



# St Bernard's

## Spring Review 2018

*'To grow, love and learn following Jesus'*

### Message from the Principal

It has been another action packed term at St Bernard's with so much going on across the school. We have been very proud of the achievements made by your children. You can see from the newsletter today the exciting activities that they have been taking part in and i'm sure many of you have shared in many of the events. One of these a few weeks ago showed the talents of our school choir as they performed at the Story House. The children did the whole school community proud. Another high point was the celebration of our work in the Guardian Newspaper. Children from KS2 spoke so confidently to reporters and I was very proud to see their words for all to read.

We have shared some very thoughtful reflections this week and all classes have helped make this special time time to remember. Throughout Lent our stay and pray sessions have been wonderfully led by the children so I would urge you all to come along to the next one you are able to. We aim to have more of these throughout the year. As we move towards the end of holy week we think about the passion of Our Lord and all those across our world who are experiencing challenge and difficulty. Following on from this, I hope that you will be able to make it to the services at our churches over the Easter break (details at the back of this newsletter) as I know Fr Niall would love to see you there.

That leaves me to say thank you for all your support this term and from all the staff, we wish you a peaceful and happy holiday.

### Learning Powers

We have had a fantastic term exploring more of the learning powers from the new Learning Power Approach. Our focus has been on Socialising, Reflecting and Determination and the children are much more confident in how they talk about their learning. Children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 are enjoying using the Learning Power Pets (the animal puppets in the photo) to stretch their learning muscles.

Mrs Suddaby and the Learning Power Ambassadors spent a day at Chester Zoo to learn more about animals and how they behave in the wild. They got to interview, Amy, a very knowledgeable zoo keeper who provided them with lots of great information and video footage of the animals. In the summer term they will be using all of what they recorded to make an exciting new Learning Power resource for the whole school!



# Whole School Highlights

## Olympian Visit

GB Paralympic Fencer and Cyclist, Craig McCann came to visit and ran our Sports for Schools sponsorship day. Thank you to everyone who helped to raise money.



## Amazing

Everyone was extremely proud of our school choir who performed on the Storyhouse stage in Chester. They wowed the audience with a pop mega mix, a rendition of a Bob Marley classic



## Fair Trade Fortnight



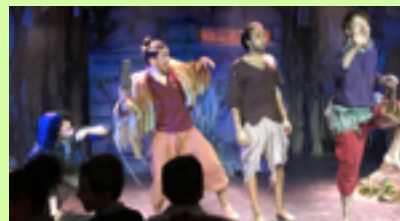
Our Team 6 pupils selling Fair Trade products after school.

## World Book Day



## Jungle Book

All the children at St Bernard's absolutely loved our trip to Whitby Theatre to see the Jungle Book.



## Rocket Man- STEAM Co.



Our children got to experience a real life rocket launch whilst learning about the exciting opportunities available through Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths.

## Team R

The first topic the children explored this term was 'Snow and Ice' and they all particularly enjoyed the text 'The magical snow garden'. They focussed on creating lists and planning their own magical garden for a snowy day before having an afternoon of using as many creative resources as they could to create a magical garden in pairs. Socialising Songbird was on full alert on this particular afternoon and spotted great collaboration within our class which was great to see. Whilst studying this text, the children were also able to experience real snow and had fun working together to create snow balls as well as practising their number and letter formation in the snow. In RE the children had a lovely wedding ceremony as part of their topic and brought in lots of family photographs of weddings and enjoyed the opportunity of sharing their own memories of a happy event.

To introduce our topic 'Are we nearly there yet?' the children had an amazing fun packed day at Manchester airport taking part in lots of role play opportunities and finding out about all the different types of planes we can travel on.

The day was a great success and one that all the children and adults will remember for a long time to come.

Our topic will continue next half term and the children are excited about continuing with our most recent text 'The Journey home'. We are all waiting to find out what Hattie Peck the hen is going to do on her adventures next with her very unique family.

We've lots of lovely activities planned and we're also hoping to get our outdoor learning sessions back up and running as the weather starts to improve again.

Mrs Thomson and Miss Parsons



## Team 1

This term we have been learning how to 'Explore'. We began by following the journey of a polar bear as he tried to find a new home because the ice was melting. On his journey, he met some new friends who were losing their homes too. We did some amazing writing focusing on our empathy learning muscle. In Maths, we have been learning all about measuring things, identifying shapes and securing our understanding of the number system by comparing numbers to forty. We have learnt what an algorithm is in computing, learnt how to mix different colours to make tints and shades in art and even tried our hands at cooking when we made fruit kebabs.

We have done some wonderful work about our Learning Powers and are becoming fantastic at talking about the learning muscles that are helping us.

The highlights have been going to the theatre to see The Jungle Book, our drama workshop about a polar bear and our amazing Art Gallery where we invited our parents to come and see our wonderful work.

Next term we are looking forward to learning about the history of toys and having our own Teddy Bear's Picnic, as well as continuing to develop our learning muscles to help us in all other areas of the curriculum. We can't wait!

Miss Paton and Mr Ashbrooke



## Team 2

This term we have been following our connector 'Grow'. Through the story 'Jack and the Baked Bean Stalk' the children have explored how and where things grow. They have put their science skills to the test and were expert geographers, exploring how climate zones effect growth across the planet. In Design and technology they have sampled foods from across different climate zones and perfected their food preparation skills. It has been wonderful to see them developing their dance techniques in P.E, where they have performed the poem 'Shadow, Shadow' through dance.

The highlights have been children developing their learning powers, especially in writing. There has been a massive improvement in their collaboration skills, giving each other feedback. They thoroughly enjoyed performing the song 'My Lighthouse' to the whole school.

Next term we are looking forward to exploring our new connector 'Soar' in more depth. We started by visiting Manchester Aviation Park where we had a great time exploring the planes. Our new book follows the journey of a young girl who dreams of being an engineer.

Mr Brassington and Miss Bush



## Team 3

This term the children have really enjoyed exploring life in the Stone Age through to the Iron Age. They have developed their questioning skills and compared how life changed over the period. The children discovered how intelligent people were to make the new inventions e.g. making bronze tools. A highlight was when Mr and Mrs Trevor came to teach us about being archeologists.

They used all of their new knowledge to plan a museum for parents, which will open on the first day back. This project gave the children the opportunity to develop their computing skills. They are very excited to share their work with you all. You can also watch their fantastic Stone Age animations. We hope to see you there.

Art is a popular area of the curriculum. During this connector the children have explored cave art and produced their own designs, which developed into creating a clay tile. The children are using their attention skills to compare different images in art and identify features they liked. From this they created their own painting of Stonehenge.

Our next connector is called Transformation. Through this connector we will discover early civilisations and explore how the UK has changed. There will be opportunities to combine geography and art to create wonderful map projects. This will start during our fieldwork trip to Llandudno. We have introduced P4C into Team 3 (Philosophy for children), which will continue next half term. The children have the opportunity to discuss topical issues and appreciate other viewpoints.

Miss Worthington, Miss Yeoman and Miss Byrne



## Team 4

This term we have thoroughly enjoyed exploring life in the Roman era. Children have developed their enquiry skills and made many new discoveries about the impact of the Roman Empire on Britain both past and present. Children have developed their drawing skills this term and have thoroughly enjoyed paying close attention to detail when sketching.

Using 'Austin's Butterfly' as inspiration for showing great determination and the impact of clear feedback. In Maths, Team Four have developed a range of skills and have been incredibly keen to learn how to tell the time using both digital and analogue clocks.

A highlight of this was a visit from Mrs Kidd who told us tales of a soldier in captivity. Children were required to empathise with the character through role play and creating diary entries.

Next term we are looking forward to a geography and science based connector with substantial links to PSHE. Studying Anthony Browne's book 'King Kong' in English, we will be identifying links between animals and humans and exploring who we are as people. Children will be asked to develop empathy skills further by looking beyond the exterior and beneath the surface.

Miss Kennedy, Miss Foy and Mr Day



## Team 5

This term we have thoroughly enjoyed learning about what it means to be a 'Warrior'. We have used the text 'Beowulf' to support our curiosity. We have completed some amazing non-fiction writing where children had to discuss the similarities and differences between two mythical creatures. We have explored what life was like during the Viking and Anglo Saxon struggle over Britain. We investigated the main Kingdoms of the Vikings and how names of Viking settlements are still around today. In maths, we have been learning about fractions; adding, subtracting, multiplying, and converting. Our learning powers have supported us with all aspects of the curriculum, especially reflecting.

The main highlight of this term was our fabulous trip to Conway. We collaborated and persevered at many adventurous activities; raft building, rock climbing, canoeing, bush crafts. All children loved it!

Next term we are looking forward to a geography based connector focusing on Europe. Continuing our text 'The Darkest Dark' in English, we will be writing biographies about the main character. We will be investigating and exploring forces - Friction, air resistance and gravity.

Mr Evans and Miss Hutchinson



## Team 6

This term we have been learning about 'The Island'. We have been reading 'The Girl of Ink and Stars' as inspiration for our writing. We have explored what it may be like to live on an isolated island and thought about what the people living there would need to do to become a successful community. To help us to design our own islands, we have looked at climate zones, geographical features and map reading symbols. We have further investigated how these help us to identify places around the world. In science, we have learned about evolution and inheritance and discovered different traits that we have in class. We have also been working hard with our reading, grammar and maths to help us to achieve our very best in SATs next term.

The highlights have been our assembly about the Polish Priest, Maximilian Kolbe. The children really enjoyed learning about him and his selfless act during the Second World War. In addition to this, the children enjoyed learning and performing 'Living on a Prayer' to the rest of the school during our music celebration. We also had the opportunity to make our own rockets and see how far they could fly.

Next term we are looking forward to continuing with 'The Island' and applying our knowledge to design our own. After completing our SATs we will be doing a whole school project linked to the zoo. In science we will be looking further in animals and their habitats and applying this knowledge into our whole school project.

Miss Senior and Miss Tudor



## Little Bears

Highlights from this term include celebrating Chinese New Year, the snow day, and finding ways to strength our upper body to help us grip pencils to become marvellous mark makers!

To kickstart our Chinese New Celebrations we read the story 'Cleversticks' about a little boy, Ling Sung, who thought he couldn't do anything, but soon realised everyone admired how he could manipulate paintbrushes like chopsticks. We discussed how we are all good at different things and this makes us individual and unique. Following this we used chopsticks to eat vegetable black bean noodles with some success!!

In 'Little Bears' we love to play outside regardless of the weather. At the end of February we were treated to a snow day! After we were 'suited and booted' we embarked on snowball fights and snowman building!

A big focus this term has been activities to promote upper body strength to; these include using the climbing frame, aiming and throwing, crawling through tunnels and sliding along benches.

The Little Bears Team





## St Bernard's PTA

The PTA have been working hard to raise funds for school this term. Events have included an Easter craft workshop, an Easter egg hunt and of course the Easter Fair which raised over £570. Next half term they will be selling school tea towels to help raise more funds. We would like to thank them for all their hard work.



## Sporting Achievements

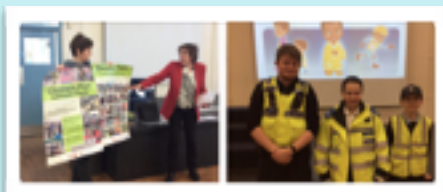
We have continued our success in promoting sport at St Bernard's this term. We have attended football competitions for Years 1, 2, 5 and 6 where the children all showed great sporting skills. Year 5 attended a whole class athletics competition and two representatives from Year 5 were trained to be Change 4 Life Champions. Year 5 took part in the Street Dance Festival, which was a huge success and we were so proud of their performance on the night. We also took part in a netball competition and several cross country events.

We all thoroughly enjoyed our whole school Outdoor and Adventurous Activity inter school competition. Congratulations to St Francis house team, our winners.

Next term, we look forward to competing in a Year 3 and 4 football competition, a gymnastics tournament, a whole class Year 2 athletics event and Kwik Cricket. We also can't wait for our whole school Sports Day.

## Road Safety

This term Sustrans led a meeting for families and members of the school community to look at how we can address the parking and road safety issues outside of our school. It was a positive meeting where we identified the areas around the school that we love and possible solutions to ongoing issues. We will be meeting again next term to put into action the solutions we came up with.



**Don't forget you can  
recycle your used  
batteries in the  
school entrance.**



# Holy Week Celebrations:

## Holy Thursday: 29th March 2018

The Mass of the Lord's Supper will take place at the following times in our Churches:

St. Mary's: 7.00pm with Watching at the Altar of Repose until 10.00pm

Our Lady's: 7.30pm with Watching at the Altar of Repose until 10.30pm

## Good Friday: 30th March 2018

Services will take place at the following times in our Churches:

St. Saviour's: Solemn Liturgy of the Passion at 3.00pm

St. Mary's: Children's Stations of the Cross at 10.00am, Solemn Liturgy of the Passion at 3.00pm

Our Lady's: Solemn Liturgy of the Passion at 3.00pm, Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm

Also on Good Friday the 'Christians Together in the Port' Walk of Witness takes place, starting with a Service at 10.30am at the Salvation Army, Whitby Road, Ellesmere Port and then going on to the Port and ending with refreshments at Trinity Methodist Church, Whitby Road, Ellesmere Port.

## Holy Saturday: 31st March 2018

The Easter Vigil Mass will take place at the following times in our Churches:

St. Saviour's: 8.00pm

Our Lady's: 8.30pm

## Easter Sunday: 1st April 2018

Easter Day Masses will take place at the following times in our Churches:

St. Saviour's: 11.00am

St. Mary's: 9.00am

Our Lady's: 11.00am

St. Bernard's: 9.00am

Also on Easter Sunday Morning the Ellesmere Port Churches Together Sunrise Service takes place, at 7.30am in front of Trinity Methodist Church, Whitby Road, Ellesmere Port followed by breakfast.

