



# St Albert the Great Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs K Little



26<sup>th</sup> May, 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have been truly blessed this week with the glorious weather. Our **'Learning Outside the Classroom' week** started on Monday with a fantastic Wow day with lots of stories, singing and dancing all linked to our environmental theme. I was very proud of our children when Lesley told me she could see brilliant examples of the children's retention of the key messages and signs that she has been reinforcing with each visit and that we use on a daily basis. I would like to thank Mrs Ansell for her inspiration as our Science leader and all of the staff who have made this an exciting and enjoyable week for all of our children. Thank you also to Mrs Kelly who has been instrumental in helping us with our box planters.

The **Foundation Stage** children had a visit from the Fire Brigade who allowed them to climb aboard the engine and see how the fire hoses work, they took part in an outdoor treasure hunt, collected natural materials and then in pairs created some of their own natural art, Mrs Alves came in to talk to them about what it means to be an ambulance driver and paramedic, they created their own teepees, had a bbq where they cooked bananas and did some fantastic problem solving using water.

The children in **Year 1** made some fantastic leaf prints on fabric and some of these are on display in our Learning Powers display cabinet in our entrance hall. The technique is called 'Hapa Zome' which is Japanese and means 'beating up leaves with hammers' and involves pounding natural pigment into cloth. They have participated in a wide variety of activities including a nature hunt, a treasure hunt using photos taken around the school grounds, looked for 2D and 3D shapes around the school, made mini animal homes, a scavenger hunt, matched leaves to colour charts, used measuring skills in 'Forest Maths', had many stories outside and looked at our wonderful world and God's creation as part of their RE topic.

The children in **Year 2** have combined their outdoor activities with some focused work during the morning sessions when they have had the opportunity to show off what they have learned in their KS1 SATs assessments. They have created their own 'Andy Goldsworthy' art, taken part in pond dipping and classified creatures they found, built dens and then checked to see how waterproof they were and used inspiration from the beautiful trees in our grounds to ask the question 'what does a tree's face say about its character'. This inspired them to do some sketching and word building.

**Year 3** have worked with the Year 6 children to design and build dens, built tunnels in the Forest School area linked to their English work using the story 'The Tunnel' by Anthony Browne and some of their work is on display in the 'Curiosity' display cabinet under the theme 'imagining' where they had to imagine being in a tunnel. They took part in a Maths scavenger hunt and created some amazing large scale flower artwork using inspiration from the artist Andy Goldsworthy.

The **Year 4** class have linked their maths with the environment – looking for angles in the natural environment. They have used our lovely new decked area to do pond dipping and identify water creatures, designed and created a 'living school' crest, used the Forest School area and created Japanese Hapa Zome leaf prints and also did some photographic activities. In addition to their outdoor learning, they also went to St John's Church in Boxmoor where they took part in a **'WOOFYT'** morning. This was sponsored by the IOP – the Institute of Physics. A 'WOOFYT' is a 'Wooden One-octave Organ For Young Technologists' which is an innovative working model of a pipe organ that can be operated by children. The highlight of the morning was playing the WOOFYT which required teamwork, two to the pump, four to the air bag keeping the pressure constant with reference to a u-tube manometer and one person to each pipe. The children were able to draw brilliant diagrams and explain this process to me. Thank you to the Hertfordshire Music Service who organised the session.

**Year 5** began the week as **Lesley's chosen 'stars of the day'** with their demonstration of their cooperation and respect for each other in how they created cooperative dances. They have created chalk mazes and labyrinths on the playground, created a wide variety of natural art, planted vegetables in their box planter, drawn some



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amazing sketches of the examples of nature in our local environment, looked at symmetry in nature as well as a variety of other measurement activities – linking their maths curriculum with our outdoor learning week. They also built some super dens and painted some beautiful prayer cairns which have been placed around the school. If you look carefully at the entrance to our Forest School you will see 2 examples as well as in the area by the front entrance and the curb adjacent to the HT parking space. They also created a prayer cairn to put in the HT office. This morning they also created water art with Mr Gibson which involved him soaking the ground or wall around them – but I think he also took some delight in making them wet too – which was great fun and they all had a lovely morning.

The **Year 6** class have linked their outdoor learning with some of the best creative writing I have heard and seen. It was inspired by their walk through the Spinney and Forest School area as well as a miniature door provided by Mrs Anderton. They have also been pond dipping, bug hunting, den building and producing a lot of maths data which will form the basis for a project after the half term break. **Year 6** also presented their last **Sharing Assembly** this morning and it was so lovely to hear what they have learned. Due to a technical glitch, the powerpoint presentation they had carefully created to help us engage with their speaking was not shown. This will be posted on the class page section of our school website. I hope you will take a few minutes to have a look at the examples of the high quality work they have produced.

Please have a look at the class pages on our website to see the photographs of the activities the children have taken part in this week.



Year 5 water art/shadows



Year 3 creating a tunnel in the Spinney



Andy Goldsworthy inspired Art

### **BLP Awards**

Congratulations to the children who have received awards for the following Learning Powers and Values:

**Perseverance:** Year 1 – Darcy Frogell-Mason, Year 2 – Brooke Franklin, Year 3 – Ciara Watts, Year 4 – Lilian Durrant, Year 5- Luke Mace, Year 6 – Whole Class (SATs week)

**Trust:** Year 1 – Stanley Bickmore, Year 2 – Jayden Linares, Year 3 – Cade Bennison, Year 4 – Mateo Woltynski, Year 5 – Amber Gee, Year 6 – Frances Lizardo

**Love:** Year 1 – Sophia Gesicki, Year 2 – Whole Class (SATs week), Year 3 – Esha Tanna, Year 4 – Miley-Bree Mc Menamin, Year 5 – Calum Dudley-O'Neill, Year 6 – Shayne Ellam

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a peaceful, safe and restful half term break. School resumes on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June.

Mrs K Little  
Headteacher



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