

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

2017

SPECIAL GUEST ARRIVES FROM PAW PATROL THANKS TO THE PTA!

The Autumn term has been a huge success for our PTA and we are incredibly grateful for the support parents / guardians have offered. We are so fortunate to have such a committed group who are keen to fund-raise for our children. If you would like to be involved with the PTA in the Spring term, please contact Mr Jevons - we would love to expand the group.

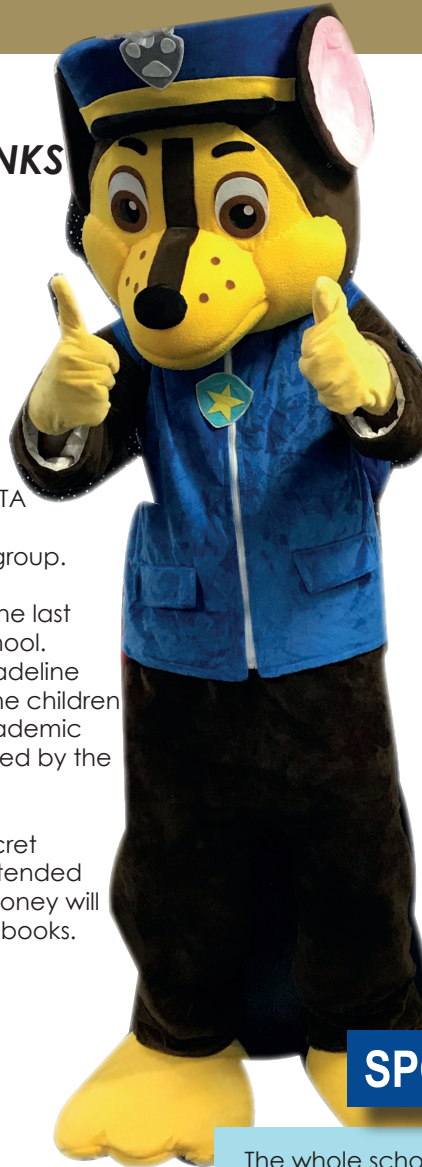
The PTA have been working hard over the last year to raise funds for new books for school. Earlier in the term, school staff visited Madeline Lindley and purchased new books for the children using funds raised from the previous academic year - these books are now being enjoyed by the children across the school.

More recently, our school disco and Secret Santa events were enjoyed and well-attended by the children, raising over £350. This money will be used towards purchasing more new books.

Many thanks to our PTA members who supported the St Bernard's Little Bears Christmas Fair - this was another huge success and will help improve resources in the provision.

LEARNING POWER APPROACH

This term we have started a new approach to Learning Powers with a new look Learning Lounge (now called The Power Station), a new team of children from the Juniors who champion the Learning Powers - The Learning Power Ambassadors and a new range of powers to look at. We have kick started the term with Curiosity and Attention. Learning Powers were originally designed by Guy Claxton who has previously visited the school and who is co-author visited us after half term. She was very impressed with how well Learning Powers are fed into school life and how well the children could use them. We will be striving to build on this further after Christmas by designing some very exciting resources for all children, with an extra focus on our youngest learners.



AUTUMN UPDATE

This term all classes have continued to follow 'The Way the Truth The Life'. The liturgical life of school has meant children have taken part in many meaningful liturgies and in this season of Advent, prayer stations have been established around school for all the children in school to experience Advent in a meaningful way. All classes have taken part in class masses and as Bishop Mark announced that next year is the 'Year Of The Eucharist' understanding the different aspects of mass will be explored further with the children next term. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our families for the support they have given to our charity events in this term including Harvest Gifts, Children in Need and Operation Christmas Child. Our Year Three children have also continued on their sacramental journey making their first forgiveness and we ask you to keep them in your prayers as they continue onto their First Holy Communion.

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

The whole school have enjoyed taking part in PE lessons. We put our skills to use in a whole school tag rugby tournament. Our house teams formed our tag rugby teams and we played each other in our classes and key stages. **St Theresa's house won!**

We have entered lots of competitions outside of school including: Dodge-ball, Tag rugby, Cross country, Quick sticks and Football

All the children who have represented St Bernard's have shown great sportsmanship and we are really proud of them.

We are looking forward to the Spring term where we will be taking part in a whole school outdoor activity competition. We will also be entering more external competitions and we are being visited by the Olympic Paralympic cyclist, Craig McCann.



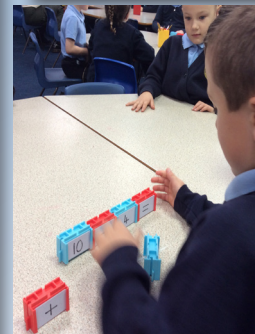
So much has been happening in every year team, take a look!

Team Reception have amazed us all with how well they've settled into school life. They have a real love of learning and eagerly come in each morning, excited to start the day. Many adults and visitors to the school have commented on how independent and well mannered they all are - a big thank you to all our families for supporting your children with these important skills. This term the children have particularly enjoyed 'Our people who help us' and have had many visitors such as the builders, vets, hairdressers and a chef from local companies coming to talk to us and share in our role play experiences.

Recently the children have worked particularly hard with all their Nativity practises and last week put on an amazing nativity with all the children happily singing with confidence in front of a busy audience. In the Spring term, we will be looking at the connector 'Snow and Ice' and will have a particular focus on the understanding of the world, looking at a range of science and geography based activities.



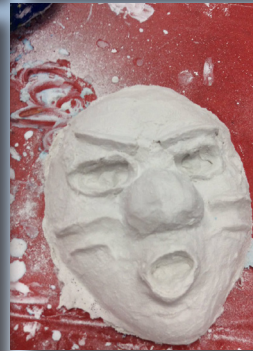
Team 1 have made a fantastic start to the year. We fully immersed ourselves in our first connector, 'Dreams'. We enjoyed learning about ourselves and our local area. We went on a local area walk, and explored the library, Action Transport Theatre and spent time exercising in Ellesmere Port Sports Village. We thought about our local area and went on a treasure hunt that the characters, 'The Beasties' left for us. Recently, we have been learning all about Christmas around the world and Christmas in the past. We have put Christmas events from the past on a time-line and we have been flying around the world on Santa's sleigh visiting lots of exciting places. We have done some great learning about Paris in France and Sydney in Australia, as well as Ellesmere Port. We went on an amazing trip to Norton Priory and celebrated a Victorian Christmas. We loved dressing up and playing with traditional Victorian toys and making Christmas decorations for the tree. We also put on a wonderful Nativity performance where we sang and acted confidently and happily in front of a huge audience. After Christmas, we will continue to work on our 'Explore' connector. We are exploring the North Pole and learning about polar bears. In science, we will be researching different materials to keep the polar bears warm and dry and using lots of questions to find out more information.



Team 2 have had a great start to the year. The children enjoyed their first connector 'Reflect' where we spent time reflecting on how much we knew about ourselves. This included looking at where we are from and learning about our continent, country and all about our hometown. We explored our hometown through map work and a highlight of this term was our local area walk. Our walk took us to the local library, we had lunch in Action Transport Theatre and then spend the afternoon at the Ellesmere Port Sports Village. The children enjoyed exploring their local area and tracked their journey on a map. The children in Team 2 have also loved finding out more about our authors of the half term - Anthony Browne and Oliver Jeffers. As well as enjoying stories read by Mr Brassington and Miss Bush the children have been regularly reading books to each other to share their favourite stories. A highlight of this term was the children's amazing performance in 'The Amazing Advent Calendar' - all children worked so hard to put together an amazing show.



Team 3 have made a great start to life in the Juniors. Their interests in natural disasters helped to design the curriculum. They took their learning home with them and studied natural disasters happening around the world, especially in Mexico and America. We focused on studying volcanoes, hurricanes, tsunamis and earthquakes. A highlight was working in teams to build a volcano; it was wonderful to see their faces when they erupted. They also collaborated to build a structure using spaghetti and marshmallows. The children thought carefully about the design and were proud to share them with the class. It was fun to put them through an earthquake test. They timed how long it took for their buildings to collapse. The children were particularly proud of their cafe challenge and enjoyed the experience of baking cakes and serving the customers, a big thank you for everyone who attended. Our next connector is called 'Shelter'. During this connector we will be exploring how life changed from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. We are looking forward to welcoming an archaeologist to come and speak to the children. As part of this connector we will be exploring what it is like to be homeless.

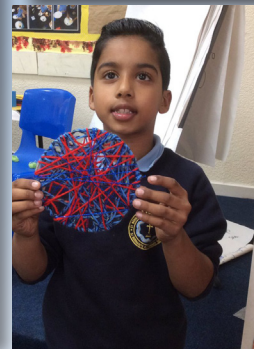


Team 4 have witnessed some strange things happening this term. The sun turned red the same day our classroom was trashed so a thorough investigation was in order to identify our visitor. Team 4 were up for the challenge - turns out it was a Fantastic Beast. It all turned out well in the end though - thank goodness!

Greek food was on the menu in T4 and we loved making and eating our Greek pitta's - delicious!

International Dot Day was a dream of a day as we made our mark and dream catchers were the end result, each a representation of our uniqueness and when joined together, an amazing piece of art!

Performing is where team 4 shine the brightest, with class and individual singers producing outstanding work and Incredible dancers putting so much effort into their performance, Bravo team 4! Next connector is 'BEYOND' and the Romans are coming - we can't wait for the adventures ahead!



Team 5 have made an amazing start to the year. We have really enjoyed immersing ourselves into what life was like during the Mayan civilization. We particularly enjoyed the geography aspect of this connector, developing our map skills and exploring the countries of Central America. The children also really enjoyed learning about the different types of masks the Mayan civilization used to wear; celebration masks; death masks and battle masks. A highlight of this connector was creating their own Mayan masks using modroc. This day was loved by all! Children learned about the foods that the Mayan civilization used to eat, most importantly, they liked making the hot chocolate the noblemen and priests used to drink. Some loved it, some didn't!

In the Spring term, we will be starting our 'Warrior' connector. We will be exploring how Britain has been influenced by the wider world, mainly the Viking invasion and settlement. We will be using the books Beowulf and The Selfish Giant to support our learning throughout our Connector and English.



Team 6 have had a great start to the year, immersing ourselves fully into our learning. We have particularly enjoyed our first Connector - 'Power' which involved learning about WW1 and WW2. We have enjoyed learning more about WW1 and the battle of Gallipoli in 'The Incredible Tale of Ali Pasha' and war from the perspective of a Jewish orphan in 'Once'. We are very proud of our creative connector books that show our learning of the war. Key areas that we studied include: the impact that war has on people's lives, during and after; using historical evidence to make an informed conclusion and understanding cause and the resulting effect. Our local history study took us into the lives of people living in Liverpool during The Blitz and were able to empathise with children who were evacuated during that time.

In the Spring term, we are looking forward to starting our geography based Connector - The Island. We will be using the books of Kiran Millwood Hargrave as inspiration for both Connector and English.



In the last few weeks, the children have led us in some wonderful reflections and a brilliant Nativity in KS1. Throughout all events, the children helped us to think about the true meaning of Christmas. With such a busy time for many, it has been important for us to stop and reflect on how we prepare ourselves through this time of advent.

KEY DATES SPRING 1 2018



Wednesday 10th January	TR, 4 & 6 Jungle Book 10am
Wednesday 10th January	T1 & 5 Jungle Book 1pm
Thursday 11th January	T2 & 3 Jungle Book 1pm
Wednesday 17th January	T1 & 6 Gardening
Friday 19th January	Class Mass-T2/3/5
Tuesday 23rd January	INSET DAY- School Closed
Monday 29th January	T3 Stone Age Workshop
Wednesday 31st January	T2 & 5 Gardening
Wednesday 31st January	T6 Assembly
Thursday 1st February	Class Mass-T1/4
Friday 16th February	Class Mass-TR/T6

Message from Mr Moor

I would like to thank everyone for their support throughout the term. Partnership is at the core of any successful school so we hope that our work will continue together into 2018 and beyond.

I hope that everyone takes the time to rest and enjoy this holiday season. Both myself and Mr Jevons wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas. We look forward to seeing you all in 2018.