



St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery Weekly Newsletter



Friday 25th February 2022

Our Gospel Assembly

In our Gospel Assembly this week, we heard how Jesus tells us that we must show love to everyone, even people who have been unkind or selfish towards us. Sometimes it is easy to feel angry when someone else is mean to us and doesn't care about our feelings. Often, we might feel like retaliating and being unkind in return. However, as followers of Jesus we must be different. When someone does not treat us well, we must pray for them, forgive them and love them.



Go Forth

Before you say or do anything to someone else, think about Jesus' words:

“Do for others what you want them to do for you.”

This week, try and give gifts to others: the gifts of love, kindness, forgiveness and thoughtfulness.



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure that you will have seen the announcement regarding the changes to the self-isolation guidelines. It is wonderful that after two long years, we are edging towards life without Covid restrictions, although as a community we must be mindful that this elicits different responses in those around us.

The Department for Education (DfE) wrote to schools sharing information which I am sharing with you. The bold text comes directly from the DfE email.

Changes to self-isolation and daily testing of close contacts

From Thursday 24 February, the Government will remove the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days. In addition, the Government will:

No longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days, and remove the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate.

Staff, children and young people should attend their education settings as usual. This includes staff who have been in close contact within their household, unless they are able to work from home.

You will see that the advice is for people who have Covid to remain at home for at least 5 full days and then follow the guidance until they have received two negative lateral flows.

Although these are now guidelines rather than legal requirements, we hope that parents will choose to adhere to these guidelines. This will help to ensure that our staff remain Covid-free and therefore able to continue to provide high quality education to your children. Your support will hopefully allow us to avoid a situation where, as before the half term break, we were struggling to staff our classes.

Please can I ask that parents continue to wear masks when they are in school in order to help reduce the risk of transmission. Many members of the school community feel differently about the changes in restrictions so if you feel able to do so, it would be appreciated if parents would continue to wear masks.

Many thanks for your support with this matter.

Mrs Moore

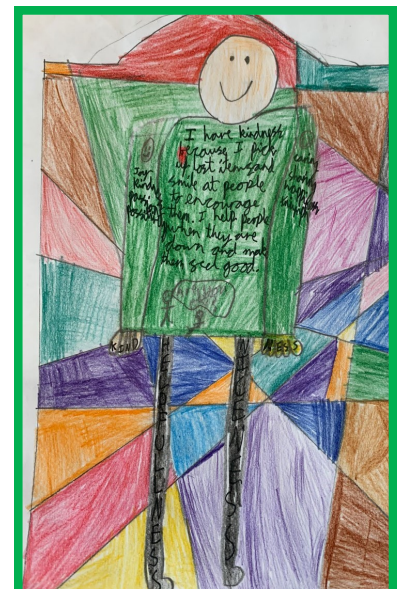
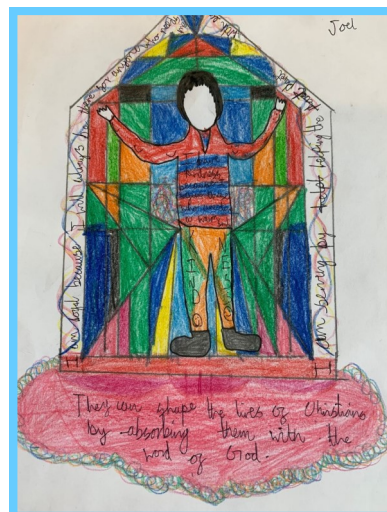
Head teacher

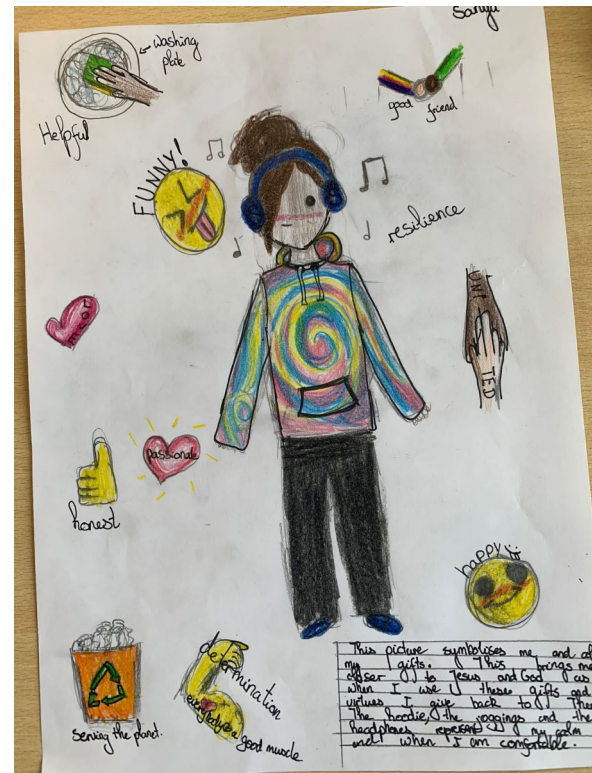
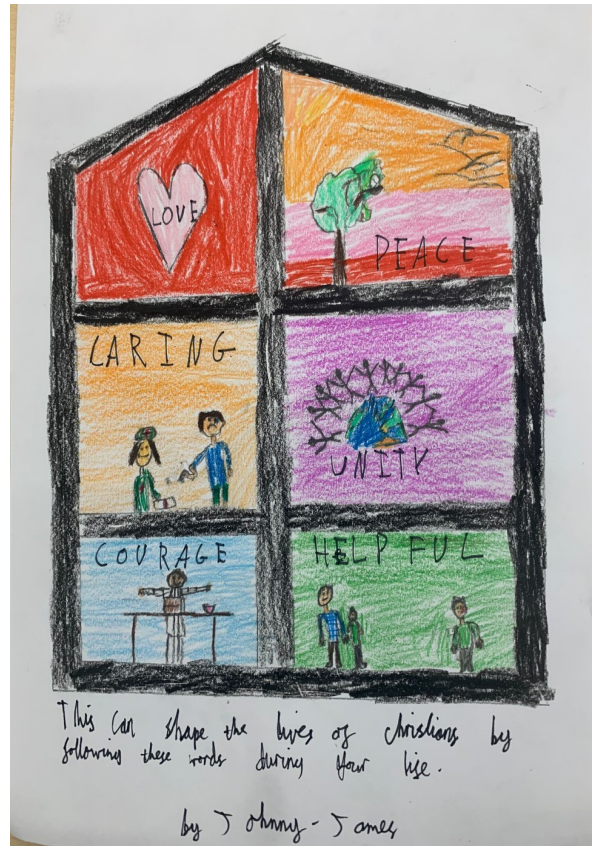
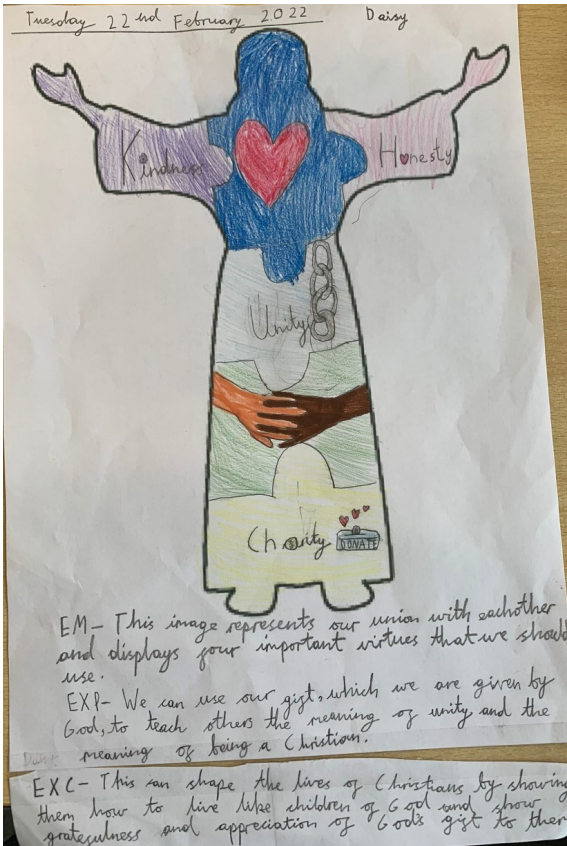
Learning in Year 6 this week



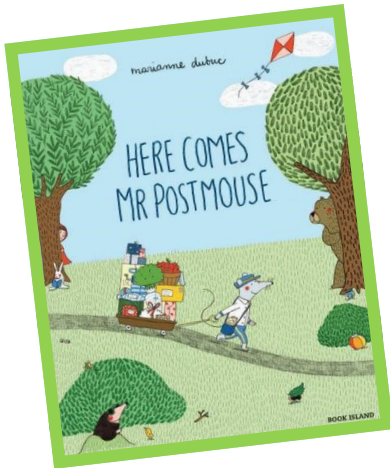
In our Religious Education topic 'Unity', we focussed on the quote above and what it means to us. Communion means 'being at one with'. When we celebrate our Holy Communion, it is a sign we are at one with God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit as well as being at one with each other.

We designed a stained-glass window to express how we are all joined to each other as different parts of one body and are one with Jesus. We added in the gifts that we have and based our word on a passage from the Bible, Romans 12: 3-10

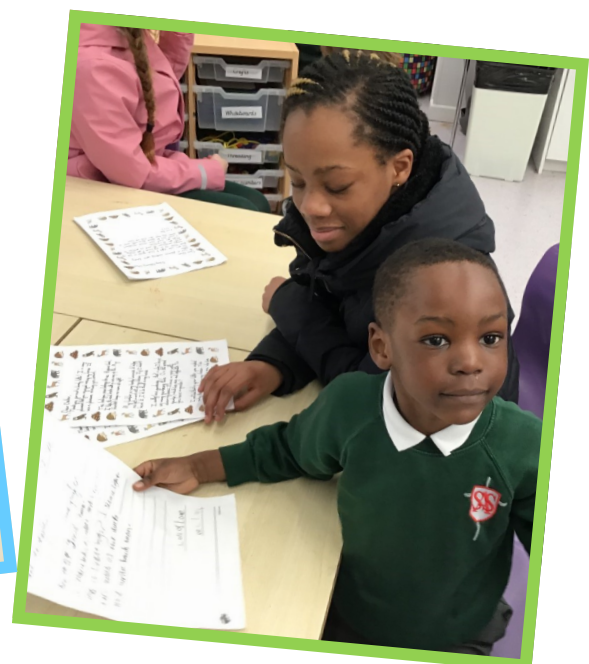


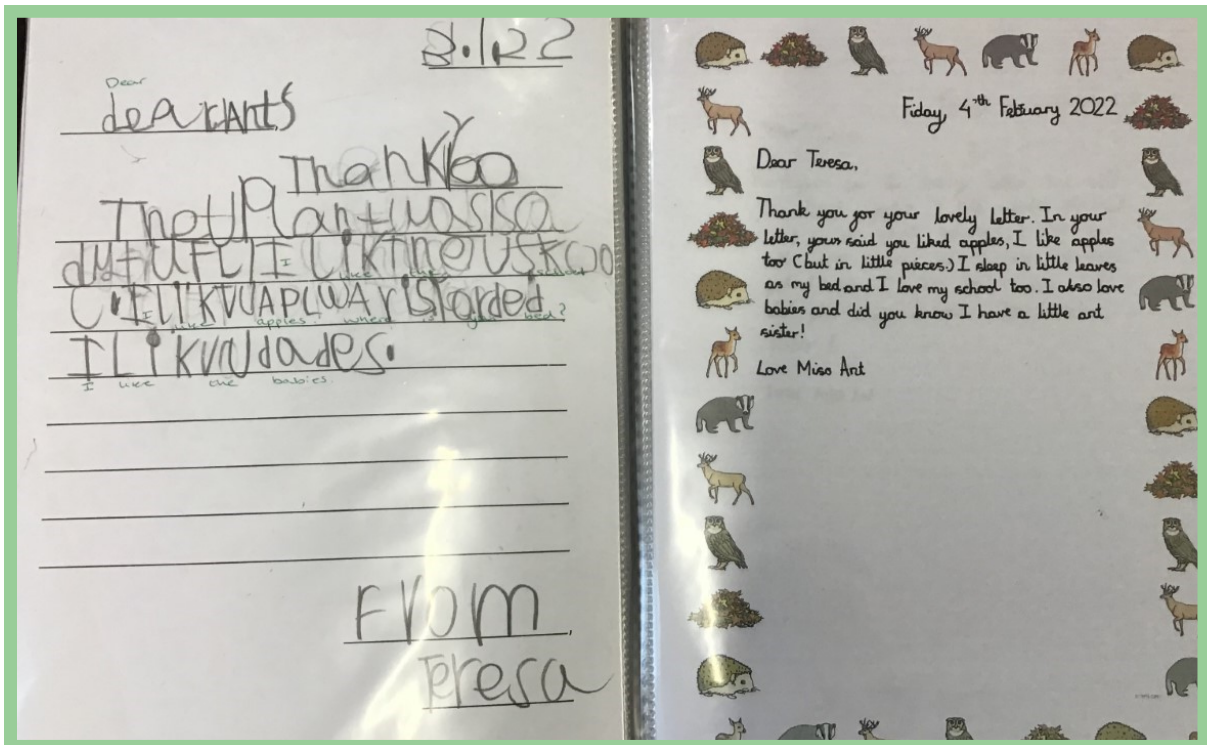
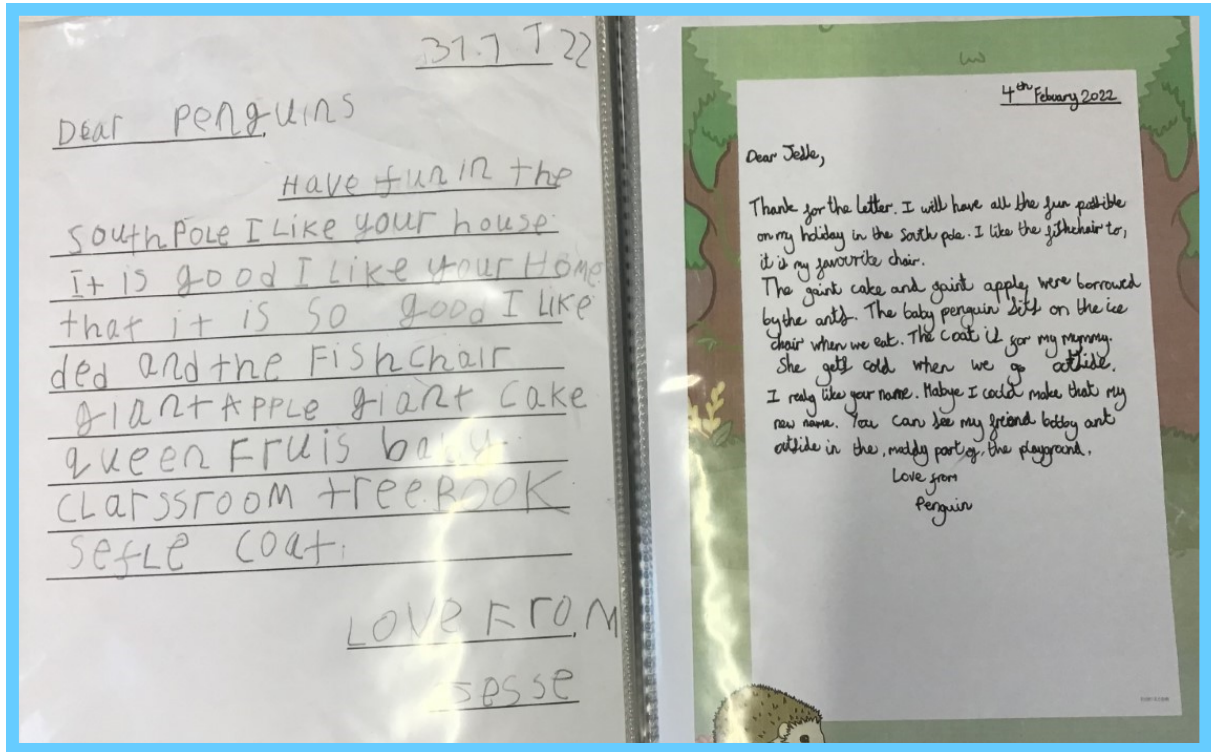


Special Delivery from Year 6!



Year 1 read "Here comes Mr Postmouse" during their English lessons. They then wrote letters to the animals in the stories asking them about their homes and families. The letters were popped in the post, and to our great surprise every Year 1 child got a reply back from the animals! Year 6 very kindly came to deliver the letters.





Super Sporting Achievements!



As we returned from half term, our sports stars were straight out of the blocks. The cross country team were the first to hit the track with a great result at Fleetville completing another race towards the league championship. The team have been training hard each week at our Cross County club and their commitment is really paying off, with two more runs to complete the league is still available to win.



On Thursday our budding athletes took part in the Sports Hall District Finals at the University of Herts. The team had already qualified and were one of six St Albans schools (out of 18) to make the final. The morning involved sprints, jumps, throws and replays. Both girls and boys were awarded an impressive 3rd place. What an achievement!



Before half term, the Year 6 football team were busy every week in their mission for football league status. Each of the boys have played in a number of games and have been fully committed to training each week. They are now one game away from winning the league and we wish them luck in their final fixture.





Lent begins on Ash Wednesday next week. Our Pupil Chaplains will be leading activities in school with Father Andrew.

On Monday in assembly, we will also be receiving a visit from the Catholic Children's Society to tell us about their Lent appeal, which we are supporting this year. Your child will bring a Lent appeal box home next week. All money raised will support the Catholic Children's Society's work with local disadvantaged children and families. If you would like to find out more, please watch their online assembly:

<https://www.loom.com/share/5cb4cc96983046bebbe8aa0027da8274>

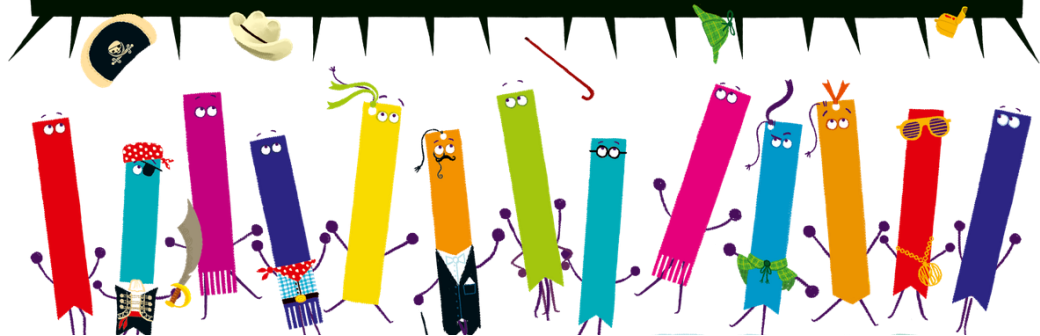


SS Alban & Stephen Church Event

Everyone is welcome to take part in our Lenten CAFOD fast day homemade soup and bread lunch at noon on Saturday 12th March in the Church Hall. This will be followed around 1pm by the film *The Star (U)* - a cartoon version of the Christmas Story with an unusual twist. It is a FREE event with the opportunity to make a donation to CAFOD on the day. Organised by the Parish Justice and Peace group.



IT'S WORLD BOOK DAY!



A reminder that this year, we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March. At St Alban and Stephen Primary School, we value reading very highly and we are all going to take part in this special day to celebrate the joy of books and reading. Our theme this year is royalty which we have chosen to tie in with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We would love to see the children dress up as a book character for the day, especially a royal one! If they wish, they can also bring their favourite book to school with them to share with us. We would love to see homemade costumes and do not expect parents to go to the expense of buying new costumes.

During the day we will celebrate the children's reading successes and they will be taking part in a range of different activities on the day to promote reading.

In preparation for World Book Day, we are issuing a challenge: **EXTREME READING!** Take a photo of your child, engrossed in a thrilling book, reading somewhere different. Perhaps in a hammock or in a treehouse; perhaps on the stairs or cosily tucked away inside a pillow fort! Your choice!

If you would like some more information about World Book Day and ideas on sharing books at home, visit worldbookday.com.



The weather may be chilly, but the children are still enjoying break-times and lunch-times outside, looking for signs of spring.

Last week, some of our environmentally aware Year 5 pupils even created this beautiful habitat for insects and other minibeasts during their break!



Parent Consultations

Please be aware that school will be closed from 1pm on Thursday 24th March 2022 to hold parent / teacher consultations. This will enable us to meet face to face with parents to discuss your child's progress. Further details will follow.