



# St Anne's Catholic Primary School

## 'Christ's light shines through our learning'

### NEWSLETTER - Christmas 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The run up to Christmas is always very exciting for our children but with half term finishing later than normal this year they are all very tired and looking forward to the holiday.

As always, the children have been given lots of lovely opportunities during this half term. These experiences will be shared by the class teachers later on within this newsletter.

At the start of November, Year 4 enjoyed a trip to the museum in Liverpool. It was a great experience for them all and they came back to school having learnt lots of fascinating information from their tour.

Most classes enjoyed marshmallows and sparklers at the fire pit to celebrate Bonfire night. They were all very sensible and kept themselves safe.

Our World of Work week went very well despite covid restrictions. The children had visits from different people from a variety of professions. There was great excitement when the police arrived with their police van. It was a very noisy morning!

Parents Evenings were fairly well attended. It is disappointing however that some parents still do not take the opportunity to meet with their child/children's class teacher to discuss progress and next steps. Staff and children work incredibly hard and it's vital that parents support wherever possible.

Attendance meetings have taken place between the Education social worker and school on 2 separate occasions since September. It is vital that children (if they are well enough) are in school every day and on time. In the New Year, I will be looking into attendance more rigorously and if I have concerns about any child's attendance, I will be organising meetings with individual families to discuss and to look at ways forward. I will not be authorising holidays for any child with less than 92% attendance.

It is with a sad heart that I have to inform you all that Mrs Harkin will be retiring this Christmas. Mrs Harkin has been at St Anne's since 2014 and she has been a wonderful member of the senior leadership team supporting not only children in Class 7 but across the school through her role as Additional learning Needs co-ordinator. We will miss her greatly and would like to wish her every happiness in her retirement. Mrs Sue Keighley will replace Mrs Harkin from January 2022. Miss Sue (as she wishes to be called) has lots of experience working at Flying Start in Gwenfo and supporting our English as an additional language children here at St Anne's. We look forward to welcoming her onto the team.

Finally, on behalf of the staff and governors, I would like to wish you and your family a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. Let's hope and prayer that it's better than last year!

#### Dates for the diary:

21st December - Finish for Christmas

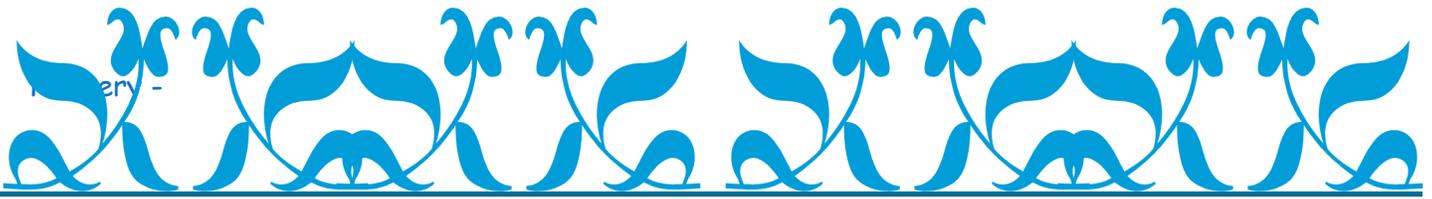
22nd December — Staff training day

6th January 2022 - School opens

24th January - Year 5 Chester Zoo trip

18th February— Break up for half term





### Year 5

In Class 5 we have been busy sewing which was a fun challenge for many. We cooked and ate a lovely roast dinner and have continued our learning of Spanish. We finished reading a 2nd class book, D Day Dog, which the children loved.

We recently had a piano in our classroom, so we have been using that to sing songs and 2 pupils have been having lessons. They performed a Christmas Carol for us last week which was fantastic! Some pupils have enjoyed forest school once a week with Mrs Thomas and had a campfire last week. In Maths, we have been learning long multiplication and co-ordinates. Both have great fun games online that we used to consolidate learning and children can use at home too.

In PE we have been learning Rugby Skills and we have some very talented rugby players in this class.

We have done lots of work on kindness, being a good friend and Anti-Bullying. As part of our refugee work we wrote to the Prime Minister.... I wonder if we will get a reply?

In Music we have been learning what different notes represent and in Science we have been learning about sound. Another busy half term.

### Year 6

We have been really busy in Year 6 this term, finishing off our 'Civilizations' topic. We looked at why the Romans settled in Britain and why we build settlements where we do today as well as comparing life in Roman Britain to life in Wales today - the children were very envious of the underfloor heating found in Roman Villas.

We have been using dance to show the facts we have learnt about Roman Britain and all children have made fantastic progress in swimming lessons.

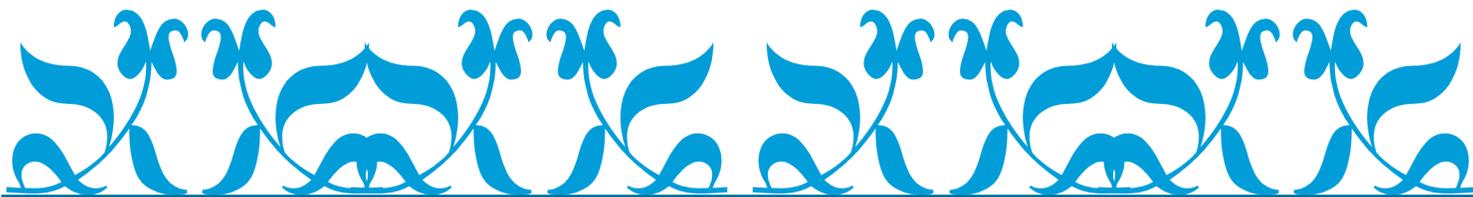
We learnt about different forms of government around the world as well as finding out more about the UK parliament and the Welsh Senedd. Lesley Griffiths MS came to speak to us about being a politician and making important decisions for Wales. We put our metric measuring skills to practise by researching, designing and making bread rolls, the children particularly enjoyed tasting their creations!

In Welsh, the children can now describe themselves and others using first and third person language patterns. The children enjoyed learning how to look up references in the Bible and finding out the meaning and expectations of Advent. We also looked at the role of the early Christians in spreading the message of Christ and the persecution they faced as well as persecution still faced by some Christians around the world.

### Class 7

This term we have been learning about lots of different topics: 'Bonfire Night', 'Remembrance Day', 'Weather' and 'Christmas'. We have looked at lots of historical events and how it has effected how we live now and how we celebrate these events today and why. We have looked at 'Jesus Calms the Storm' and 'Advent' in Religious Education. Looking at ways Jesus protected us, how he showed us to be a good friend and the Nativity story. We have done lots of work linking to our feelings, gospel values and understanding friendships. We have also learnt our colours in Spanish and Welsh. We have done lots of craft, Outdoor Learning and Sensory, which we have really enjoyed! We have been looking at ways we can find out the weather and why it is important to know the weather to be able to plan events (i.e. Our Christmas Concerts!!). We have been looking at the United Kingdom and practiced being a BBC Weather Presenter telling everyone the weather forecast for the week. We researched the weather and have written a script to perform to show off our presenting skills!!





#### Year 4

We have been very busy in Class 4 this half term. We have been learning all about the Ancient Egyptians, with our interest ignited by our trip to the Liverpool World Museum. One of the goriest parts of the topic was finding out about mummification and we enjoyed our experiment on mummifying fruit and vegetables, even if it was rather smelly! Our class book "There's a Pharaoh in the Bath" has proved popular and we have learnt how to write formal and informal letters. We were very lucky to have had a visit from the Mayor of Wrexham during World of Work week. We found out lots about the role and responsibilities of the Mayor and we wrote letters to thank Mr Prince for visiting us.

In Numeracy we have been measuring and finding the perimeter of different shapes. We are also working hard on our times tables.

We have been very creative, making our own papyrus paper and writing in hieroglyphics as well as learning a Tik Tok dance to help us learn all about algorithms! Our Welsh skills are improving and we are fantastic at using our Welsh naturally in the classroom. We can talk about the weather in the past, present and future. We have kept fit by long distance running and playing rugby during our PE sessions.

#### Year 2

We started this term in Year 2 learning all about autumn and what changes it brings to the community. We also spent time learning about Guy Fawkes and the Bonfire plot, even learning new words for how to describe him in Welsh! We spent some time learning about Diwali which is the Festival of Lights and made diya lamps to take home. November also allowed us to take part in 'World or Work' week. We had a travel agent come and talk to us about the exciting job she has and we learned all about how to book a holiday. We also had a zoom talk with CAFOD and were so inspired by the work they do that we have decided as a class to take part in a sponsorship activity next year to raise money for some of the families they help across the world. We have recently been learning all about Lapland which, of course, is where Santa Claus lives so we wrote letters to him and walked to the post box to post them to him and we are very excited to find out that he has written back to us! We also spent some time looking at light sources and enjoyed finding out about the Northern Lights which is a kind of natural light because God created it. We were so shocked to learn that the Northern Lights also make a sound so we made some music inspired by what we heard! I hope you all have a lovely Christmas break with your family and look forward to next term when our topic will be 'long, long ago'.

#### Reception

This half term in Reception has been very busy! We have been learning about people who help us, reading *The Jolly Postman* and *The Jolly Christmas Postman* and preparing for the Christmas nativity.

Our favourite week of the half term was World of Work Week. We had so many visitors! Carl, a bus driver, came to school in the Wrexham football team coach, it was amazing! Lucy talked to us about her job in an office and we went to the *Gwenfro Adventure Playground* to see the playworkers. We had a fitness session with a personal trainer and our favourite was Mr Davies coming in to talk about his job in the hospital and allowing us to do some science experiments.

Have a merry and restful Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.



### Year 3

Our topic this term was based upon the book 'Matilda'. We really enjoyed reading it and taking part in lots of fun activities linked to the book. Here are some of the things we have done.

We have written the story in our own words, made character profiles, researched the author Roald Dahl and then written biographies about him. We wrote questions in Talking Partners and then hot-seated Matilda.

We discovered Roald Dahl was born in Wales so we learned lots about our culture. We looked at what makes us proud to be Welsh- our castles, our rugby team, delicious Welsh food as well as our Welsh language.

Following on from this, we studied a Welsh artist, Rhiannon Roberts and produced our own paintings using her style and techniques.

We listened to well-known Welsh legends such as 'Gelert' and acted out parts from the story. It was such a sad story!

As Matilda was a genius, we decided to research famous geniuses through time. We then made powerpoints about them and presented these to the class. It was great and so interesting.

### Year 1

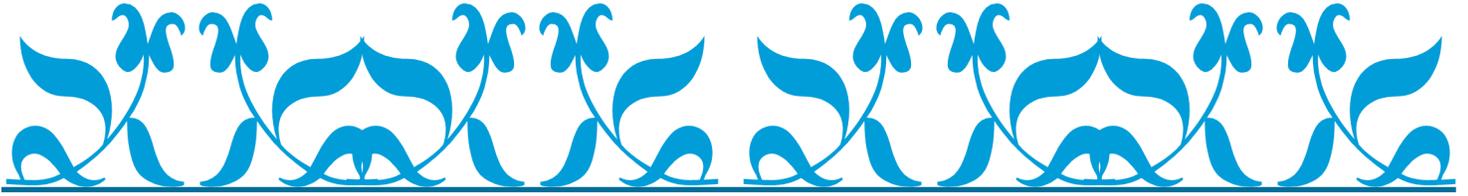
This half term in Year 1 we have been looking at lots of things to do with temperature and the cold. We learnt about the Arctic and what lives there. We went on a temperature walk using thermometers to find out how cold it was in different places. We had a week of looking at how we are spoiling our world for the Arctic animals and how we can help to stop this. We made our own Arctic landscape using ice blocks and then looked at how putting warmth on it melted the ice away and the animals lost their homes. World of Work Week was great as we met Sandra who was a nurse and she told us how we can stay healthy. We also had Mrs. Thomas who told us about being a ranger in all the different seasons.

We have been busy the last few weeks doing all our Christmas work. We will be bringing many lovely surprises home.

All the grown ups in Year 1 wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### Nursery

Over the past few weeks, we have been very busy in nursery learning about 'People who help us'. We had a visit from the police and were able to look in the police van and test the sirens. The home corner is set up as a post office, as we know how busy Father Christmas is at the moment and he needs our help. The children have been sorting 2D shapes, ordering numbers 1 to 20 and matching different shaped presents to help Santa. We have also been looking at the sounds 's' and 'a', practicing our letter formation and finding Christmas words with them in. During our outdoor learning sessions we have made bird feeders to help the birds in winter. We have been



### Eco Council

Our Eco Council have been extremely busy this term, having fortnightly meetings to discuss how we can make our school even more environmentally friendly.

We undertake regular litter picks as part of our commitment to the local community.

Thanks for helping us collect "Morrisons Good to Grow" tokens. We have ordered trowels, forks, gloves and a wooden planter which will be delivered in the New Year!

After taking a survey of our school bird feeders, we had lunchtime meetings to design and make more feeders using recycled plastic bottles and twigs.

### School Council

In school council, we have asked pupils what they would like changing in school. We have looked at the lack of outdoor covered areas and we are applying for funding to try and get some put up. We have done a questionnaire for KS2 pupils to ask how they feel about school with new covid rules and are hoping to help pupils with any concerns. Some of us are making posters to tell the other pupils what we are doing.

### Criw Cymraeg

Members of Criw Cymraeg have been busy this term. They have been around the school looking for ways to display more Welsh. They have made posters to put up around the school and encouraged their class to make the classroom bi-lingual. They are always on hand to encourage their classmates to speak more Welsh in and outside the classroom and have been involved in the process of deciding what equipment and resources we will need to do this. They have just put forward a bid on the Welsh Dragon's Den. They had to prepare a presentation asking the Dragons for £200 to develop the use of Welsh in our school. They decided on resources for the playground

### Friends Of St Annes

Friends of St Anne's have still been busy helping the school to fund different things. This term they have paid for several buses for class trips and have covered the cost of an online pantomime for all classes as a Christmas treat. Mrs Blackwell has organised a Christmas raffle and as usual has been super efficient in collecting the money and getting the tickets out to the correct people. We would like to thank them for their help and support even in these difficult times.

