



The School Journal



**ST LAWRENCE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
VOLUNTARY AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL**
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Dear families and friends of St Lawrence,

It has been wonderful to have everyone back after the Christmas holidays. The children all seem to have shot up and we have welcomed even more new students to our St Lawrence family. This week I have seen every class jump straight back into their work with such enthusiasm and the children see, excited and engaged by their new topics and learning. Well done to all our pupils and staff on a fantastic first week back. It was lovely to have our first celebration assembly of the term together this morning - the orchestra sounded wonderful and the singing was amazing! We have an exciting half term ahead of us and I can't wait to keep you updated on how everyone at St Lawrence is soaring!

Mrs Beth Hanna

This Week's Awards

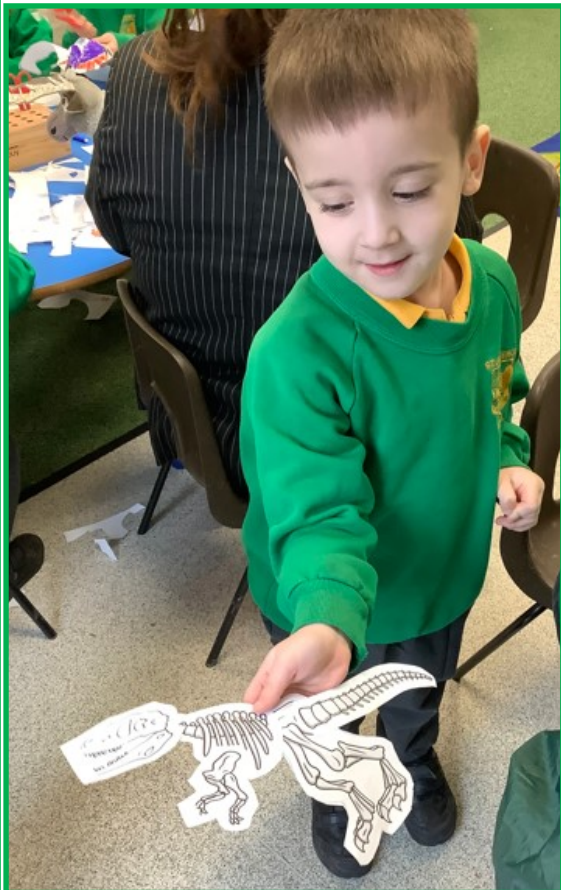
Well done to today's Stars of the Week: **Ben** (Y6), **Ronnie** (Y5), **Billie-Jo** (Y4), **Toby** (Y3), **George** (Y2), **Kaisan** (Y1) and **Aidan** (Rec). Our raffle ticket winners were **Ilijah**, **Cecily** and **Zachary**, and there were lots of team point certificates given out in assembly this morning! We are delighted to congratulate **Alexander**, **Beth**, **Talitha** and **James** for their extra-curricular achievements, and would like to mention **Fleur** for her fabulous performance in Hansel and Gretel at the Royal Opera House during the Christmas season, and **Heidi** for her beautiful drawings that she's been working on over the holiday with her new pencils! Big congratulations too to **Esme** who passed her Grade 1 Recorder with distinction, and to **Amy** who achieved Merit in her Grade 1 Flute. And a huge well done to **Ava** who received a distinction star for her Grade 2 tap exam, receiving the highest tap exam result across all of the Love Ballet tap exams, and a distinction for her Grade 2 ballet exam.

Very well done to you all!



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)

We welcome all our families back to **Little Lawrences** this week plus a few new friends. Returning to preschool after a break can be difficult and although some children and adults have been a little unsure we will soon all be accessing the unit independently and purposefully. Our story this week has been Noah's Arc and this story provides learning opportunities which ignite curious thinking as we made boats using Lego and resources outside; we then tested these boats to see if they could float. Where the children's boats did not float the children were happy to give it another go. With the weather being so icy we have spent a lot of time outside, conversations about the sound of the ice and the thickness were overheard and whilst having access to the whole outside area the children were able to risk assess how they moved around the area safely. On Tapestry we have invited parents to bring in a pet for a special show and tell with the children; if you are able to do this please let Maria know.



It has been so lovely to welcome all of the children back into **Reception** class after the Christmas holidays and they have all settled back in easily. This week, the children have drawn pictures of their Christmas holiday and of their favourite animals. In RE they have talked about a place that is special to them and have explored the composition of numbers to 5 in maths. Their play has been energetic, exciting and self-directed and has ranged from building 'police stations' to making musical instruments and magic wands!

What an amazing week back in **Year 1!** The children have returned to school with such determination to work hard! Their reading and writing has been wonderful. We have been discussing our favourite toys to link with our new topic and we have begun exploring our new text 'Lost in the Toy Museum'. In maths, we have been consolidating our learning from last term and are looking forward to our new maths topic on Monday. We have begun our science learning this week by looking at winter time and the weather has really helped us out by being very wintry indeed! It has been wonderful to hear all about everyone's Christmas and New Year too.



It has been so lovely to welcome **Year 2** back from what sounds like a very exciting Christmas holiday for them all. We welcomed a new face into our Year 2 family this week and it was great to see all the children being so kind, welcoming him to the class and showing him our class and school routines. We started straight into our new English text this week by asking could an owl and a pussy-cat ever be friends? The children discussed very impressive arguments on both sides and used conjunctions to extend their sentences explaining their thoughts. The text we will be working on this term is the classic poem "The Owl and the Pussy-cat". We also jumped straight into our new topic this week - The Industrious Victorians - and the children began by looking at timelines, working together to order important events in the Victorian era. It has been a jam-packed week, well done everyone for your hard work and enthusiasm.

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It has been wonderful to welcome **Year 3** back to school after the Christmas holidays. We have certainly enjoyed hearing about some of the projects and activities children have been doing: making animations, digging for fossils and celebrating Epiphany in a Spanish style! Whatever you were doing, we hope it was a good break. This term, our topic is the Ancient Egyptians. We have started with some atlas work: finding Egypt and describing its location using geographical language. Then we thought about how its position, close to the equator, results in a very different climate and landscape to our own. In English, we have made a start on our class book: Cinderella of the Nile. We looked at fairytales, identifying key features of the genre. Then we compared the Egyptian version of Cinderella with the one we know so well. This beautiful text will inspire our writing over the coming weeks. In science, we began our work on food and nutrition by sorting food into five main groups. We talked about the importance of a balanced diet to keep us healthy. In maths, we have been working on the 3 times table. The 3 times table will be the focus for our times table world cup at the end of this half term so do get practising if you want to earn points for your team.

What a wonderful start to the new year! **Year 4** have been reading *Leo and the Gorgon's Curse*, which so far has enabled us to cover conjunctions, tricky words and heroic themes. We've also had a great introduction to Ancient Greece and aspects of Greek mythology in our topic lesson. In science, Year 4 have considered the life processes detailed in *MRS NERG*, and have started to categorise living things in different ways. Our computing lesson was also great fun, with pupils learning the basics of the LOGO programming language and creating basic shaped using the 'turtle'

Mrs Hanna and Miss Shepherd have been so impressed with the way that **Year 5** have handled the new arrangements in the classroom. Year 5 have had a great week, starting by delving into their new text, *The Sleeper and the Spindle*. They have been exploring how writers create an experience for the reader by giving them clues and helping them to build their own picture in their head about locations in narrative. They have been developing these skills in their own writing, initially having a go as a class and then independently - the results are amazing. We have some excellent writers! In topic we have started with map work, locating European countries, locating Rome and using scales to estimate the distance between London and Rome!

This week, in **Year 6**, we've been busy exploring a wide range of topics. In English, we've started reading *Rain Player* and used it as inspiration to learn about prefixes, suffixes, and writing fantastic instructional texts on how to play the Maya game of Pok-A-Tok – though thankfully without the human sacrifices! In maths, we've been tackling fractions (comparing parts to the whole) and ratios (comparing parts to parts) and figuring out how they're different. Our topic lessons have focused on the Ancient Maya, with a particular spotlight on their games, while in computing, the children have begun creating their own websites all about this fascinating civilization. German has seen us mastering words and phrases for classroom stationery – some of us can now talk about the use for a ruler in German more confidently than in English! Finally, in PE, we've been learning hockey skills and striking some very dramatic poses in dance. It's been a packed and productive week!

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Years 5 or 6, they might be
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