

SMSC Diary Spring 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:
Joy and Wisdom*



"Rejoice with those who rejoice." Romans 12:15 'Blessed are those who find wisdom.' Proverbs 3.13

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

Key Stage 1 Police Morning



In the first week back, after the Christmas break, Year 1 and 2 were visited by Hertfordshire Police and learnt how the police service protects citizens and solves crimes. They looked for evidence in a crime scene, which the PCSOs set up on the playground. The children were taught how DNA helps to catch criminals, and how the police protect evidence from contamination with evidence bags. Each class also learnt about police cars and got the chance to sit in one. They looked at the equipment that the police carry with them on a daily basis, including a shield, traffic accident signs and first aid equipment. The children really enjoyed their experience and were tasked

with writing a report based on the evidence they collected.

Local Head Teacher Visit

In our third week we had with a visit by a group of local head teachers who watched lessons, looked at the children's work and talked to the children about their learning experience at St Andrew's. This was part of our participation in a local school peer review project which is aimed to share good practice and help further school improvement. The feedback I was given at the end of the day echoed our recent Ofsted report about the children's positive work ethic and learning behaviours. One of our children told them that St Andrew's was a 'joyful' school to come to, as indeed it is!

Number Day 2024

We were delighted to support the NSPCC by taking part in Number Day on **Friday, 2 February 2024**. This is a day which encourages our children to celebrate and explore number through many different ways in aid of NSPCC.



Our Nursery children discovered and explored numbers in our Forest School, while our Reception class built a beautiful 'number garden'. Throughout Year 1 and 2, the children were set and made number puzzles, including number bond Top Trumps. From Years 3 to 6, the children explored increasingly more difficult number challenges, including those set by the celebrities who partnered with the NSPCC. Year 6 completed a range of puzzles to find out who had stolen the Golden Numeral Trophy. It turns out that Millie was the culprit!



The children enjoyed showing off their costumes in the morning and there were some brilliantly thought-out number outfits. It was wonderful to see the children have fun with numbers all whilst raising

money for the NSPCC. Thank you to all the children and parents who donated to our fundraising cause, we raised a total of **£158!**





Safer Internet Day

We know that our children have far greater opportunities to have fun, explore and learn new things, whilst online. This would have been unimaginable when I was their age. However, as with so many opportunities, we have to teach our children how to navigate safely through their online life. Therefore, all classes reflected upon internet safety as part of the National Internet Safety Day. Classes made posters, explored age restrictions for computer apps (they were surprised by a few!) and discussed how to keep themselves safe. A really useful site, which we briefly looked at in Collective Worship, was the BBC collection of materials which may help discussions at home about internet safety: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/safer-internet-day-resources/z6bbhbk>.

Wellbeing Week



Running alongside our thoughts about internet safety, we also explored how to ensure positive wellbeing as part of National Mental Health Week. In the celebration assembly we shared some of the techniques, strategies and suggestions the children came up with:

Nursery: sensory awareness. Name things you can see, hear, touch, smell and taste around you? **Reception:** breathing. Breathe like a whale and a snake.

Year 1: Thinking about happy places. Unsurprisingly, the happiest places were the beach and Christmas celebrations. These were represented in drawings. **Year 2:** The Zones of Regulation: What strategies can I use to get to green? The children made personalised pamphlets with their own go to strategies to help them when they are overwhelmed. **Year 3:** Yoga: Some year 3 children demonstrated the downward dog, cobra, cat, chair, tree and mountain pose. **Year 4:** What are the ways in which you find inner peace and wellbeing, explored through art and mind-mapping.

Year 5: Discussions about mindfulness followed by mindful colouring. **Year 6:**

What are the things I need to be happy? The children made posters addressing aspects of wellbeing such as feeling safe and secure, having a network of support and taking time to enjoy favourite activities.

Year 4 led our Wednesday Collective Worship sharing their artwork and thoughts about '5 Ways to Wellbeing'. Their ideas and posters have made a beautiful display in the hall

Zones of Regulation			
Blue	Green	Yellow	Red
Bored Lonely Sad Tired Unwell	Calm Content Focused Happy Ready to learn	Anxious Confused Excited Frustrated Worried	Angry Aggressive Terrified I need time and space

Year 2 St Albans visit



Year 2 had a day of awe and wonder as they visited St Albans Cathedral. The children learnt about the special symbols and places within the cathedral and visited different areas in this beautiful building. They listened carefully to the tour guides who told them



many interesting facts about the history and purpose of the building. In the afternoon, the children had a chance to make clay tiles, inspired by the morning's tour. The children behaved impeccably and their knowledge and enthusiasm was praised by the staff.



Visit to EYFS

Revd. Sarah visited EYFS to help the children explore how Christians are often welcomed into the church. The children helped to baptise many of the baby dolls in the setting.



Official Visitors

We have had a number of visitors to look around our school, including Mrs Sorrell, St Albans Diocese Education Consultant, who visited all of the classes and praised the vision and values of the school, and Mr Ottery, HCC Health & Safety Inspector. We have recently had a full Health and Safety inspection - completed every five years by the Herts County Schools team - and came out very highly, with very few actions. Mr Ottery completed our five-year fire check and again, it was a very positive visit.

St Andrew's Got Talent

A group of our Year 6 children (Millie A, Jasmine, Millie F, Grace, Rebecca, Annabelle and Grace) organised and led a St Andrew's has got talent show. The children, from Year 2-6, demonstrated a range of skills: art, dance, football dribbling, gymnastics, singing and dancing. It was a lovely afternoon and all of the children were full of enthusiasm.



Maths Challenge

Four of our Year 5 took part in the inter-school Year 5 maths challenge. Whilst we are awaiting to hear if they are going onto the final heat - we have been informed that our total result for the four rounds was well above average. So we are very proud of Seb, Ava, Thomas and Jack H.

Year 5 Bikeability

Our Year 5 class completed their Bikeability training this week. This is an important rite of passage for our children as it helps to build up their cycling confidence in preparation for riding on the roads. The instructors spoke highly, all week, of the children's concentration, excellent behaviour and determination to do their very best.

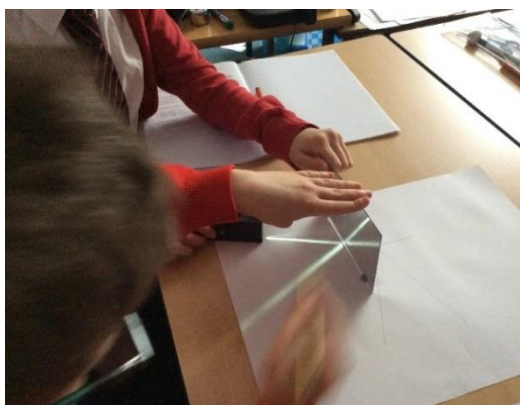
Science Week

We started off our Science Week with a really exciting science circus workshop. The children were equally amazed and challenged by many of the tricks and performances shown, all exploring the natures of forces. Everyone enjoyed watching Mr Cooper try to ride a teeny tiny bike, and held their breath as they watched an amazing juggling display on a very tall unicycle!



After the show, all classes from Year 1 – Year 6 had workshops, helping them to explore how forces work upon us all at all times.

This event was organised by Dr Collins and really helped us to begin our week with a bang.



EYFS – Science Day

Dr Collins and Ms Kumm then led the EYFS science activities, where they explored light and shadow creating a theatre complete with some wonderful shadow puppets. They had a great time entertaining their classmates.



EYFS Chicks

Our Nursery and Reception classes have also been learning about growth as they have been watching chicks hatch out and grow rapidly. It really has brought moments of awe and wonder to the class seeing these new lives begin.



We would like to thank Mr and Mrs Herod, who made this possible, by bringing the eggs and hatching equipment into school. We really do appreciate this.

Year 1 History Day



Year 1 had a visit from Hertford Museum. Their first workshop was linked to their history topic of 'toys'. They looked at different toys from the past and talked about what they were made from and how they were played with. The children noticed that many of the toys were made from wood or fabric and needed a push or a pull to make them work. None of the toys used electronics like the toys we have at home today.



Their second workshop was all about animals. The children handled some real stuffed animals and talked about predators and prey and the ways animals use their hard shells, spines and camouflage for

protection. It really was an exciting and informative session for the children.



World Book Day

The end of our week also ended with a flourish as we celebrated our annual book day. All of the costumes were really impressive and the children completed many book related activities.



Year 5 Residential

Our Year 5 class have had a terrific time at Hudnall Park on their two-night residential trip. The site lends itself to a variety of environmental activities and the children pond-dipped, caught, studied and released small mammals as well as having the opportunity to perfect their archery aim, complete the challenge obstacle course and go orienteering. On their final day the children went go carting and enjoyed stories, games and marshmallows around the camp fire. It was all hugely enjoyable. I joined them on Thursday and was really impressed by the children's whole hearted enthusiasm for all the activities and the Hudnall Park leaders all commented on their impeccable behaviour and team spirit.

Thank you to our amazing staff who cared for our children so well – Miss Sewell, Mrs Cottiss and Miss Murray, we really appreciate all that you did to make this such a successful trip.

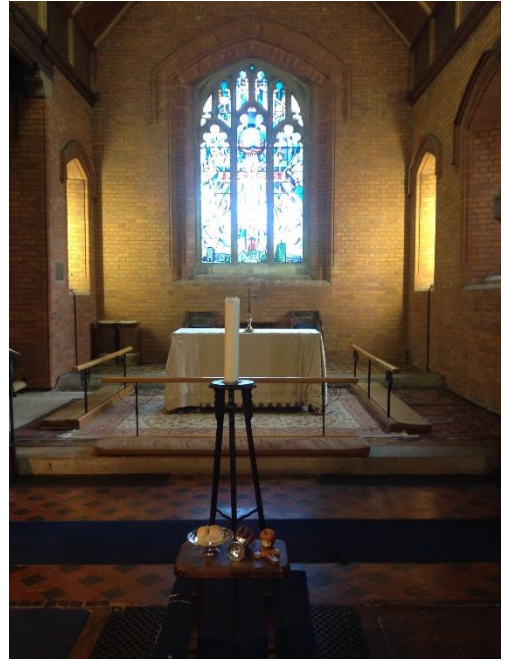


Holy Week

In our final week of term, we explored Holy Week in lots of different ways. Revd. Sarah explained the stages of the story to our EYFS classes using props and pictures.



On Monday we held our Easter church service at St Andrew's Church where Revd. Sarah and our class speakers led us through the momentous events of Holy Week. The children sang the hymns beautifully and Year 3 and 4 performed two of their songs from their Easter production.



Lower Key Stage 2 Easter Performance



The week was dominated by our wonderful Year 3 and 4 Easter play which again mapped out the events from Palm Sunday, through the Crucifixion leading to the Resurrection of Jesus. It was wonderful to see the confidence of the performers shining out and the singing was absolutely amazing. My thanks go to Mr Chesterman, Mrs Davey and Dr Collins for pulling it all together.



Year 6 have been creating artwork to represent the resurrection as part of their R.E work on the Easter story. Here are three examples.



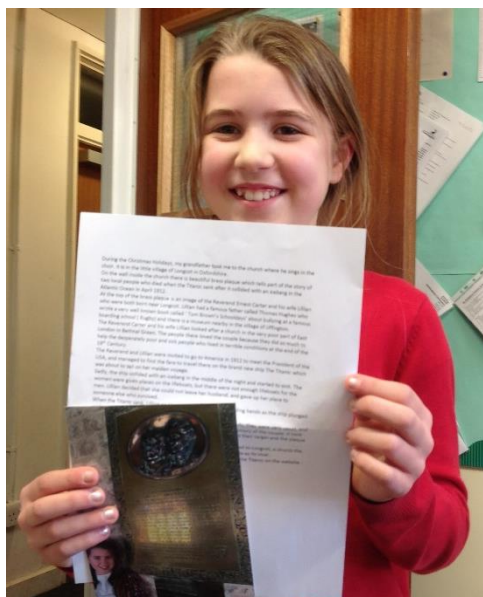
A few examples of Learning in the classroom

Early Science Work



Our Nursery children became scientists as they made scientific observations, using all of their senses, when mixing ingredients to make gingerbread men. They were able to talk about the change in textures before and after the gingerbread men had been

cooked. They also experimented trying out different materials to add to water to make beautiful ice artwork, which were proudly hung in the EYFS garden.



Inspiring History Homework

Eliana (Year 4) brought in an account and photos of visiting a plaque, seen in a church, dedicated to a couple who lost their lives on the Titanic. She was so moved by the story that she felt compelled to write about them. She also told me about her own family link to the Titanic. Her work was of a very high standard.

Year 6 children have also been inspired to create their own responses to their research into WW2. Bobby brought family documents reaching back to WW1 and was clearly very proud of the family story they told. Eloise and Eifa had written imaginative, detailed diary accounts. Both Lela and Joseph had created detailed models. Lela's model showed a

plane flying over countryside, while Joseph had recreated a trench. Emma had created a rations pack - including OXO cubes, a small chocolate package and sugar. George had created a stunning model of a bombed home, complete with a flying bomber and exploding bomb. Owen had created a bomb shelter and was able to talk knowledgeably about the different types of shelters used during the war.

All of the work showed real attention to detail and creativity. They were wonderful to look at.



Year 3 Rock Investigation

To help Year 3 class understand the different types of rock formation, Dr Collins used different types of chocolate. They compacted milk, dark and white chocolate with pressure and warmth from their hands to create 'sedimentary' rock. Then they put their 'sedimentary' rock into plastic bags and continued to knead it with their hands to create 'metamorphic' rock. It was inspired, and rather tasty, teaching.



Inspired by their examination of different rock formations, Year 3 have been coming into school with some wonderful home learning about volcanoes, two of which literally erupted in the playground. Well done to Jack, Caitlin and Evie for your inspired homework.



Year 6 History

Year 6 had a visit from Mrs Drury who told them about some family history from World War II. The children loved hearing the story of Horace and Marion, trying on Marion's uniform and looking at some newspapers from the war.

Matisse Art Work

Art Club explored Matisse's artwork and techniques and then produced their own Matisse-inspired work. Their efforts are now decorating our dining room and have really helped to brighten the room up. Their work is stunning.



Year 3 Creating Fossils

Year 3 had a very messy but exciting science lesson as they explored the process of fossil making by creating their own fossils.

First they made their dough using flour and water, then they made a dinosaur imprint into the dough using sticks and stones and finally baked their creation. The children loved the activity and were full of details they knew about real fossils.



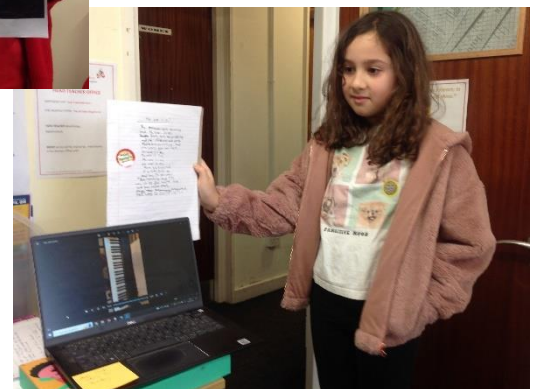
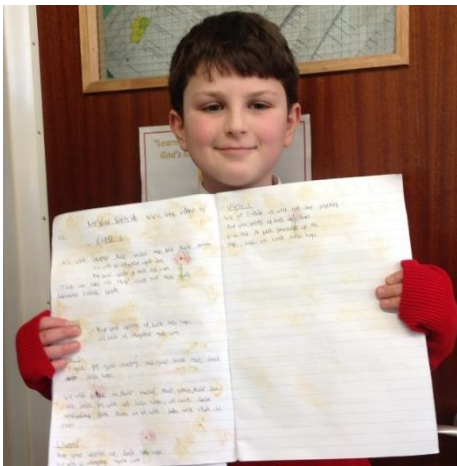
Year 3 Aboriginal Art

Year 3 have been studying Aboriginal Art this term. They created their own versions of two Dreaming stories, inspired by Aboriginal artists Danny Eastwood and Walangkura Napananga.



Excellent Homework

Well done to Megan, Hattie and Eliana (Year 4) who shared their rainforest presentations.



Owen (Year 6) shared his WW2 homework, where he had written a forces-inspired song. It was beautifully presented and authentically stained using a teabag. He also told me about his family history and his great, great grandfather's role during WW2. Lela from Year 6 later shared with me her WW2 song which she had composed. Her tune involved changes of key and speed and was matched with dramatic lyrics. It was really impressive.



Tricky Technology

Year 6 have been writing algorithms to make a fitbit count steps accurately. Rebecca and Eifa came to show me their working model and we tested it on Mrs Moorcroft who had to run up and down the corridor. Their fitbit recorded her steps very accurately.

Nursery News



The Nursery class at St Andrew's had been learning about 'Traditional Tales' in the first half term. They baked their own gingerbread, made beanstalks as tall as themselves, built bridges in the garden and pretended to be trolls. They have rolled out and decorated playdough, tried on giant clothes and retold the stories using puppets!

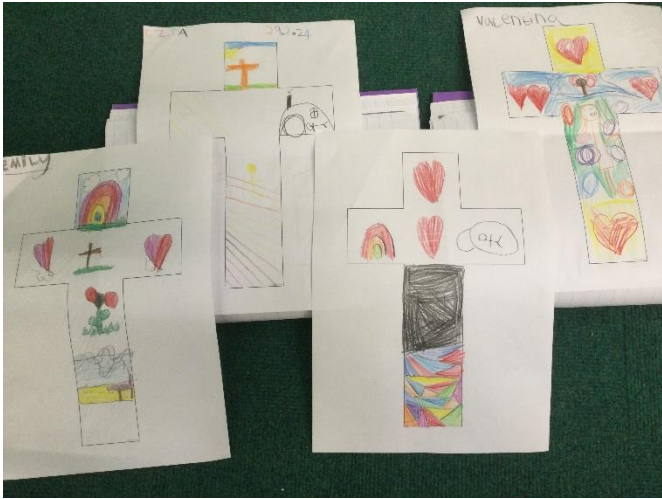
There was also time to celebrate Lunar New Year with homemade dragon puppets, food tasting and painting with feather brushes.



Nursery class have also been learning how to play the wood blocks and claves in their music lesson this week. They learnt how to play them quietly and loudly. They played along to the 'Animal Tea Party' song, showing a good awareness of how to play in time; knowing when to start and, equally importantly, when to stop!

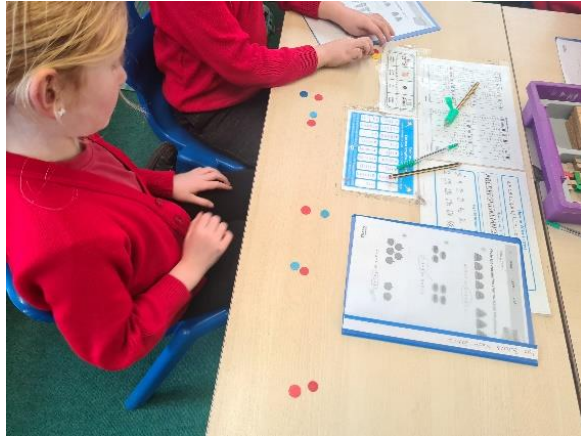
Reception class have been producing some fantastic writing linked to their book 'The Tiny Seed' by Eric Carle. The children explored the illustrations in the story and then used their phonic knowledge to write their own captions.



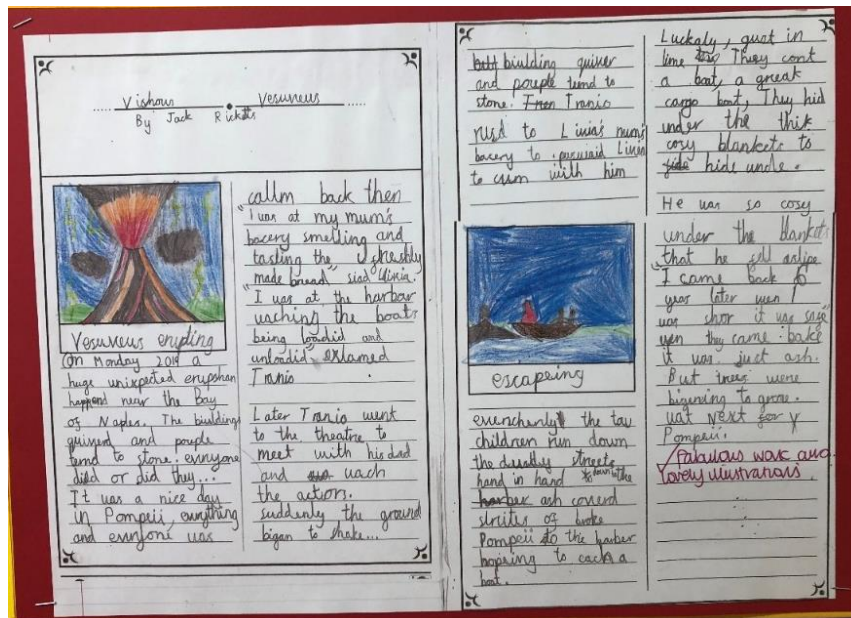


In Year 1 the children started learning about the Easter story. They discussed what happened on each day and why Easter is important to Christians. They also designed their own crosses to help them remember the story.

In their Computing lessons Year 2 have been playing instruments on the screen before putting blocks of sound together to create repeating patterns and melodies. In their maths lessons the children have been relating division to multiplication by both grouping and sharing amounts.



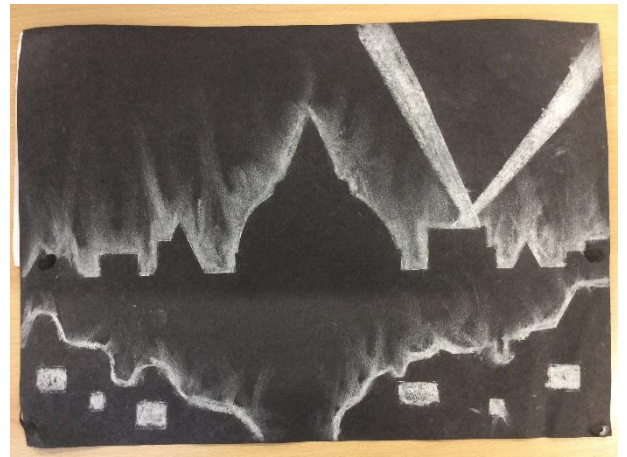
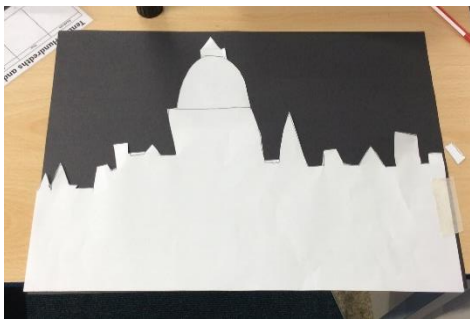
Jack R (Year 3) did some fantastic, emotional writing, imagining he was at Pompeii during the Vesuvius eruption in AD 79. His work, along with many of the other children's work, is proudly on display in the classroom.





There is also a lovely completed science display outside Year 3, sharing all of the wonderful science work the children have completed over the past half term investigating rocks, soils and fossils. The children have absolutely loved all of the investigations and have been so enthusiastic about their learning - led by Dr Collins.

Year 6 have been focusing upon their SAT preparation but as a bit of a light, artistic relief they have used the photo 'St Paul's on Fire' taken by Herbert Mason during the Blitz to create their own version using stencils and chalk. The results are quite stunning.



St Andrew's Got Talent

A group of our Year 6 children (Millie A, Jasmine, Millie F, Grace, Rebecca, Annabelle and Grace) organised and led a St Andrew's has got talent show. The children, from Year 2-6, demonstrated a range of skills: art, dance, football dribbling, gymnastics, singing and dancing. It was a lovely afternoon and all of the children were full of enthusiasm. The top acts, once the scores have been calculated, will perform to the whole of the school on Monday.

Homework

Ava (Year 5) came and showed me some stunning artwork which she had completed at home. Her drawings were particularly fine and showed a real natural flair and attention to detail.

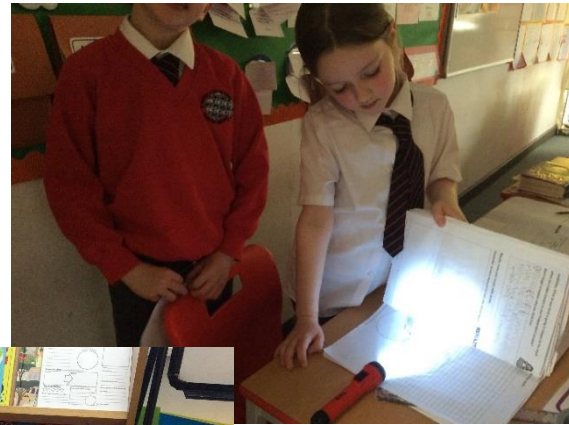




Later in the term the children in the **Nursery class** learnt how to programme the robot mouse and Bee-Bots to follow a path. They showed great co-operative skills working together to type in instructions, one step at a time, to make the robot move to get to the cheese.

Year 3 investigated whether all objects cast a shadow, exploring opaque, translucent and transparent objects.

The children were quite surprised to find that transparent objects cast a shadow.



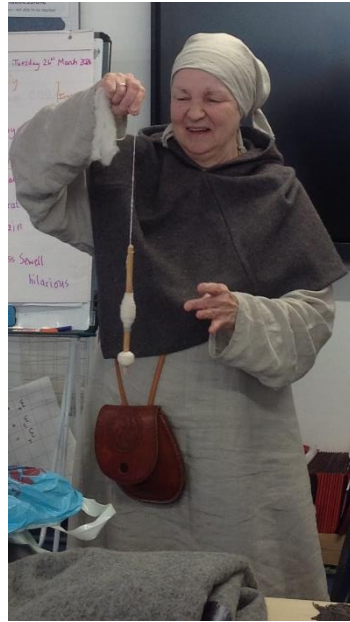
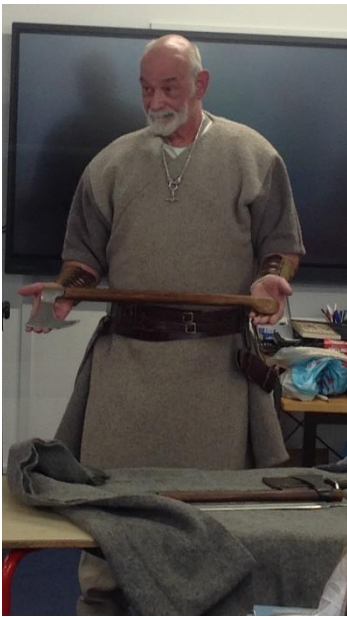
Year 2 finished their unit on Food Technology by making Spring Rolls, which involved putting the skills and hygiene knowledge

to good use. They learned how to create a safe, clean space for cooking before practising grating, mixing and rolling their fillings into filo pastry. They enjoyed eating their wares, some deciding that they had been a bit generous with the bean sprouts.



Year 5 Viking Adventures

Year 5 had some Viking visitors who told the class about what life was like in a Viking times including how to use a drop spindle to make wool, how different weapons were made and the children even got to handle the replica artefacts. A big thank you to Isabelle's grandparents for bringing the Vikings to life.



Tasty Maths

In their final week, Year 4 used bars of mini egg chocolate to show fractions beyond 1 whole. The children enjoyed the lesson and were able to have a treat while they worked.



Musical Opportunities during the term.



Congratulations

Very well done to Emma (Year 6) who gained a Distinction for her Grade 2 music exam playing drums. This is a wonderful achievement and we are very proud of her accomplishment.

Sporting News

Year 4 Development Day at Wodson Park

Year 4 had a healthy start to their new year by taking part in the Wodson Park Development Day facilitated by the students at Presdales school, supported by the Hertford and Ware School Sports Partnership. The afternoon involved a range of activities including javelin, cricket, running and Bollywood dance. The children represented St Andrew's brilliantly and enjoyed the opportunity to try out all the different activities.



Sportshall Athletics

Eighteen children from Year 5 and 6 took part in the Medium Schools Sportshall Athletics competition at Wodson Park. The children completed a range of different track and field events including javelin, triple jump and a number of different relays. Out of nine schools, the girls finished a brilliant 3rd and the boys finished a fantastic 2nd. Well done all.

Football News



Ten of our Year 5 & 6 girls took part in the Hertford & Ware District Girls Football Tournament. Out of five teams in our group, we finished second having won 2 games, drawn 1 and losing 1 to the eventual champions. All the girls had a great time and represented St Andrew's impeccably.

Meanwhile our school football team played away against Abel Smith School and won 6-1, Blessing scored a hat-trick. The boys played brilliantly and were a credit to our school.



Our Year 6 team also did well in the District Football tournament.

Although we came sixth out of ten teams, our team played with great sportsmanship and Joseph received the trophy for 'Goal of the Tournament', scoring from the half way line.

Rapid Fire Cricket



Eight of our Year 4 children (Jacob, Max, Joe, Louie, Bella, Megan, Hattie and Eliana) represented the school at the local 'Rapid Fire Cricket Tournament'.

The children had a great time, and came a respectable sixth out of fifteen schools. Mrs Sutcliffe, who attended,

commented on their great sportsmanship at the event.



New Football Kit

We are also very pleased to announce that Mr Cooper entered, and won, a competition for new football kit.

Our children look very smart in their new kit modeled by some of our Year 6 footballers.



Cross Country Competition

A team of Year 5 and 6 children took part in the Hertford and Ware Cross Country competition. All the children gave 100% effort over the tricky one-mile course. Special mention goes to Mitchell in Year 6 who finished in 9th place.



FOSTA

Our FOSTA team have been busy raising funds for the school through a number of events this term including Mother Day Sales, cake bakes, and second hand uniform sales. The children especially enjoyed the 'Fun & Funky Friday' where they were able to take part in a list of fun & funky activities in exchange for a donation of 50p per activity.

OPAL - outside Play and Learning:

The following are just some examples of the creative play enjoyed by our children during break and lunch times:

The children have been having great fun being creative with some old floor boards and guttering. They have loved making race tracks and seeing who can get their car to go the furthest!



During the start of the term we had the very exciting arrival of our new mud kitchen. The children, since its arrival, have had a great time making stone soup, stir-fried leaves and many other wonderful concoctions! A big thank you to Mrs Thomas for securing a Tesco grant to purchase the new resource.



It was also lovely to see the imaginative way that some of the children were using the old floorboards to create a slide underneath the trees.

We have opened up our Forest School area at break times for the children to explore. They have loved the extra space to play in and for being able to run, hang and swing in our fantastic environment.



The children have loved pushing, pulling, developing their strength and generally having lots of fun! Even the playtime staff have been joining in on the action.



It has been great to see the children still manage to enjoy themselves despite the muddy conditions. Austin and Antonio (Year 5) showed great imagination and teamwork to use some logs to build a bridge across one of the muddy areas of Forest School.



Gardening

Year 6 were helped by one of our Governors, Gini Trower, to plant some hedging plants that had been donated by the Woodland Trust. These hedging plants will help to provide a natural screen from the car park as well as provide food and a habitat for a range of wildlife, helping to reduce flooding and capturing carbon dioxide.



Fun with the puddles has continued! The children have enjoyed finding creative ways to get across the area without getting too wet!

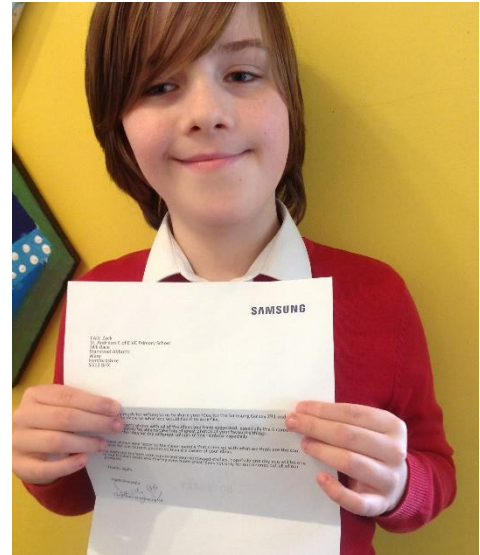


Congratulations



Congratulations to Eloise (Y6) and Evelyn (Y3) for winning second places at their gymnastic club. They had to do a number of activities to achieve their medals, including vault and beam and are, quite rightly, very proud of their achievements.

Congratulations also go to Zack (Year 5) who wrote to Samsung offering them his thoughts and ideas for how they could improve the design of their phones. Aided by Mrs Gardner, who tracked down the contact of the CEO, he received a letter from Samsung thanking him for his ideas and designs. Who knows - perhaps they will take up his design for a rainbow phone, with easier features.



And Finally.....



We are very pleased to announce the arrival of baby Mills! The baby arrived a little early - Mr and Mrs Mills and baby Mills are all doing well and we are all very excited to have another St Andrew's baby to coo over. We were able to organise consistent care of our Reception class for the rest of this term by Mrs Baker-Williams before welcoming Mrs Karahasan to teach the class from Easter.