

Year 2 - Power of Reading



We have recently embarked on a whole school book study based on the story 'Croc and Bird' by Alexis Deacon.

In Year 2 we wrote newspaper articles based on the discovery of an unusual nest in the nurture room, featuring two hatched eggs. Our headlines were MYSTERY NEST DISCOVERED!



Following this, we explored the evidence and painted our predictions using water colours as to what creatures may have hatched. Once we agreed that it was likely to be a crocodile and a



bird, we then watched real hatchings on youtube and compared the differences. We created fact files on both creatures and sorted out amazing facts for our class big book of evidence.

Next, we decided to write a persuasive letter to the kitchen staff to convince them to feed the mystery animals. We had to use a range of persuasive language in

our letters!

After this, we focused on the book some more, looking at the characters in more detail. We wrote diary entries for both Croc and Bird and used interesting vocabulary from the text.

As a link to our instructional writing, we then followed a

recipe to create chocolate nests in class, it was messy but seriously tasty!

For a link to our creative curriculum, we then used modelling clay to

create miniature figurines of the two creatures, they were very fiddly, but our gallery looked wonderful.

We thoroughly enjoyed this book, and we are currently comparing it to another story by the same author called 'Beegu' and we can't wait to finish it!



World Book Day



We've had a fantastic day celebrating the books we love to read and share together. As the school, we took time to discuss your favourite characters and our outfits. We answered quizzes about teachers hiding behind their favourite book. In the afternoon, we met up with our reading buddies and shared a book and then went off to assembly together. A great day all round!



Mr McGovern visits Cambodia

The trip to Cambodia was a special and amazing experience for myself and the other parishioners and staff St Albans. The parish has been working with The Parish of St. John the Apostle for many years and helps to fund the 'rice soup' programme in the more remote areas of Siem Reap. Providing education and food are a big part of the work that they do. We were privileged to see some of this work first hand and below details some of the experiences.

Ta Om

Ta Om is a village on the banks of the river about 60km SW of Siem Reap.

The parish helped to build an education centre which provides schooling for the children of the village, and feeds them rice soup, a nourishing broth of rice and vegetables made of pork, black pudding and fish where available.

The children were so patient and well mannered, always sitting quietly during prayers before they ate, despite how hungry they must have been.

After lunch we went to Mass in the local community, and visited some local families delivering help packs, which we paid for using donations raised from our school. These packs contained rice, oil salt and soap. We also got the children small gifts of colouring books and pencils which were greatly appreciated.

Anlong Pi

Anlong Pi is situated next to a huge rubbish dump. Most of the people work on the dump salvaging plastic for recycling. Alan and Alison (retired teachers from the Wirral) have set up a school in this area focusing on the children of the families who work on the dump.

Feeding the children is an important part of the work and the school is aiming to be self-sufficient by growing its own vegetables and farming fish.

The work they are doing is inspirational and will be a valuable link to future trips made by



St. Josephs A donation was also made to this school from our fundraising.

Kompong Kleang

Another day saw a visit to Kompong Kleang, a village on stilts. This is because during the rainy season the water levels rise and the village becomes cut off. This is a very poor community, where the rice soup programme helps massively. I ran a couple of sessions with a group of about of about 60 children, where I played some games, did some songs and we also practised some English. The children were amazing despite the language barrier.

Prek Toal

This floating village is in the middle of a vast lake which took 2 hours to get to by boat. The community is served by a floating church, which also doubles as an education centre. This is because the current school is sinking and is no longer safe, as are many of the local homes. Children make their way by boat, most without adult supervision. This is probably the place with the most extreme poverty. We visited 2 families after school, rice soup and mass. These houses were very small with large families living in them. This experience really hit home how challenging daily life is for many in Cambodia.

Home of Joy

Close by the church is an orphanage run by the Missionary Sister of Charity. This was home to some very vulnerable children, most of who had been given up by their families. The children were delighted with the toys bought with some of the donation money raised.

Overall it was an incredible, challenging, moving and inspiring experience. We look forward to using this trip to strengthen our bond between the parishes and the school both in Cambodia and at home with St. Albans. A massive thank you to you all for the money that you raised. Look out for more fundraising projects



School Attendance

Attendance is good at present, well done to all who have still got 100%!
It is a key priority for us to ensure that attendance remains at **95% or above**.

And to everyone who has made such an effort this week to be in school every day

Attendance overall including Foundation Stage: 94%

Attendance overall without Foundation Stage: 95%

Those who have already fallen below national average will be invited into Attendance Panel or receive a home visit from our Education Social Worker, Steve Clayton.

Attendance Panels are taking place on

CLASS	LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK
Foundation 1/2 (am): Mrs Walker	73%	94%
Foundation 2 Miss Howard	90%	94%
Year 1: Miss J Turner	88%	94%
Year 1/2 : Miss Davies	90%	97%
Year 2: Miss Last	88%	96%
Year 3: Miss Lewtas	88%	95%
Year 4 Miss Finnigan	86%	94%
Year 4/5 Mr McCann	82%	93%
Year 5: Mr Clare	94%	99%
Year 6: Miss Morgan	91%	93%
Year 6: Mrs Boekweit-Hughes	95%	86%

Snow fun for Year 4

What an exciting first day of the spring term we had this week when on Tuesday we arrived back at school to a blanket of white snow. After a play in the snow we were inspired to write all about it.

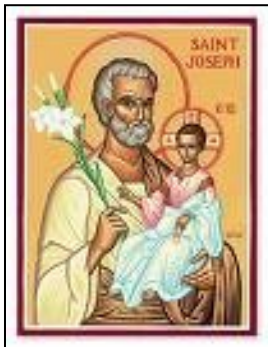


We wrote a detailed recount about being snowed in school. We were encouraged to describe our journey to school, trudging through a heavy snowfall, describing how we felt, and what the snow was like for us. Then we discussed how we would feel if we became snowed in school and what we would do. We had loads of fun ideas including sleeping under the desks, having a party in the hall and playing on the iPads. At the end of our writing task many of us actually wished we did get snowed in, however Miss Finnigan was relieved at 3.30 when we could escape home.



On Wednesday Paul came in to introduce how grids are organised and how we refer to areas on the map, using correct language. In pairs, we explored a map of the Wirral and became experts at finding places of interest using grid references. Then we used a piece of blank paper to measure the distance of points of interest on the map. We found out that there is actually only 1.5km between Anfield and Goodison Park.





St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

"Together in faith we nurture, encourage and inspire each other to achieve excellence and become all that Jesus calls us to be"

Headteacher Mrs K Vernon

School Office 2nd March 2018



Dear Parents/Carers,

Sacramental preparation

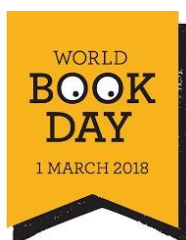


Our Sacramental preparation programme for First Forgiveness and First Holy Communion starts with our **Mass of Enrolment on Sunday 4th March at 11.00am at church** followed by our first meeting for children and parents

on **Tuesday 6th March at 5.00pm at St Joseph's Church**. We look forward to welcoming you to mass on Sunday and supporting you and your child at this very special time.

World Book Day

We have enjoyed a lovely day in school to celebrate World Book Day. The children and staff alike all looked fantastic in their character outfits. Thank you to all for your support as always. The children enjoyed



showing off their outfits in a special World Book Day assembly by Mrs Boekweit-Hughes and enjoyed a range of fun activities linked to books and stories throughout the day, including special time with their reading buddies.

Parents Evening

Our Parents Evening will take place on Monday 12th March from 2.45 pm to 5.30pm. This will provide an important opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress with the class teacher, and to look through their work. You will receive a letter next week asking you to choose an appointment slot with your child's class teacher. Appointments will last around 5 minutes. If you feel you would need additional time to this please could we ask that you arrange to meet with your child's teacher at a separate time. We look forward to seeing you there.

Don't forget parents evening!

Cambodia

Mr McGovern experienced a most memorable and heart-warming visit to Cambodia earlier this month. Please see inside the newsletter for exciting news about his recent visit and details of future projects that we are planning to get involved in.



Nugent Care

I would like to say a big thank you to all families for your support on our non-uniform day for our Lenten 'Nugent Care Good Shepherd Appeal'. Nugent Care is a charity based in Liverpool who raise money to support vulnerable adults and children through care homes, social care and community projects. With your help we have been able to raise **£106** so far for this very worthy cause. Many thanks for your generosity.

Every blessing

Mrs Vernon

Golden Assembly 2nd March 2018	
Mrs Walker	
Miss Howard	
Miss J Turner	
Miss Davies	
Miss Last	
Miss Lewtas	Harry Steele
Miss Finnigan	Kyle Butler
Mr McCann	Lilly-Mae Oldrid Lowe
Mr Clare	Poppy Dermody
Mrs Boekweit-Hughes	Paige O'Neill
Mrs Morgan	Kallum Pulford