

St Bernard's RC Primary Autumn 2018 Review



Message from the Head of School

It's been an incredible term and we are all so proud of the children for their effort, achievements and commitment to our mission and vision. Your children are all special and unique with so many talents and we are delighted with the way they are progressing academically, but more importantly as young people who can go on to make a difference in the world. We'd like to thank parents and guardians for their ongoing support and strongly believe that positive partnerships enhance change. We look forward to strengthening the home-school relationship in 2019.

Christmas is such an important time to stop, relax and reflect and we hope you enjoy a wonderful family time as the term comes to an end, remembering the true meaning of Christmas.

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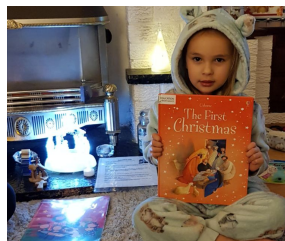
We have continued on our faith journey this year. We have celebrated two whole school masses this term, a welcome mass and a Remembrance Mass. The children were involved with the planning of both Masses.



We also spent the month of October reflecting on the Rosary. We invited parents to join us each Thursday for Stay and Pray sessions.



Our travelling crib has been going home with our families each night. Our children have enjoyed sharing images of their worship at home.



We have also continued our amazing work for charity. As a school community, we collected over 120 shoeboxes for the shoebox appeal. We have also raised money for CAFOD, Children in Need and Save the Children. Thank you to everyone for your support with all our charities this term. It is greatly appreciated.



Team R

This term we welcomed our new Team Reception and have been amazed at how they have settled in so well into our St Bernard's school family.

As a class the children are growing in so many ways. They are working hard to become independent learners with lots of great personalities. This term they have looked at the topics Knowing me, Knowing you and Once upon a Rhyme and have immersed themselves in their learning by exploring the many resources and new areas both inside and outside of our class setting.

The most memorable moments this term have been our visits from different occupations including a hairdresser, a midwife, the police and the firefighters along with their fire engine. All the children enjoyed their time experiencing and learning about the different occupations and acting these roles out in our linked role play area. We also gained had lots of great photos from this time too.

Next half term we are looking forward to our topic 'Winter Wonderland' with lots of great stories linked to it and we're also hoping we can experience a real snowy day as part of it- fingers crossed!

Thank you for all the support from our Team Reception families too. It's been lovely to be shared into lots of photos and videos on Tapestry of our children enjoying family time too.



Team 1

What a wonderful start to the year we have had in Team 1! We began our year going on an adventure with The Beasties, characters from our class book. We focused on writing exciting stories about them, using capital letters and full stops. We thought all about our family, and putting them in chronological order and we learnt all about our local area. We went on a walk around Ellesmere Port, to think all about our town.



In maths, we have been developing our understanding about addition and subtraction, and thinking about different methods we can use to help us solve these. We have learnt about left and right and have solved picture problems.



In RE, we have reflected on God's beautiful World and Mary our Mother. We learnt about the Creation story, Noah and the Ark, our beautiful world and the Christmas story. We performed in our Nativity and were FANTASTIC! We learnt all about Judaism and other World Faiths.



We have started to develop an understanding about the past. We have thought about how Christmas was celebrated in the past, and we went on a school trip to Norton Priory to celebrate a Victorian Christmas.

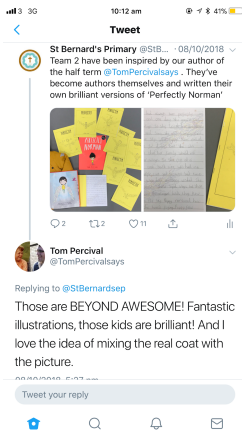
We have also been writing about Father Christmas and his adventures. We have described what it would be like to be in his sleigh when he comes soaring over Ellesmere Port. We have also written letters to him!



What a fantastic term! Have a happy Christmas and we can't wait to carry on learning after the holidays. Thank you for all your support this term.

Team 2

We have had a fantastic start to the year in Team 2! Our first connector lead us to exploring who we are and where we are from. We looked at our school grounds and local area and went on a walk to see some of the places surrounding us. The children were excellent Geographers and developed their map skills before writing a historical report on how our town has changed in the last 100 years.



In English we looked at the author Tom Percival and his book 'Perfectly Norman'. It is a story about a boy who finds the courage to be himself and show off his unique gifts. We reflected on what makes us special before writing our own versions of the story. They were so brilliant that the author Tom Percival tweeted us to say well done!

Our RE work has lead us through the old testament looking at God's chosen people. We became familiar with the stories of Abraham, Moses and Daniel and reflected on how God has chosen us.

A highlight of our Autumn term was our fantastic, fun Nativity play! The children in Team 2 has so much fun putting together an excellent play with acting, dancing and singing. Together with our other friends in KS1 we told the story of the birth of Jesus and reflected on what it means for our lives. We had so much fun preparing and performing, so thank you to everybody who came along to support us.



What a wonderful term it has been! Thank you all for your ongoing support. I hope you have a happy and healthy Christmas break with your families and friends. Relax and read lots - I look forward to another fantastic term in the new year.

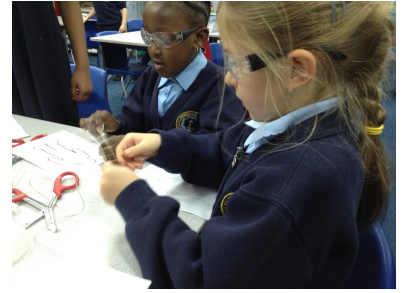
Team 3

Team Three have made a great start to life in the Juniors. They have thoroughly enjoyed our connector, which focused on the Ancient Egyptians. There are some budding historians in our midsts. Throughout the connector the children have been immersed in our class texts. First we explored The Gods Are Watching and developed our skills of making links to events from the text. We have just finished the text I Was There... The children have loved discovering the events surrounding the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb.

We had a fantastic trip to The World Museum in Liverpool. The children enjoyed exploring the different artefacts. It was great to see the children making links to their previous learning.



During the trip we watched as some of our children role-played the mummification process. This helped the children to understand the different stages, which was event in the step by step guides they created when we returned to school.



It has been a pleasure to watch the children develop their stamina in writing and have enjoyed reading their different diary entries based on Ali's experience of discovering the tomb. The children have truly immersed themselves in this connector and I look forward to seeing the same enthusiasm with our new connector. In the Spring term we explore a connector titled Shelter. We explore the many developments from the Stone Age through to the Iron Age but also explore the location of early settlements. As part of this connector we also explore the issue of homelessness and find ways to help those in need.

Team 3 have made a great start this term. I am looking forward to watching the children develop their skills further. Thank you children for a great term. You should feel proud of all your achievements.

Team 4

What a wonderful start to this academic year!

We have thoroughly enjoyed travelling back in time where we have explored what times were like back in the Roman era and discovering the impact upon modern day Britain. The children have loved reading the tale of 'Across the Roman wall' and making links to our history based connector.

Team Four have developed their writing skills this term and have written some fantastic narratives, setting and character descriptions using role play to empathise with characters and learning how authors solve dilemmas in stories.

This term, the children have embraced challenge throughout the curriculum and have really understood how to embed and shift their mindsets when learning becomes tricky. It has been an absolute joy to watch all children progress this term as learners and I am so proud of every child in our team. I hope they are proud of each and everything they have achieved so far.

I have loved working alongside such a wonderful group of children who have brought countless smiles of pride to our faces every day. I feel extremely excited for Team Four and their year ahead with Mrs Suddaby!

Thank you for such a fantastic term!



Team 5

Team 5 have made an amazing start to the year. We have really enjoyed traveling across the Atlantic ocean to explore and discover the continent of North America. We particularly enjoyed the geography aspect of this connector, developing our map reading skills, identifying main cities and countries of the continent. We have developed our skills in human and physical geography and furthered our historical and cultural knowledge of the states of the USA. We have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the death-defying Annie Edson Taylor and her amazing accomplishment.

In the Spring term, we will be starting our Wonder connector. We will be exploring what life was like during the Maya civilization and compare this to what life was like in Britain at the same time. Using

evidence, we will begin to understand the complexity of people's lives during this time and draw conclusions how Britain was influenced by this civilization. We will journey into real and imaginary worlds through our two main texts- 'The Darkest Dark' and 'Wolves in the Walls'.



Team 6

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 WW2 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 reading 'The Island at the end of Everywhere' by Kiran Millwood Hargrave and 'The Island' by Armin Greder as inspiration for both Connector and English.

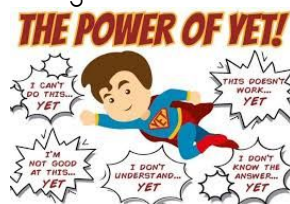


Learning Powered Approach

We have started this year as we finished off last year with lots of Learning Power Approaches being taken to develop children's skills. We have really been focusing on how to develop and maintain positive mindsets when faced with challenges in learning, friendships or any other daily life occurrences. We have done this by revisiting what a Growth Mindset is, what the Power of Yet is and have, for the first time, learnt about the Learning Pit and what to do when we find we are struggling with something.

We would like to say a big thank you to the parents who came to the Learning Power Approach workshop. We hope that you have been able to try some of the ideas at home and Mrs Suddaby will contact you in the New Year to see how you have got on with it.

Professor Guy Claxton, who originally came up with the idea of Learning Powers, will be visiting school in January and we are looking forward to sharing what we do at school with him as well as learning more.



Sporting Achievements

We have taken part in so many sporting competitions this term. We are so proud of all the children who have represented us in different teams. Competitions have included tag rugby, cross country, quick sticks hockey, football, dodgeball and boccia.

We have also had a whole school boccia tournament.

Our playground leaders have done us proud in learning and teaching our younger children games to play at playtime. They have developed fantastic leadership skills.

Well done everyone! #Stbsisactive



PTA

Where would we be without our amazing PTA? Huge thanks to all of our PTA members who work tirelessly to arrange fundraising events for the children of the school. They give up so much of their own time to support the school and we are all really grateful. As always, we are looking for further members of the PTA and any help is much appreciated. Funds raised have been used to improve the quality of reading books we have in school and the children are benefiting greatly from this. Please speak to Mr Jevons if you would like to get involved and attend our Spring meetings.



Whole School Events

What a busy Autumn term it has been. We have had some fantastic school events and experiences for our children, families and the community this term.

- Team 3-6 Learning Power Film Night
- MacMillan Coffee Morning
- Adrift World Premier
- World Mental Health Day
- STEAM Festival
- Harvest Fast Day
- KS1 Harvest Breakfast
- Alice in Wonderland Panto
- World Faiths Week
- Cinema Trip for all classes
- Autumn Disco
- Children in Need

- NSPCC Workshops
- Learning Power Parent Workshops
- Young Carers Assembly
- Penny Mile for Road Safety
- Boccia Inter School Competition
- Aid to the Church in Need- Red Wednesday
- Book Fair
- Operation Christmas Child
- Winning a fish tank from Jolley's Pet Store

And of course all of our Christmas events.



ADRIFT



The 1st October 2018 saw the premiere of 'Adrift- A Refugee Fairytale' at Ellesmere Port Civic Hall. Since then it has been on tour in Manchester, London and around primary schools in Cheshire West and Chester. In February next year it will continue it's tour of primary schools and will be back at St Bernard's on Friday 15th February. This stunning play was co-commissioned by St Bernard's RC Primary School alongside Action Transport Theatre.

We are so proud of all our children and how they helped to shape the storyline, setting design, lighting and music of this powerful play.

Christmas Services

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.

I hope that many of you will join Fr Niall and the Parish over Christmas period. Dates of services are below.



Christmas Times of Mass
Christmas 2018: Mass Times:

Christmas Eve: Monday,
24th December & Christmas Day,
Tuesday, 25th December

St Saviour & St Mary's

Vigil Masses, Christmas Eve

St Saviour's: Carols from 4.30pm
and Family Vigil Mass at 5.00pm

St Mary of the Angels: Carols from
8.30pm and Vigil Mass at 9.00pm

Christmas Day

St Mary's: Mass at 9.00am
St Saviour's: Mass at 11.00am

Our Lady & St Bernard's

All Masses at Our Lady's Church

Vigil Masses, Christmas Eve

Vigil Mass of Christmas at 6.00pm
Vigil Mass of Christmas at 9.00pm
(No Mass at 12.midnight)

Christmas Day

Christmas Day Mass at 11.00am

