

# SMSC Diary Autumn Term 2023

***“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” Matthew 4:19***

***‘Learn to love and love to learn; in God’s love each one will shine’.***



***“St Andrew’s is an Excellent School” SIAMS report January 2023***

***“A deeply Christian vision is the golden thread that weaves through every aspect of school life. Everyone is enabled to develop within the life-changing, transformational, and loving culture that permeates the school.”***



***“St Andrew’s Church of England (VC) Primary School continues to be a good school.”***  
Ofsted Nov 2023

***“Pupils enjoy attending St Andrew’s Primary. They look forward to the interesting and exciting learning the school offers. The school’s vision of ‘learning to love and love to learn’ links successfully to everything that happens at the school. This creates a caring and nurturing environment where pupils feel happy and safe.”***



*Our Values this term have been:  
Community and Hope*



Here are just some of the **spiritual, moral, social and cultural activities** we have enjoyed this term. Please read and enjoy!

*Special Days - Visits and visitors*

**Curriculum Evening**

How we teach phonics and reading was the main focus of our Curriculum Evening for parents, held in September. These sessions were well attended and parents said they found them really helpful.

**Author Talk**

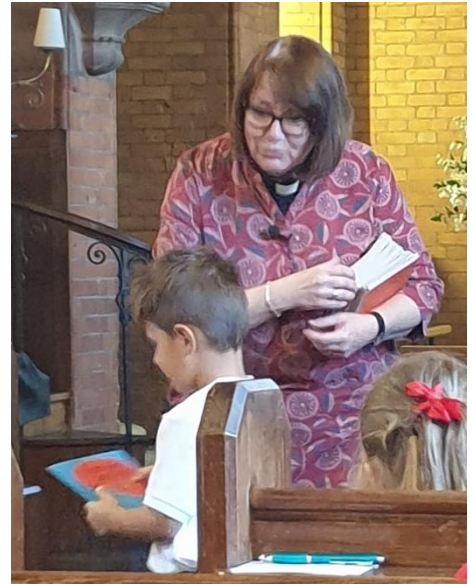


Years 5 and 6 joined a Zoom call with S.F. Said, author of 'Varjak Paw' and latest release 'Tyger'. Years 5 and 6 heard how Said's first two books had been rejected over 80 times by publishers but that eventually, with plenty of perseverance, 'Varjak Paw' was picked up by a publisher after 5 years of writing and over 17 drafts! The talk certainly inspired our older children and showed them that you must never give up!



### Reception's Welcome Service

Chaperoned by our Year 6 children, our new Reception class went to St Andrew's where Revd. Sarah led their welcome service. This was a lovely service attended by many of the childrens' parents. All of the Reception children received a gift of a book from the church which, we are sure, they will treasure.



### Godly Play in Reception

Revd. Sarah also led our Reception class through the Creation story in the Bible. The children explored what God created on each day and then thought about which might be their favourite day in the story. The children listened carefully and offered many wonderful thoughts and ideas.



### PSHE Life Lessons

Early in the Autumn term we had our annual visit from Harold the Giraffe. With the help from Nancy and his interactive tent, Harold spoke to all of the classes exploring aspects of our Personal, Social and Health Education. The children considered how to eat and live a healthy lifestyle and took part in games and a variety of fun activities. Thank you to FOSTA who help us pay for this event.

The learning outcomes for our full PSHE curriculum, which includes Relationship and Sex Education can be found on our school website.

<https://standrews323.herts.sch.uk/curriculum/subjects/pshe/>



## International Languages Day



Mrs Mills organised and led our **International Languages Day**. To begin the day, the whole school enjoyed a French-style snack of croissants and jam. Then Years 5 and 6 received a visit from students at Presdales Secondary School who delivered taster sessions in German and Italian. The rest of the school explored aspects of both the French and Spanish language, including learning some new phrases which we shared in a showcase assembly at the end of the day.



## Year 3 Trip to Celtic Harmony Camp

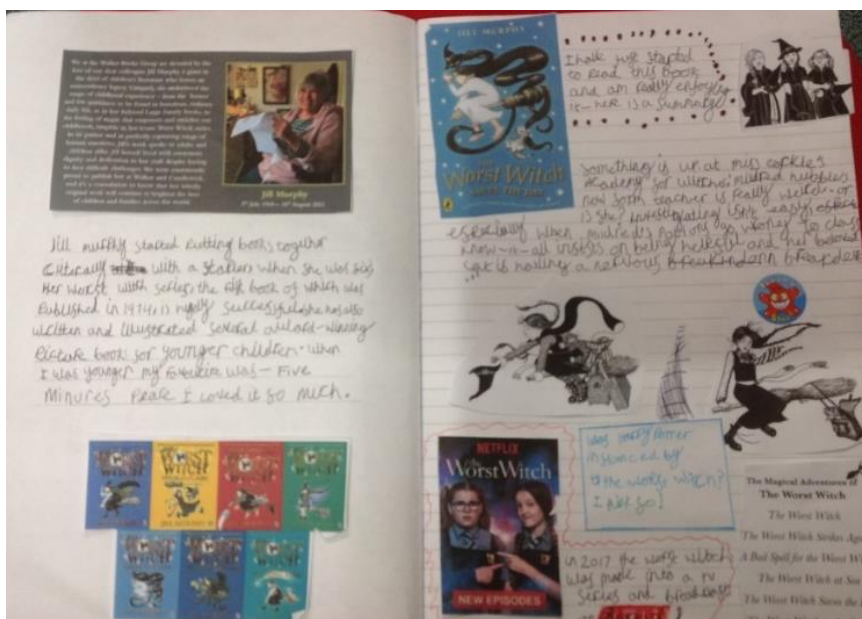
Our Year 3 class travelled back to the Iron Age and explored what life would have been like before iPads and television. Celtic Harmony Camp is a wonderful opportunity for the children to visit recreated huts and to try out some of the daily Iron Age tasks. As can be seen in the following photos, the children made dens, foraged and made soup. They learnt about stone knapping and joined in with an end of day oral story telling session. Dr Collins commented on how the leaders of the day were impressed with the children's knowledge of this historic period.





In our Autumn term, we were visited by a Herts County Council English adviser, who we have commissioned to support us further improve our English provision for the children. Reading is a particular focus for us and we have reviewed and strengthened the various ways we teach reading; as can be seen on our website:

<https://standrews323.herts.sch.uk/curriculum/subjects/english-2/>.



The English adviser and I completed a 'reading walk', looking at reading lessons throughout the school and she was really impressed with the established reading culture. She said that it was clear that the children loved reading and valued all of the opportunities to develop their reading skills. 'Reading makes you Smart!' is rapidly becoming our mantra. An example of this is a reading scrap book project completed by Rosie (Y3) as homework. The adviser was so impressed with the work that she even took a photo of it, to share with other schools!

## Black History Month

Mr Chesterman launched our Black History focus in October by joining us up to a nationwide assembly. Different presenters talked about black women who have inspired them, ranging from Beyoncé to Michelle Obama and it was wonderful to feel that we were part of an audience of thousands of school children. We decided to take this theme and asked each class to explore past and present black women who have achieved amazing things. The children's presentations, a few weeks later were amazing.

## Harvest- Church Service

We held our Harvest Festival Service at St Andrew's Church. Revd. Sarah led a lovely service, which included the children sharing their own Autumn reflections. We listened to poems and songs, looked at art displays and learnt more about our Autumn Charities - the Food Bank and the Diocese of St Alban's Appeal; 'Cracking Food Poverty'.



## Year 6 Visit to Stansted Bury Farm

Year 6 had a slightly wet, but inspiring visit to Stansted Bury Farm & Walled Garden. The children learnt all about the rich history of the house, which dates back to Tudor times and also explored the gardens, helping to harvest some of the produce. We really are very fortunate to have such a great local resource to visit and learn from. We are very grateful to Mrs Trower, one of our Governors, who welcomes us to her home.



### Remembrance Service

We held our school Remembrance Service on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November. Revd. Sarah led the service and our Year 6 prefects helped read the prayers and poems. It was a thoughtful, reflective occasion. On Remembrance Sunday Raphael, Rebecca and Jasmine represented the school in laying a wreath at the war memorial outside St Andrew's church.



### Poppy Appeal - Thanks

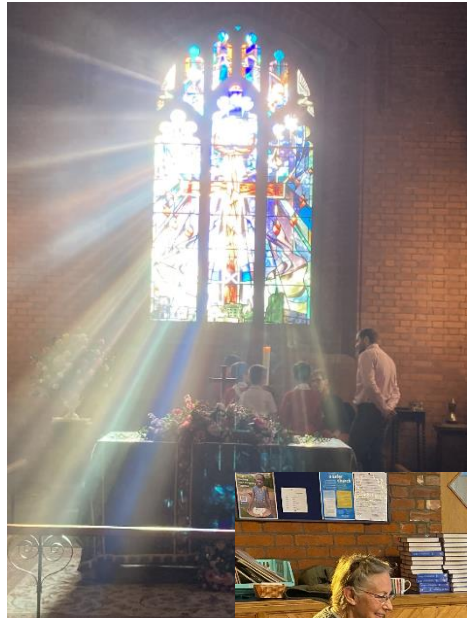
We have received a lovely note from the local British Legion organisers to thank us for our contribution towards this appeal. In total the school raised £237.81, which is amazing.

### Year 4 Trip to the British Museum



Year 4 visited the British Museum to learn all about the Ancient Egyptians. The children were given a talk about how to be historical detectives – looking for clues about the past through studying historical artefacts. They then toured the Egyptian galleries, which included galleries of monumental sculptures as well as the everyday objects discovered by archaeologists, including food, shoes and jewelry.





## Experiencing Christmas

Our Key Stage 2 children took part in 'Experiencing Christmas' which was held at St Andrew's church. This event was run by Revd. Sarah and church volunteers who took the children around the different stations, exploring the Nativity story. It was a moment for the children to pause and think about the amazing events leading up to the birth of Jesus.



## Key Stage 1 Nativity

We had a spectacular start to Christmas with the Key Stage 1 Nativity performances. The children did so well, remembering all of their words, songs and dances. It really was a joyful and entertaining event and really does mark the build up towards Christmas.





## EYFS Nativity

Another stunning Nativity was EYFS's 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel'. After a brilliant dress rehearsal, the play was performed confidently by our youngest children and was enjoyed by all. I am always amazed at the children's ability to learn all of their lines and the words to the songs - it really is impressive.



## Christmas Church Service



We held our traditional Christmas Service at St Andrew's. This is always a moment for us all to pause in the hectic Christmas schedule and remember what is at the heart of the season; the gift of Baby Jesus. Our Year 6 Prefects helped to lead the service with reading and prayers and the service was full of songs and music from the Choir and from our two nativities. It was a very special moment.

## Christmas Disco and Dinner

Two further joyful events involved the children dancing the evening away on Tuesday and then tucking into a wonderful Christmas lunch on Wednesday. Thank you to FOSTA, once again, for organising the disco and the pizza tea for all of the children and thank you to our wonderful dinner ladies for putting on such a lovely spread on Wednesday. Both events were really appreciated.

Here are Year 3 resplendent in their Christmas clothes ready for their Christmas lunch.



## *A few examples of Learning in the classroom*

### Nursery Fun



The children in the EYFS classes have been making great use of our newly revamped mud kitchen area.

They have been busy writing recipes, learning to play cooperatively and developing their role play, including setting up a fish and chip shop!

Continuing our book theme, our Nursery class have been inspired to make some soup, having read 'Oliver's Vegetables'. They will be visiting the local allotments next week to see how vegetables are grown. The soup was delicious.



## Stone Age Studies



Year 3 discovered how difficult it must have been for prehistoric people to adorn their caves with artwork as they too created their own imagined hunting scenes using just their fingers.



I had a visit from Evelyn who had created the most wonderful diorama of a prehistoric man standing outside his cave, within which were even more cave paintings. The detail and care taken with this bit of homework was really impressive.



## Year 3 Homework

It is clear that Year 3 have been thoroughly enjoying their topic-based homework. Isabelle and Cianna bought in stunning recreated models of Stonehenge, while Conor and Thomas brought Stonehenge-inspired cakes. Both boys had helped bake and decorate their creations and both were equally delicious. One was enjoyed by the class and the other shared with the school staff. Superb quality all round.



## Year 6 DT task



Year 6 used some of the vegetables picked from their trip to Stanstead Bury Farm to make leek and potato soup and harvest vegetable soup as part of their Design Technology unit. Earlier in the week they had visited the Co-op to explore where the vegetables being sold had originated from, before calculating the food miles. Some of the children are now very keen to begin growing their own crops to save the food miles. You may even have some offers to make soup over the half

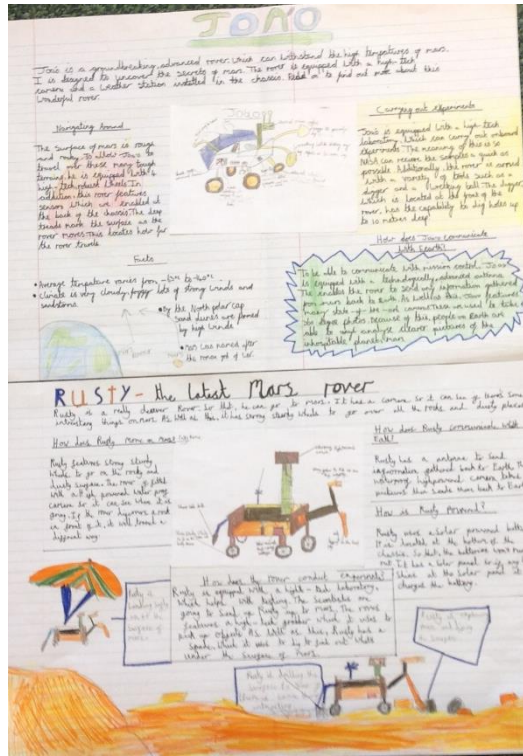
term break.



## Inspiring Science Work

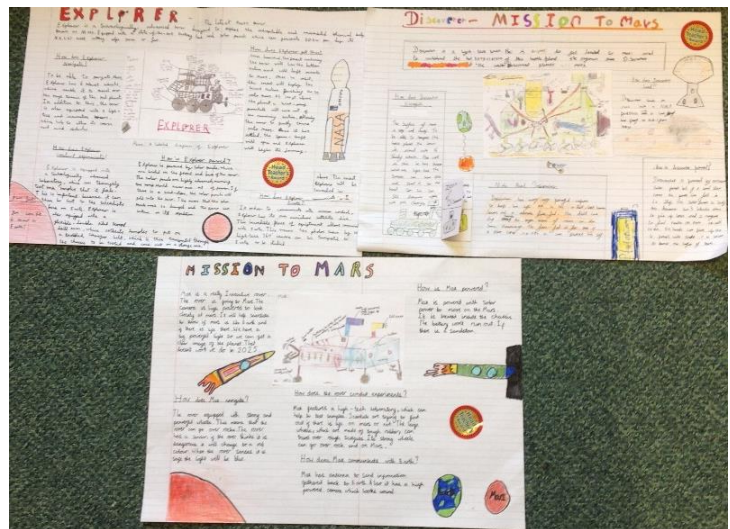
Our Year 5 came back full of enthusiasm about the future of space exploration, having visited the STEM Space Discovery Centre in Stevenage, on Wednesday. The children I spoke to, afterwards, were able to share some really in-depth knowledge about the Mars Rover and its proposed future.





## Year 5 Rover Inventions

Enthused by their visit to the Discovery Centre and seeing the actual Mars Rover being developed there, Year 5 have been developing their own rover inventions. Just some of the ideas brought to me included ideas of what the rover would be doing on the planet, how it would transmit information back to earth and details of its speed, energy intake and suggested life span. The children had obviously really enjoyed the opportunity to let their imaginations run wild. Their work was beautifully presented.



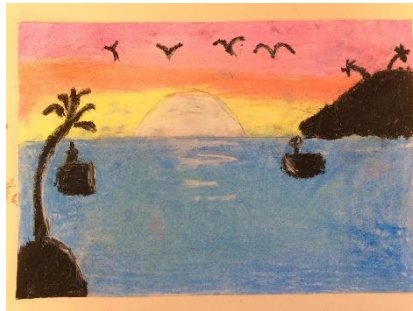
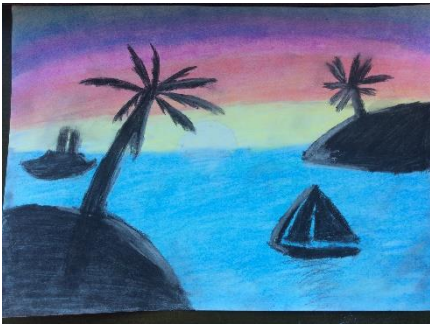
## Magic Maths!

In maths, Year 1 have been learning about 3D shapes. We have been learning the names of different shapes and exploring the properties of them by building towers to see which shapes are best to build with. We also experimented with which shapes can roll!



## Year 6 Windrush Art

Year 6 completed their topic studying the Windrush generation today by creating artwork imagining what it would have been like leaving Jamaica for England. Here are a few lovely examples:



## Spectacular Science (Year 3)

This wonderful science display showcases all of the wonderful investigations and lines of enquiry Year 3 have been pursuing this term. Dr. Collins is our science curriculum lead and has already had a huge impact on this area of the curriculum. As you can see, from the display, there is an expectation that the children should be working scientifically in their lessons, as they research and question. This helps to make all of our science lessons engaging and practical throughout the school.



### **Nativity Homework**

Caitlin came to see me, having made a wonderful Nativity tableau at home. She explained all of the processes she went through to create her scene and I am sure it will become a well-loved Christmas memento brought out each year. It really was stunning.

## *Musical Opportunities during the term.*



### **Woodwind Assembly**

Early on in the term we had a special assembly led by Mrs Salter-Kay who performed and talked about both the clarinet and the saxophone.

Our school choir has also been very busy this week. They performed with other local schools at the Hertford and Ware Schools' Carol Service at Christchurch, Ware. The children sang beautifully, performing their individual song confidently.



Miss Sewell and Mrs Davey also took the choir to Hoddesdon as part of the community carol singing. Mr Emerson joined them, playing the keyboard and the group really helped to bring early Christmas cheer to the shoppers.

Later some of the school choir had the chance to sing with the Hertford Symphony Orchestra at the Drill Hall in Ware as part of their Winter Wonderland concert. This was organised by Miss Sewell, who performs regularly with the orchestra.



## *Sporting News*

### **FOOTBALL UPDATE**



Early on in the term after our Year 5 and 6 football team visited Millmead School to play the first football match of the season. The final score was 3-1 to St Andrew's with two goals from Blessing and one from Oscar. Everyone played really well and showed great sportsmanship and manners throughout.

### **Football News**

Our Year 6 team of girls went to Presdales to take part in a girls' football tournament. We finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in our group so went through to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> place play-off where we beat Able Smith 1-0 to finish 5<sup>th</sup> out of 14 teams.



Our Year 3 and Year 4 girls also attended the tournament at Presdales. Good sportsmanship was shown by all and they



loved the opportunity to play against other teams. We won our final game with a superb goal scored by Robyn!





### Table Tennis Tournament



Later in the term our Year 6 children went to Sele School for the Hertford and Ware Table Tennis tournament. The girls' team of Eloise, Rebecca and Annabelle finished 5<sup>th</sup> out of 10 teams having won 4 out of 5 matches. The boys' team of Bodie, Evan, Raphael and Noah finished 4<sup>th</sup> out of 9, having won 2 out of 4 matches. The children all loved the experience. It has set us thinking about getting some table tennis tables for the school!

## *FOSTA*

### FOSTA's BAG 2 SCHOOL INITIATIVE

All of your donations for the Bag 2 School initiative were sent off on 5<sup>th</sup> October. FOSTA organizes and runs this event, which helps to raise much needed funds for the school..



### FOSTA Christmas Fayre

The end of term was celebrated by our FOSTA Christmas Fayre. The school was jam-packed with stalls, children and happy customers – all really enjoying the Christmas spirit. Thank you to everybody, especially FOSTA, who put in so much work planning and preparing the event as well as making sure it all ran smoothly. I believe the total so far is £2583, which is brilliant as these funds will all go towards enriching your child's life at school. However, the real benefit was to see the community spirit of the school, really pulling together and having a jolly good time.

FOSTA have raised an amazing £3566 in total this term from all their events, including not only the fayre but a disco, art, Bags2School, and uniform sales. Our huge thanks go to the organisers and to all our supporters.





### OPAL – Outside Play and Learning

To help us develop our outside areas and to make playtimes even more fun, Mr Griffin, our caretaker, built us a wonderful new stage in Copping's Corner - which is now playing host to a variety of dramatic productions each lunch break.



We have introduced new vehicles available to the children during break and lunchtimes. We discussed how we could use them safely and fairly. Our children have also loved playing with our new role-play boxes and being creative with old cardboard boxes and packaging.



We have also introduced shelter-building as a break time and lunchtime activity. We discussed our safety rules and how to ensure we make the activity fair for all. The children have loved working together to create fantastic dens!



### . Congratulations



Congratulations to both Mrs Davey and Mr Cooper who were awarded their National Professional Qualification for Headship this week. This is a tough qualification to get and has taken over eighteen months of study, courses and implementing initiatives to achieve. We are really proud of them both but hope that they do not take that step towards Headship too quickly!

Miss Muncey has also completed her National Qualification for Senior Leadership this term, which again has involved study and many hours of extra work. We really are very lucky that we have so many staff who are willing to continue developing and deepening their educational knowledge. The impact of this personal study helps ensure that the school continues to be a forward looking, academic environment for all.

**And Finally** – during all of this busy term we also had our Ofsted Inspection on 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> November. Our report highlighted just how amazing our school is. It spoke about our high expectations, the wonderful behaviour of our children, our well established and thought out curriculum and our close relationship with our parental body. We are very proud of our report but feel it only scratches the surface of all that we do here. St Andrew's really is an amazing school and we all love it!