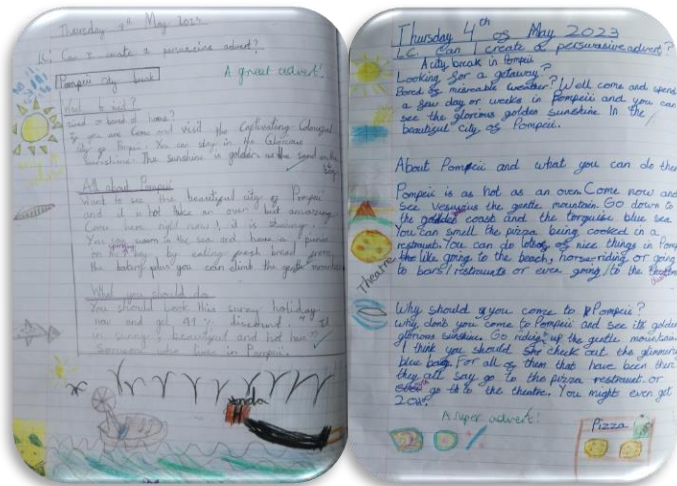
To commemorate the Coronation, the children have been designing and making their own cushion. They learned how to use running stitch to attach the crown.







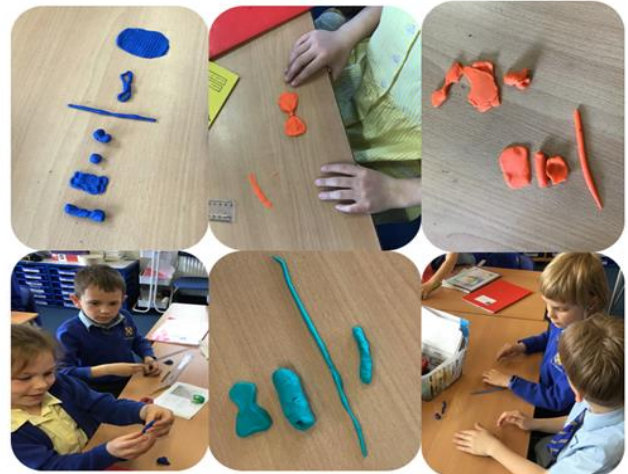
## Year 3



This half term we have been learning about persuasive writing. The children had great fun learning about Pompeii and using that to create a persuasive advert for a holiday.

This links to our DT project of making our own gnocchi from scratch and designing our own packaging labels.

The children were able to peel potatoes, chop tomatoes and onions, mould and shape the gnocchi into different shapes.



We thoroughly enjoyed our seasonal vegetable hunt around Wisley gardens this half term and the children were really interested in the variety of vegetables that they could see being grown.

Year 3 have been amazing this half term but especially when going swimming. They have all worked incredibly hard and have shown perseverance when learning these new skills. It's so lovely to see their confidence in the water build each week!





## Year 4

### Residential to Sayers Croft

At the beginning of term we went on our residential to Sayers Croft in the Surrey hills. We had a fantastic time. We enjoyed taking part in lots of different exciting activities; including an Earth Walk, orienteering, woodland ropes and of course sleeping in our dormitories at night!



We enjoyed carrying out a stream survey and learning more about rivers and streams in preparation for our learning next half term.



We went on a Earth Walk in the Ancient Woodlands and used our Mouse ears' to help us hear the sounds of the woodlands.

During the challenge course we had to work together as a team to create bridges out of planks of wood and collect codes for keys to complete the course.



We enjoyed sitting round the campfire one evening, singing songs and drinking hot chocolate!

The children who did not go to Sayers Croft spent 3 days at school in different classes. All of the teachers they visited were incredibly impressed with children and how hard they worked on the different activities across the week.



## Year 5

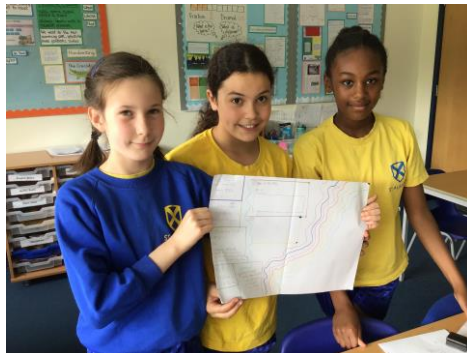
### Geography

Our topic this term has had Year 5 learning about changes to our local area. We have explored a variety of maps through Digi-maps, comparing how things have changed over the years. A fierce debate was waged on whether Heathrow should build a 3<sup>rd</sup> runway or not. Excellent points were made regarding how it would boost the economy, however increased noise and pollution would negatively impact the local area.



### Maths

In maths, we have been learning about different units of measurements. We have been working on our skills through real life measurements, problem solving in teams and even attempted to beat the Triple Jump World Record distance.







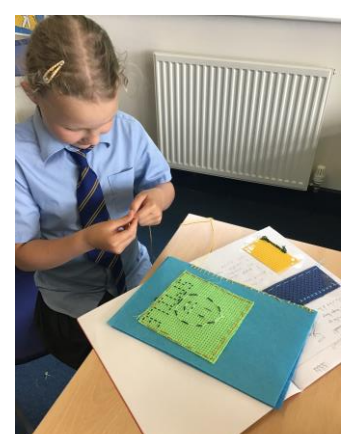
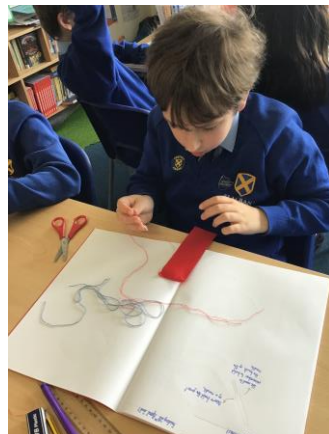
## Science

As part of our Science topic, we visited RHS Wisley and took part in a fascinating plant workshop. We then continued our learning about plants back at school. It was really interesting to examine different types of seeds, plants and climates, as well as plant our own which we then took home.



## DT

Year 5 have been putting their sewing skills to the test by creating Bags for Life inspired by our local area. Our bags are all unique as we have chosen designs and colour schemes ourselves. Our creations have then been brought together through running, cross and blanket stitches!





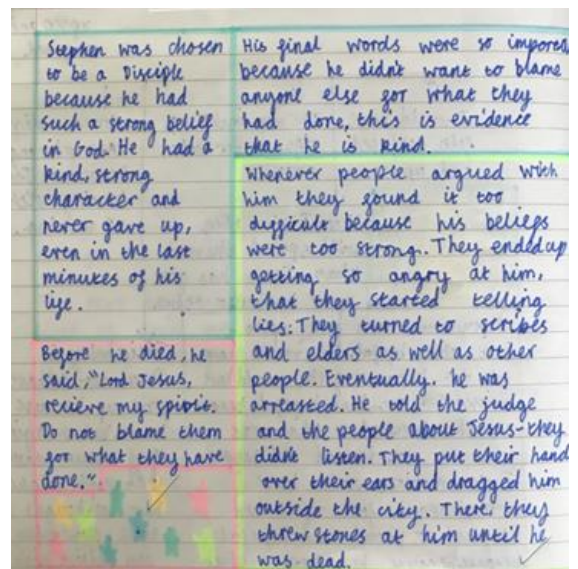
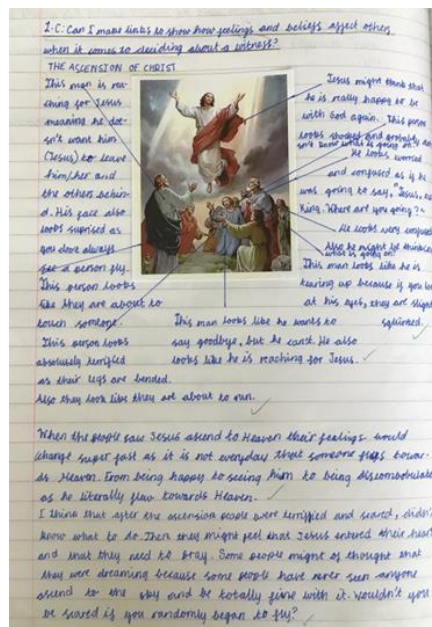
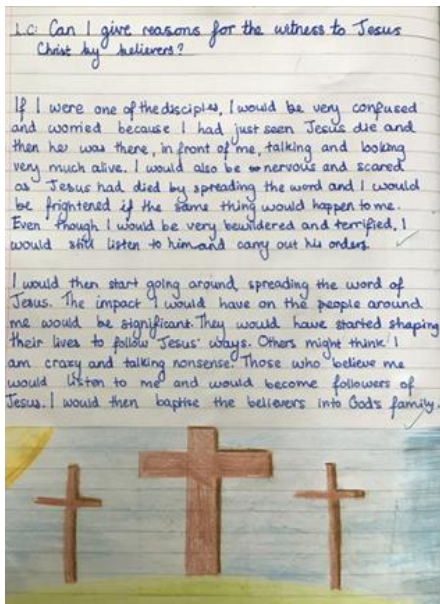


## Year 6

Huge congratulations to all our Year 6 pupils who completed their SATS examinations this half term. They've all worked extremely hard and we are very proud of each and every one of them. Their attitude during the week was fantastic and shows what mature young people they are becoming.

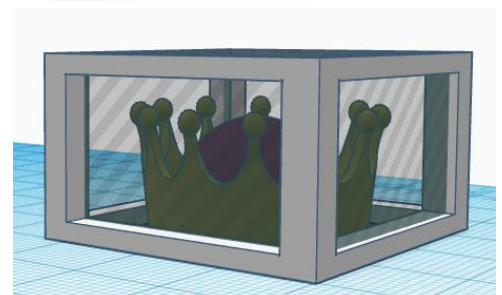
### RE

Our RE topic this month has been Witnesses. The children have looked at those who were witnesses in the Bible as well as those in the modern day who have been inspired by the Holy spirit to do something for others. We thought about how we can be witnesses in our own lives, using the example of Jesus to improve life for others.



### Computing

In Computing, we have been using an online program called Tinkercad which is used for creating 3D designs. We have placed objects onto the workplane and explored them from different perspectives. For the King's Coronation, we were challenged to use the shapes library to design a crown fit for the celebrations. Oscar T's crown is embellished with sapphires and rests upon a red cushion whilst Casiana has created a display case for protection and features a velvet cap inside the circlet.







## DT

This half term, Y6 have been tasked with creating a dessert to commemorate and celebrate King Charles III's coronation. The children have conducted research on the momentous occasion and designed their own packaging for their dessert. Desserts included Victoria sponges, coronation pancakes, British flag cake and cupcakes in the shape of King Edward's crown. Children celebrated together by having a traditional afternoon tea on the last day before half term.



## Primary Xavier Young Musician of the MAT

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May, two of our Y6 pupils participated in the young musician of the MAT competition. They performed in front of parents and headteachers from other Xavier primary schools. Isobel sang "When Daisies Pied" by Thomas Arne and Lochlan played "Sonatina in C Major" by Clementi on the piano. Both pupils represented the school brilliantly and we are very proud of their musical talents.







## 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/carer 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/carer 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.

### Uniform

We would like to remind all our families about our uniform expectations. We expect our children to wear full school uniform and school shoes. Looking and feeling smart, truly does set children up to be ready to learn. Teachers and senior leaders will be checking that appropriate uniform is being worn in school and will be following up with parents if required. We would also like to remind parents and carers of a few key uniform regulations:

- Children must not wear any jewellery (including earrings) as this can pose a health and safety risk
- Trainers should only be worn with PE kit on PE days. On all other days, children should wear school shoes with their uniform Please encourage children to tuck in their shirts and arrive at school looking smart and ready to start the day.





## 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

## Sun Cream

Please apply sun cream to your child before they come into school. If you want your child to apply sun cream during the school day, please place it in their bag and ensure it is named. Please note staff will not be able to help apply any sun cream.

## 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)





## Sports Day Arrangements

This year's sports day will be held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June. The timings are:

<b>KS2</b>	9.15am-11.45am
<b>EYFS &amp; KS1</b>	1.15pm -2.45pm

## Half Term Camps

