

Personal Development October 2024

'Let All Creation Sing' Retreat Day



Dan and Emily from One Life joined St Anne's on Tuesday for a retreat day celebration of God's Creation. The children prayed, reflected and rejoiced in song! With class based activities and whole school assembly time, the children had a memorable and faith-filled day. It was a magnificent and spiritual day filled with hope, inspiration and a renewed sense of faith. This was a wonderful way to draw the Season of Creation to a close.

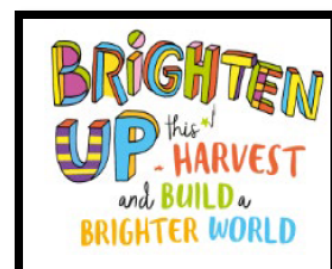
Faith in Action:

The Liturgical leaders have distributed a beautiful olive wood candle to each class, as part of the celebration for the Our Father Week, which is taking place across Our Lady and All Saints MAC. These candles will be displayed on the focal points, next to the Lord's Prayer. We continue to focus on the Our Father during the Year of Prayer and consider the importance of the words Jesus taught us. Thank-you to St Anne's Parish for kindly gifting the candles to school.



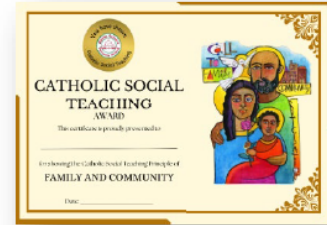
CAFOD Family Fast Day – Little Way Week

Today is Family Fast Day, which is a time for praying and sharing. At St Anne's we want to say a massive THANK YOU for your generous donations to support the vulnerable in our local community. Through this small act of Kindness during Little Way Week, we will collectively make a huge difference to those in need. We are always over whelmed by the kindness and generosity of our parents and local community. Today, you are standing in solidarity with those facing incredible hardships, as part of one family of God



Autumn One Focus– Family and Community

At St Anne's children will be chosen each week to receive a certificate for portraying one of the Catholic Social Teaching principles. This is to celebrate children putting their faith into action and to encourage deeper thinking on why we do things (i.e. we look after God's world because we have been entrusted as Stewards). Congratulations to the children chosen this week during phase assembly!



Faith without action, isn't faith at all.

VOTES FOR SCHOOLS

In last week's votes the children answered the following topic question:

- Could pre-loved clothes become more popular than buying new? (7-11)
- Would you give away your belongings? (5-7)



The theme for this year is: *Reclaiming Narratives*

This year's theme has a special focus on stories of inspiration about true black heroes and their contributions to society. It has been lovely to see classes combining storytelling and history and highlighting the untold stories and histories of Black people. It is important that we recognise, celebrate and remember the achievements of Black communities locally, nationally and internationally.

National Poetry Day

On Thursday, St. Anne's celebrated the power of poetry! Every year group had a different poem to explore, linking to the theme of 'counting'. Our voices count, we count and so does poetry! Children had the opportunity to listen, perform and complete activities based on their poem.

October the Month of Mary

October is designated as a month of particular devotion to Mary. It is a powerful time to pray to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Each class focal point has a special focus on Mary and children will be exploring the mysteries of the Rosary and dedicating time to pray the Rosary.



Our Father Week

During the Year of Prayer, Pope Francis has called us to focus on the Our Father Prayer. For 'Our Father Week' a special emphasis has been dedicated to this prayer across school. Each year group has a special focus line from the prayer to explore and look at the meaning. Lots of meaningful and beautiful prayer and Liturgy activities have been planned across school. At the end of the week the whole school will come together and reflect on the meaning of the 'Our Father Prayer' by joining all lines together in a God's gift Assembly. We look forward to creating a school display showcasing all the children's work.

Buddy Mass

After joining together in Mass to celebrate the feast day of St Francis, Year 1 and Year 6 then came back to school to enjoy a playtime together followed by a delicious biscuit treat! All of the children made us so incredibly proud this morning.



European Day of Languages!

Over the past fortnight, we have celebrated the European Day of Languages at St Anne's! We have so many languages spoken by our staff and children at St Anne's, it is truly incredible. We talked about this through our Phase Assembly of the week, and how important it is to share and appreciate each other's heritage and languages. In our classes, we have celebrated this day by completing the British Council's 'Great French Language Challenge', and also learnt about the different countries around the world that speak French. We had so much fun completing the French Language Challenge in our classes!

BRITISH COUNCIL The Great French Language Challenge

- Teach your parent or guardian a phrase in French.
- Find an app that allows you to practice French and learn five new words.
- Find out the names of ten well-known sports players who are from French-speaking countries.
- Learn the 'happy birthday' song in French.
- Change your social media app settings into French for one hour.
- Find out the names of ten well-known forests, coastlines or mountain ranges which are found in French-speaking countries.
- Find out about five famous scientists, artists, writers or engineers who are from countries where French is the official language.
- List four well-known buildings or monuments that can be found in a French-speaking country.
- Write a short paragraph about a French-speaking country you would like to visit and why.
- Try a food item from a French-speaking country you have never tried before.
- List ten French words that have made it into the English language (e.g. choufleur).
- Find out how to say the following phrases in French:
 Excuse me
 Could you repeat that?
 See you later!
- Listen to a song in French.
- Cook a dish from a French-speaking country.
- Find a French language video or cartoon on YouTube and watch it.
- Find out how many countries have French as their official language.

To find more school and teacher resources, visit: www.britishcouncil.org/french-resources



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

In Nursery this week the children have been learning all about feelings. The children shared books about happiness and talked about things that make them feel happy too. They made happy faces using loose parts. Look at our beautiful smiley faces!

Jack "I feel happy when I go to the beach and play in the sand."

Mia "I feel happy when I go swimming."

Carter "I feel happy when I play outside in the sun."

Milan "I feel happy when I go on holiday."



PSHE

We have been learning about being a good friend. We listened to the story of the Rainbow Fish and discussed how the fish was lonely when he didn't share with his friends. We thought about what we can do to show friendship to others and created our own Friendship fish.



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

Our Catholic Social Teaching focus for this half term is 'Family and Community.' Linked to this theme, the children have been considering ways that we can live out this important principle through our actions. Last Friday, during the celebration of Harvest, children across the school kindly donated a food item for the local foodbank and the Liturgical Leaders (and other helpers) helped load the van that will be transported and help so many in the local community. The volunteer commented at how overwhelmed she felt with the level of generosity from the boys and girls at St Anne's.



OTHER FAITH WEEK – YEAR 1 AND YEAR 4 – JUDAISM

Year 1

This week, as part of our studies on different religions, in Year 1 and Year 4 we have been learning about Judaism. In Year 1, we explored key symbols of the Jewish faith, focusing especially on the Star of David and how its points represent different aspects of the religion. During our art lessons, we tried out pointillism and used this technique to decorate a Star of David with various patterns. We also learned about Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, which commemorates a miracle that occurred in Jerusalem over 2,000 years ago. Together, we sequenced the Hanukkah story and explored how Jewish people celebrate this meaningful festival.



Year 4:

In Year 4, we explored the origins of Judaism, focusing on Abraham and Moses. The children learnt about Jewish festivals such as Passover and Sukkot, they learnt about the history and traditions of these. Using role play, the children re-enacted the story of Exodus in groups linked to the celebrations of Passover. We were also joined by a visitor from the local synagogue called Ruth who came to speak to the children about the Jewish faith. The children got the opportunity to ask questions, explore artefacts and find out more first-hand about Judaism. To finish the week, the children created their own version of the Ten Commandments!



THE YEAR OF PRAYER – OUR FATHER

In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee year of 'Pilgrims of Hope', this year has been designated as a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis. There is a particular focus on the Our Father, which we have been celebrating in different ways. Each class has been focusing on a different part of the prayer and we have also explored the prayer in different languages!



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT



In last week's votes the children answered the following topic question:

Do we know how to appreciate other people's heritage? (7-11)
Can you learn from other people's life stories? (5-7)

Money Twist/ My Bank

Year 5 & 6 are enjoying taking part in a financial education programme, which is designed to help set positive money habits and mind-sets from an early age. This week's session was focused around the theme

'My Future.'

The children found out about the benefits of saving, calculating interest as a reward or charge, and understanding risk. Thinking about personal future endeavours.



The theme for this year is: **Reclaiming Narratives**

This year's theme has a special focus on stories of inspiration about true black heroes and their contributions to society. It has been lovely to see classes combining storytelling and history and highlighting the untold stories and histories of Black people. It is important that we recognise, celebrate and remember the achievements of Black communities locally, nationally and internationally.

Libraries Week

The chosen theme for this year is sustainability and climate change 'Go Green at the Library this Libraries week'. Our children are so fortunate to have Saint Anne's school library and Chelmsley wood Library on their door step. Years 3, 4,5 have visited Chelmsley wood Library and classes have been paying regular visits to our school Library to promote this special occasion. A careful focus has been given to the role libraries play in our communities with a focus on how libraries support sustainability and combat climate change.

Libraries Week

This week we have been celebrating Libraries Week at St Anne's. This year the theme was 'sustainability and climate change.' The children loved walking to and from the library and sharing books with their friends. We found lots of books linked to the environment and how to be Stewards of God's Creation. We even had the opportunity to explore the Black History Month section and read a story as a class.



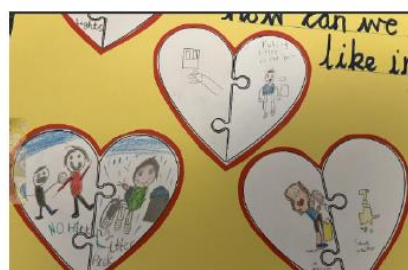
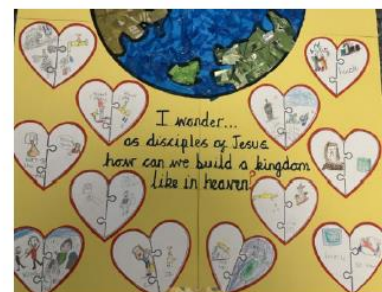
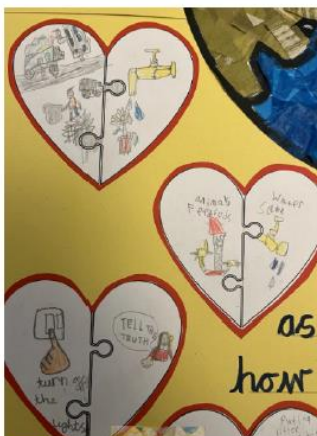
Prayer and Liturgy

We enjoyed creating our own Prayer stones to place in our Prayer garden. We decorated individual stones and are looking forward to placing them around the statue of the Holy Family. We spoke about how we belong to our families at home, our families at school and the family of God.



Religious Education

This week in RE, Year 2 have joined together with other schools in our MAC to celebrate 'Our Father Week'. The children have amazed their teachers with their beautiful singing performing 'The Our Father prayer'. They then moved on to learning a certain line of the prayer in more detail. Our Focus was "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Together we discussed how God wants us all to make our Earth as kind, beautiful and caring as in Heaven. We talked about how we should live our lives in a way that reflects the way that Christ lived his. We talked about how we can do the same as God 'Our King' and reveal the kingdom of heaven through our actions each day. We created a piece of artwork linked to this line of the 'Our Father' to show that we can make the world a better place by recycling. Together as a class we collaged a world with recycling materials. We also used our art skills to answer this question, **"I wonder as disciples of Jesus; how can we build a kingdom like in heaven?"** Here are some of our ideas.



Catholic Social Teaching in action – Parish Bazaar

On Thursday 24th October will be a non-school uniform day as part of our half termly well-being focus for the children. If you are able to do so, please can you donate one non-perishable item (such as canned goods, dried foods or grains) for the **Parish Bazaar** on Saturday 9th November. This is an opportunity to support the local community, living out our Catholic Social Teaching principle of care for the poor and vulnerable. Any support would be most greatly received and make a huge difference to someone. Thank you very much in advance for your kindness and generosity. Please return your raffle tickets to the school as soon as possible so they can be folded and prepared for ready for the Parish Bazaar!



VOTES FOR SCHOOLS

In last week's votes the children answered the following topic question

- Are we getting better at talking about periods? (9-11)
- Do we know how to talk about our bodies? (5-9)



The theme for this year is: ***Reclaiming Narratives***

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Recycling Week

For recycling week our children have been learning about recycling and sustainability. Within lessons the children have looked at how materials can be recovered from waste and then used again. Beyond learning about the 4R's (reduce, reuse, recycle and recover) children have increased their awareness of climate change and our environmental impact.

Recycling Workshops

We welcomed in Kerry from Veolia who carried out some superb class workshops which inspired our children to think about how their actions can make a difference to preserve natural resources and save energy. The 4R's were explained and children took part in a variety of interactive activities which helped equip children with knowledge and understanding and motivation to take the messages home and make a positive lasting impact on our environment and community around us.





The Children created posters to encourage other people to protect our world by thinking about recycling.

The children took part in a sorting activity (reuse, recycle, throw away) thinking about how we can reuse most items in new ways for example a milk carton could become a bird feeder.



SPORTING EVENTS

Solihull Tenpin Challenge

We are so proud of these children in KS2 who finished 1st place in the Solihull Tenpin Challenge! Well done Rocco, Kian, Lenai and Ava!



Girls' Football Match

Well done to the Year 6 girls' football team who competed in their first match on Monday. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the match & represented the school in the best possible way.



Reception

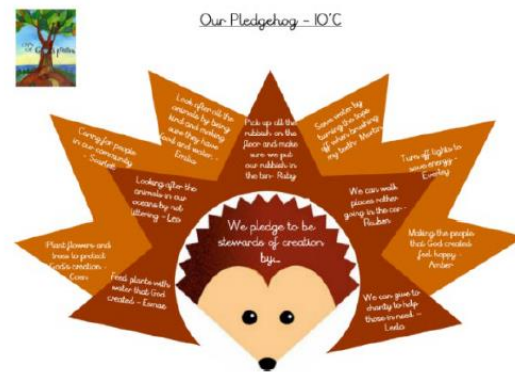
Recycling Week

We have enjoyed learning all about recycling. We sorted different objects in to the correct recycling bins and discussed the different materials that objects are made from. We listened to the story "Michael Recycle" and **Reused** some of our "rubbish" to create some junk models.



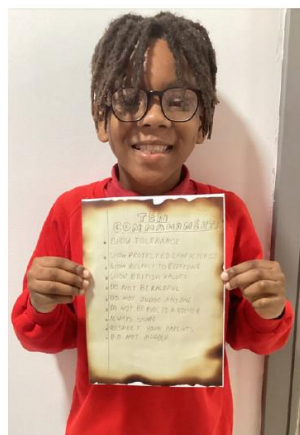
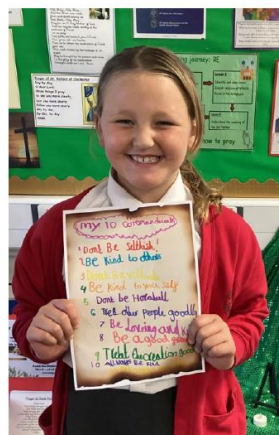
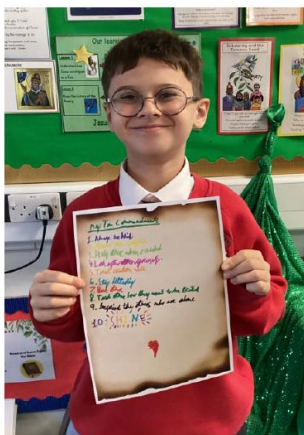
Year 1

During Prayer and Liturgy, we have reflected on one of our Catholic Social Teaching focuses - Stewardship of God's Creation. The children made a link between the virtue and our class Saint; they explained that as a steward of God's creation, Saint Francis cared for the animals and birds. We created a 'pledge-hog' whereby we shared our wonderful ideas and made a pledge to go forth and live out the ways in which we can all be stewards of God's creation.



Religious Education – The Ten Commandments

In today's lesson, we learned about the story of God telling Moses the **Ten Commandments**. We then discussed what each of the Commandments meant and in pairs came up with our own Ten Commandments that we felt were important for people to follow today. The children then wrote these out on tea stained paper.



SPORTING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dodgeball Champions!

Well done to the Year 5 Dodgeball team who competed in the North Solihull Dodgeball tournament finishing in 1st place! The children will now go on to compete in the county finals representing North Solihull, what a fantastic achievement!



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The theme for this year is: *Reclaiming Narratives*

'In today's world, stories are powerful tools that shape how we understand our past, present, and future. For too long, the history of Black communities has been told through lenses that often misrepresent, oversimplify, or entirely overlook the rich and diverse experiences of those who lived it. But 2024 is set to be a transformative year.'



The children across St Anne's have been exposed to many different poems and books linked to Black History Month. This fitted in beautifully with the theme which linked to celebrating the success stories of black individuals. Some examples of literature we focused on were: *The Proudest Blue*, *Windrush Child* and Maya Angelou's poem: *Equality*. The children reflected upon how they are inspired by the bravery of black individuals who stand up for their beliefs.



The Great Big Live Assembly: Black History Month theme

KS2 participated in an Assembly. They heard from BAFTA-nominated Children's BBC presenter Gemma Hunt, BAFTA-winning 12-year-old presenter Jeriah Kibusi, and myself—award-winning author Dr. Krish Kandiah OBE. The children were also able to hear from some amazing Black personalities and influencers as we celebrate this year's Black History Month theme: "*Honouring Heroes.*"



Religious Education

We have been thinking about all of the people in our lives that care for us. We discussed the people that show us love and care at home, at school and in the community. We worked together to create a piece of art representing all of these people. We said thank you to God for all of these wonderful people.



Understanding the World - Diwali

This week the children in Reception have been celebrating the Hindu festival of Diwali. The children have created their own Rangoli patterns from a range of materials, produced Diwali cards for their friends and family and enjoyed learning an Indian stick dance routine. It has been a week of colour, light and celebration and great fun has been had by all.



Personal Development – Black History Month

Throughout this month, the children are learning about and celebrating the achievements of Black people throughout history, and identifying the perseverance, courage, persistence and kindness that those heroes demonstrate. This week, we learnt all about Rosa Parks who was a significant figure that changed the course of American history. Firstly, we watched a video that illustrated Rosa's heroic story and then used our acquired knowledge to complete a quiz all about Rosa's life, character, and story. Afterwards, we reflected on how Rosa Park's story made us feel and shared our ideas together. We agreed that what happened to Rosa made us feel sad, angry and frustrated however, we also shared how inspired she made us feel through her courageous actions and the change that she strived for made us feel happy and proud.



Religious Education - Josephine Bakhtin- Liturgy and Prayer

In honour of Black History Month, we have been focussing our prayers on Saint Josephine Bakhita this week. We have read her inspiring story and reflected on how we can take inspiration from her. When she found things challenging, she always had faith in God to support her. Together as a class we reflected on this question, In your times of difficulty, how does your faith help you?

These were some our responses.

- My faith helps me realise I've made a mistake and God helps me to say sorry and make the right choices.
- My faith helps me because I know nothing is impossible for God. –
- My faith helps me know that if I'm finding something hard, I can always pray to God and he is always listening.
- My faith helps me to ask God to send the Holy Spirit to people who are suffering like the poor.
- My faith helps me when I pray, I can ask for God to make me, and other people feel better.



Religious Education

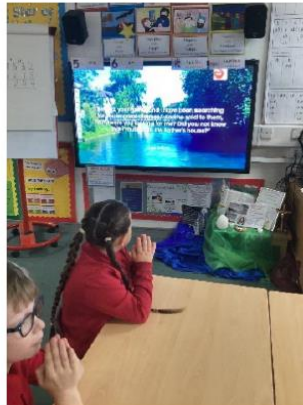
This week we have been learning all about another faith - Hinduism. We explored Rangoli patterns which bring good luck to Hindus. We were lucky enough to receive a special visit from Mrs Chauhan, a volunteer who came to speak to the children about the faith whilst also giving them an opportunity to make some Rangoli patterns. The children thoroughly enjoyed this! We looked at all the different symbols that Hinduism has such as the Lotus flower. We even spotted a similarity between our faith as both Catholics and Hindus join their hands together. We learnt all about where Hindus pray in the Mandir and how they use a puja tray to help. We performed some drama all about Rama and Sita! It has been such a fun week learning about another faith!



YEAR 4

Praying the Rosary

On Thursday, the children in Year 4 were praying a decade of the Rosary. It was a wonderful opportunity to gather together and reflect on Our Lady and all of her loving qualities. We then discussed how we could show that love to others and the children provided many beautiful and thoughtful responses. We prayed the 5th Joyful Mystery and listened to the story of Jesus in the Temple. This story links beautifully to our RE topic: Jesus Teaches Us How to Pray.



Religious Education – Deacon Stuart Visit

This week in Year 5, we were very lucky to have Deacon Stuart come and visit us to speak to us about our Religious Education topic. As we are looking at Jesus' Miracles and the Sacrament of the Sick, Deacon Stuart was able to speak to us about a variety of Jesus' miracles, but also about how we can answer our BIG CST Question which is all about how we can help people who are sick or who need our extra love and care. The children were so engaged with Deacon Stuart and asked him plenty of questions to answer! Thank you Deacon Stuart.



English

PSCOs

Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed their PSCO visit this week discussing all things about 'Darker Nights'. We spoke about potential risks we might face during these times, how we can spot these risks and avoid them too.



