

Head Teacher's Newsletter

January 2024

Dear Parents,

January has been a very busy month in school. Everyone settled in very quickly after the long, Christmas break and it is now only a couple of weeks until we break for half term.

As explained in my letter earlier in the month, I will be leaving St William's at Easter to take up a new opportunity in Manchester. Leaving this school community will be a huge wrench for me so I am trying not to even think about it at this early stage. It is very much business as usual in school.

UPDATES ON THE BUILDING

The children have been brilliant at adapting to all the changes in the school environment this year. We are now settled into new routines as we await the start of the works on our school roof. Everyone is enjoying the chance to experience PE lessons at local leisure centres and we are particularly grateful to Bolton Arena for being so generous in allowing us to use their provision. We are still waiting for the delivery of our new hall; I will keep you updated.

UNIFORM

If you are finding that your child's uniform is getting a bit small for them or they have lost items, please do not forget that we do have our 'nearly new' uniform shop in school. Items can be bought for a small donation.

PARENT/TEACHER CONSULTATIONS

There will be an opportunity for you to speak with your child's teacher on Thursday 21st March. This is a meeting for adults and we do ask that your children do not attend. We are making sure that we give lots of warning so that arrangements can be made for child care if necessary.

ELECTION DAY

Once again, the council has requested that school is used as a polling station on Thursday 2nd May. The cabin on the car park will be used as we can isolate that from the rest of the school. This means that school can open as normal on that day which is great news.

TEXT MESSAGING

Texting is our most common form of communication with parents. Please keep an eye out for messages. Please do not reply to text messages— we are unlikely to receive them. Please contact school by telephone if you have a message or query.

Thank you for all your continued support.

Together, we can do great things!

Mrs Lightbown



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NURSERY

In Nursery, we have had lots of fun welcoming our new friends. We started the new year by listening to the story of 'The Three Little Pigs'. We had fun using different materials to recreate the three houses. We enjoyed talking and exploring the differences between the straw, sticks and brick. We even had a visitor in our classroom who created a huge mess—it was the Big Bad Wolf himself. ! We created WANTED posters to find him. We have been subitising up to 5; we are getting good at representing numbers to 5 using our fingers. We've continued to make large movements with our flipper flappers and then transfer this onto paper, we're super confident to moving up, down, side to side and even wiggling!



RECEPTION

Reception began the new year by reading 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt.' We re-told the story using our story map along with Makaton signs and used our creative skills to map the journey to the bear's cave. We were so surprised to then discover a dinosaur was loose in the school and decided to go on a hunt to find it! We re-invented the original story of the bear hunt and changed the key parts to match our dinosaur discovery.

We are exploring numbers to 10 in Maths as we use our ten frames to spot patterns and different ways to make 10, as well as recognising the numerals.

'Celebration' is our topic in RE and we have been talking about our own experiences and feelings about celebrations we have been part of and how the celebration was shared. We read the story of Mary and Joseph taking Jesus to the Temple where he was told he was the light of the world, we created candles and learnt the song 'This Little Light of Mine', we even built our own Temples in the construction area!



Stay with us Lord, on our journey!



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YEAR 1

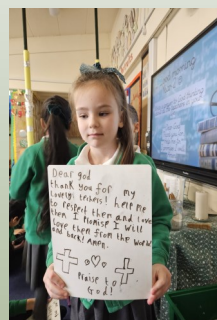
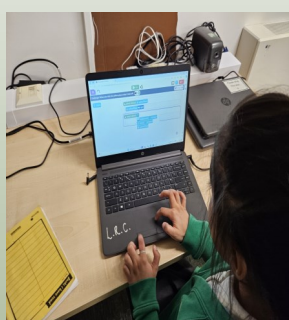
We have been learning all about materials in Science. We investigated the best material to use for Mrs Bolton's ripped umbrella and have been describing the properties of the materials by using exciting new vocabulary like absorbent, water-proof and fragile. In English, we have enjoyed reading *The Three Little Pigs* and *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*. We wrote a shopping list in case they tiger should come to tea again. Belinda our school artist has told us all about the famous artist Mark Rothko. We reproduced our own picture just like the one he had painted. In Maths we have been exploring numbers to 20 and had fun exploring and comparing them. In RE we have talking about special people and we have learned about many religious signs, symbols and words linked to Mass. History Alive came into school and told us all about toys in the past. We had great fun playing with them!



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YEAR 2

In Year 2 we are thoroughly enjoying learning all about the Great Fire of London from a variety of sources of evidence, including the real diary of Samuel Pepys and popular songs! We have talked about how other people's accounts of events are helpful in teaching us about the past, which has also been useful in RE as we learn more about the Bible and who told the stories in the New Testament. We started our sculpture topic in Art and now know lots of information about the Spirit of Sport. We have even had chance to see it up close on our PE trips to Bolton Arena. We have learned about animal offspring and recently investigated which groups of animals have young that look like their adult. Finally, we are getting excited about becoming future coders and programmers as we begin to learn how to write algorithms in our coding lessons.



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YEAR 3

In Year 3 this half-term, we have been finding out about Ancient Egypt in history. We know when the Ancient Egyptian civilization began and why they settled along the River Nile. In art, we have been studying Vincent Van Gogh. We have experimented with different tools and different types of paint. We have also practised mixing primary colours to make secondary colours. Our most recent English text has been 'The Egyptian Cinderella', we retold the story and created our own twist on it! During RE, we have explored a unit called 'Journeys'. We have learnt about the liturgical calendar and know the names of the different liturgical seasons. We have been learning football skills in PE and have had great fun going to the Beth Tweddle centre for gymnastics lessons.



YEAR 4

What a busy start to the half term we have had in Year 4! In English we have been writing letters inspired by our reading of The Proudest Blue by Ibtihaj Muhammad, which we have really enjoyed. We have been excited to start reading Mr Stink this week. Lots of us like David Walliams' books already so we know we are going to love this one! We have also been working on fractions in maths, we know all about improper fractions and mixed numbers now. Our history topic this half term is the Vikings. We have enjoyed debating whether the Vikings were raiders or settlers and learning about their attacks on Lindisfarne in 793AD. In PE, we have been going to Bolton One to learn how to swim. Some of us have never been swimming before but we have been very brave and given it a good go. We have been finding out all the ways we can support our parish in RE. We didn't know there were so many ways to get involved in the church community



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YEAR 5

In year 5 we have been enjoying reading 'A Kind of Spark' by Elle McNicoll and will soon be writing and performing persuasive speeches inspired by this book. We have also been writing poetry in English, based on Emmeline Pankhurst and inspired by the song 'Sister Suffragette' from Mary Poppins. In Maths, we have enjoyed a lot of success during our current 'fractions' unit; converting improper fractions and mixed numbers, finding equivalent fractions and ordering fractions with different denominators. As a class, we have been exploring the history of the Suffragettes, learning about how Emmeline Pankhurst fought for gender equality and influenced the freedom to vote which we enjoy in Britain today. We are looking forward to a trip to the Pankhurst Centre to see the place Emmeline Pankhurst and her family lived and where the first meetings of the Suffragette movement took place! We have been exploring William Morris in Art, learning about how the arts and crafts movement was a response to changes during the Industrial Revolution which we learned about in Autumn. It has been interesting to learn how Morris favoured a return to handcrafted work and was inspired by nature. In Science, we have thoroughly enjoyed expanding our knowledge of living things, conducting independent research into the lifecycles of plants and animals and how different living things reproduce. In RE, we are exploring the concept of 'mission', understanding Jesus' mission to spread the word of God and how he passed on this mission to his apostles. We have also been lucky enough to visit Bolton Arena and enjoy the opportunity to display our passing and dribbling skills during Football lessons with Miss Baxter.



YEAR 6

What a busy half term it has been in Year 6! We have been reading some of St Paul's letters to the Corinthians in RE and have used this as inspiration to write letters to some of the younger children on how to be a good Christian role model. In English, we have been unpicking David Attenborough's work and writing our own narratives inspired by Planet Earth. Art has brought out our creative sides; we have been using clay to make sculptures of our own history heroes. We made our own slip (clay glue!) to make sure the features of their face were secure. We started with design sketches and have made, evaluated and re-made our clay sculptures.

As ever, we have been role models to the rest of the school in the way we carry out our roles and responsibilities. We are excited for the challenges our last ever few months at primary school will bring.



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