

# St Anne's Catholic Primary School

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



### SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

It has been a very busy term with so many invaluable teaching and learning experiences for our children.

Hopefully within this Newsletter, we can share what we have been doing .

#### School Council

In the school council we have helped a company called ' Countryside trust' to employ new staff by sitting on the interview panel and giving our feedback. That was fun! We helped promote a 10p sale of books by making posters for around the school. We also helped to sell cakes to raise money for the people of the Ukraine which raised a massive £600. We meet regularly to discuss suggestions that pupils have brought up. We discuss how viable they are and research prices when needed. We also arranged an assembly over zoom where we all shared prayers for the people of the Ukraine.

#### Parents Evenings

Parents Evenings were well attended either face to face or via zoom. We hope that having spoken to your child/children's class teachers you have a good understanding of how well they are progressing and what you can do to help them at home. A little disappointing that a number of parents didn't attend. It is very important that we work together to ensure your children reach their full potential.

If you have any concerns about your child's progress or wellbeing, firstly contact the class teacher. You are however very welcome to make an appointment to speak to either Mrs Stephens or Mrs Priest-Jones.

#### Social Media

Miss Davies and Miss Gresham have set up school media pages on Twitter and Facebook. We will not post photographs of children unless parents and carers have consented to this via our GDPR forms.

#### Eco-Council

Our Eco Council have been really busy again this term. We have continued with our regular litter picks in the local community and are now registered as a "Litter Free Zone" with Keep Wales Tidy. We can now register how much litter we collect and have been given our own litter picking equipment.

Our "Morrison's Good to Grow" gardening tools have been put to good use as we have been tidying and planting lots of spring flowers around our school.

After undertaking an Environmental Review, we are now looking at how we can further improve our school environment during our fortnightly Eco meetings.

#### Class 7 News

This term we have been learning about 'The Secret Life of Pets'. We have looked at what animals make good pets and which ones are better in the wild. We have looked at how to look after our pets and how this is similar to looking after ourselves and each other. We have looked at 'Special Meals' and 'Lent' in Religious Education. We have done lots of work linking to our feelings, gospel values and understanding different families. We have also learnt our days of the week in Spanish and animals in Welsh. We have done lots of craft, Outdoor Learning and Sensory, which we have really enjoyed! We have been to Park Hall Farm and had the most amazing day on the trip!

### Attendance

- > Even though we have had covid cases across the whole school attendance is 85%
- > Parents meetings have taken place this half term with either Mrs Priest-Jones or Mrs Stephens. There has been an improvement in individual attendance which is having an impact on the whole school attendance. Great news!
- > Please continue to support your child's learning journey by sending them into school every day and on time.

### Dates for the diary

- 25.04.2022 -Inset day
  - 8 Year 5/6 residential
  - 26.04.2022— School opens
  - 02.05.2022—Bank Holiday
  - 06.05.2022—Non Uniform day
  - 27.05.2022—half term holiday
  - 06.06.2022—Inset Day
  - 07.06.2022—School opens
  - 09.06.2022—Show and Share day
  - 30.06.2022—common transfer day for Year 6 pupils to high school
  - 19.07.2022—Finish for summer
- Any new dates will be posted on the app and the website.*



### Nursery News

This half term Nursery have been very busy learning about the Farm and the seasons of Winter and Spring. The children have enjoyed finding out about the seasons through play and by using their senses to explore ice, frost, spring buds, petals and daffodils. The children showed a great interest in growing and so we planted bulbs and we have hunted for signs of spring. We have practised our colours in Welsh and Spanish. We then used our languages to help us to name the colours of the daffodils, which we painted using water colours.

We have learnt a lot about the Farm. We have explored the jobs a farmer does, which animals live on a farm and which homes they live in. We have made animal homes using recycled materials and we then used these creations in our Farm small world. We have enjoyed singing farm songs and we made our own animal masks to practise asking 'pwy wyt ti?' in Welsh. The Nursery showed a lot of interest in chickens and their eggs. We read the story 'Oh Dear!' and we collected eggs on a hunt and counted them in English and in Welsh. We sequenced the life cycle of a chicken and we watched a video on the lpad of a chick hatching. The children were fascinated by this and so we added lots of eggs and little chicks into our play and Numeracy.

### Reception News

What a busy term we have had in Reception! After Christmas we were learning all about the weather and kept weather diaries, explored Vivaldi's Four Seasons and started learning Makaton with Miss Sue. This half term we have been learning about farming. We have been trying to learn the animal names in Welsh and Spanish through songs and games. We had a 'Fair Trade' Day where we all wore yellow and celebrated farming around the world and wrote to Pablo, the Super Banana (Cafod). To end our topic, we visited Park Hall Farm. We enjoyed meeting the animals, exploring the milking parlour and tractor rides.

We all need a rest over Easter, ready to come back and have lots more fun!

### Year 1 News

We have had a very busy half term in year 1 and the children have all worked extremely hard.

We have done lots of work to do with St David's Day, Mother's Day, Easter and our topic 'Healthy Me'. In Maths, we have learned about time, fractions ( $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$ ) and halving numbers.

We have been learning numbers and the weather in both Welsh and Spanish.

The children have done a lot of work about being healthy – focusing on healthy living, hygiene and exercise. They have also learned how to use oximeters to measure their heart rates in PE lessons. In literacy and humanities, we have looked at Wales and Ukraine. We have researched information and made fact files about the two countries. Recently we looked at similes and used them to write a poem about our mums for Mother's Day. Our class have also used their creative skills to do lots of craft for St David's Day, Mother's Day and Easter.

Our topic after the Easter holidays will be 'Lots of things grow'. Have a lovely, relaxing holiday!

### Year 2 News

This term we have enjoyed learning all about our topic 'Me and my body'. We have looked at how the body works and used our time in PE to explore how our body moves through gymnastics and dance! We have learned some new songs in Welsh and Spanish for head, shoulders, knees and toes as well as a song called 'We Stand Together' in relation to our work on Children's Rights. Learning about Child's Rights has been a very important part of our learning over the last term along with how we can live a healthy lifestyle. We have recreated pieces of art by Andy Warhol but used our own portraits to make pop art masterpieces! We have really enjoyed setting up our own fitness centre in the outdoor area where we chose exercises and sorted equipment including heart rate monitors to see how exercise affect our bodies. Well done for all your hard work this term Year 2. I hope you all have a lovely Easter break with your family.

### Class 3 News

We began the new year with a new topic 'The Extreme'. We started by finding out all about the Arctic, the windiest and coldest place on earth. We learnt how to read temperatures below zero and regularly monitored the temperature here. It was cold some days but not as cold as the Arctic! We found out about the different animals that live in this harsh environment and how they have adapted to live there. Many animals have blubber to keep them warm like the walrus and the polar bear. We decided to test blubber to see if it really did keep you warm. We tried putting our hands in ice, first without and then with blubber (lard). What a difference! It really worked. Our hands were toasty in the blubber. We also learnt about the Inuit people and what their lives are like living within the Arctic Circle. Sadly, we also found out about how Global Warming is affecting one of the most beautiful places on earth. We each made promises to do what we could to care for God's world. We hope you will too!

### Year 4 News

As part of our topic 'Communities' we had a fun day out at the Gwenfro Valley Adventure playground - a great way of developing our team building skills whilst learning about local facilities. We invited members of the school and church community into our classroom and asked them questions about their roles in the community. We also visited the church to explore what part the church plays in our community.

In numeracy we have been practising time and money. We studied timetables and looked at different costs involved in journeys. We have also worked hard with fractions.

As part of our World Book day activities, we visited Wrexham Library, receiving a goody bag and a book to bring back to school.

We have made adverts promoting our school and promoting our fundraiser for Ukraine. The children decided which charity to support and have been busy carrying out market research, advertising and making the products to sell - excellent entrepreneurs!

We are very excited to have formed a partnership with Class 4 in Ysgol Bro Alun, a Welsh medium school. The aim is to further enhance our Welsh language skills and to share our experience of learning in a Catholic school. We have e-mailed (in Welsh), held a Zoom meeting and we hope to visit the school soon.

### Year 5 News

In Year 5, we have been busy learning about animals. In literacy we have looked at animal poems, stories, debates, mythical creatures and damage to animals in the ocean. We have learnt about endangered animals and the reasons they have become this way. We looked at Bible passages where God has told us to look after the earth and all the animals in it. In science we have looked at habitats, food chains, adaptations, and classification of animals. In art we have painted animals, sketched animals, looked at animal patterns, made animal collages out of paper. As part of Health and wellbeing we have looked at healthy diets, the benefits of vitamins and minerals and learnt how our heart works. In maths we have made graphs using animal data, used our skills of area and perimeter to work out the cost of a conservation area. We have also looked at multiples, factors, ratio and probability and multiplication. We have made animal movies using the stop motion app and made animal branching data bases. We have enjoyed many games outside, enjoyed reading another class book together, taekwondo and the gym and lots of cooking!

### Year 6 News

During the Spring term, year 6's topic has been Blue Planet. We have enjoyed exploring lots about the Earth and the other planets in our Solar system and had the opportunity to help out with some real life science, by counting walrus in satellite images for WWF. We found out about life in the Polar regions and planned a scientific expedition to Antarctica. We created art work in the style of Inuit artist Kenojuak Ashevak, and compared the Inuit culture with life in Wales.

We have developed our ICT skills by using adobe creative cloud to create travel blogs about the Arctic and made a stop motion animated advert to encourage people to stop using plastic by highlighting the issues it has caused to the world's oceans.

We had a real life opportunity to use persuasive writing skills when writing to the local council and chair of Governors about the temperature in our classroom, and we have had fun acting out scenes from William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*.

We have very much enjoyed learning to play golf and found yoga and meditation very relaxing on a Friday afternoon! We have developed our understanding of the Sacrament of holy communion, Lent and the importance of looking after the world God created for us.

We are looking forward to our final term in primary school!

## St Anne's Got Talent 2022

At the end of February, we held the final of St Anne's Got Talent. The children were chosen for the final by their class peers. The finalists were:

Finlay—(singing)

Fabian/Marley/Caleb (Football skills)

Julia—Golden Ticket to the final  
(Playing the piano)

Oliwia L (dancing)

Olivia B (dancing)

Eifion/Marcel (dancing)

Maya/Paddy (singing)

We all had a wonderful morning, even though many of the classes had to watch via zoom due to covid restrictions. A big shout out to Brianna in Year 6 who sang for us during the interval whilst the judges Mr Mario, Mrs Thomas, Mrs A Thomas and Mrs Pritchard chose the winning act.

## St David's Day Parade and Eisteddfod

A wonderful week celebrating the life of St David, through a variety of activities completed at home and in school. The hall was covered in wonderful pieces of work and the creativity was fantastic. Thank you to all parents and carers for supporting at home.

The Year 5 and Year 6 pupils joined a parade with other schools in Wrexham to celebrate the life of our patron. You may have spotted Mrs Hughes and one of our pupils on Wrexham.com. The children were incredibly well behaved and were a wonderful advert for our school.

Mrs Hughes also led a whole school assembly via zoom where classes shared what they had been doing and to give certificates to the winners from each class.

Bendigedig a diolch to all of you that made this week so successful.

Congratulations to all our finalists, you were all fantastic and well done to Julia in Year 5 who won the competition. She played John Legend's 'All of me' on the piano. It was beautiful!

## World Book Day

On Thursday 17th March, we celebrated World Book Day. The majority of the children and staff dressed up as a character from a book and took part in a whole school parade on the school grounds. There were some wonderful costumes. Mrs Stephen's particularly liked the home-made creations. Mrs Trunchbull was our winner this year with Cruella de Ville in 2nd place. Well done Julia and Lillie-Jo.

## Hot Chocolate with the Head

Mrs Priest-Jones has enjoyed hot chocolate and spending time with Lola B, Alexander and Lilly D. These foundation phase pupils were chosen by their class teachers for trying so hard in all they do. Da iawn pawb!

This week, she spent time with Natan, Lola U and Oliwia W in KS2. Again lovely children that give 100% to everything they do! Muy bien.



**A person who feels appreciated will always do more than what is expected.**

### Upcoming Events:

#### After School Clubs:

After Easter, we will be starting our After School Clubs. We will contact you shortly about what we have to offer.

#### Investors in Families:

This is a new initiative currently working very well in Gwersyllt primary school to support families in accessing course, support with finances and parental support. 'Welcome Wednesday' will start after Easter. Please see the website and school noticeboard for more information.

#### Show and Share Day:

On 9th June, parents and carers will be invited to school to sit with their child to go through their learning journey. Coffee and tea will also be provided.

The last time we were able to hold this event was in 2019—pre covid. It was a wonderful success and was great to see so many parents in our school hall.