



# St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs. Emma Berry



Summer 1 Newsletter 2021

Dear Parent/Guardians,

The children and staff have worked extremely hard this half term. I believe that everyone is enjoying a sense of 'normality' within our class bubbles, following control measures and are grateful for an undisturbed half term of learning.

Thank you for attending your child's parent/guardian consultation meeting with your child's class teacher. A whopping 99% of parents/guardians attended. Staff value this time with you as it can make such a difference to your child's learning journey through the school.

## **Catholic Life RE**

It has been a lively time since we returned to school in March. Through our work during Lent, we were able to celebrate the events of Holy Week virtually, through visiting children enacting the events during special services in their classes.

At Easter, we celebrated the joy of the risen Lord through our classroom RE work and through our weekly virtual Monday Morning Liturgies that led us through Eastertide. Each class participated in their own class Liturgies linked to celebrating the coming of The Holy Spirit at Pentecost. All the classes have also contributed to a beautiful display in the school entrance. Year 4 had an active part in the Easter Vigil at St. Joseph's as their singing was recorded by Mrs Ayles and streamed at Church during Mass. This recording can be found on our school website under Catholic Life and Easter 2021.

In recent RE work on Witness, the Year 6 children enjoyed interviewing Mrs Wilkins and discussing her vocation and dedication to service in her work at school and also in the parish. The children gained so much from knowing that a staff member dedicates their own time to the service of the Lord and this really helped develop their understanding. We thank Mrs Wilkins for sharing details of her service with these children. Similarly, Mr Brown in his role of Deacon Mark, zoomed in virtually to support Year 3 with the concept of Pentecost within Church, as we were unable to visit Church.

During the month of May we have dedicated time to honour Mary, the Mother of Jesus. The children have taken time to say the prayers of The Rosary and some children have contributed to artwork linked to Mary.

We are delighted that we have been able to recommence our First Holy Communion classes and some of our children meet weekly with their catechists to learn more about their faith in preparation for the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion, which will take place later this year.

Father Stephen will be leading Class Mass for Year 5 on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June and for Year 6 on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Sadly, until school guidance changes parents/guardians are not invited to the school site, but we will invite you virtually via a Google Classroom link.

Please regularly refer to the school website for weekly RE updates.

## **RHE**

We thank you for your support in helping us deliver our Relationships and Health Education programme. The children are enjoying their learning using the engaging resources from Ten Ten. We will continue to notify you of the learning focus every week via Google Classrooms to ensure that you are fully informed of our learning objectives.

## **Forest Schools**

Year 3 recently spent an afternoon in the Forest School area of the field in support with their topic of 'Stone Age.'

The children learnt that fire was important during the Stone Age because it kept people warm, provided light and protection from animals and was used to cook their food. The children were shown how to make a spark with a flint and steel and how that could be used to make a fire.

Some children made dampers using flour, water and sugar, which were then cooked on the fire. They were very tasty - especially with a little bit of jam on them!

The children learnt how to make a shelter using branches and tarpaulins. They discovered that during the Stone Age, animal skins were used to cover their shelters and that it was important to be sheltered from the weather, especially during the Ice Age.

Children learnt that in the Stone Age they painted onto cave walls. Some children mixed up their own paints using mud, grass and water and then painted onto an old sheet.

Everyone enjoyed themselves and learnt a little about what it might have been like to survive with none of the modern comforts of today that we take for granted. We thank Mrs Harrop for supporting the Year 3's with their Stone Age Forest School experience.



In addition to this, the Year 1 Forest Schools after-school 'Class Bubble' club has been going extremely well. Mrs Harrop and Mrs Me-in are really pleased with the children, they have worked together well and produced some excellent dens! For recent Forest School photographs, please refer to the school website, go to 'Curriculum' and scroll down to 'Forest Schools.'

We will be offering Forest School to additional classes during the school day after half term in conjunction with the children's topic learning. Your child's Class Teacher will notify you about this fantastic opportunity via Google Classrooms.

## Charity Work

Well done to Emilia in Year 2, who has been growing her hair to donate and raise money for the 'Little Princess Trust'. The 'Little Princess Trust' provide free wigs to children; they also fund research projects focussed on finding kinder and more effective treatments for childhood cancers.



## Dates for your Diary

We are tentatively pencilling in provisional dates for events. Please do not be alarmed if you have not received direct communication about these up and coming dates, as we are all aware that things could change at any moment and any event, will need to adhere to strict control measures and approval of additional risk assessments.

Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Staff INSET Day
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Children return to school
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Bikeability Level 1 for Year 6
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Bikeability Level 1 for Year 6
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Sailing for Year 5 and Year 6 (tbc)
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 5 Class Mass
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Bikeability Level 2 for Year 6
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Bikeability Level 2 for Year 6
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Fraser Photography to take individual and class photographs
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Sports Day (tbc)
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Transition Day
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Reserve date for Sports day
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year 6 Class Mass
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Break up for the Summer Holidays at 2.15pm

Please also note that additional dates may be added as events are at different stages of the planning process. We would like to have a sports day, as it is a day that is enjoyed by all; however, it is unlikely at this stage that we will be able to invite parents/guardians to the school site as it would be considered a mass gathering. Please be reminded that all dates could be subject to change at any given moment.

I thank you once again for your hard work and continued support with your child's learning journey.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Emma Berry