



HEADTEACHER NEWS LETTER

Friday 5th October 2018

October is the month of the Rosary

*The purpose of the Rosary is to help keep in memory certain principal events in the history of our salvation. There are twenty mysteries reflected upon in the Rosary; these are divided into the five Mysteries : **Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious.***

We will be learning more about the Rosary in our assemblies and in class this month.

REPORTS FROM THE SCHOOL LEARNING FRONT

On Thursday 4th October, St Gregory's celebrated **National Poetry Day**. The teachers and pupils all enjoyed reading and listening to a range of poems - some even had a chance to write, perform and act out favourite choices. It was a fantastic way to engage children in reading different genres, introduce new styles of writing and put everyone's creative talents to use. Y6 had a chance to learn some of Shel Silverstein's poetry - here are some pictures of them performing.



This week in **Nursery** we have been busy in our mud kitchen outside. We made a fire and made some pumpkin soup – role play! The children recalled the story and painted a pumpkin! We have introduced the role of prayer leaders. We will be starting next week with Arpi and Amy. Morning drop off is working very well and all children are coming into Nursery happy, so well done to all children and parents for supporting this. We are looking forward to our Harvest Liturgy next Thursday 11th October at 9.05 – with curriculum information afterwards, all in Nursery.



Reception have been learning all about birthday celebrations –our pupils have been making cards, cakes and birthday age badges. We also learned about how we celebrate birthdays around the world and the greetings we exchange. This was a wonderful opportunity for multi-cultural learning!

This week in **Year 1** we have been reading the book "Not a Stick". The children have really engaged with this text and have been inspired to create their own ideas for a 'not-a-stick'. It is encouraging to see so many children using their sounds to write independently! In Maths we have been learning about time. The children have enjoyed using our brand new maths resources and this has given them a real life context to their learning.

Year 2 have loved looking at more traditional tales in English. We read 'Goldilocks and the Three bears' and began planning our own interpretation of the story with a focus of using conjunctions. In Maths, children have been counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and using counting strategies to solve problems. Year 2 have also enjoyed RE lessons as we retold the story of Moses and The Burning Bush and explored biblical metaphors.

Year 3 have been fully immersed in their narrative story writing, moving onto the drafting of their superhero stories. Science has been enjoyed by all as the children have been sorting and comparing rocks by their properties. Now children are able to name several different types of rocks! In topic, the pupils have been learning about 4 figure grid references, symbols and keys – try looking at a map together at home to see what your child can recognise!

Year 4 have had the wonderful and unique experience of visiting St. Augustine's School Farm this week. The children were able to feed and pet the tame hens, pigs and sheep that are kept on site. These informative visits have helped to deepen the children's descriptive writing vocabulary as we continue to study our class text, *Charlotte's Web*. As an added bonus, Year 4 are now also able to tell the key differences between straw and hay. Ask them to explain! Our thanks go to St. Augustine's School for hosting these visits, and especially Mr. Raffray, who shared his wealth of knowledge of the farm animals with all the children. In Science, we have been finding out how the human ear functions in order to receive sounds and have also learned how deaf people communicate using sign language. We even practised some signing in class. In R.E., the children have been learning about the metaphorical meanings behind the story of *The Parable of the Sower* in Luke's Gospel.



This week in **Year 5**, we have been focusing on writing character descriptions from our book 'Why the Whales Came'. We have worked hard to ensure we are using a wider range of vocabulary to describe what a character looks like and how they act. We have also been learning about the Ancient Egyptians and have found out that they worshiped many different gods and goddesses. We are looking forward to our Ancient Egyptians Day on the 17th of October, where we will dress up as Egyptian gods, pharaohs or mummies.

Year 6 have once again impressed their teachers this week, having demonstrated great skill and resilience during their writing lessons this week. The children are practising using a wide range of clause structures for effect to create the story of the mysterious disappearance of one of the characters from our class novel, The Silver Sword. All the children have enjoyed sharing their stories with their peers – and have 'magpied' some inspirational vocabulary to use in their own work! In history, the children also learnt about the period known as the 'phoney war'. They became history investigators for the afternoon, finding historical evidence to support a series of statements about this unusual period of time. We are looking forward to finding out more about the war in two weeks, as we undertake our visit to the RAF Museum in Hendon!

Staff updates

Mrs. Dell will be starting her maternity leave next week and leaves us today. We wish Mrs. Dell all the very best for the arrival of her baby and look forward to hearing the good news!

Miss. Keane is getting married this weekend. We wish Miss. Keane and her husband to-be all the very for their future lives together. Miss. Keane returns to school next week.

Ofsted Report

We have been advised that the school's Ofsted report will be shared with the school next week. Parents will receive the report prior to its publication on the Ofsted website. We will be holding a meeting for parents on Friday 12th October at 4.30 pm and 6.30pm by way of outcomes debrief. A text will be sent out next week confirming meeting times.

Notice from Ealing Abbey:

We have been asked to make parents aware of the work of Ealing Abbey in dealing with the aftermath of child sexual abuse. The Abbey are holding a National One Day Conference on Sunday 21st October entitled 'Growing in Connectedness – Healing the History of Child Sexual Abuse'

Full details can again be found on the Ealing Abbey Website

<https://ealingmonks.org.uk/connectedness/>

Registrations can be made through

<https://healinghistorylondon.eventsmart.com/events/growing-into-connectedness/>

PTA News Update

AGM

The PTA would like to thank all those who attended the AGM last Thursday. The confirmed elected PTA members are as follows.

Gemma Outten - Co-chair (returning)
Chantain Thomas - Co-chair (returning)
Aoife Fryatt - Co-treasurer (returning)
Tracy Holland - Co-treasurer (returning)
Maxina Studnik - Co-secretary (newly elected)
Despina Garcia - Co-secretary (newly elected)

The PTA are very happy to welcome Maxina and Despina as our new secretaries. We would like to extend a very warm and heartfelt thank you to exiting Co-Chair, Monica Bryce, exiting Secretary, Emily O'Meara, and exiting Class Representative Coordinator, Caroline Devlin, for their tireless hard work over the previous academic year. Their dedication to the PTA and school is exemplary and we have been very fortunate to have the benefit of their time, energy and talents.

PTA Roles Yet To Be Filled

The PTA have a number of roles and positions still vacant, including Raffle Coordinators, Events coordinators and Sponsorship coordinators. All PTA positions can be shared between individuals and we are happy for people to volunteer on a temporary basis should that be more suitable. The full list of vacant PTA roles will be posted on the PTA page on the school website. We strongly encourage parents to peruse the various roles and we look forward to as many parents as possible getting involved in the various PTA activities over the year ahead. We are particularly keen to fill the aforementioned roles (raffle, events, sponsorship) as these are particularly vital to the fundraising activities of the PTA.

Next PTA Meeting

The next PTA meeting will take place 8pm on Tuesday 16th October in the Ealing Abbey Coffee Shop. All welcome!