



St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery



Weekly Newsletter

Remote Learning!



Friday 15th January 2021

Human Fraternity

God our Father,

you love each of your children

and you don't stop taking care of them and looking out for their good,

Help me to be the image and the example of this love of yours.

May I find in each person a brother or sister

and truly love them,

welcoming them despite any differences we may have,

respecting them in their dignity,

regardless of their origin or faith.

I pray that in the hearts of all your children,

the seed of human brotherhood and sisterhood grows

to build your kingdom together on this earth.

Amen





Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come towards the end of the second week of this new lockdown I wanted to inform you that feedback from staff and parents, regarding our remote learning provision, remains incredibly positive.

During lockdown, vulnerable pupils have a place in school, as do children of critical key workers. We have many more children of key workers in school than in March, as do many other schools; however, we are pleased to play our part in enabling key workers to go to work at this difficult time.

You are all doing a magnificent job parents! Once again you have been thrust into a scenario where you are balancing work, running a home, supporting your child's learning and much, much more. I do appreciate how difficult it is to support your children with their remote learning, but please remember that staff are always available to help, so if you do have any questions, concerns or just need some general guidance please do not hesitate your child's class teacher for help.

We recommend the children get fresh air and exercise every day. We now know that this lockdown will continue until at least the February half term and the staff have been planning lots of activities to keep up the children's enthusiasm and motivation.

I hope you all have a good weekend.

Mrs Moore

Headteacher

CATHOLIC LIFE

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are pleased to invite you and your children each Friday at 11.00am to an assembly for prayer and reflection, led by members of the Senior Leadership Team. If you are available to join, please access the assembly through Google Meet using the code: Year1Assembly, Year2Assembly etc.

If you have children in different year groups, you may choose which one you would like to join. If you are unable to join, please do not worry. Following the assembly, a message will be posted on the class stream explaining the theme of the assembly and a brief prayer.

The children who are in school will be shown the assembly, but if you as a parent would like to join at home, please use their school log in to access it.

We fully appreciate how busy everyone is, but we felt it would be a special time to stop briefly, reflect and pray together at the end of the week. We thank you all for your continued support in these challenging times and if you are available, we look forward to seeing you virtually on Fridays.

BROTHERHOOD AND SISTERHOOD

This week's assembly was echoing Pope Francis' message for the New Year. He spoke about the importance of fraternity - of brotherhood and sisterhood across all faiths. The Pope asks us to pray, with him, "May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all".

We then listened to the story of The Good Samaritan. This story emulates perfectly Jesus' message "Love thy neighbour as yourself". Now more so than ever, it is important that we as a global community work together, to unite and join with one another. We pray that in these difficult times that if we all work as one, there will be hope for all and a brighter future ahead.

Remote Learning Year 3



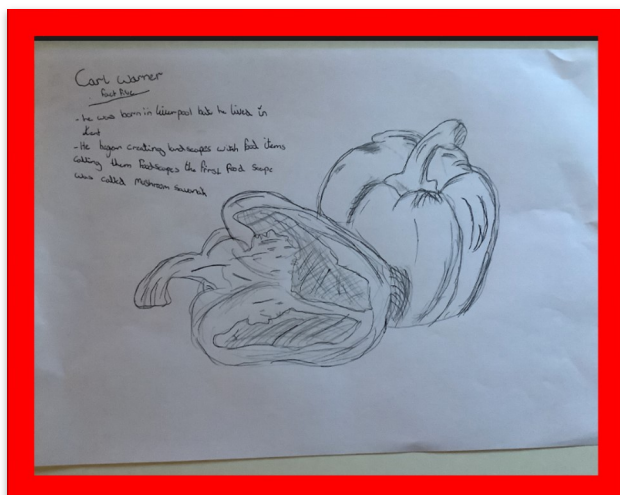
Year 3 had been learning all about Ancient Egypt and how they used to dress. They have also been reading the story Egyptian Cinderella. The children also learnt how to write in Hieroglyphics.



Remote Learning Year 4

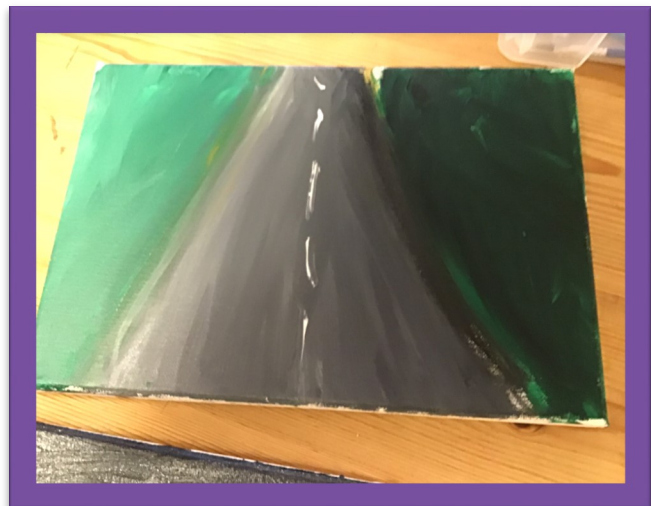


Year 4 have been working on their observational skills in art . Look at the fantastic drawing they have created!



Remote Learning Year 5

Year 5 have been busy in Art and Design looking at vanishing points and perspective. Some used paint and pastels and others even used computer programs. In French, the children were busy learning and labelling the parts of the body.



Remote Learning Year 6

13 January 2021

TODAY'S NEWS

Cathy Hunts says:
 "My family were attacked by phookas on Saturday. My two year old daughter, Tabetha, touched what we think was a black phooka at play school, and ever since they have been attracted to our garden! We can't get rid of them!"

Ronald Rogers:
 "THEY ATTACKED MY HOUSE AND ARE NESTING IN MY SONS TREEHOUSE! THE WORLD HAS GONE INSANE!
 I feel terrible about this. There is nothing I can do and NOWHERE to go"

PHOOKA SPOTTING LIST:
 Things to look out for are:
 -more than one animal in one place (preferably the EXACT SAME animal)
 -black coated dogs, owls, kelpies, or any other animal that has fur.
 -and finally, crushed, squashed or even half eaten berries, lying around in your garden.



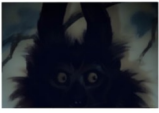
Rare phooka sightings in Verulamium park
 People have been petrified, as some rare, thought to be dead, species of phookas have popped up in the middle of Verulamium park!
 The eyewitnesses at the scene say the monstrous creatures appeared as all sorts of creatures, including badgers, owls, foxes that terrorized the community on last Saturday evening.
 The many groups of families that live near the park or the oncoming passers by say that this creature may look cute and cuddly, but is really clever cunning and curious on the inside. Definitely one to watch out for this winter!
 If you think that you have seen these rare phookas, please get in touch with the St Alban's police service IMMEDIATELY.

Children in Year 6 have loved reading the book 'Arthur Spikerwicks Field guide to Fantastical Animals'. They have created their own beasts and done some wonderful artwork too. They also created some Mayan masks linked to their History topic.



This morning, a wild creature was spotted in Highfield Park, near the football pitch.

39 year old Emma, the mother of three, has been out with her children, when she saw a mysterious animal. She described it as having three small round eyes, two pointy ears, long dark-brown fur and a long tail. At first, she thought it was a monkey and she asked herself what was a monkey doing in a small park in the United Kingdom, then she realised the creature had three eyes.



Asking Max Parker, Museum collection manager and species identification specialist, for opinions, we were told that the UK needs more experts to help identifying any unknown creatures. A critical skills for identifying new organisms are required to explain the blurry photograph taken by the witness.

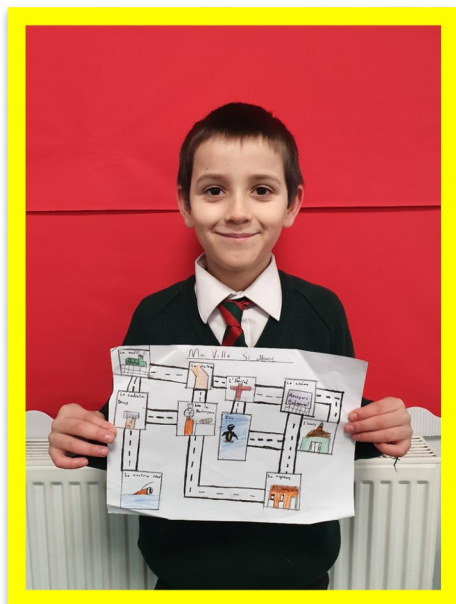
Emma says she saw it eating blackberries and it did not look particularly dangerous, but she will still avoid any further walks to that area until it is clear that the creature is not harmful.



Year 3 had been learning about Egypt and they even created their own Egyptian city by making pyramids and adding in houses.



Year 4 have been working with Madame Betteley and have drawn their own bird's eye view street maps and labelled them in French. The children have also been doing some life drawing looking at shading and tones.

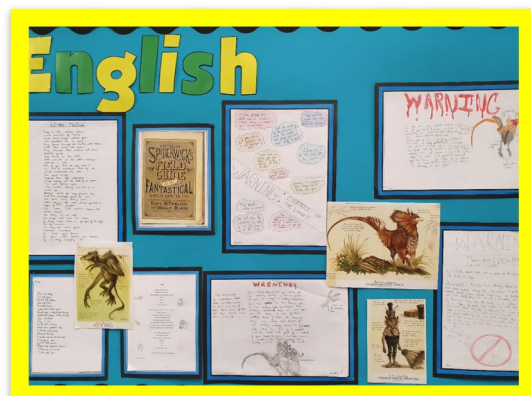


Year 5 have been busy learning about perspective in Art and Design and have done some great work with their names.



Year 6 have been reading Arthur Spiderwick's field guide to Fantastical animals. They have created their very own beasts and written descriptions of them.

They also made some clay animal models and decorated them using inspiration from ancient Mayan Oaxacan wood carvings.



STATUTORY ASSESSMENTS

As I am sure you will already be aware, the DfE has taken the decision to cancel all KS1 and KS2 statutory assessments (tests and teacher assessments) for this academic year. This includes:

- KS1 teacher assessments
- KS2 tests and teacher assessments
- phonics screening check
- all statutory trialling
- the (optional this year) multiplication tables check

As a school, we will of course ensure that the children are still accessing a rich and diverse curriculum which will prepare them fully for their transition to the next year group, key stage or school.

Although as mentioned, there will be no formal assessments, school will continue to deliver all the elements of the curriculum to enable children to reach end of year age related expectations.

Please be assured that the teachers are working incredibly hard and continually assessing work and planning lessons according to the needs of the children and the areas that need to be developed. We also have our own internal data system which the staff and SLT monitor, review and track each half term.

We know these are uncertain times but we would like to reassure you that we are committed to providing the very best education that we can for all of your children .In the coming months, you will receive your child's mid-year report and there will also be an opportunity for you to speak with your class teacher about the progress they are making. More information will follow regarding this.

We thank you for your continued support with your children's learning whilst many of them are at home. We fully appreciated the importance of the partnership forged between home and school as we work together to best support your child. If there is anything further we can do to help, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

God bless and stay safe.

Mrs Moore and all the staff of SSAS.