

## Headteacher's Update – 13.10.23

Dear Parents,

It seems that the good weather has left us, and the real Autumn has arrived. At least it was nice while it lasted!

It was great to see so many of you in school on Monday for the book look. I know many of our children were really keen to show you what they have been working on and I hope you enjoyed the chance to take a look at the books and also the classrooms. Hopefully you will be able to see lots of progress when you come again in the spring term.

### Attendance and advice from the NHS

Approaching the winter, we know that the mild illnesses will return, such as minor coughs, runny noses and slightly sore throats. It is advised by the Department of Health that children continue to attend school with these symptoms as long as they do not have a temperature of 38°C or above. We would always rather you send your child into school to see if they can make it through the day and if they begin to struggle we will call you to pick them up.

Please see the link below created by the NHS to help parents decide whether their child is well enough or not to attend school: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

I would also like to draw your attention to our updated attendance policy which is now available on our website.

We have had a busy week in school, with several class and whole school events to share with you.

### Year 2 Great Fire of London Workshop

On Thursday Year 2 celebrated their 'It's an Emergency' topic by having a Great Fire of London day. They had a special visitor to talk all about the historical event and baked some buns using a recipe that would have been used in the bakery in Pudding Lane. I popped in several times to see what was going on and it was clear that a great time was had by all as they got to put their learning into action.

### Year 3 Cave Paintings

As part of their history topic, Year 3 have been learning about the Stone Age and they have discovered that some of the things we know about this era come from cave paintings. The children used their skills of working with pastels to create cave paintings of their own. To make the experience as authentic as possible, their papers were taped to upturned tables in the hall and the lights turned off to create a cave-like atmosphere. I think you'll agree from these pictures that they did a great job.





### **School Council Appeals – thank you**

Thank you to everyone who was able to donate a tin of food to support the School Council's work in supporting our neighbourhood food bank.

This has been a great initiative led by School Council to recognise that there are people all around the world who welcome the support we can offer, including right here in Aylesbury. Thank you to Miss Perry who has worked with the School Council to arrange the collection of the tins of food.

Thank you also to everyone who made a donation to CAFOD's appeal which will go to supporting those people in need overseas. The online donations should still be open if you haven't had a chance to donate already.

### **PTA – tombola event next Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

First of all, thank you to everyone who came to the PTA meeting this week. It was great to see some new faces and I know the committee will be very grateful for all the support.

We are hoping for good weather (well, no rain at least) next Friday so the PTA can hold the tombola event that was postponed from the summer term. There will be four tombola staff to try your luck at on the middle playground so please do come and support them. Obviously, this will be weather permitting once again.

### **Be Bright, Be Seen – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October**

We are always mindful for the safety of our children near to roads and conscious of how vulnerable they can be. Therefore, we are sending out an important reminder to these dangers as autumn draws in and the clocks go back an hour on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October, signalling the end of British Summer Time. At this time of year there is reduced visibility for drivers and pedestrians as a result.

To help raise your child's awareness of this issue, on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October, we would like children to wear their school uniforms but with an added bit of brightness e.g. fluorescent socks or a reflective tabard. This emphasises how wearing brightly coloured clothing shows up well in daylight but as it gets dark, reflective clothing and accessories are far more effective in highlighting pedestrians through car headlights or streetlamps.

### **Show Racism the Red Card**

Next Friday is the annual 'Show Racism the Red Card Day'. We will be celebrating this day at St Louis with a range of activities.

- Next Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October all KS2 classes will be completing a 'Reject Racism' workshop with some external visitors. Years 3 and 4 will be focusing on what racism is and the harm it can cause. They will study the similarities and differences between us all and learn how important it is to celebrate these differences. Years 5 and 6 will look in more depth at the different forms racism

can take, understand the harm of stereotypes and misinformation and become more confident in knowing how to deal with or challenge people who make racist comments.

- On Friday we will celebrate Show Racism the Red Card as a whole school. All children are to wear their school uniform (or PE kit if it is their PE day) but wear a red item with it eg: a hair ribbon, hat, pair of socks, scarf, tie etc.
- KS1 will have lessons about celebrating differences, showing kindness towards everyone and God loving us all. This will mainly be taught through story books and children will complete an activity to show the impact unkind words can have on people.
- The whole school will also be learning about an important person from history as part of Black History month. This year's theme is 'Saluting our Sisters' to honour the achievements of black women. We will of course 'Salute our Brothers' too. When looking at these people, we will learn about the significant impact they have had on the world and discuss why in the past they may not have been noticed or acknowledged for it.
- All racism and black history month lessons will also be linked to our faith. Many stories in the Bible highlight how Jesus wanted us to welcome, love and care for everyone, regardless of gender, race or religion.
- We will have a whole school assembly to reinforce the message of 'Show Racism the Red Card Day' and all pupil of the weeks will be based around the 'Caring' aspect of our curriculum to highlight those children who are showing the love and kindness towards everyone that we want to see at St Louis as good followers of Christ.
- In the afternoon, all children will meet with their buddies to talk about their day and share information on the person they learnt about for black history month. I am sure the children will also enjoy some playtime with their buddy which will be a great way to finish off this half term.

Best wishes for the weekend,

Mrs Machin



Learning at St Louis  
Reception



**We have been learning:** about the different zones of regulation. We know the green zone means we are happy and calm, the red zone means we are angry and mad, blue means we are sad and tired and yellow means we are feeling silly and worried.

**You can help at home by:** discussing the different zones of regulation and how your child can get back in the green zone.

Year 1

**We have been learning:** how to subtract using a number line.

**You can help at home by:** giving your child subtraction questions that they can solve with a number line.

Year 2

**We have been learning:** how to measure using a ruler.

**You can help at home by:** asking your child to measure items around the house, perhaps estimating the length first.

Year 3

**We have been learning:** about what life was like during the Bronze Age compared to life now.

**You can help at home by:** asking your child what facts they can recall about the Bronze Age.

Year 4

**We have been learning:** about the 7 continents in geography.

**You can help at home by:** asking your child to name the 7 continents.

Year 5

**We have been learning:** about detective mystery stories.

**You can help at home by:** asking your child what their mystery story is going to be about - what is the crime and who the culprit is.

Year 6

**We have been learning:** about adding and subtracting fractions.

**You can help at home by:** asking about the different challenges when adding and subtracting fractions.