



# St. Alban and St. Stephen Catholic Primary School Weekly Newsletter



## National Poetry Day with Kate Wakeling



Nursery were captivated by Kate's perfectly pitched fast, rhythmic flow poem 'Comet'.



Reception children responding excitedly with their answers to Kate's poetic riddles.



Friday 8th October 2021

## HARVEST PRAYER

Father, as we celebrate this season of thanksgiving. We give thanks for the blessings of food, provision and nourishment. Please grow in us a harvest for the world. Come sow a seed of hope within our souls Lord, that we might yield goodness, patience and kindness in abundance. Sow a seed of peace in our lives Lord, that we might bear the fruits of forgiveness, compassion and righteousness. Come sow a seed of love in our hearts Lord, that others would reap the blessings of family, friendship and community. May each seed of hope, peace and love grow within us into a harvest that can be feasted on by all.

Amen.





Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another fantastic week at St. Alban & St. Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery, I would like to say how proud I am of our children. We have had so many achievements to celebrate this week.

On Wednesday, some pupils from Year 3 to Year 6 blew us away by performing wonderful and moving poems in a special assembly for National Poetry Week. They showed resilience, aspiration and integrity and performed with such courage.

It has been great to see so many before and after school clubs going on throughout the week. We are so grateful to our dedicated staff who go above and beyond in making these clubs happen.

I would like to finish by mentioning the power of reading. Reading is so important to us as a school as we know how life changing it is to be an avid reader. I encourage you all to read at home as much as you can, and find a book you love. As Dr Seuss famously said, 'The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you will go.'

Have a lovely weekend.

See you on Monday.

Mrs Moore  
Headteacher

# National Poetry Day

## Poet Visit—Kate Wakeling

On Wednesday 6th October, the school welcomed poet Kate Wakeling into their classrooms. Nursery and Reception children giggled wide-eyed at Kate's fast paced presentation of her poem *Comet* and then relaxed into the slower, thought-provoking challenge of her mini-beast riddles, involving a snail and a worm!

Year 2 enjoyed a theatrical presentation of *The Spy Cafe* with Kate getting into character, donning a devastating 'disguise' of a black trilby hat and shades.

Year 1 had a real treat and were allowed to hear poems that will be released later next year in Kate's new book. These poems required the children to embrace a more physical side to her poetry and they delighted in pretending to lay dinosaur eggs and wobble like jelly!

Throughout the day, I noticed Kate's priority was for the children to connect to the poetry in a fun, experimental and creative way regardless of the subject. In *Bad Moods* she encouraged the children to show her their bad mood faces—which quickly resulted in happy mood faces! She reassured them that making mistakes like her character 'Mr Long' is something we all do because that is the beauty of learning.

Year 3 children were eager to have fun with her poetry and chose her to read quirky poems with titles such as *Wardrobe Monkeys* and *Hamster Man!* Kate's top poetry tips for this class were to listen to the sounds of the words they are choosing, "let the sounds lead the way" and try to include all the senses.

In Year 4, Kate truly engaged the senses as lights were turned off for the children to wholly absorb her poetry reading. In her poem *Paen (or Eleven Uses for a Garden Pea)* she encouraged the children to think of an object and reflect on what else it could be used for. 4C were so inspired by this session that they created their own marvellous poem about a pin!

Year 5 and 6 eagerly came with paper and pencils poised at the ready. Kate created a relaxed workshop using her poem *Little Known Facts* which encouraged the children to reflect, write and share fun information about themselves. Some favourite facts included; "I am the 5,768<sup>th</sup> most clumsy person ever!" and "I can talk to my cheese and make it go on my crackers!"

The close of our wonderful poetry day was celebrated in an afternoon assembly. The children's poetry competition contributions were a perfect example of how poetry is a language that can be both individual and an inclusive form that can speak to us all. Every finalist deservedly received a certificate and a gorgeous notebook and pen, ensuring our talented and aspiring poets the opportunity of more creative writing. The three final winners received a beautiful hand written poem by Kate.

I tried to covet every word that Kate shared with us and I think the most valuable and poetic insight she left me with was, when writing poetry, "be as wild and messy and free as you can...all sorts of unexpected and excellent things will happen."

Happy Poetry Reading, from Miss McIntyre

# National Poetry Day

Year 1 children eager to share their ideas.



Year 2 enjoying Kate's spy props!



Year 5 & 6 writing their fun facts!



Year 3 savouring Kate's poetry advice about word sounds and senses.



Our fantastic eight poetry finalists!



CONGRATULATIONS to the three finalists chosen by Kate.



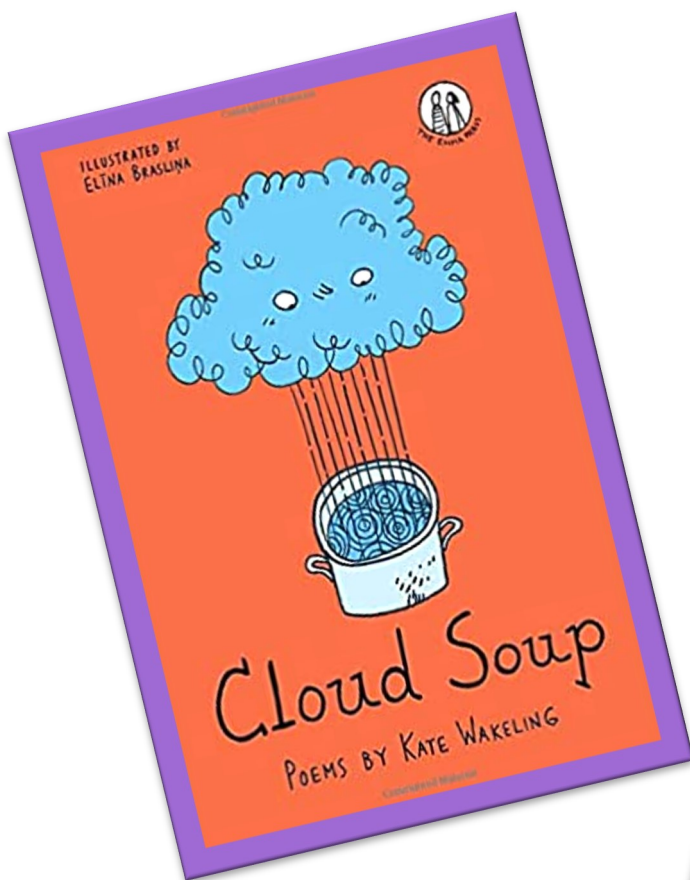
Year 4's wonderful response to Kate Wakeling's poem 'Paen (or Eleven Uses for a Garden Pea)' from her poetry book *Cloud Soup*.

Uses for a drawing pin - by 4C



A garden ornament for a fairy  
The table set for an ant tea party  
A comfy stool for a grasshopper  
A sturdy shield for a fly  
Maybe, a ladybird could use this as a  
steering wheel in her beetle car  
A crochet help for the Queen bee  
The official seal for the King of the ants  
A rain protector for the suited beetle on  
his way to a job interview  
A hair pin for a pixie  
Aphids could play on their roundabout  
Busy ants crossing a river in their coracle

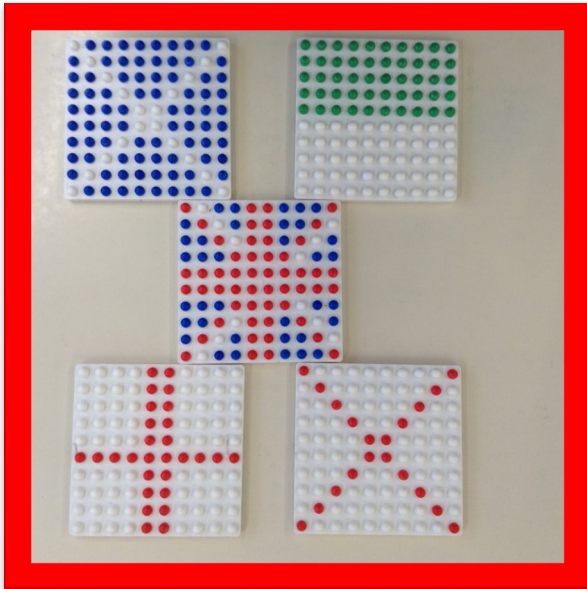
We are pleased to announce that you still have the opportunity to order Kate Wakeling's fantastic poetry books! They really are so fabulously fun and engaging. They would be an asset on your bookshelves and in your children's lives.



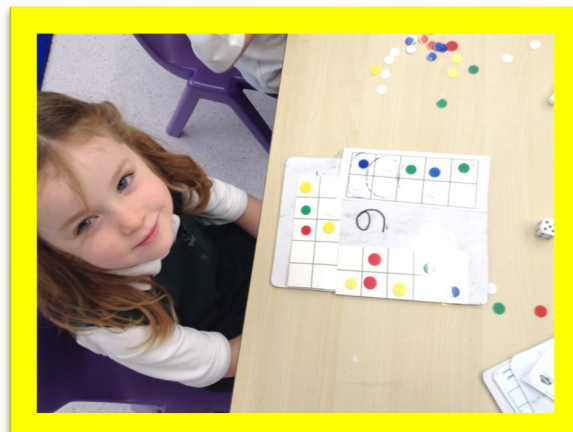
## Year 1 Learning

In Year 1, we have been learning all about where we live.

We learnt the countries of the United Kingdom and their flags. Some children chose to make the United Kingdom flags using the peg boards! We have also created other flags with the peg boards using an atlas for ideas!



In Maths this week, we have been learning to subitise by making the same number in different ways on a tens frame.





## Year 1 Learning



## Harvest Collection

Starting Monday 11th October, we will begin our Harvest Collection in school. The children will attend assemblies about Harvest and boxes to collect items will remain in their rooms up until the half term. All the classes have been busy learning harvest songs and have been reflecting on how we should be grateful for all the food we have and the people who grow and transport our food.

As we have in previous years, we will collect items for St Albans Foodbank and The Woman's Refuge. All of your support is greatly appreciated as we think about those people who are in great need within our own St Albans community.

Please see below a list of items that would be greatly received.

- **MOST NEEDED ITEMS: WE PREFER LONG-LIFE AND TINS!**
  - **TINNED TOMATOES**
  - **FRUIT JUICE (LONG LIFE)**
    - **TINNED FISH**
    - **TINNED CARROTS**
  - **INSTANT MASH/TINNED POTATOES**
    - **QUICK COOK/NOODLES**
      - **COFFEE**
      - **TINNED FRUIT**
  - **CEREALS (NOT OATS WE HAVE LOTS)**
  - **DRIED CHICKPEAS/GREEN LENTILS**
    - **JAM & SPREADS**
    - **SWEETS/CHOCOLATE**
  - **DESSERTS (JELLIES, STEAMED PUDDINGS, ANGEL DELIGHT ETC)**

### OTHER ITEMS TO INCLUDE:

- Toiletries – deodorant, toilet paper, shower gel, shaving gel, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, tooth paste, hand wipes
- Household items – laundry liquid detergent, laundry powder, washing up liquid
  - Feminine products – sanitary towels and tampons
  - Baby supplies – nappies, baby wipes and baby food
  - Face masks and hand sanitiser



Have a lovely weekend everyone.

God bless.

Mrs Moore, and all the staff of SSAS.