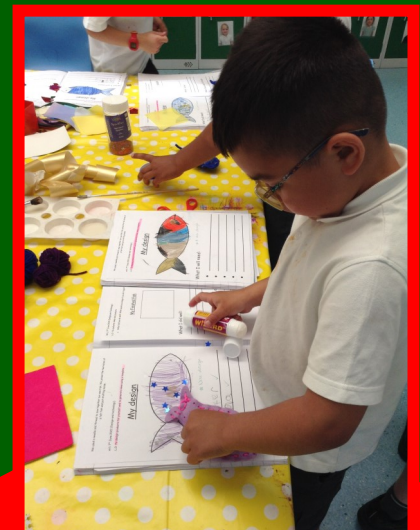


Learning and Growing with God by our Side

Issue 37



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



Friday 17th June 2022

SSAS Amalgamation Celebration Mass

Yesterday, we finally celebrated the amalgamation of St Alban and St Stephen Infant and Junior Schools into a single, united school: St Alban and St Stephen Catholic Primary School and Nursery. Although this event happened in 2020, we were not able to mark the occasion properly as a school. However, we really made up for this with our wonderful Mass led by Bishop Paul, Father Michael and Father Andrew. It was very moving to see Ss Alban and Stephen Church packed with pupils, staff and parents. Our Pupil Chaplains led the readings and prayers, and the Gospel was welcomed with beautiful solos sung by Jack and Zinachim, accompanied by liturgical dancers. The Mass ended with the Bishop blessing our new statues of St Alban and St Stephen. The sense of community and belonging felt by all present was perfectly captured by the words of our final hymn: "We are the children united, stronger when we are one," and by the words of our Mission Statement: 'Learning and Growing with God by our side.'



SSAS Amalgamation Celebration Mass



Fantastic Fish in Year 1

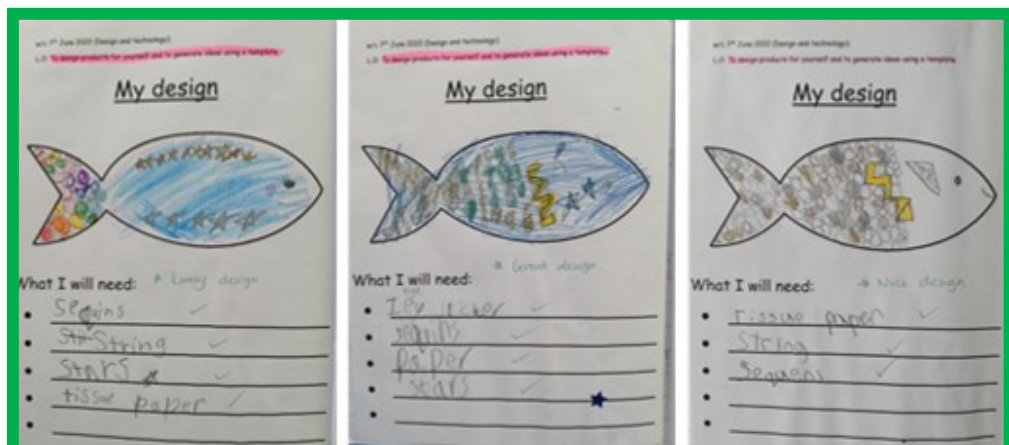
We have had a creative week in Year 1. Following on from our topic on the book “The Secret of Black Rock”, we investigated what it is like under the sea and thought about all the creatures that live there. We made some soft toy fish in our Design and Technology lessons.

First we chose our fish colour and the colour of the wool we wanted to use to sew it together. Then we used a needle and thread to carefully join the two halves of the fish together and put stuffing inside.

Once we had made the fish we completed a design sheet of how we wanted to decorate it, thinking about the different materials we would need to use to create the different parts. The finished results looked amazing!



After decorating our fish we evaluated the results. We thought about what we did well and what we would change if we were to do it again to make it even better!



The finished result!



Year 6 Steps Transition Workshop

On Tuesday 14th June, Year 6 had a company called Step come in to prepare us for our transition from primary to secondary school. We participated in outdoor activities, such as passing plastic balls on spoons down our line and doing a game where one person would look at a word and draw it on a whiteboard to see if their teammates could guess the word. The first one to reach a score of eight won! We also filled in a booklet whilst learning about how to create and handle friendships, what journeys can do and showing our own identity. In our journey lesson, we made bracelets in memory of our primary school, one bead for one person or event. Following on from our journey activity, we had a great time learning the key qualities of a friendship. Our last lesson, about identity, taught us to be true to ourselves and we learnt about not pretending to be somebody else that you're not. It was a very helpful and productive day and we would definitely do it again if we got the chance!

Reported by Elisa and Amelia



On Tuesday a program called STEP came into school. STEP helped us prepare for transitioning to secondary school. Here are a few of my favourite activities which helped us to think about teamwork and friendship. We made memory bracelets from beads and elastic string; each bead represents a different memory. On the bracelet you could use beads to symbolise three or more friends, two teachers, two trips (I put my visits to Tesco's and the Isle of Wight), three events and two moments that were special to you.

Another activity involved spoons and plastic balls (the kind that you'd find in a ball-pit). When we did the activity, we were split into four teams: red, green, yellow and my team, blue. We put a ball on a spoon and passed it to the next person's spoon. This continued until the last person got the ball and put it in the bucket at the end. There was also another fun activity outside, where our teams were given a whiteboard and played Pictionary.

Reported by Nadia



Year 6 Steps Transition Workshop



Year 5 Set Sail



As part of our Geography curriculum, Year 5 have been learning all about rivers. 5B and 5H were given the chance to make a study at close quarters this week as they travelled to London to take a cruise on the River Thames. The train journey to London caused great excitement in itself, as we alighted at Blackfriars Station, the only station located on a bridge over the Thames. When we arrived, it was interesting to see that there was a small, pebbly beach area next to the river, yet when we left London a few hours later, this had vanished as the river level had risen, proving what we had learnt about the Thames being a tidal river. Walking along South Bank, we spotted many famous London landmarks and found a very scenic picnic spot right under the London Eye!

The highlight of the day was the river cruise. As well as sailing under iconic London bridges like Tower Bridge, we also had a close-up view of lots of historical sights, including Traitors' Gate, the Monument to the Great Fire of London, the replica of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and the Houses of Parliament. Our river cruise had a fascinating commentary and we learnt a lot. Did you know that Big Ben only refers to the bell inside the clock tower (which is actually called the Elizabeth Tower) or that the Thames is now one of the cleanest rivers in Europe thanks to Joseph Bazalgette's sewer system? After the cruise, there was more entertainment as we watched street performers and skateboarders. It was a fantastic day out!



Dear Parents and Carers,

Have a look at these upcoming local literary events. What a lovely way to inspire your children with a love of reading!

Mrs Keaty, School Librarian

Saturday 25th June - Children's Book Festival - St Albans High School for Girls

<https://www.stahs.org.uk/about-stahs/festivals-events/bookfest/>

First 2 weeks of July - Festival of Culture at Books on the Hill, St Albans

Over the course of our Festival of Culture, we have two children's literary trails suitable for ages 5 to 8 and 9 to 12 years old. To collect your trail please visit us in-store where you can collect your handout at the till and begin to explore the city, finding out about our city's rich history.

<https://www.books-on-the-hill.co.uk/festival-1>

Scooters and Bikes

We encourage all children to walk, scoot or cycle to school where possible. If your child scoots to school on the Upper Site, please remind them to store their scooter neatly in the appropriate rack to make sure that there is enough room for all of the bicycles to be parked.

Dates for your Diary

We are looking forward to welcoming parents into school for some of the celebrations and events below.

20.06.22 (Lower Site) EYFS and Key Stage 1 Sports Day

24.06.22 (Upper Site) Key Stage 2 Sports Day

01.07.22 at 9.15 (Lower Hall) Year 1 family curriculum assembly. *Year 1 parents and carers are welcome to attend.*

04.07.22 (Lower Site) Nursery Sports Day

11.07.22 at 6pm (Upper Site) Peter Pan Performance for Year 6 parents

13.07.22 at 6pm (Upper Site) Peter Pan Performance for Year 6 parents

14.07.22 at 1.45 pm (Ss Alban & Stephen Church) Year 3 First Holy Communion Celebration Mass *All parents and carers are welcome to attend.*

15.07.22 at 9.15 (Lower Site Hall) Year 2 Graduation Ceremony and Prayer Service *Year 2 parents and carers are welcome to attend.*

20.07.22 at 1.45pm (Ss Alban & Stephen Church) Year 6 Leavers' Mass
All parents and carers are welcome to attend.

22.07.22 at 9.15 (Upper Site Hall) Year 6 Leavers' Graduation Ceremony
Year 6 parents and carers are welcome to attend.

Next week is Refugee Week. The children will be taking part in a variety of different activities including assemblies and workshops led by the Catholic charity, CAFOD. Please share the CAFOD prayer and video as a family and ask your children what they have learnt.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Children-s-prayers/Refugees-children-s-prayer>