

SMSC Diary

Spring 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’.

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

January- March 2023

Our Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

The beginning of our New Year was dominated by our SIAMS inspection.

The Inspector, looked closely at the school, asking the overriding question:

“How effective is the school’s distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish? “

During the day, the inspector spoke to many of the children and met with staff, parents, church representatives, governors and myself and senior leaders, as well as observing lessons and Collective Worship, looking at the children’s work and school documentation. It really was an incredibly busy schedule, but it did enable the inspector to get to the very heart of our school. We were immensely proud that the final report judged us as an **excellent school**.



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
EDUCATION OFFICE

“St Andrew’s is an Excellent School”

“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.”

I was so proud of the whole school community and really appreciate the lovely comments about our school, written in the report. We all work so hard to make St Andrew’s an excellent school for everyone to flourish and it a real honour to get this external validation of all that we do. I have shared the news with the children and I think they are as proud as I am!

The full report can be found on the following page of the school website:

<https://standrews323.herts.sch.uk/church-school/siams/>

Hertfordshire Improvement Partner (HIP) Visit

Later in the term we had our termly visit from our Improvement Officer who looked closely at our teaching of geography and computing. We have now received his report and he has praised our planned curriculum. I quote;

“A number of curriculum areas have now been reviewed over time during HIP visits. Outcomes indicate that the curriculum is ambitious, well-sequenced and is adapted appropriately to support the needs of all learners. Leaders keep the curriculum constantly under review to ensure that it remains fit for purpose...Pupils show excellent attitudes to learning. Their behaviour is impeccable both in and out of lessons. Where pupils have specific behaviour needs, they are supported effectively and thoughtfully.”

This closely mirrors our recent SIAMs inspection report and does indeed reflect what we are constantly striving to do; provide the very best education for your children.

SEND Visit

We have also had another visitor from the Hertfordshire Improvement Team. This time it was SEND which was under scrutiny. Every Hertfordshire school will get such a visit every three years and we elected to be part of the first cohort, as we are always keen to seek advice and support. The advisor spent the morning with Mrs Davey, myself and Mr Berryman - our SEND Governor. We looked at how we structure our provision for the children with SEND throughout the school, how this is implemented in the classrooms and how we communicate and work with outside agencies and parents. Once again she spoke very highly of the school and even asked to take copies of some of our SEND forms to share with other settings.

I would like to thank my fantastic team of teachers, support staff (LSAs and Office) and the children for all of their continued hard work, as these positive reports would only be possible with such a joint effort.

Examples of enriched learning this term

Year 3 and Nursery classes welcomed their new teachers, Mrs Bugg (accidentally called 'Ladybug' by one of her class) in Nursery class and Mrs Patis in Year 3. Here are some lovely photos of our Nursery class, all of whom are clearly enjoying learning in their provision.





The nursery children have really enjoyed the recent cold weather! They were fascinated by the icicles and frost they found in the Early Years' garden. Together they collected natural materials to make into ice decorations to hang in the trees.



Meanwhile Reception explored the traditional tale of 'The Three Little Pigs'. They really enjoyed retelling the story in a variety of ways such as in their role-play area or by creating their own story maps.



Celebration of Lunar New Year

EYFS also learnt about the Lunar New Year and explored how it is celebrated around the world. Our Reception class have loved playing in their role play area.



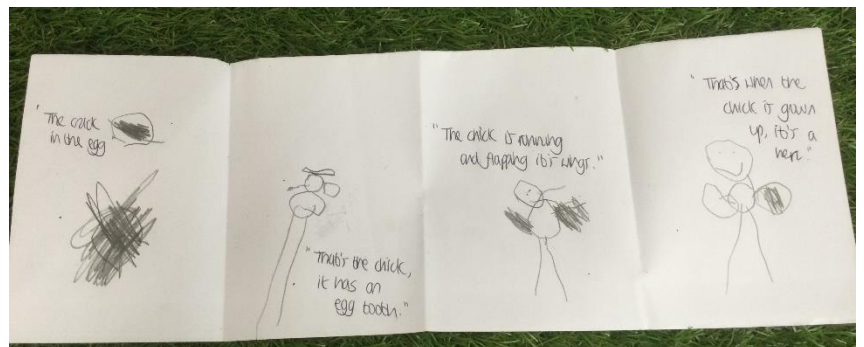
Our Nursery class made a Chinese dragon, which they used to dance and celebrate with, around the classroom.



Chicks in EYFS

EYFS have had a number of “awe and wonder” moments watching their eggs hatch into chicks. They have had the opportunity to handle them and learn how to care for them. The work completed by the children shows how much they learnt and responded to this experience.

Thank you to FOSTA who support us with this opportunity.



In Year 2, I was really impressed by the children's research about Neil Armstrong. They created a dedicated gallery to share and exhibit all of the amazing fact files and models they have created and written.

Later in the term, Year 2 visited St Albans Cathedral to learn more about the symbols and features of the Christian faith. In the morning, the children took a detailed tour of the cathedral and in

the afternoon they created their own clay tiles, in the style seen in the Cathedral.



In Year 4 Harriet, Isabelle, Jude and Antonio (Yr 4) shared their home research they had completed at home as part of their 'Amazing rainforest' project. Their creations really were amazing!

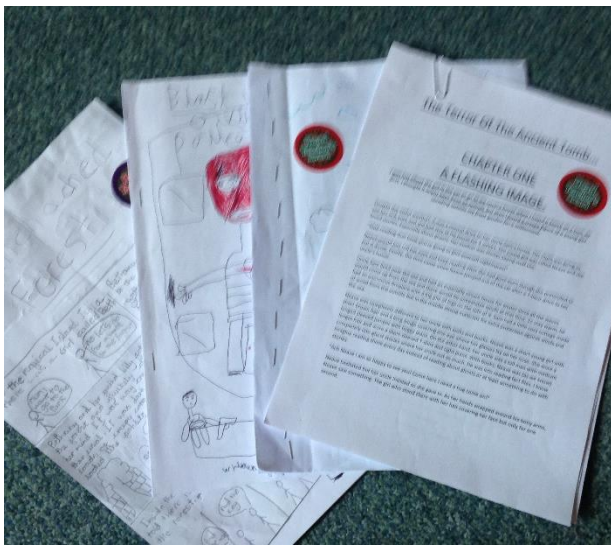


Year 4 also took a local trip to complete some field work along the River Lea in Stanstead Abbots. During their trip they were fortunate enough to see a boat using one of the locks. The children were particularly excited about seeing the lock in action... and also about the dog who lived on the boat!



Anglo-Saxon Homework

Year 5 have been studying the Anglo-Saxon period in their History work. Here are some examples of their amazing homework. The range of responses clearly illustrates their love for and interest in the subject.



A lovely illustration of how our children love learning has been shown by our Year 5 who have shared with me their books, written at home. The stories vary from the comic to the dramatic but all show that the children have loved writing them.

Our Year 5 also helped our Celebration Assembly start with a swing as they performed "Dancing in the Street" to the rest of the school.





Cub Scout Award

Rebecca (Yr5) shared her fantastic achievement of gaining the highest award that can be achieved as a cub scout – her silver badge award. To complete it, she needed to earn six Activity or Staged Activity Badges of her choice, as well as all seven of the Challenge Awards. She was awarded it on her last day as a cub scout, but I have no doubt she will go on to becoming an excellent Scout in the future.

Year 5 Maths Challenge

Rebecca also joined Millie, Raphael and Jasmine to take part in an inter-school Year 5 Maths Challenge competition. This gave them the opportunity to test their mathematics and teamwork skills to solve questions and problems in a friendly competition against other schools.

The hour-long heat comprised of a set of 4 equally-weighted rounds.

Round 1: General Maths questions

Round 2: Memory round

Round 3: Estimation round

Round 4: More general Maths questions

Miss Sewell said that they worked very hard as a team to solve the problems and enjoyed the experience.



Bikeability

This term Year 5 have been completing their Bikeability training. This helps to build up their knowledge and skills of riding their bikes on public roads. All of the children showed great perseverance and stamina, as they went out every day to slowly build up their confidence.

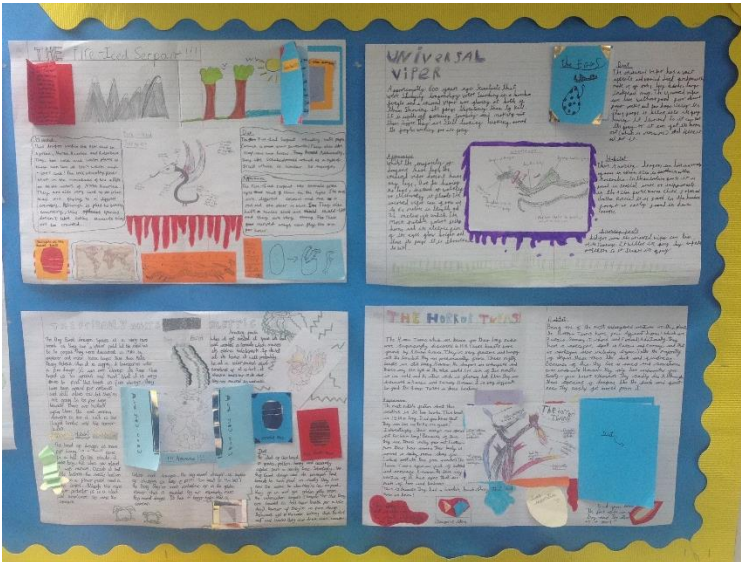
Stibbington

Our Year 5 children also left school to take part in their residential trip in Stibbington. For many of our children, this was the first time that they have stayed away from their families and is a really big step for them to take. However, they all had a brilliant time, under the care of Miss Sewell, Mrs Robb and Mrs Addy. The children completed a variety of activities, including team building activities, practical history and science work as well as having time to relax and socialise. My thanks go to the staff, who give up their own time to ensure the safety and well-being of the children.



Dragonish Goings on in Year 5

Year 5 have been having great fun completing a variety of creative and written activities around dragons based on the book 'Dragonology'. The quality of their work is extremely high and it is clear that they have thoroughly enjoyed the subject matter. Eloise and Joseph came and shared homework, which they completed having been inspired by their class work. All of it was very impressive.



Year 6 have been putting the finishing touches to their excavation fact sheets as part of their WW2 History topic.

EVACUATION

Who was evacuated?
827,000 schoolchildren and their teachers were evacuated along with 524,000 mothers with children under five, 1200 pregnant women and some severely disabled people.

What did they pack?

By the end of the second world war 3.5 million people had been evacuated.

MOTHERS
Send them out of London

No one was forced to go but mothers were encouraged by posters.

WHAT IS EVACUATION?

Why was evacuation introduced by the Government?
The British government was worried that a new war might begin when Hitler came into power in 1933. They thought British cities could be targets for bombing raids.

Where were they evacuated from?




| | |
|----------------|---------|
| London | 241,000 |
| Manchester | 84,343 |
| Merseyside | 79,930 |
| Newcastle | 52,494 |
| Birmingham | 32,688 |
| Leeds/Bradford | 26,419 |
| Poole/Poverty | 23,145 |
| Sheffield | 13,871 |

Where were they evacuated to?

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| Lancashire | 71,484 |
| Sussex | 67,541 |
| Yorkshire | 50,593 |
| Kent | 38,000 |
| Cheshire | 38,000 |
| Essex | 25,000 |
| Hertfordshire | 23,500 |
| Staffordshire | 23,000 |

Ration Book

Did you know?

EVACUATION

Other than kids other occupations were made for evacuees.

- Children
- Pregnant women
- Newborn child/mother
- Teachers
- Helpers/Carers for children.
- Disabled people

Did You Know?

• By the end of WW2 around 3.5 million children were evacuated from all around the world!

Why did people evacuate?

• People evacuated because of the dangers of bombs from the Germans were very high!

Why was evacuation introduced?

In 1933, The British government were worried that a new war might begin when Hitler came to power. They were afraid that British cities and towns would be targets for bombing raids by aircraft.

When did evacuation start?

The evacuations started on Friday 1st September 1939. It was called 'Operation Pied Piper'.

• Between 1939-1945 there were three major evacuations in preparation of the German Luftwaffe bombing Britain.

• By the end of 1941 cities like London became safer!

What did they pack?

Children also had other items such as:

- Combs
- Towels
- Soap
- Teddy
- Toothbrush

Luggage

Children evacuating needed luggage to bring for both their journey and their stay.

Important:

Children were requested to bring a gas mask, identity card, and clothes.

Recommended:

Boys:

- 2 wash
- 2 pairs of pants
- Pair of trousers
- 2 pairs of socks
- 6 handkerchiefs
- Pair of jersey

Girls:

- Vest
- Pair of knickers
- Petticoat
- 2 pairs of stockings
- Slip
- Blouse
- Cardigan

Where were they evacuated to?

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Lancashire | 71,484 |
| Sussex | 67,541 |
| Yorkshire | 50,000 (roughly) |
| Kent | 38,000 |
| Cheshire | 25,000 |
| Essex | 21,000 |
| Northamptonshire | 23,500 |
| Hertfordshire | 23,000 |





Children evacuated from many cities such as:

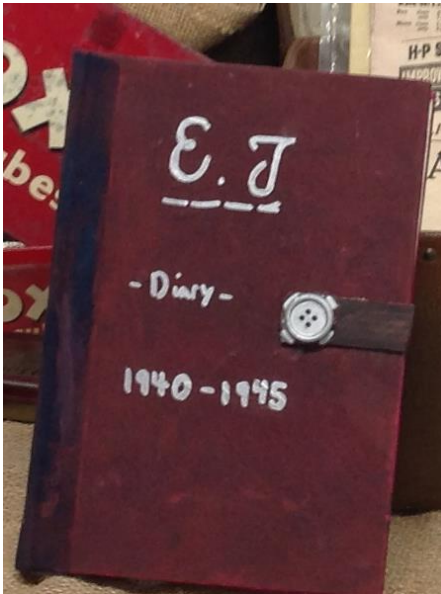
- London
- Manchester
- Merseyside
- Newcastle
- Birmingham
- Leeds
- Sheffield
- Portsmouth
- Bradford

Leaving home:

Children evacuated to many different locations. Here is a table to show the places:

Name: Ellie
Age: 11
Going to: Devon

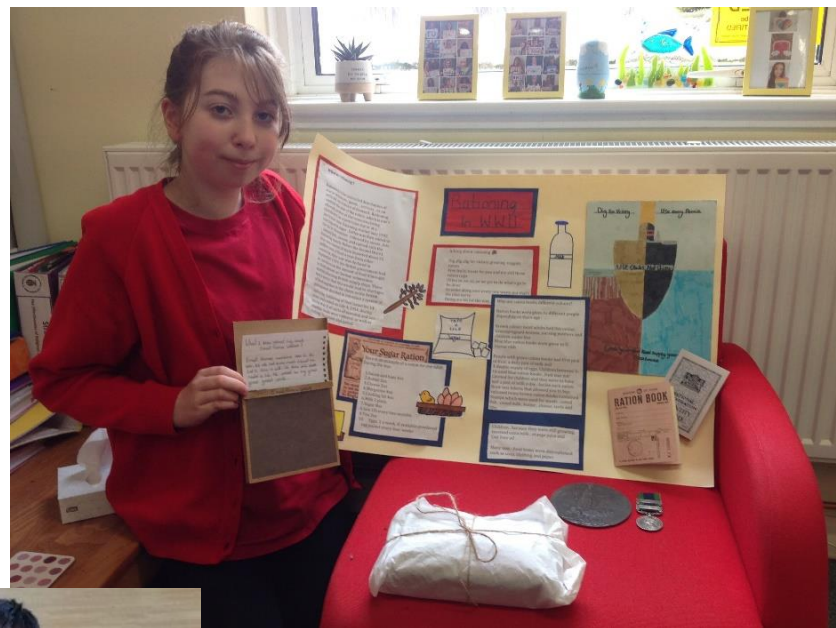


Ellie and Holly wrote a diary, as an evacuee who had to leave their parent and home and go to live in the countryside. Not only is it movingly written but it was also produced to look as though it had aged over the years. It is a remarkable piece of work.

Meanwhile, Ava researched her own family history and produced a wonderful social history board, exploring what life was like for the ordinary person during WW2. Her work was also beautifully produced and shows her deep interest in the subject matter. She even baked a WW2 cake from a recipe – which



tasted remarkably good.



Charlie (Yr 6) brought in the most stunning piece of homework- an accurate model of a WW2 bomber, all made out of cardboard. The detail was amazing and he had clearly taken great care over it.

On school governor Mrs Gini Trower visited Year 6 to talk about Jeremy Bentham who was evacuated from London to Stanstead Bury Farm in 1939 despite being born in 1748! They also got to try on some uniform from World War II and explore letters written by Gini's father-in-law. The children were fascinated by all of the primary sources they were able to look at.



Outside Play

We are continuing to develop our outside area, to help our children have active and fun break times. Our new playground markings are helping the children invent new games and we have just had delivery of our new sling shots and stop clock on the Key Stage 2 playground, all funded by our Sports Grant. These will help the children challenge themselves for accurate throwing and timing their running along the new running lines.





Sporting Fun

Year 3 have been concentrating on developing their gymnastic skills in their P.E lessons. We certainly have some very gifted gymnasts who were demonstrating a variety of moves, including splits by Louie. Outside, our Year 4 children spent part of their afternoon preparing for the upcoming 'Rapid Fire Cricket' tournament in which some of them will be competing against other local schools.



Reception and Year 1 had an exciting tennis workshop led by "Legends Tennis." They learnt a number of new skills and all enjoyed the variety of activities.



A mixed team of Year 5 and Year 6 children attended the Sportshall Interschool Athletics competition. Overall the girls came 7th and the boys won a bronze medal finishing 3rd. All of the children gave their very best and were impeccably behaved, showing good sportsmanship towards each other and other schools.

Chance to Shine

Despite the rain showers, all Key Stage 1 and 2 classes had a special cricket workshop session with a cricket coach. The children were taught a variety of cricket skills, relating to throwing, catching and striking the ball and many classes even had a small game. All of the children enjoyed the sessions and wanted more cricket sessions.



Football team News

Our football team has had a very successful term, winning many of their inter-school matches. In our final week the Year 5 and 6 football team took part in the District football competition at Haileybury School. The tournament was made up of 9 schools from Hertford and Ware. I am pleased to report that, despite being knocked out of the cup competition, we were successful in the shield, beating St John's on penalties in the final. We were also immensely proud of Elliott in Year 6 who received the award of Player of the Tournament for his sportsmanship and skill.

World Book Day

It was World Book Day in March. As always, the costumes the children arrived in were stunning and gave rise to a great deal of discussion in our Collective Worship about the books which the children love to read. In class the children completed a variety of book related activities. They have been given their World Book Day tokens which can be redeemed at all local bookshops. The following website shows the extensive list of books that the children should be able to choose from.



Ellie in Year 6 came along with a little bit of fairyland to be placed between less interesting books on a bookshelf. I have put my order in for one!

Year 5 had a wonderful day, reading and writing stories in front of their roaring log fire before going to the Reception class to share their favourite book with their buddies.



FOSTA FUN: Sponsored Bounce



Thank you for all of the sponsored bounce donations coming back to school. Our thanks go to our FOSTA parents who counted hundreds of bounces on the day and to the Herod family for the use of their castle.

Smarties Challenge

I am delighted to say that the Smarties Challenge raised at a total of £411! This is an amazing amount, thank you to all who took part and to our wonderful FOSTA who organised the whole thing. The class who raised the most money is **YEAR 2** and they won a 'non-uniform' day on Thursday, 9th March! Well done Year 2.

Easter Performances



Towards the end of term, we had had two wonderful performances. The first was at the Drill Hall, Ware when our school choir joined with other local schools to perform 'Esther' – a cantata written by Paul Burrell. The choir have been practicing for this, for many weeks and performed their song, 'Believe' beautifully. I was so impressed with their confidence in standing and singing in front of hundreds of people in the audience. George (Y6) did especially well, as he had passed auditions to be given a starring role as Harbona. Again, I was so impressed with his dramatic performance, which he gave on two nights. He really did show star quality.

Later in the week we enjoyed the Year 3 and Year 4 Easter production of 'The Tale of Three Trees.' Whilst, on the surface, this is a simple tale of the fortunes of three trees, it has a greater depth, following the life of Jesus, which the children conveyed wonderfully. Their delivery of their lines and enthusiastic singing made it a really joyful performance.







These wonderful images of daffodils were drawn by children in our Nursery class. I was so impressed with, not only their drawings but also their wonderful writing of their name. Our Nursery children are really excelling in their achievements and, through their artwork, remind us that spring is definitely here.

A second reminder of the arrival of Spring was our Easter disco, held at the end of term. The staff were all impressed with the variety of dance moves demonstrated by the children on the dance floor and some staff were even seen joining in. The disco was organised and run by our fantastic FOSTA team, to whom I wish to extend my thanks. These events bring such joy to the children and would not be able to run without this help and effort by parents and carers.

On our final Thursday, we held our Easter church service. We were delighted that many parents and carers were able to join us for this service. Faith Factory read their words clearly and Year 3 and Year 4 performed two of their songs from their Easter play. It really was a lovely service.

Goodbye to Mrs Robb and Mrs Addy



humour and goodwill will be hugely missed but we wish her all the very best in her new role as Chemistry

Sadly, we had to say farewell to two highly esteemed and valued colleagues, who have taught and supported so many of our children over the past years. Mrs Robb has worked at St Andrew's for over 13 years and has been a huge asset in helping our children prepare for the end of key stage SATs and cope with the KS2 curriculum. She has supported residential trips, led the lunchtime organization with military precision and been a font of all knowledge when we have had staff quizzes. Her

Technician at Richard Hale. Already, on her visits there, she has been welcomed by some of our ex-pupils and we know that she will flourish there.

Sadly, we also had to say a second goodbye to Mrs Addy. Having completed her counselling qualifications, she is now leaving to pursue her career, supporting children with a range of needs. We know that, like Mrs Robb, she will excel and we wish them both the very best. We also know that they will carry a little piece of St Andrew's magic in their hearts.