

# Newsletter



Newsletter 13

13<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

**Assembly themes: Next week: Caring    Week after: Hope**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to this week's newsletter! We have enjoyed another busy fortnight, with the children involved in a wide range of activities. Please read on, to find out more!



## **Visit by the Bishop**

We were delighted to welcome Bishop Alan, the Bishop of St. Albans to our school last Tuesday. This was part of a new initiative involving senior clergy visiting schools during the period of Lent. Bishop Alan led assembly, talking about journeys, and making good choices on the path through life. He met with Debbie Williamson, our Chair of Governors and Philip, and toured the classes, talking to the children and finding out about life and work of the school. It was an absolute pleasure to have him with us, and both children and staff appreciated the interest and enthusiasm he showed in both us, and education.



## **Visit to the British Museum**

The children in Year 3 had a very successful visit to the British Museum as part of their Egyptian topic, enjoying workshops as well as the opportunity to learn from real artefacts at close range. The highlights reported back to me, included: seeing the mummies and finding out their secrets - learning that even Egyptian embalmers made mistakes, seeing the Rosetta Stone and rune stones, lunch and the shop! Thank you to everyone who accompanied the trip and well done to the children, who were extremely sensible and well behaved.



## **Philip**

As you may be aware, Philip has been 'borrowed' by the diocese, for a few months, to spend more time in his role as Associate Diocesan Director of Ordinands, covering colleagues on a

temporary basis. Last week, we were joined by Catherine Jupp for our Friday Assembly, who has kindly stepped in to support the work of St. Giles. We all enjoyed Catherine's assembly, and look forward to continuing to work with her and the other clergy who will be with us over the next few months. We also look forward to Philip's return in the summer.



### **Royal Albert Hall**

We were all really proud of our children who took part in the Royal Albert Hall Gala Performance last Sunday. It was a long day for everyone, with a rehearsal in the afternoon, a short break for tea, then the evening performance. Mrs Foster and I were delighted with the children's singing, attitude and behaviour - they were exemplary! I am extremely grateful to Mrs Foster for all of the time she has given to teaching the songs to the children, to the parents for their huge support and encouragement and to the staff who came up to London to support the children too. It was a wonderful event, which I am sure we will all remember for years to come!



### **Staff news**

We look forward to welcoming Mrs Wood back from her Maternity leave on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March. She will be teaching her class again from the start of the Summer term. We are really grateful to Miss Clark, who has been a fantastic asset to our team. We have all loved working with her and appreciate her excellent teaching and commitment to the wider work of the school. Mrs Abrahams will not be in school for a few weeks, as she has had to undergo some orthopaedic surgery. We wish her the very best, and look forward to her return. Whilst she is away, we are very fortunate to have Mrs Mel Evans in school to teach the classes. Mrs Evans is one of our regular supply teachers and is well known to the children.



### **Book Character Day & Author Visit**

Thank you to everyone for making such an effort for Book Day, with the amazing costumes worn by children and staff. We had a very wide range of books and characters covered and had fun trying to work out who was the real 'Where's Wally'! Miss Grainger and Mrs Pyle certainly seemed to have lots of fun hiding around the school!

We enjoyed a fantastic visit from the author, Lou Treleaven who shared her books with us and led workshops based around the themes in her stories. These have really inspired the children with their own writing throughout the school. Thank you very much to Mrs Mesher for organising this for us.

#WorldBookDay



### **Book Fair**

Thank you for supporting our book fair. We have been able to select a number of books for our library as commission, and I know the children enjoyed spending their vouchers! Thank you to Mrs Mesher and Mrs Day for organising this.



### **Multiple Sclerosis Week**

Well done to Phoebe in Year 4 for organising a very successful week to raise awareness of Multiple Sclerosis, which affects families in our school. It has been lovely to see so many children and adults wearing orange items, and to see the collection of stamps grow throughout the week, and the kind donations. Thank you very much for your support!



### **Basketball Team**

Congratulations to our Basketball Team who won bronze medals at the Stevenage Sporting Futures Basketball Tournament. The children played with great commitment and skill and as a real team! Huge thanks to Mel for coaching and taking the team!



### **Tennis Team**

Congratulations too, to our Year 4 Tennis Team who won silver medals in their tennis tournament yesterday. They played amazingly! Thanks again to Mel for taking the team.



### **Football Team**

We have so many fixtures throughout the weeks that I do not usually comment on individual games; however, I was so impressed with the Year 6 Boys' Team's behaviour and attitude in their game against Longmeadow School this week, that they are worthy of a special mention. In challenging circumstances, the children showed exceptional teamwork and encouragement towards each other, and through sheer hard work and focus, finished the game with a win. Thank you to Mr Massey who stepped in to take the children and to all of our parents for their support.



**Mothering Sunday Shopping reminder - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March**

The PTFA will be organising Mothering Sunday gift shopping. A range of items will be on sale for the children to buy. Everything costs £3 – please send money into school in a named envelope. Children can shop as a family or on their own.

Please remember that I am always happy to discuss any issues with you. Thank you for reading this newsletter.

Yours sincerely,  
Liz Pollard  
HEADTEACHER