

Autumn 2
December 2019



ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

NEWS FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Here we are at the end of another term, another year and indeed another decade! As the autumn draws into winter and all the delights of the Christmas season approach, we can reflect on all the wonderful things that have been happening in our school over the term.

It has been lovely watching all our new YR children settle into school life and come into school beaming and excited about what they will be learning. Indeed all our children share this sense of enjoyment about their learning and it is one of the things that makes our school such a special place to be.

Fr Ross, our new parish priest, has been making his presence felt throughout the school and we are delighted that he takes the time out of his busy schedule to visit us several times a week and lead our weekly whole school liturgy. He has helped us get our new Pupil Chaplaincy Team off the ground and next term, we will be leading the parish Sunday Mass once a month to help strengthen our links with the parish.

We've been particularly proud to be part of the Archie Project this term, which helps children to understand some of the difficulties encountered by the elderly in our community. Y4 have visited a care home and spent time with the residents and in turn been visited by the residents and carers in school. Staff and children have said they feel inspired and privileged to be part of this and it is yet another way that St Patrick's can further its Catholic mission in the local community.

As usual, the school has resounded with Christmas songs and music and everywhere you go, you see shepherds, wise men, sheep, donkeys and even the odd teacher wearing a Santa hat! The SPSA Christmas Market was a resounding success and I am so grateful to all the parents and staff who worked hard to make it possible.

As we all now prepare for a wonderful celebration of the birth of Our Lord, may I and all the staff of St Patrick's wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2020.

Mr Lobo

Dates for your calendar

- **Friday 20th December—Last Day of Term—Children finish at 1:30pm**
- **Monday 6th January—First Day Back at School**
- **W/C Monday 6th January—Year 5 Bikability**
- **Tuesday 11th February—Safer Internet Day**
- **Friday 14th February—Last Day of Term**
- **W/C Monday 17th February—HALF TERM**
- **Monday 24th February—Staff Training Day—School Closed**
- **Tuesday 25th February—First Day Back at School**

Year R Christmas Adventures!

Christmas Nativity

The children have worked really hard at preparing a Nativity production for you and the school to enjoy. They have learnt about the birth of Jesus, as well as a range of traditional and modern Christmas carols and songs. We have been really impressed with their commitment and determination to learn the words and actions for their roles in the production. Considering that many of them are still only 4, it is very impressive for them



The Great Year R Christmas Bake Off!

We have been busy making our Christmas shortbread biscuits. The children have really enjoyed learning how to measure and mix ingredients to make biscuits and decorating them in a festive way. We are really impressed with the designs that the children have chosen and we hope you enjoy eating them!



Year 1

We are really pleased with how well the children have settled into Year 1 since September and they have grown so much in just a few months. It's been a busy term with lots of learning and festive fun! They have enjoyed going to their different phonics groups every day and in Maths we have been learning about number value and addition. We will be moving on to subtraction in the New Year. The children are very excited about Christmas and have worked hard in R.E. learning about Advent and how we prepare during this time for the birth of Jesus. Our topic this term has been all about toys and we had a fantastic day on our trip to Milestones back in November where they learnt a lot about old toys throughout the years. We think that the Year 1 children really deserve the festive break as they have worked so hard! We would like to wish you a wonderful Christmas and we will see you all in 2020!





YEAR 2

The children have settled into Year 2 very well and have been enjoying lots of new learning this year. The children have been immersed into the world of Roald Dahl and have managed to read a wide range of his books because of their enthusiasm and engagement. We have stepped up a gear with our Maths, and have been learning new methods for adding and subtracting. In our Topic we have been doing exciting activities around polar regions and researching how the animals survive in their habitats. For the past few weeks we have been working extremely hard on our Christmas Nativity production called 'Superstar'. The children have loved taking part in this and have been a real credit to our school and their families for conducting themselves so professionally on stage. We hope you enjoyed our performances. The children absolutely loved our end of term treat of watching a movie in their pyjamas along with the teachers. They have worked so hard and deserved this festive treat! We look forward to more learning and activities in the Spring Term. All of the adults wish you and your families and very happy and holy Christmas.



YEAR 3

Year 3 are currently studying the Stone Age through to the Bronze Age and had the opportunity to visit Butser Ancient Farm. They participated in a variety of workshops that included: building a wattle fence; jewellery making; archaeology; and chalk carving.



Year 4

Egyptologists!

This term has been all about Ancient Egypt, mystery and magic. We have been studying how the Ancient Egyptians lived, discovering the secrets of the mummification process and reading up on the mysteries that surrounded the lost tombs of famous Pharaohs such as Tutankhamun and Nebamun. We looked at hieroglyphics, artwork and symbols that surrounded the burial process and how these were incorporated throughout the tombs and artefacts hidden in the Valley of the Kings. Our trip to the British Museum was the highlight of this term and the children thoroughly enjoyed being up close and personal with some real-life artefacts from over 3000 years ago!



The Archie Project

This term we also launched The Archie Project. Over the coming year, the children will learn about dementia and how it affects many people living with the condition and their families. We have already met Archie (a lovable scarecrow), discovered the difficulties he faces due to dementia and what we can do to help those who are affected. We have been visited by some residents of Dawson Lodge and some children have visited them in their care home to sing some carols too! We look forward to continuing the project next term, where we will visit Dawson Lodge again and share different activities together with the residents.

It's been a very busy term and the children are really working hard on their TTRockstars! It's lovely to see how much progress they're making with their times tables so keep it up over the Christmas break. I wonder who will have the most correct answers by January?

Have a wonderful Christmas! See you all in 2020!

Mrs Claridge and Mrs Thomas



Year 5 Investigate: The Victorians and Forces of Change!

Year five have had an amazing, fact-filled first term! Through our topic, they have learnt about the highs and lows of Victorian Britain. Our book, 'Street Child,' guided the children on a journey through the underbelly of the Victorian world seen through the eyes of a young street boy. The children have been captivated and shocked in equal measures to learn of the plight of young children during this era. They have contrasted their own lives with those of the time which has given them a greater understanding of the privileges and opportunities that they enjoy in their own lives, today! However, this has highlighted the suffering and inequalities still endured by millions of children around the world. This has led them towards the theme of philanthropy and tackling social injustice. They have researched the enormous social and economic changes that took place during Queen Victoria's reign and looked specifically at the work of William Morris, and Doctor Barnardo in influencing positive change. The children are currently producing their range of William Morris inspired art products to raise money and awareness for children less fortunate than themselves.

As part of our cross-curricular unit the children enjoyed an exciting trip to Osborne house! Queen Victoria's spectacular, family palace on the Isle of Wight was a trip across the Solent as well as a voyage of discovery. The children stepped into Queen Victoria's shoes and were enthralled by the beauty and craftsmanship of the house and gardens.

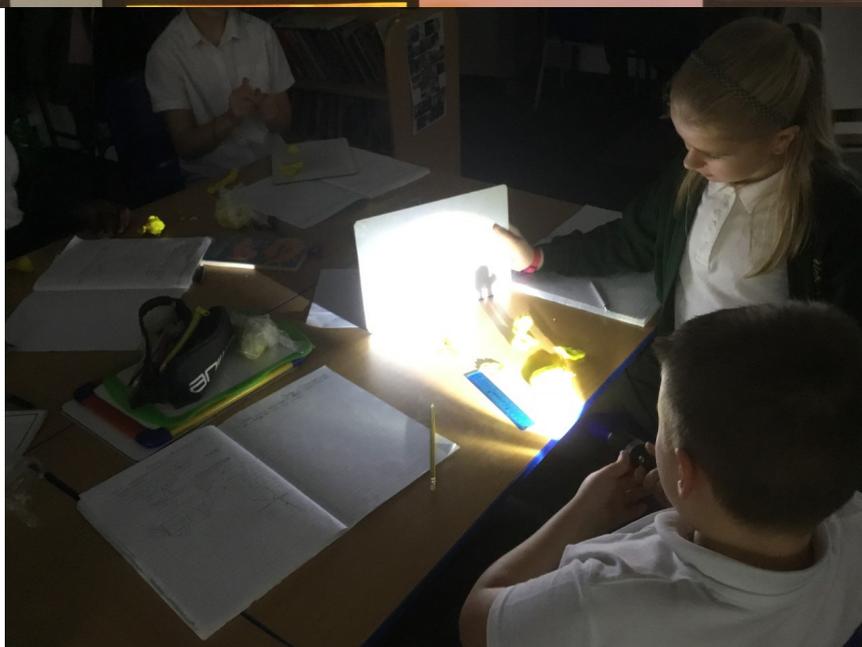


Once back on terra firma, we went on to explore the incredible innovation and discovery which occurred during the Victorian age, both at home and abroad. We examined the role of the forgotten female inventors and were not surprised to learn that the first computer programmer was a woman, Ada Lovelace, and that wind-screen wipers were also invented by a lady, Mary Anderson, amongst other world-changing innovations that we take for granted today. Next we explored technology during a fabulous hands-on science day, learning about gravity, forces, friction and simple machines, and how they have changed our lives for the better. The message we wish to impart on the children this term is that everything starts with an idea, and blossoms through hard work, perseverance and the collective drive to reach for a dream. Please support our young entrepreneurs and their efforts to change the world and look out for their William Morris inspired artwork, available in the Spring.

YEAR 6

This term in Year 6 we have been having a fantastic time in science studying Light. It has been a lot of fun, blacking out the room and investigating how we can both reflect and refract light waves! Our favourite investigation was when we investigated how to alter the length of shadows. We found out that the length and direction of the shadow formed depended on the angle of the light source in relation to the object and also how far away it was.

'The children went on to combine their work on light and shadows with their work in English on *The Last Wild* by Piers Torday. The story deals with a world where animals barely exist and the pictures capture the desolate feel of the story'.



Dawson Lodge Care Home

Some Year 4 children went to visit Dawson's Lodge Care home and sang carols with them.



Guildhall

Our choir performed at the Guildhall Christmas Concert at the beginning of the month, they were amazing and did us all proud.

Sports Events

This term has been a busy one yet again, for all our teams. We have seen the boys and girls football teams go up against the schools in the east side of our city. We have got 2 new basketball teams for our school, playing in several tournaments this term. A group of children also went to the Basketball Festival at Redbridge Community School.

St Patrick's were also invited to be Flag Wavers at Southampton V Watford Match on Saturday 30th November. We were so proud of the children that represented St Patrick's School.