



'Working & learning together with Jesus as one family'

HEADTEACHER NEWS LETTER
Friday 19th January 2018

'What are you looking for?'

In our Infant Assembly, we reflected on the disciples' joy in meeting Jesus and spending time with Him at His home. We agreed that the disciples would have wanted to tell everyone about their 'discovery'!

Juniors attended a presentation from the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust to thank the school for donating £526 last year and explain the aims and work of the Trust to pupils.

Our weekly 'basket collections' are held at Ealing Abbey at Friday morning mass. If every pupil donates 10p per week, we will raise sufficient funds for two children to travel to Lourdes this year.

So don't forget the Friday donation!

No January blues at St. Gregory's!

The Spring term is upon us and our pupils are energetic, focused and eager to learn!

.....so what have we been learning?

This week **Nursery** have been retelling and sequencing the story of Elmer. The children have completed Elmer sewing and collage activities. Reading books have gone home and the children are keen to learn their initial sounds. This week for home learning, children are being maths detectives and exploring numbers.

In **Reception**, our topic is transport for this term. This week, our focus has been on road safety, road signs and maps. The children have drawn some brilliant maps of their journey from home to School in their Literacy books.

We have also made some fantastic road signs and transport maps in Expressive Arts and Design. We will also be using our own road signs made by the children to change speed and direction during the Physical Education lesson.

We will be focusing on sequencing a train journey using pictures in Literacy.

In Maths we will be adding two groups of objects together and writing the number sentence.

In **Year 1** we have been learning to retell the story of The Jolly Postman through different actions, which we then performed to each other's classes. Now we are using the actions we learned to write our own version of the story.

We have also begun to look at the Arctic and all the differences between the UK and the Arctic.

Did you know Arctic temperatures can drop to -45 degrees in winter?!

Lastly we have been exploring the story of Moses from the book of Exodus and are beginning to look at how the Passover is remembered today.

This week in **Year 2** we have been looking at the location of hot and cold countries around the world and finding out why we have the four seasons. In Science we have been exploring uses of everyday materials and the difference between natural and manufactured materials. We have been learning about the Exodus story in RE and this week we retold the story of the tenth plague of Egypt and the Passover. We have continued to look at suffixes in English and have either been subtracting on a number line or solving missing number problems. We had great fun writing our own algorithms for making crazy characters in Computing. What a great week we've had!

In **Year 3**, we have enjoyed our first few weeks back after Christmas, busy learning about The Pied Piper of Hamelin in English. This week, the children have had the chance to showcase all of the literacy skills they have been working on while writing their diary entries from the point of view of the lead character in The Pied Piper of Hamelin. In History, we have started learning about The Romans, and linking this with our new RE topic 'Jesus at Prayer' by exploring the importance of timelines. The children have been using their Bibles to find out about Moses in the book of Exodus, understanding that this story, like all epics, is long with lots of complicated detail and events. But at the heart of it is a clear message:

God loves us and can do amazing things for us.

Year 4

Science: This week, the children have continued their understanding of the water cycle. They have seen how, even in 2018, some people in the world still have to walk for miles to collect water, but that naturally stored ground water can be 'harvested' for remote villages through the installation of water pumps. The children made working models of ground water pumps in their lesson, as the photos show.



English: The children are thoroughly enjoying our current study book, Cressida Cowell's Viking adventure story, 'How to Train Your Dragon'. They have been writing travel guides for the Isle of Berk, predicting what will happen next in the story and performing role plays in class of some of the story action!

History: Year 4 are certainly having a Viking-filled Spring Term! In History, the children have been learning about King Ethelred the Unready, and the introduction of Danegeld – an expensive form of protection money to stop the Vikings invading Britain again. The children listened to Rudyard Kipling's poem about Danegeld, then performed a poem through narration and mime in class this week.



In **5MP's assembly**, we found out all about the power of positive thinking and the importance of 'having a go!' to overcome barriers to learning. In **5KP's assembly**, pupils shared the joys of studying Shakespeare and greatly impressed their audience with their speaking and acting skills. And amazing memories for remembering all the lines faultlessly!
Well done to our Year 5 pupils and our sincere thanks to Miss. Pluckrose and Miss. Powell!

Since returning for the Spring Term, **Year 6** have been very busy. We have had special class masses and exciting biking afternoons. These have been very enjoyable! We have also started our new topic all about BRAZIL! As well as learning a range of facts about the fifth largest country on Earth, we have also created our own persuasive adverts, giving numerous reasons as to why tourists should visit this incredible country. We hope to share them with you in our upcoming Yr6 Parents Consultation Day.

A special message from one of our Year 6 pupils:

Hi! I'm Daniel Chifamba from 6HD and I was chosen to be Mascot for Arsenal FC

When I first found out I didn't really care but as the BIG day came closer I was more and more excited. We (by we, I mean me and my brother) left the house at 5:00 pm to arrive at 5:30 pm but we were a tiny bit late. As soon as we got there, we went inside Stamford Bridge Stadium and we met a lady who gave us our VIP badges. We went into this pretty cool room where there was lots of food and a PS4 in the corner. After a while we went into the tunnel where the changing rooms were. There was one changing room for Chelsea players and another for away players where the Arsenal players were. I entered the Arsenal changing room and I was amazed. I met all the players I used to watch on TV and I also met Arsenal Wenger (he is quite tall!). All the players were really nice and I even got them to sign my Arsenal shirt. The time had come. We got called to walk onto the pitch. I couldn't believe that I was walking into Stamford Bridge holding Jack Wilshere's hand. As the cameras pointed at me I stepped on the pitch, the noise was deafening! We shook the Chelsea players' hands and then went back to the stand to watch the match. What a wonderful and exciting day it was!

Progress and standards improvement

We are working hard to improve learning outcomes and maximise progress for all pupils in the school. Our assessment processes are rigorous and we can see the difference these are making in raising learning standards from Early Years to Year 6.

The improvements made between September 2016 and May 2017 time have been recognized and approved by Ofsted (HMI monitoring visit report on website). Real change, however, takes time to embed and our efforts are not yet reflected in St. Gregory's KS2 outcomes.

Our next, full inspection is due at the end of this academic year – we are hopeful that outcomes will reflect the numerous positive changes implemented since the last inspection demonstrating our ability to deliver sustained improvement across the school.

OTHER SCHOOL UPDATES :

Our parent Open Evenings for Reception-Year 5 classes will be held on 27th and 28th March this term. Year 6 Parent Consultation Day takes place on Monday 5th February 2018.

Reception – change to parent communication.

Please note that pupil learning for the upcoming week will be communicated to parents by email on Fridays. The email will take the place of the letter which has been distributed to parents to date.

Library volunteers urgently needed!

We are looking for new lunchtime volunteers in our school library. The library is open from 12:00 – 1:00 during the day and responsibilities include issuing books, reading with children and some organisation. The library is a wonderful place for children to visit during the school day but unfortunately we are unable to open it every day at the moment. Volunteering even fortnightly would be so helpful to our school community and really rewarding as well. Please contact the school office if you are interested.

P.E. & Sports Lessons – all pupils are expected to participate in P.E./Sports Lessons as part of their statutory entitlement. Pupils who are well enough to attend school, are well enough to play sports! Parents who wish to withdraw their child/ren from P.E. lessons for medical/health reasons must provide a note from their GP/consultant confirming reason for non-participation.

Please ensure that your child/ren has a P.E. kit in school at all times.

School & PTA Post Boxes – parents are requested to use the post-boxes for all mail for the school and/or PTA. **Please do not wait in line to hand in payments, letters etc.** The post-boxes are emptied every day.

Yr 6 Lunch payments to Harrisons – Parents are reminded that pupil 'accounts' for Year 6 children must be kept in credit to enable pupils to take cooked dinners. Please ensure you adhere to this requirement!

PTA Quiz

The PTA would like to invite you to an Australian Day themed Quiz (very few questions will be based on Australian knowledge!!) 7.30pm (for a prompt 8.00pm start) on Friday 26th January. Your team can comprise of parents from your child's class or bring a friend! There will be a maximum of 10 people to a team. Tickets are £8 each but please get your money in soon (complete the attached Quiz form and place with the correct amount of money into the PTA post box located in the school reception). The teacher's team is already swatting up! + 1 Attachment

PTA Newsletter

Please take time to read the attached PTA newsletter which will bring you up to speed on their fundraising activities including the hugely successful Christmas Bonanza.

PARKING UPDATES

We continue to experience problems with parent drivers whose driving/parking brings the school into disrepute on a daily basis. Inconsiderate, illegal parking puts our children at risk and damages relations with neighbours. We have received a number of calls from residents in Lanark Close and Stanley Court residents have now employed a parking company to issue fines to parents who use private parking places on a regular basis. The photos below show a number of offending vehicles. Is this your car?



