



St. John's C E Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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SUMMER 2022



As we come towards the end of the school year, we reflect upon all the fantastic achievements of the pupils of St John's C.E Primary School. It doesn't seem like any time at all since the children returned to school in September eager to learn and engaging readily in the learning opportunities that were offered to them.

Over the year, we have received three external reviews, led by a National Lead in Education who was impressed by the positive learning behaviours of the children and the quality of provision available to all pupils across the school. The quality of writing was particularly commended during the last visit.

Our children have the opportunity to access a broad and engaging curriculum and have produced some inspirational pieces of work. This year we have been able to offer more trips for children to participate in which have provided them with invaluable experiences that enrich and enhance the learning that takes place in the classroom.

Our Year 2 and 6 children have achieved some fantastic SATs results despite the impact of two lockdowns and COVID restrictions. Similarly, our Year one phonics scores have been fantastic and exceeded national expectation.

It has been lovely to return to sharing worship together in the school hall this year.

Every Monday morning we celebrate our Value Champions. Our values of wisdom and courage this term, have been lived out by the children day by day and it is lovely to hear how they show wisdom and courage through everything that they do. I would also like to thank St John's Clergy who come into school every week to share worship with us. The children really value and appreciate their time so freely given.

In May, we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and it was lovely to see so many of our families join us for the picnic and share in the stalls and activities. The School Council did a fantastic job of organising the day. Thanks also to our PTA for their work in making the afternoon a success.

Our sporting achievements continue and we are proud to announce that we have been awarded the Sports Mark Gold as well as being a lead school in the Wyre Forest area for our after school sporting provision.

This year we were also able to invite our families to our annual school Sport's day. The children were amazing; demonstrating skill, resilience, determination and great sportsmanship. Well done also to our parents who bravely stepped forward to compete in the parent's race. You all did a fantastic job!

Good luck to our Year 6 children as they prepare to embark on the next stage of their educational journey. They have all worked so hard and achieved so much, we are really proud of them.



They have been an absolute credit to St John's CE Primary School and we wish them every success for the future.

On behalf of all of the staff at St John's, we would like to wish you all an enjoyable, relaxing and safe summer holiday. Thank you to our parents, carers, families and the St John's community for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming the children back in September.



Mrs Caroline Lowe
- Headteacher



What a busy term it has been for our reception children! We started back after Easter with our topic 'Fantasy Worlds' and explored texts such as No-Bot, The Singing Mermaid and How to Catch a Dragon.



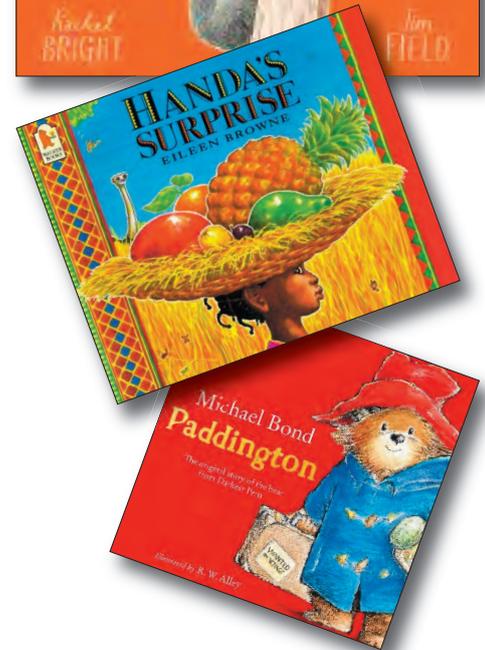
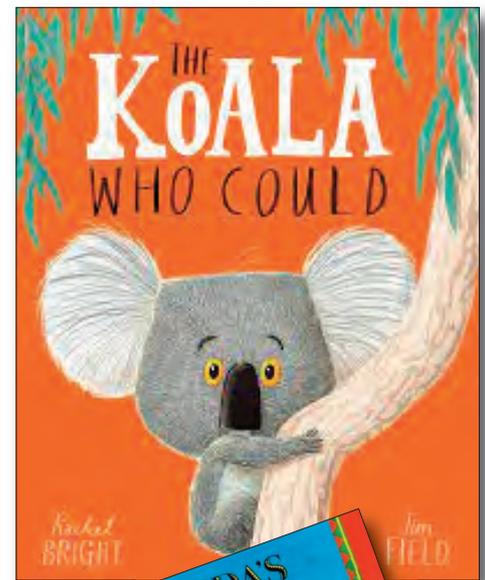
The children enjoyed looking closely at characters and settings and created their own amazing story books. We also introduced story maps which the children took to retelling their own stories from. It has been wonderful to see them become such confident storytellers!

Our topic fed through to our understanding the world learning. The children explored machines and robots, creatures under the sea and castles and medieval life. The children took part in making junk model robots, exploring magnets, learning about the oceans and creating royal banquets in our role play castle. We also linked in the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and the children enjoyed finding out more about the Royal family.

In this final half term we have been travelling around the world in our 'We are Explorers' topic. Children have been finding out about a new continent each week and we have been looking at weather and climate, animals, food and some of the music and art that comes from that part of the world. We have also looked at explorers through history and thought about how transport has changed. Our role-play area has been a different mode of transport each week, ranging from an aeroplane, taxi, ferry and a train. The children have loved taking it in turns to be the pilot or the conductor and reminding their passengers not to forget their passports!

The children have improved their writing by creating postcards and information books and we have explored the atlases and globes to develop their understanding of the world. We have also looked at a range of stories such as 'The Koala who Could' which is about Australia and Handa's Surprise in Africa week. In our South America week we had a visit from Paddington who told us about deepest, darkest Peru! The children were fascinated to find out more about his next adventure!

In maths we have been strengthening our number knowledge and the children have been improving their number bond recall skills. In this last half term we have looked at problem solving and addition and subtraction



calculations and the children have worked really hard to use their number knowledge to help them.

What a wonderful year it has been! The children have grown so much in confidence and maturity and we know that they will bring their energy and enthusiasm for their learning to Year One! Good luck!





The children have worked really hard during this final term of Year 1. In English we began by reading 'The Queen's Hat'



which linked brilliantly to our History topic as well as the Jubilee celebrations. The children researched the different London landmarks that the Queen's hat visited and then wrote a non-chronological report using their information.

They also wrote their own versions of the story entitled 'Mrs Lowe's Scarf'. The children enjoyed using photographs of Mrs Lowe chasing her fly away scarf around school to help them to sequence their writing.



During the second half of the term, we have been reading 'Dear Polar Bear' and the children enjoyed finding out about his friends all around the globe which linked with our Geography and Science units of work for this half term also. The children wrote their own letters to Polar Bear, wrote detailed

description of the polar bear and they also created a non-chronological report about one of Polar Bear's friends, Brown Bear.

During our Geography lessons in this term, we have been learning about the seven continents and five oceans of the world and the children have learnt a song to help them to remember these. The children have investigated the human and physical features of two of the continents and looked for similarities and differences between these continents.



Our Art topic for this year saw an exciting visit from Harold the hedgehog being the stimulus for our clay sculptures of hedgehogs. The children were able to shape and cut the clay to form the shape of their hedgehog before utilising their colour mixing skills from a previous topic to help them to paint their sculptures.

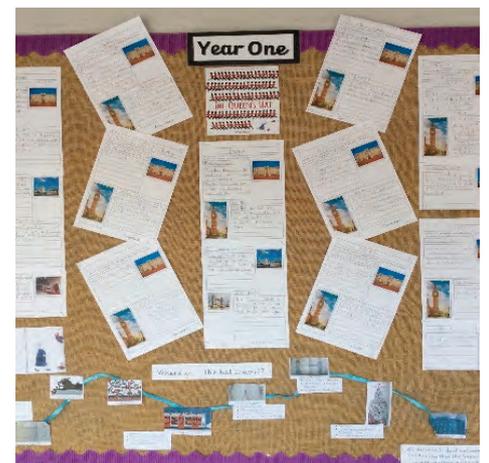
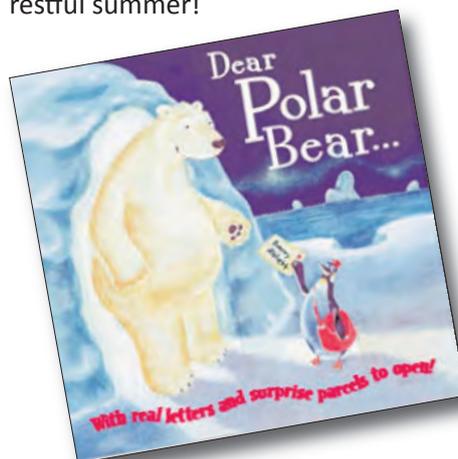
In our Science lessons we have been learning about animals including humans. We have named and grouped animals by fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals as well as recognising if an animal is a carnivore, herbivore or omnivore. The children have also learnt about the parts of the human body and carried out simple investigations relating to the five senses.



Our PSHE learning has focussed on the topics 'Relationships' where the children learnt about what it means to be a good friend. We have also looked at 'Changing me' where they have found out about the changes that happen from birth.

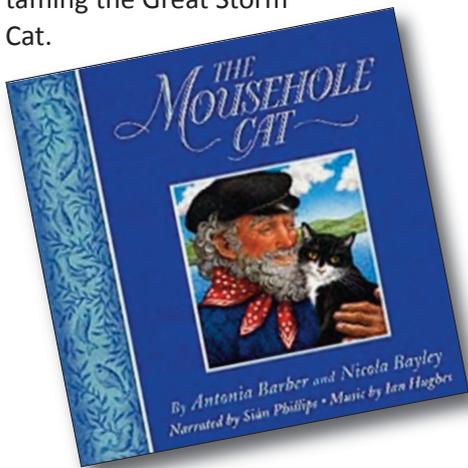
In our RE lessons, we have been finding out about who Christians believe made the world and thinking about ways of showing love and praise for the created world.

We have had a wonderful year with the children in Year 1 and wish you all a very restful summer!





The summer term has flown by in Year 2, with plenty of fun alongside an incredible amount of learning! Our amazing Year 2 children have worked so hard and should be proud of what they have achieved. They have done lots of writing, including retelling the story of Hansel and Gretel in their own words and more recently, the children enjoyed reading *The Mousehole Cat*, a heart-warming story about how lovable pussycat Mowzer saves the whole village from starvation by taming the Great Storm Cat.



Year 2 generated some amazing descriptive vocabulary and produced two fantastic display of the village, again showing what a creative bunch they are. In our history lessons, they found out all about hero Grace Darling and even built lighthouses in our Design and Technology lessons.

The children really enjoyed role-playing Grace and her family whilst learning all about the hardships of life for Victorian children, especially whilst living in a lighthouse!



Continuing the creative theme, the children made some beautiful clay flowers during our art lessons, having spent some time looking closely at and sketching some of the flowers in the school grounds. It was great to be outside enjoying the fantastic weather and looking closely at the tiniest details of some of the flowers we found.

Sports Day was a super day for the children, who were able to welcome their parents and carers to watch them take part in each event. It was lovely to see so many adults and the children particularly enjoyed watching some of their adults take part in an obstacle race at the end of the morning. Thanks to everyone who was involved!

One of our highlights this year was the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration, which saw another gathering of parents, with everyone standing up to join in the National Anthem, which the children had learned in their music lessons. They all had so much fun in the sun and we would like to thank parents and carers again for joining us



to make the occasion so special. The children created some amazing artwork to commemorate the special day.

The Year 2 teaching team have been very impressed with the Year 2 children this year. They have shown such enthusiasm and an incredible desire to learn despite all the setbacks of the last couple of years.



They are a very special group of children and we know they will continue to excel as they move into Year 3.

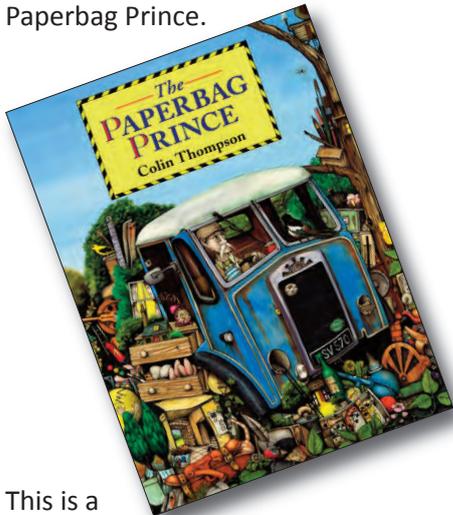
We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents for their support and to wish you all a lovely summer holiday.





What a busy time we have had throughout the Summer term! Well done Year 3!

We began the term by looking at The Paperbag Prince.



This is a gentle story about an old man living in a railway carriage on a rubbish dump. But he knows that even rubbish can sometimes contain treasure, and that if he stays long enough, gentle nature will heal the countryside and make the green come again. The children really focused on developing their vocabulary, using prepositions and fronted adverbials. The children also used this as a starting point to create an information leaflet about recycling. In Reading Gems, we have looked at a huge range of themes from Martin Luther King to Cleopatra.

In Maths, we have been consolidating our work on place value and the four operations. The children have also learned about parallel and perpendicular lines, acute, right and obtuse angles. We spent some time learning to tell the time to the nearest 5 minutes and working out money problems.

The children have also begun to use a computer program called TT Rockstars to help them with their multiplication tables - this can also be accessed from home and many of them have copied down their passwords to practice at home.



Our History this term focused on the Egyptians and the children have enjoyed learning about life in Ancient Egypt, Tutankhamun, Egyptian after life and Egyptian Gods. They have had a great time creating artefacts for our Egyptian Museum – they have made canopic jars, sandals, cartouches and necklaces!

The children worked really well during our D&T days creating Bunting. They demonstrated their skills brilliantly by being very creative and honing their sewing skills to create a class project of a string of bunting to welcome the new children to the year group in September.

In RE, we looked at The Gospels, specifically focusing on the stories they told: The Good Samaritan and The Healing of the leper to name but a few.



We examined what kind of world Jesus wanted.



In the second half of term, our topic has focussed on how and why people try and make the world a better place – looking at Christianity, Judaism, Islam and non-religious groups such as Humanists.

Our Science topic enabled the children to investigate shadows and with natural sources (the sun) and followed the position and length throughout the day. The children also used torches to create their own shadows and discussed what opaque, translucent and transparent objects are.

In Geography, we have completed our learning on Coasts and compared two coastal locations – St. David's in Wales and Blackpool (Mrs Graves' hometown!) We have learned about physical and manmade features and looked at a range of beaches.



In Art we made papier Mache bugs - first of all we looked at a selection of real bugs!



Well done Year 3 you have worked really hard and deserve a relaxing Summer holiday.



What a busy term we have had throughout the Summer term!

All of the staff are really pleased with the work that the children have completed. Well done Year 4! We began the term by looking at Leon and The Place Between in English.



The children really focused on their vocabulary and used their imaginations and creative writing skills to produce their own version of the story using lots of different narrative techniques to engage the reader. In the second half of the term, we read a new book called Moonshine Dragon and imagined what it would be like to be on an adventure with a dragon. In Maths, we have been consolidating our work on place value and the four operations. The children have worked really hard to improve their calculation skills. We have also worked on rounding as well as fractions and decimals. What a busy term you have had with Maths!

Our history this term focused on the Egyptians and the children have enjoyed learning about life in Ancient Egypt, Tutankhamun, Egyptian after life and Egyptian Gods.

The children worked really well during our D&T day creating moving monsters. They demonstrated their skills brilliantly working with pneumatic systems. Our D&T topic for the second half term has seen the children being very creative and honing their sewing skills to create a class project of a string of bunting to welcome the new children to the year group in September.

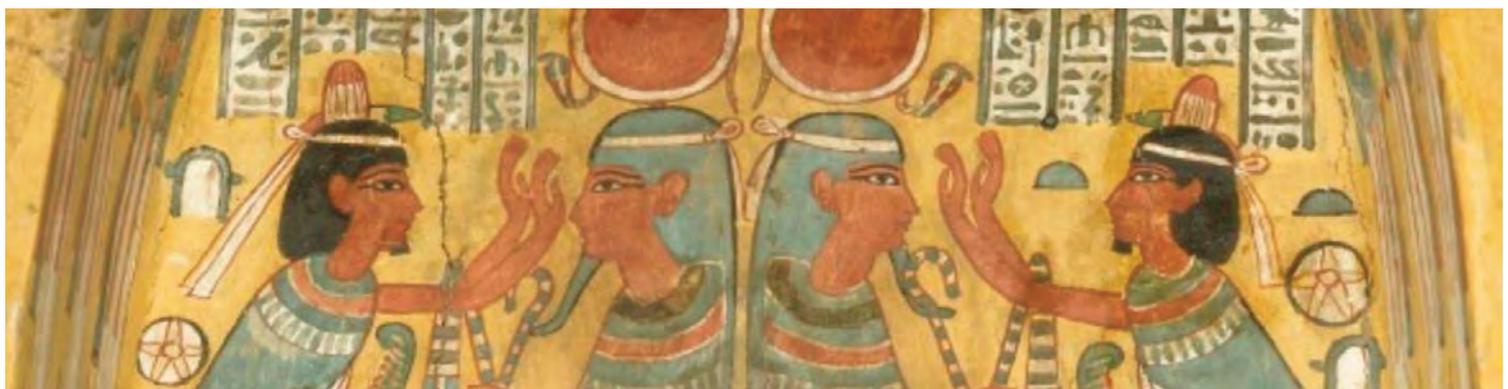
In RE, we continued our learning about the life of Hindus in Britain; studying their lives as well as communal and private worship. We looked at Hinduism, Judaism and Christianity and the celebrations they have through their lives.

In Geography, we have been learning about the water cycle and rivers around the world.

We have studied the River Severn and the impact that it has on the local community. We also had a lovely walk down to see the canal and river by St Mary's Church.



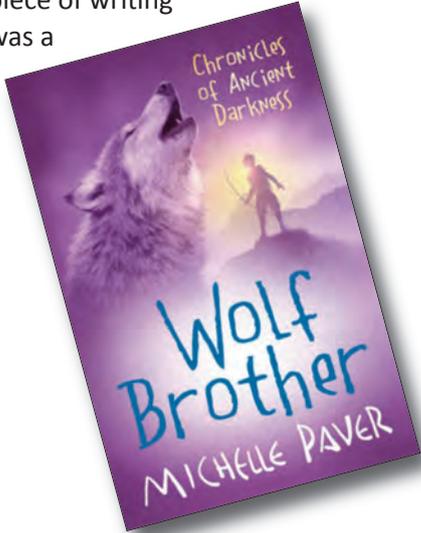
The children's behaviour was exemplary and they really enjoyed watching a couple of barge boats use the lock.



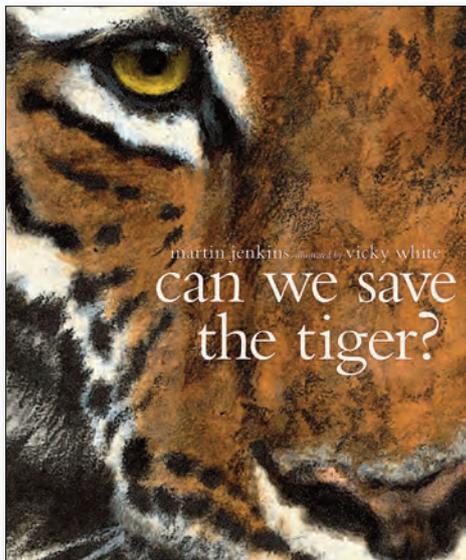


As Year 5 is drawing to a close, it is time to reflect on the last term and all of the amazing learning that has taken place.

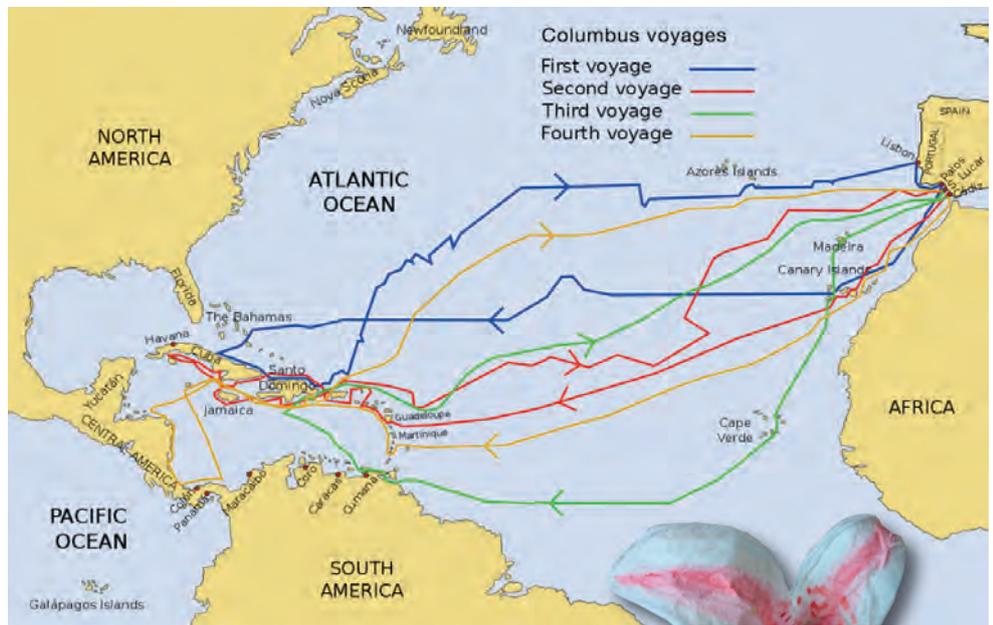
In English, the children continued reading 'Wolf Brother' and their final piece of writing was a



console game suggestion based on the book. They created a front cover for their story using vector drawings which they had been learning during their computer lessons. We then looked at the book 'Can We Save the Tiger?' by Martin Jenkins which is a



non-fiction book about how we can save endangered species. The children wrote a persuasive poem about their chosen endangered species and then finished with a persuasive article about what can be done to save these animals.



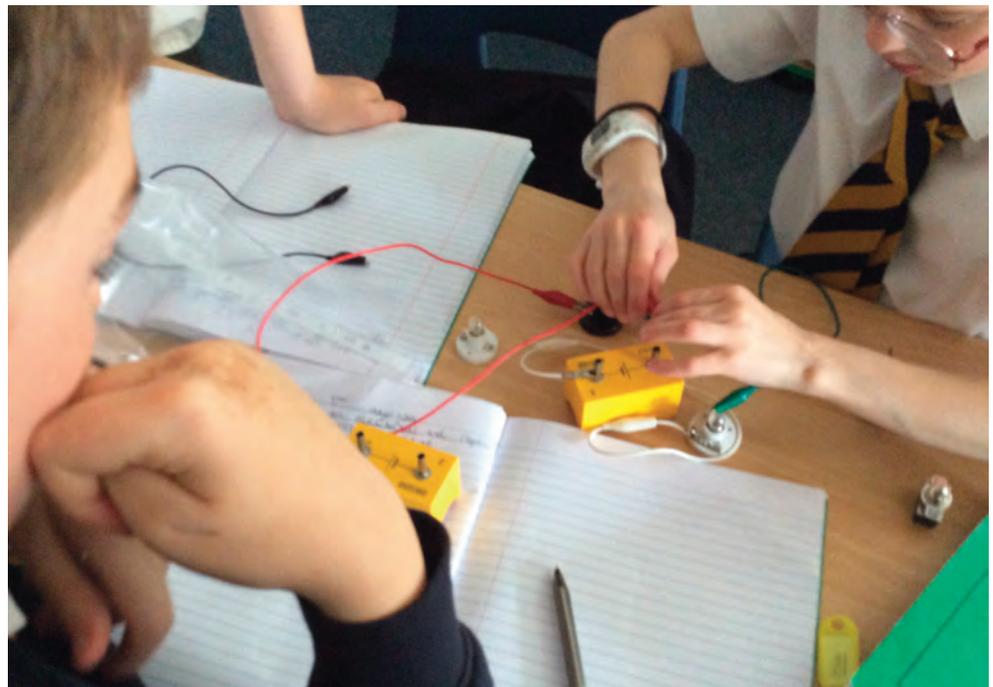
In maths, we started looking at converting fractions to decimals and percentages and then moved onto statistics and interpreting line graphs and time tables. We also looked at converting different units of measurement from one form to another.

The children have been investigating electrical circuits in science and then looking at changes to old age.

They used their knowledge of electrical circuits to design and create a torch during our DT lessons. In art, they have designed and sculpted flowers using wire and tissue paper with very realistic results. In geography, we have been looking at



maps and explorers. The children now know how to read grid references and lines of longitude and latitude. We studied Christopher Columbus, the famous explorer, looking at the different routes he took. In history, following on from the Anglo-Saxons we have been looking at the Vikings and their way of life. The Year 5 staff are proud of everything the children have achieved this year and we wish them all the best for Year 6.





Summer term has been a busy time of year for Year 6! They have been met with lots of exciting opportunities to broaden their knowledge and explore different ways of learning.

This term, Year 6 have hurdled over the barrier of their 'SATs assessments'. They have completed them as part of their 'rite of passage' to secondary school. All the Year 6 children worked extremely hard, revising and focusing on the assessments throughout the week to get the best scores they possibly could!

Once the assessments were done, the focus was then on the Year 6 showcase. For this year's performance, we allowed the children the opportunity to showcase a wide range of talents. The children all had a role to play in the showcase, whether this was on stage performing or helping out with the lights and sounds. They all did amazingly well and should be proud of themselves!

Year 6 have also taken part in plenty of sporting competitions this term, including a dance festival, orienteering and tennis. The children who represented St. John's worked so hard and this was paid off by winning the orienteering and tennis. This meant



we then went on to compete at county level!

The most exciting week for our Year 6 children was their activity week. During this week, we had two days in school where the children did a selection of art activities, sports activities and even had a dance coach come in! We also had day trips to Go Ape and the Safari Park, which included wristbands so the children (and staff!) could go on all the rides.

In between the two day trips, we also hired an inflatable assault course, followed by a BBQ and late night movie. Fun was had by all and it was so brilliant to see the children enjoy themselves and receive the reward they truly deserve!

We are so proud with how Year 6 have worked this past term. Their effort and dedication to their education is incredible and we hope it continues for next year and beyond.





R.E. & WORSHIP

'Religious Education explores big questions about life, to find out what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live.'

In Reception the children have been acting out stories from the Bible.

Year 1 have been looking at Creation and how to look after our world.

Years 2, 3 and 4 have continued to explore their units of work for this term by following the locally agreed syllabus.

All of our whole school worships and celebration worships have now returned to the hall. We have also been making the most of the beautiful weather by having some of our worships outside.

This term has seen us explore the values of Wisdom and Courage. We were all very excited to be heading back to St. John's Church for our



'Pentecost Worship which was led by Year 4, who had also been exploring Pentecost in their RE work this term.

Our Worship Rep's have continued to be very active in their ideas for how we can continue to develop worship in our school.





This term reception learnt songs and rhythms about fantasy characters including dragons, knights, fairies, mermaids and princesses. We then travelled round the world and visited countries including India, Australia, China, Indonesia and Brazil to learn about their music, instruments and dancing.

Year 1 also went around the world with the story of "Dear Polar Bear" and learnt about Aboriginal music, Gamelan, African music and Samba drumming. This half term we have been learning about opposites in music like fast and slow, loud and quiet, high and low, long and short and thick and thin.

Year 2 have learnt how to correctly hold the recorder and how to play the notes B A and G in readiness for their transition to Year 3. We have also

listened to storm music and composed our own storm music with our bodies.

Year 3 have learnt about music from Medieval and Renaissance times. We have also been on a journey to Japan to learn about their instruments and we've had a go at Taiko drumming.

Year 4 prepared and led the Pentecost service. They have also been on an African adventure learning about instruments and music from the African continent and composing their own rhythm pieces.

Year 5 listened to some spooky music from the Romantic era including "Danse Macabre" and "Night on a Bald Mountain." They then took inspiration from these pieces to create their own spooky pieces, which were all excellent. We have also started learning about the history of Pop music from 1950's onwards.

Year 6 have learnt all about the blues including composing and performing their own blues songs.

They have also been practising for their leavers showcase performance, Oscars night and the leavers service. I wish them all the very best for High School.

The choir performed at the Jubilee picnic and held an end of year concert for their parents. As always, they sang beautifully and I would like to thank our Year 6 pupils Ashlee, Maya, Emma and Mia for their long and dedicated service to the school choir – they have been a member since Year 1. I hope they have many happy memories of our performances and that they continue to sing at High School.

Many of the pupils having instrumental lessons have successfully passed music medal exams this term.

Congratulations to: Alice, Brooke R, Eleanor, Molly H, Sophie, Reuben, Daniel B, Isla, Octavia and Gabriel who all passed their copper keyboard medals. Jack and Oscar who achieved Bronze medals on their clarinets and Frank who achieved his silver medal on his flute.

Well done to you all.





We began the term by welcoming in summer with some traditional May Day celebrations: the children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 all had the opportunity to make some wonderful 'Green Man' images out of clay and natural materials. It's been amazing to see how much the forest school site has grown over the term; the grass, the flowers, the trees and, of course, the nettles have really spread across the whole site.

We've been finding new wild flowers every week and trying to identify them all as they pop up. We've also been learning about animal life cycles and studying mini beasts and their habitats. All of the classes in Reception and Key Stage 1 have had chance to experience pond dipping and we've found some incredible creatures including newt tadpoles, Ramshorn snails and dragonfly nymphs.

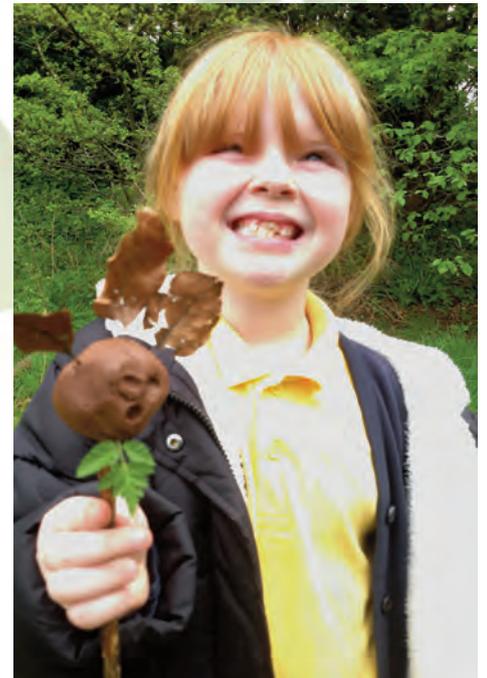
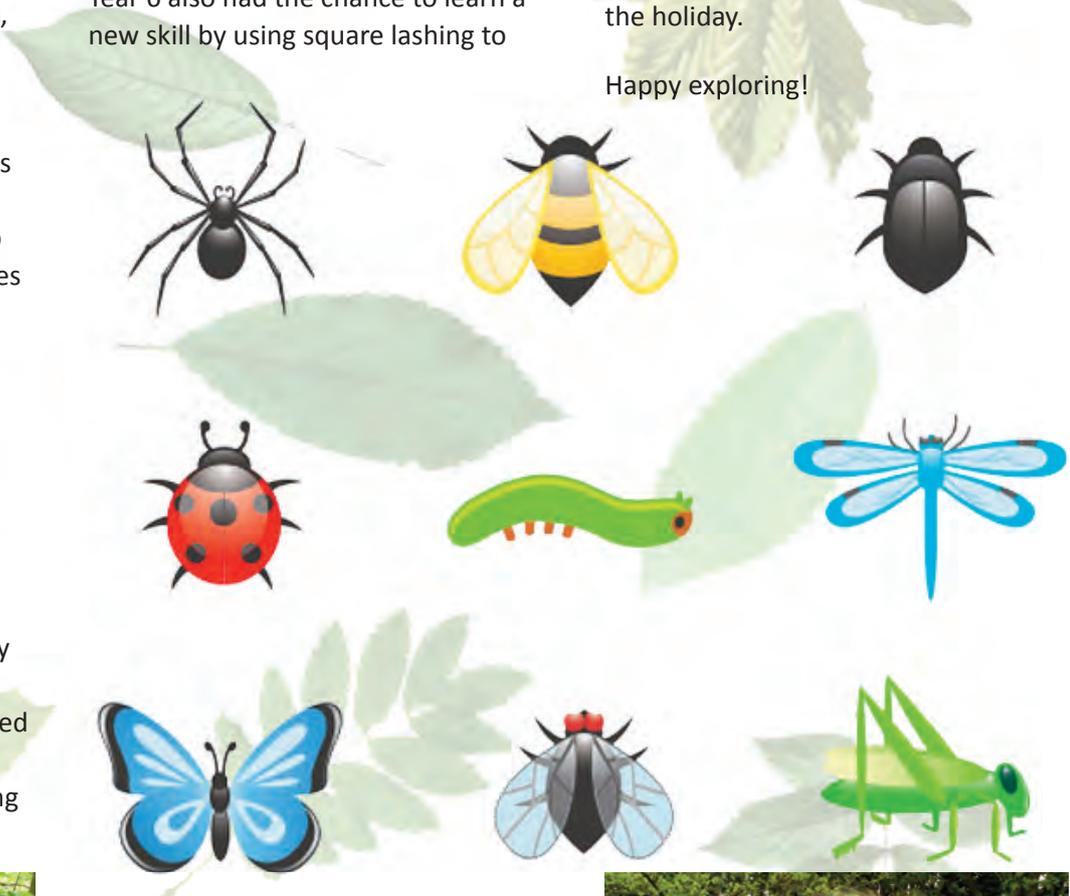
We were also excited to find a family of bluebirds nesting in our outdoor classroom roof! We've even managed to fit in a couple of sessions of toasting marshmallows, tree climbing and team games too.

Our Key Stage 2 outdoor learning sessions on Monday mornings have been really diverse in their curriculum focus areas. Year 3 began with a science topic by looking at plant lifecycles and seed dispersal. Then it was over to Ancient Egypt to cook some flat breads and create some fantastic clay cartouches. Year 5 created and decorated some beautiful willow fish, developing their knot tying skills and resilience along the way! Year 6 also had the chance to learn a new skill by using square lashing to

create a natural stick picture frame to mount a souvenir picture created by everyone in their class.

They had to really persevere with the knots but the results are looking amazing. One 'topic' was requested by all of the classes in Key Stage 2: toasting marshmallows on the fire; so I'm pleased to say that we've been able to fit that in for everyone too! I hope that you all have a lovely summer and that you have some exciting outdoor adventures during the holiday.

Happy exploring!





Our PTA have been busy behind the scenes during the summer term. We were involved in the organising the stalls for Queen's Jubilee celebration recently and we raised around £400 on the day.

Ice creams sales on Frozen Fridays have proved popular and have been a great treat for the children (and adults!) as well as helping with fund-raising.

The children also enjoyed our summer discos – our first disco for years and for many children, the first time they had ever experienced one! We raised around £550.

In terms of items we have bought, the money raised has been put to good use. The children each received a special commemorative bookmark to mark the Jubilee. We have also purchased a number of practical items for Reception for our younger learners.

We are planning to relaunch the PTA in the autumn term and we are always keen to involve more parents and carers in our activities. Look out for more information after the summer holiday!



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