

# SMSC Diary Autumn Term 2024

***“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:  
Thankfulness and Trust*



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*

Our new academic year started off with a wonderful welcome service at St Andrew's Church for our new Reception class. They were taken to the church by their Year 6 peers, who showed excellent school leadership qualities as they supported the younger children. Revd. Sarah led the service and all of the Reception class were presented with a special book from the church.



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

The children soon settled in their new classes and began their learning with a real air of purposefulness. Our youngest children, in Nursery, loved exploring the equipment in their new outside space while our Reception class quickly got to grips with their new early morning routine which included a carousel of activities - reading, fine motor skill development, pencil skills and construction.



Year 6 began exploring the book 'The Mysteries of Harris Burdick' as inspiration for their own writing and created drama scenes to imagine what was happening in the pictures they were given. Year 5, meanwhile, invited me to a sea shanty performance, playing on their xylophones accompanied by Miss Sewell on the violin.





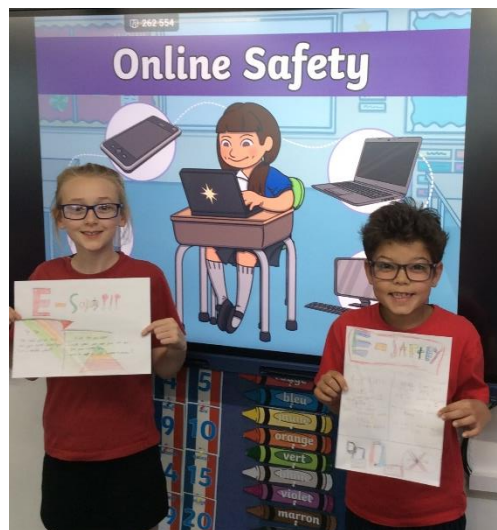
Year 3 began learning about pentatonic scales. The children used their hands to indicate whether the pitch was high or low. Their class song was written in a pentatonic scale so they made up their own five note melody using the same notes, which they then performed.

Year 2 had an active start, practising their swift responses, goal keeping, in their PE lessons while Year 1 explored the outside space for their new topic and made a good start with their phonic lessons.



Year 5 and Reception had their first buddy reading session together while Year 4 designed e-safety posters to remind themselves and others of all that they have to do to keep themselves safe whilst online.

And all of this was completed in the first week!

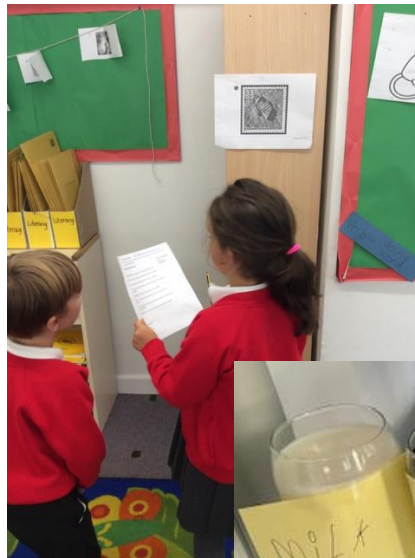
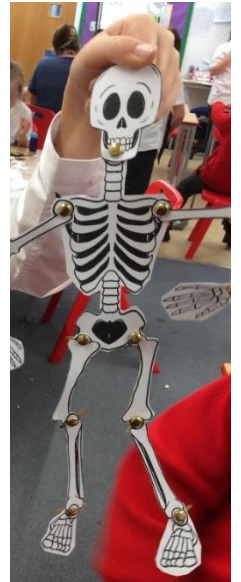


### Year 3 Science



As our science subject lead we can always expect Dr Collins to ensure that her Year 3 class complete exciting science lessons. This term their study of nutrition started with them sorting food items into their nutrition groups. It was a fun activity which they completed in teams.

A few weeks later Year 3 were creating their own skeletons in science, making sure that they had all the bones in the right place!



In their history, Year 2 went on a treasure hunt using newspaper articles and photos as sources to prove that the moon landing really happened!



Year 4 children learnt about tooth decay in their science work. They designed and conducted an investigation into the effects of different liquids on their teeth. Eggs were used for the investigation as their shells shares some properties with the enamel in our teeth. The children had to consider how to keep it a fair test by measuring each liquid carefully. They then eagerly waited to observe changes over time.



Year 6 got creative by exploring how to create different effects with water colours in their art work. They added fine and coarse salt, bubble wrap, cling film and used toothpicks to create interesting textures and then created graduated the washes.

Our Reception class created story books which they then enjoyed reading to their peers.



## PSHE: The Coram Life Tent

The Coram Life Tent paid its annual visit and all of our classes had a PSHE session with the SCARF presenter. The sessions covered a range of topics from how to keep their body strong through exercise and diet (Y1) to taking care of their brains (Y3) and being able to make important decisions (Y6).



## Harvest Appeal

We launched our Harvest Appeal collecting food items (cans, dry foodstuffs - such as pasta, rice, cereals etc.) and toiletries for the local food bank. The collection subsequently went to Hertford and Ware Food Bank.



## Curriculum Evening

We held our Curriculum Evening for Reception to Year 6 on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> September. The teachers covered important aspects of the school curriculum which affected their particular year groups. The topics therefore ranged from phonics, multiplication tests to the Year 6 SAT tests. The meetings were informative and well attended.

## Harvest Festival at St Andrew's Church

We had a joyful service at St Andrew's Church for our Harvest Festival. The service was full of songs and contributions from the children and all of the classes gave thanks for all of the good things we have in their own personal style.



## Internet Safety – 'The 2 Johns' – a reminder

The school held an Internet Safety Day. The Two Johns (external experts) held workshops for Year 1 to Year 6 and Nursery and Reception did their own safety talks which were age appropriate. The workshops were fun and very informative, the children listened attentively to the strong message –to enjoy the Internet but keep safe at all times. Parents and Carers were invited in for a parent session on how to help keep their children safe online.

## Practical Maths



As part of developing our younger children's early maths skills, we are currently taking part in the 'Mastering Number' project led by the NCETM. Staff attended the national launch and subsequent training. They are now ensuring that the children are receiving additional maths mastery sessions on top of their well-established maths lessons. Year 2 have been learning how to use their new rekenrek resources to support their fluency with number. They are already making progress with 'magic counting' and moving the correct number of beads quickly and accurately!

## Year 3 and 4 History Day

Our Lower Key Stage 2 children had an exciting hands-on experience when Hertford Museum visited the school to lead two workshops. Year 3 had a Stone Age themed workshop during which the children were able to handle artefacts from the Stone Age period, including a real mammoth tooth! They also spent time learning what archaeologists do and made a job advertisement for an archaeologist on a prehistoric dig. In the afternoon the children worked on a carousel of activities: making a Stone Age house, producing a floor timeline of the stone age period and dressing a mannequin in a Stone Age outfit. They all had a lot of fun and learned a lot too.



Year 4 explored life in Ancient Egypt and specifically the mummification process. The children were able to mummify a doll using bandages and also got to take a look at some replica artefacts.







### Year 5 Art Work

Year 5 have some lovely pieces of art work on display. They have been exploring pattern and were asked to fill their silhouette with items which are important to them. There was quite a lot of footballs subsequently on display but also a pleasing amount of maths.

### Story Writing

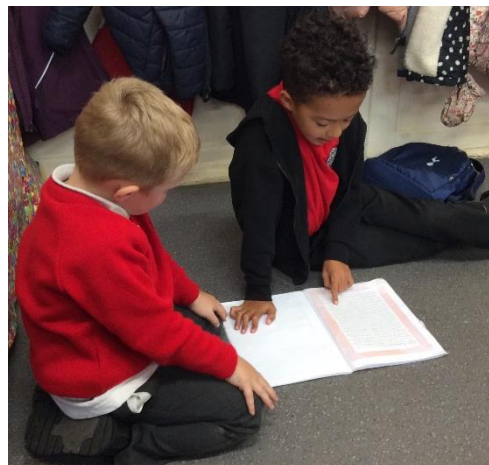
Year 1 and Year 2 have both been completing narrative units in their English work. Year 2 read the book 'The Frog and the Stranger' and then wrote their own stories about their chosen character. Once completed Year 2 took their writing down to the Year 1 classroom and shared their

stories with the Year 1 children, who are also in the process of writing their own stories.

Year 3 also 'published' their narrative writing by reading their stories to the Reception children. It was a lovely



way for Year 3 to share their work and the Reception children really enjoyed the experience.



## Year 6 Trip to Stanstead Bury Farm

Year 6 visited Stanstead Bury Farm where they took part in a number of activities including; gardening in the Walled Garden, a history tour of St James' Church and Stanstead Bury House - they also went down in to the ice house! The children loved seeing the animals and eating their lunch in the hay barn. We would like to thank Mr and Mrs Trower for opening up their home and farm to help educate our children.



Our Nursery children were also out and about in our Forest School area. They were looking for spider webs and were fascinated with the patterns they made. The children liked the way the rain had fallen on them to make them more visible.



## Water Safety Talk

Our Key Stage 2 children had a water safety talk led by Herts Fire Safety Team. The children listened very attentively as they learnt about how to behave safely around rivers and canals and what to do if they or a friend got into trouble. Their advice is for parents/carers to download What3words App onto their children's phone so that emergency services can instantly find their location if in trouble.

Please see <https://what3words.com/products/what3words-app>

## Black History Month

At the end of the first term we celebrated the work the classes had produced as part of Black History month. The Year 6 children recited poems by Benjamin Zephaniah and showed us biographies they had written about his life and the obstacles he had overcome. Year 5 had explored the artwork of Lubaina Himid, while Year 4 has learnt all about the newsreader Trevor McDonald. Year 3 learnt about the lasting contribution of Windrush migrants to the NHS and Year 1 and 2 told us the amazing story of Mary Seacole.



## Remembrance

We began our second week after half term with a Remembrance Collective Worship for those who fell during the last two World Wars and for those who continue to serve in our armed services. During the week, the children completed work around the theme of Remembrance which was shared on the following Friday.

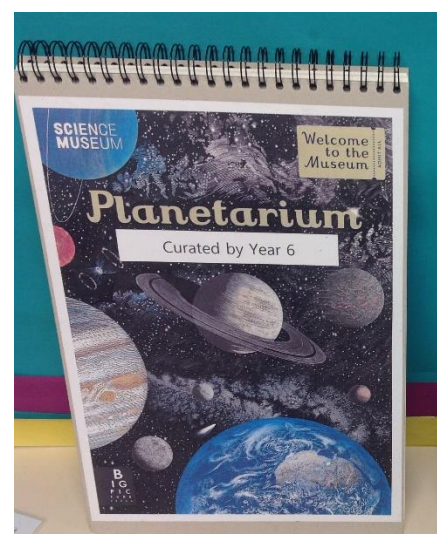
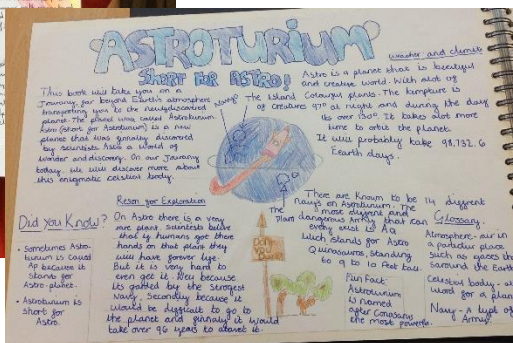
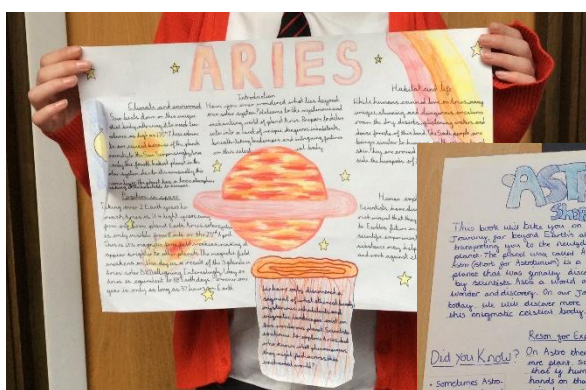


Ava and Harriet laid a wreath on behalf of the school, at St Andrew's war memorial, in remembrance of the local men and women who gave their lives during both World Wars.



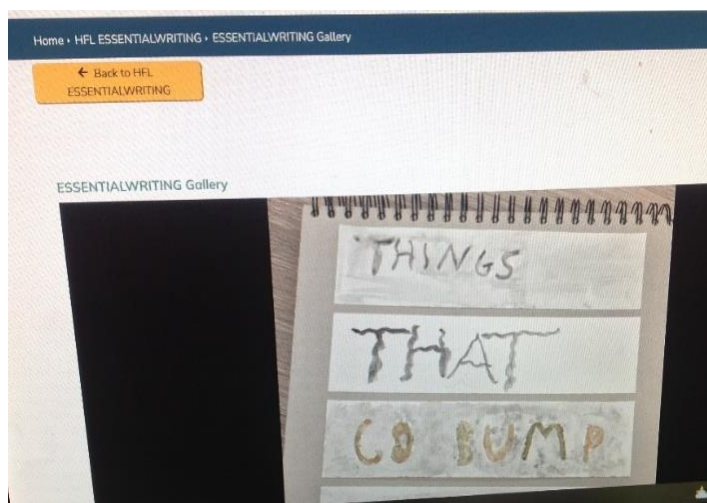
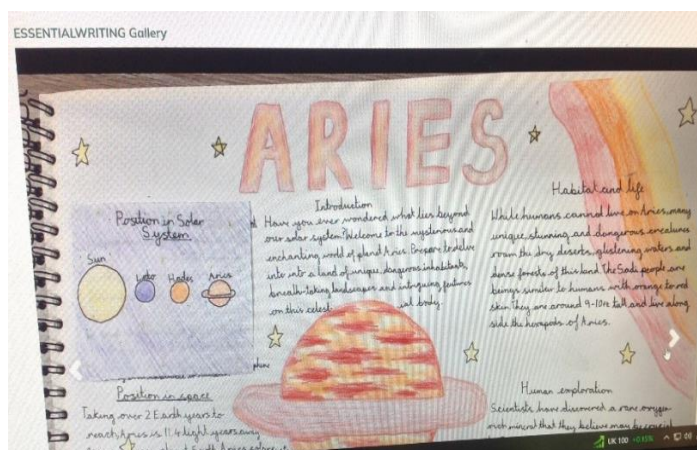
### Fantastic Work

As part of their English, Year 6 created non-chronological reports about their own made-up planets. Their beautiful work has been displayed and 'published' in a whole class booklet.



### Published Work

We were extremely pleased to discover, a little later that much of our children's written work was being displayed as excellent examples on the HfL Learning Hub's Essential Writing website.



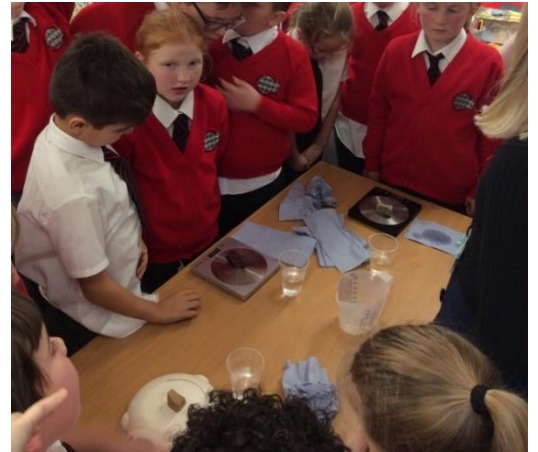
We are presently being supported by the HfL English Adviser to ensure that our planning and teaching of writing is the very best it can be and when the adviser last visited, she asked if she could take some photos of the work she saw, as she said it was such good quality. Perhaps we should have asked for royalties!

### Year 3 Science

Mr Hulme, one of our Governors, came into school to observe a Year 3 science investigation into the porosity of rocks. Through their testing the children discovered that some rocks are more porous than others and concluded that this was because some rocks had more holes in their structure than others.



Year 3 also had fun playing musical instrument 'snap'. This opened up lots of discussions about the names of instruments and their associated instrument families.



### Reception's Pizza Express Trip

The Reception class went on their first school trip of the year to Pizza Express in Welwyn Garden City. The children made their own pizza and learnt about all the different jobs people do in a restaurant.

The children loved squashing out the sticky dough, spreading the sauce and adding a generous cheese topping. They even got to take their creations home with them. The trip has led to some wonderful role play, both in and out of the classroom.



## Road Safety Week (17<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> November)



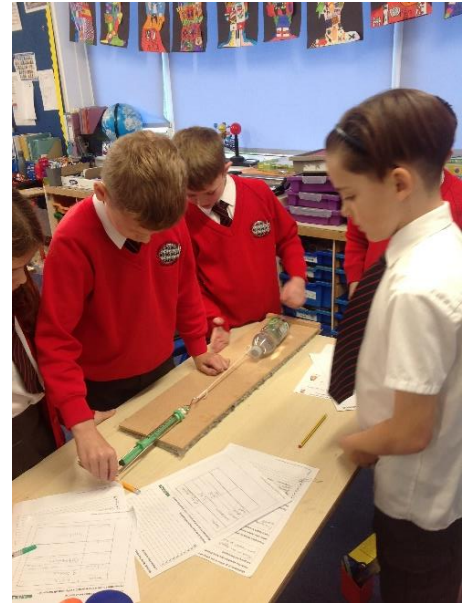
We celebrated National Road Safety Week with an assembly around road safety. We thought about all of the Road Safety Heroes who help keep us safe. This was followed up in class with the teachers reminding the children about how they can keep themselves safe around roads or when travelling in cars.

### More Excellent Learning



Before Bonfire night our Reception class made firework shapes by cutting small snips in different coloured paper. The children have also made fireworks pictures out of 2D shapes and have created fireworks paintings using paint and marbles.

Year 5 investigated friction in their practical science lesson. They were measuring and recording the resistance to move objects on different surfaces.



### British Museum Trip



Year 4 visited the British Museum where they looked at the stunning sculptures and artefacts excavated from Ancient Egypt. The children became historical detectives trying to work out what some of the objects were and deducing what it told them about this ancient civilization.



## *Christmas Celebrations*

### **Sharing the Nativity Story**

The children in Nursery had a class visit from Reverend Sarah. They enjoyed listening to the story of the birth of Jesus and all concentrated really well. They told Reverend Sarah that Jesus was born in a stable and for their Christmas show they are retelling the Nativity story.



### **Christmas Tree Festival**

Our children decorated a Christmas tree which went on display at St Mary's Church as part of their Christmas tree display. Our tree had a range of decorations, inspired by the hymn 'We Three Kings', which the children had created. Some of the children had also written their hopes and dreams on the back of their crowns.



On Wednesday, of that week we also enjoyed our Christmas Dinner, which was cooked by our wonderful school catering team. Debbie, our cook, said that she would be dreaming about roast potatoes for the next few weeks – but they really were delicious. My thanks to the team and to FOSTA who donated the Christmas crackers, which added to the festive enjoyment.



### EYFS Nativity

The EYFS Nativity is always a very special event, and I am always amazed at how confidently the children sing and say their parts, especially as for some, this is the very first time they may have stood in front of such a large audience. I would like to thank all of the Early Years staff for their great effort in putting it all together and particularly to Mrs Bugg for overseeing the performance. It was a real delight.



### Key Stage 1 Nativity- 'Everyone Loves a Baby'

The EYFS Nativity was swiftly followed by our second Nativity- this time performed by Key Stage 1. As always the children sang and performed beautifully. My thanks go to all of the Key Stage 1 staff who helped pull the performance together- it really was a joy.



### Christmas Fayre

On our penultimate Friday, having held a hugely successful 'Festive Christmas Wreath' making session the week before, FOSTA planned and organised our Christmas Fayre. As always there were a variety of stalls on offer for adults and children alike to enjoy. Santa was in his grotto and the mulled wine flowed. It was a very happy, festive occasion and is only possible because of the hard work and dedication of our FOSTA team and for all of the kind donations given over the past few weeks - so thank you.







The final Tuesday was a busy day for us, as we had both the **school Christmas Pantomime** and the **school disco** to enjoy. This year we watched the story of Dick Wittington, who was able to thwart the baddie of the story- win the girl and became Mayor of London. The children loved the play and joined in heartedly with their boos and cheers.

Thank you to FOSTA whose fun raising activities enabled the school to put the Panto on for the children. They also organised and ran our school Christmas disco, which was enjoyed by both staff and children.

### Church Service

On Thursday we held our school Christmas Service at St Andrew's Church. This is always a beautiful service, with a mixture of readings and Christmas carols.

# Home Learning



Many of our children continue their fabulous learning when they go home. Here are a few examples this term:

Jonah (Y1) was given a Headteacher's Sticker for his wonderful atlas - filled with the flags of the world. He had clearly taken a great deal of time over this piece of work - which was stunning.

## Ancient Homework

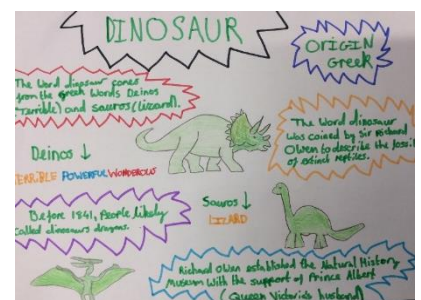
The children in Year 3 have responded in many ways to their Stone Age homework. We have axes, houses, a diorama, a bow and arrow, a shield and a cave painting just for starters. Fabulous homework - well done Year 3.



We congratulated Lewis (Year 5) who shared his medal that he received for his Jiu-Jitsu and we also congratulated Isabelle (Year 6) for her intrepid endeavours during one weekend. She took part in the county-wide Green Beret competition with her Scout Troop during which they camped out in tents for two nights (despite the bad weather) and took part in team challenges such as orienteering, night exercises and a very muddy obstacle course! Isabelle's team of six Scouts did really well; they came 4th in the Ware District group, and 40th overall out of 146 teams from Hertfordshire.



Year 6 were set the homework task to investigate the etymology of a chosen word. A number investigated the word dinosaur and presented their findings beautifully.





Well done Rose (Year 3) who brought in a most impressive volcano made out of papier-mâché, which she had created as a response to the work being covered in class. Rose was able to describe all the different parts of the volcano and I joined the class when it erupted later in the day.



Joe (Year 5) brought in some wonderful homework based on the children's exploration of space. Not only did it look great, I am told it also tasted great too.



### Brain Work

Barnaby had made a fantastic model of his brain at home, which he brought in to show. He had been reading about how brains work and thought he would make one of his own showing all of the areas his brain is occupied with.



## *Musical Opportunities during the term.*

Miss Sewell and I went with our school choir to St Albans Cathedral to take part in the Diocesan School Harvest Festival. This was a lovely occasion which allowed our children to give thanks, with other local schools, for our own harvest and to reflect on harvests in other countries. We were very proud of Thomas (Year 6) who confidently stood in front of the whole congregation to present one of the readings.

This year the Diocese is collecting for sufferers of leprosy in Sri Lanka

<https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/parishsupport/growing-community/bishop-of-st-albans-harvest-appeal-2024/>



We had a wonderful start to our Christmas weeks with some fantastic performances. The first was when our school choir performed at All Saints, Hertford in the Hertford and Ware School Christmas Carol Service. My thanks go to Miss Sewell who has given up many lunch breaks to lead the choir and has helped them sing so beautifully. I was really proud of them.

After our Christmas dinner, our school choir sang a medley of Christmas songs and carols, entertaining the shoppers of Hoddesdon. Mr Emmerson was on the keyboard and Miss Sewell conducting and it was all a great deal of fun.



# *Sporting News*

## **Year 3's Development Afternoon**

Year 3 visited Wodson Park to take part in a carousel of different sports. This was a wonderful opportunity for the children to try out a variety of different sports including basketball, boxing, boccia and curling. They also watched a demonstration of badminton. The children really enjoyed the experience and came back full of enthusiasm to continue learning about these sports.



Mr McNaughton had a busy day when he supported a group of Year 4 children in the morning and a group of Year 5 & 6 children in the afternoon at a Tag Rugby tournament at Hertford Rugby Club. The children played lots of games against other schools and won many of them. They all had terrific fun.

## **Boccia sessions**



Our KS2 children received a visit from the staff and children of our neighbouring school - Amwell View, who helped the children experience a lesson in the sport of Boccia.

Boccia has been a sport in the Paralympic Games since 1984 and is becoming increasingly popular around the world. It involves precision throwing of balls into targets to gain points. The children thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to learn the new skills associated with the game. Year 3 and 5 will also be enjoying these sessions this week.

## Badminton Fun

Other sporting opportunities for the children have included a group of Year 6 children attending a badminton roadshow at Chauncy School. The children were, as always, a credit to the school and came back full of enthusiasm to share the sport with the class.

## Skipping Challenge



Congratulations to four children in Year 1 who have won medals in the Hertford and Ware School Skipping Challenge! In the girl's competition, Aurelia won bronze and Ceci won gold. For the boys, Zach won silver and Henry the gold. Congratulations to all the children who took part and thank you to our Sports Ambassadors, Jude, Olivia and Jack H for running the event.



## *OPAL - Outside Play and Learning*

As we continue to work towards our accreditation for OPAL, we continue to develop, our play opportunities for our children. In the first few weeks after returning from the Summer break our Year 6 children helped Mr Cooper move some tyres to mark out our new digging area. Once the tyres were bolted together, the Year 6's then helped to remove the turf so we that the children have a fantastic area to dig in.



Our Nursery children loved their first session of Forest School. They explored the area, found sticks and enjoyed jumping over the large logs.



As Autumn became well and truly visible at St Andrew's, the children had great fun playing in the leaves and building huge piles with them!

## *Congratulations*



### **Oxley Shield Cub Competition**

Congratulations go to Nathan, Robyn and Jack W who competed in the Oxley Shield Club Competition, as part of Panther Pack, 1<sup>st</sup> Stanstead Abbots and St Margaret's They came 7th out of the 15 Cubs packs taking part.

They showed great team effort and lots of fun was had by all.



Congratulations to Mr Chesterman who has been awarded his National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership. This award has taken over a year to accomplish, involving study and research in Mr Chesterman's own time. We are very proud of him and, as a school, are benefiting from his studies in his role as Lower Key Stage Lead.

## *And Finally.....*

We are really pleased to welcome back Mrs Mills to our EYFS team for the spring term – she will be working alongside Mrs Lynch in Nursery, replacing the days covered presently by Mrs Bliss. This will help our smallest children have continuity over this transition period. Mrs Mills has been visiting the class over the past few weeks so that she can get to know them and children her.

We are also saying farewell to a number of staff. Miss Kumm, as you know is off to begin her new career as a teacher and we wish her all of the very best. I would like to thank her for all of the classes and children she has taken care of doing PPA cover and supporting teachers in class.

Mrs Teresa Fowle is also taking her final leave of the school after eighteen years. Throughout this time she has been the backbone of this school, helping to oversee the operational management of the school (premises and finances) as the School Business Manager and latterly as the school Bursar. She has been the font of all knowledge fiscal and otherwise and has been a huge support to me over my years as Headteacher. Whilst she has been gradually cutting her hours, Teresa has still kept a very close eye on the school's finances, working alongside Mrs Moorcroft, myself and the Governing Body to ensure that the school remains in a good financial position despite the pressures being put on all schools. I would like to thank her for all of her hard work, her amazing attention to detail and wish her all of the very best for her future retirement.

**And finally.....**this is my last update to you all before Mr Speed, takes over the reins as Headteacher of St Andrew's School. It has been the very best job which I have done in my career in Education and I have loved every minute of it (well most minutes!) Your children are a delight and a never ending source of inspiration

and hope. There is never a pickle which cannot be undone and solved, never a time when they do not fill your heart with their smiles, kindness and sheer joy for life. I will miss this all greatly.

Thank you to you all for your support over the years and for your best wishes given to me for my retirement. I would like to thank all of the most amazing staff - who are always striving to do their very best, at all times, for the children at St Andrew's. They are the most amazing team. Thank you too to the Governing Body, who have always supported me and the school, giving their time freely for the benefit of the school.

As I always say to staff leaving- it is not goodbye because once a member of the St Andrew's family- always a member of the St Andrew's family – so rather than say goodbye, I will just wish you all 'au revoir'.