



# The School Journal

**ST LAWRENCE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
VOLUNTARY AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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Head Teacher: Mrs Beth Hanna

**Friday 25th October 2024**



Dear families and friends of St Lawrence,

I can't believe it is the end of the first half term already - it has flown by! This week has been an exceptional one. The weekend saw runners descend upon Napton for the fabulous Napton 10K run which was organised jointly by a village committee and the PTA. They did a fantastic job, so many participants commented on what a wonderful event to take part in it was. I have been told that they raised a staggering £3,700 for the school - we have plans to invest this straight into the well-being of our pupils with outdoor table tennis tables and revamping our calm room. The whole school is so grateful for the efforts of our parents and the wider community to support us. The PTA also came to our celebration assembly this week to present iPads and thermal printers to each class, they have also provided the funding for two amazing interactive touch screens for Reception and Year 2. These improvements to technology at the school will keep our children soaring!

On Tuesday we welcomed lots of visitors to our school to look around for Reception 2025/2026 places - it was amazing to see how many people were considering our school for the education of their children. It really demonstrates how the wonderful reputation of the school gets out! On Tuesday I also had the pleasure of teaching year 4, we completed some wonderful art work - it was a joy to be with them for the afternoon. This morning we were treated in our celebration assembly to two phenomenal performances by our flute and recorder groups lead by Mrs Foxwell. We were all spell-bound by the beautiful music! I am looking forward today to meeting with our three new governors to talk to them about our school. Thank you to Melanie Bailey, Lucy Jefferies and Julia Sheppard-Boby for supporting our school in the governor role.

We belong to an awesome community and I want to extend a personal thank you to every parent, grandparent, visitor, member of staff, pupil, governor, PTA member and members of our community who have supported and cheered on this school over the last term. I appreciate all of you. Thank you and have a wonderful half term.

Mrs Beth Hanna

## This Week's Awards

Congratulations to today's Stars of the Week: **Timmy (Y6), Rose (Y5), Rose (Y4), Ivy (Y3), Lyla (Y2), Harry (Y1) and Isabelle (Rec)**. A big well done to everyone who received an extra-curricular award, raffle ticket prize and team point certificate this morning - and congratulations to the **Green Kestrels** who are this half-term's cup winners!

The Green Kestrels were also the victors in this week's **Maths World Cup!** Very well done to all pupils for their hard work and continued commitment to fluency in their times tables.



*A happy church school that nurtures the unique talents of individuals and brings them together so that 'they will soar on wings like eagles' (Isaiah 40:31)*



This week has been one of difference in the **Early Years** unit and it has been very busy. The children coped well on Tuesday when we welcomed groups of parents into the unit for the Reception tour and the resilience shown by Wilfrid when he said goodbye to his parents twice in the morning just shows how much progress he has made with his confidence and feeling safe in Little Lawrences. Our learning intent this week was 'Why', and this was explored through questions about why colours change and why objects float or sink. New words such as heavy, volume have been learnt and discussions about what it means to float have been had.

In **Reception**, we have been learning all about Diwali, making Diva lamps and creating Rangoli patterns outside. The children have enjoyed dancing to Bhangra music and making onion bhajjis! They have also enjoyed learning tricky words in phonics and have had a marvellous time playing together in the hairdressers/beauty salon role play corner!



**Year 1** have had such a brilliant week! They've worked so hard and enjoyed a fabulous one-off rugby session with Coach George today. Hope you all have a wonderful half term, Year 1 - you've really earned it!

And we've finally made it! It has been such an amazing half term with our **Year 2** children. They have worked so hard and are making so much progress. This week they have all become authors, showing off their excellent writing skills. They have written a new chapter for Katie's Picture Show based on Georges Seurat's painting 'A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte'. The stories were brilliant with Katie getting up to lots of mischief with dogs, monkeys, boats and more! The children were inspired by the painting and experimented with pointillism in their art lessons, decorating autumn pictures. As well as being authors, the children have also tried their hand at being historians this week. They investigated a very unusual object from the past and used their investigative and questioning skills to try and work out what it was. It has been an incredibly busy week to end our incredibly busy half term, well done everyone.



We've rounded off a fabulous half term in **Year 3** with a chance to recap our learning about fossils and how they are formed as we learnt about the life of Mary Anning and continued to write our text about what we find under the ground. We practised using subordinating conjunctions to sequence the different steps in the process. Not content with just writing about the Earth, we have been weaving our geology tapestries showing the different layers of the Earth. In computing, we learnt about networks and found out what different parts of the school system are for and where to find them. In RE, we considered the significance of the moon's cycle and explored festivals including Passover. This week, we also showed off our times table knowledge as we took part in the times table world cup in order to earn points for our teams. Number fluency really does help us feel confident as the maths gets trickier so do keep practising! It's certainly been a packed half term. We're off for a rest! However you spend your half term breaks, we wish you a good week!



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**Year 4** has had a brilliant end to this first half term! They have really impressed me with their work in their daily Mastering Number sessions. They did some fantastic, thoughtful and well-considered R.E work based on Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. They have almost finished planning their non-chronological reports on polar bears, and will be publishing them after half term! Keep working on those 500 words stories! Have a great break everyone!



If calculating cube numbers get you in a cold sweat or working out when you're likely to witness a waning or waxing moon, then **Year 5** will help you out. Along with these areas in Maths and Science this week, we have revisited square numbers and multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1,000 including those with decimals as well as taking part in the Times Table World Cup- number bonds

to 1 and 10 with 1 and 2 decimal places. I am extremely proud of everybody at all stages of this half termly event for their developing confidence and skills. In Art this week we blended paints to emulate the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights) that many of us have observed over the last few weeks and these psychedelic pieces now adorn our walls and add colour around our phases of the Moon. In English, we've been creating plausible chapters to fit in and extend the story of Matthew Henson's biography in our class book, 'Race to the Frozen North'- our work on the Polar Regions, in particular, the Arctic, has been beneficial in making them sound authentic.



This week, **Year 6** has been diving into a range of exciting learning experiences. In English, we've started reading *The Hidden Forest* by Jeannie Baker, using it as a springboard to make inferences about characters' feelings and motives. We have enjoyed role-playing emotions, writing diary entries, and practising expressive reading—turns out, saying "It was a world of weeds" in 20 different ways can be surprisingly entertaining!

Meanwhile, in Maths, we've been sharpening our problem-solving skills, tackling everything from division to multi-step challenges, and even grappling with the correct way to do order of operations. Mental calculations have been a hot topic too - some of us may now have superpowers when it comes to number-crunching! In Science, we wrapped up our study of circuits with a quiz, and the class is now eager to explore our next topic: "Living Things and Their Habitats." A big shout-out goes to Henry for making a class treat - Sploosh - our peachy experiment inspired by *Holes*. It certainly added a unique flavour to our learning!

## A reminder for Year 6 families

Just a reminder that after the half-term break, **ALL Year 6 children** will transition directly into their classroom upon arrival. They will no longer be required to stay on the playground or line up in the morning. Year 6 children (only this year group, unless your child has a prior arrangement regarding early entry into the building) should come to the main entrance from 8.45am onwards and they will be given access to the building by a member of the office staff. Children should walk round to the Year 6 classroom via the corridors and not through the hall.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in making this change as smooth as possible.

Kind regards,  
The Year 6 Team

# Warwickshire Family Information Service

Please visit the [Family Information Service Facebook page](#) for details of various sources of support and half-term activities coming up. Do follow them for regular updates, advice and information about groups and events taking place around Warwickshire.



## A message from Mrs Foxwell

I would like to say a huge thank you to all members of **Flute and Recorder Group** who did a wonderful job of playing in assembly this morning. How fabulous to see so many young musicians all playing together. We have had so much fun in both groups this half term particularly preparing *Creak, Crunch, Scream!*



**Alexander** (pictured) has made great progress so far this term and deserves a special mention for his enthusiasm and hard work - well done Alexander! Enjoy learning the piano version of *Creak, Crunch, Scream* over half term!

I have 2 **clarinets** and a **saxophone** available for hire if anyone would like to start. There is one lesson space just become available on a Tuesday. It would be really nice to perhaps have a group lesson for either all 3 or for the 2 clarinets if anyone would like to learn from year 3 upwards. Please contact Mrs Foxwell ([lisafoxwell23@gmail.com](mailto:lisafoxwell23@gmail.com)) or the school office for more details.



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## Napton 10k

What an absolutely brilliant event Napton held last weekend! Mrs Hanna spoke in assembly this morning about the **Napton 10k**, congratulated our Y5 pupil participants **Ronnie and Jack W**, thanked our pupil volunteers **George, Laurel and Ivy**, and publicised next year's event which is already in the diary for **Sunday 19th October!**

Huge thanks must go to a number of people for their involvement in planning, preparing and organising the 10k. We've been asked to mention a few people The whole village is so grateful to **Mieke, Will, Jake, Laure, Sandra, Vanessa, Mike, Jamie, Ben, Shelley, Hannah, Jan, Mel, Felicity, Emma, Anelli, Rosie and Kim** for their hard work, help and support. You all did a brilliant job and it was so appreciated!



## Thank you to the PTA

We are incredibly grateful to the PTA for agreeing, this year, to fund a set of new **school iPads** with all the accessories, one for each class to use. This will make such an enormously positive difference in all sorts of ways and we cannot thank the PTA enough for their tireless fundraising efforts and willingness to go above and beyond to ensure that our children are provided with additional resources to augment their learning experience. We were delighted to welcome **Felicity** and **Sue** from the PTA in assembly this morning where they presented the iPads to a couple of pupils from each class. We are so fortunate to have our PTA - they do such an amazing job, and we'd really encourage all parents to consider joining them in their fundraising efforts.



## And finally...

We always like to mention our intrepid caretaker, the legendary **Mr Camps**, in late October when he celebrates his "workiversary"! He's now been at St Lawrence's for a very impressive **18 years**, overseeing all manner of things on the school site during that time with his unfailing competence and humour!