

The School Journal

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

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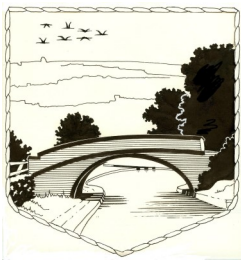
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Head Teacher: Mrs Beth Hanna

Friday 31st January 2025



Dear families and friends of St Lawrence,

What a fantastic week it has been here at school! The children have worked incredibly hard, and I am so proud of all their efforts. A real highlight of the week was our Cup Stacking competition, where the children (pictured right and on p2 of this Journal!) displayed exceptional behaviour. Their brilliant conduct and sportsmanship truly stood out - thank you to all our volunteers who helped make the event such a success.

It has been wonderful to see all our students, from Little Lawrences through to Year 6, working together so well. I've noticed so many examples of exemplary behaviour, with children showing kindness, consideration, and friendship throughout the school. These small acts of care truly make a big difference in creating the positive and welcoming environment we all enjoy here.

I have also been incredibly impressed with the learning happening across the school. Every classroom I've had the pleasure of visiting has been buzzing with enthusiasm and focus. The children are fully engaged and demonstrating such a high level of curiosity and creativity in their work.

Year 6 have been diving deep into the study of the Maya civilisation. Their enthusiasm and curiosity have been evident as they explore topics like Maya architecture, culture, and history. It's been fantastic to see how much they've absorbed, and the passion they bring to their learning is truly inspiring.

Meanwhile, Year 2 have been exploring Victorian artefacts as part of their history lessons. Through these hands-on activities, the children are gaining a deeper understanding of life during Victorian times, and it's clear to see how much they are enjoying the opportunity to connect with history in such an interactive way.

Keep up the fantastic work, everyone! I am so proud of the dedication and effort shown by everyone!

Mrs Beth Hanna

This Week's Awards

Congratulations to today's Stars of the Week: **Laurel and Hugo (LLs), Zachary (Reception), Darla-Rae (Y1), Harvey W (Y2), Daizy (Y3), Amy (Y4), Eli (Y5) and Harry (Y6)**. Orla and Becky were given LL awards today.

Our raffle ticket winners this morning were **James, George and Kali-May**, and we were delighted to give out extra-curricular

awards to **Zachary, Ella, Charlie, Bryn, Reuben, Monty, George, Esme, Matilda, William and Raphael**.

Lots and lots of team point certificates were awarded in assembly, and Mrs Foxwell would like to make a special mention of **Teddy** in Y6 who is making fantastic progress with his saxophone. Teddy practises regularly and always comes to every lesson prepared!

Well done, everyone!



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 in **Reception** class we have been continuing our 'amazing animals' topic alongside following the children's interests and learning about Chinese New Year. This year is the year of the snake so this has fitted into our topic well, with the children learning about snakes and making them, practising their cutting skills. The children enjoyed tasting Chinese style foods and making Chinese lanterns in the 'lucky' colour red. In maths, we have focused on the composition of numbers 6 and 7 and have practiced looking carefully at patterns, repeating them with shapes and colours. Yesterday, the children had a special visitor in, Sue Watkins, as part of their RE lesson. Thank you to Sue for coming in.

Year 1 have had a fantastic week, finishing off their work on the Toy Museum, designing their own toy cars, studying the human body and enjoying another afternoon in Forest School! Well done, Year 1!

It's been another busy week in **Year 2**. The children have been very busy writing exciting new adventures for the Owl and the Pussy-Cat, letting their imaginations run wild and showing what super writers they are. We have continued looking at shapes this week, both 2D and 3D. We looked at vertical lines of symmetry in 2D shapes and looked at sorting shapes due to their properties. Children have been looking at living and non-living things in science and are now beginning to look at habitats. In history we began by asking the question 'was life in Victorian times the same for everybody?' The children investigated many sources to discover the answer. Well done everyone, what a great week!

What a fantastic speed-stacking event Year 3 took part in this week! The whole team did brilliantly and we were so proud when they came back from the finals in Coventry with a trophy which recognised their teamwork, sportsmanship and encouragement of not only each other, but the other teams taking part too. Our very grateful thanks go to the parent drivers who so kindly transported them, and to Miss Hawthorn for her supervision during the events. Very well done, everyone!



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This week, **Year 3** chose our own moral or lesson and had fun writing our fables. The children had some wonderfully imaginative ideas: from penguins needing to learn to wait their turn and go one at a time so that the ice doesn't break, to snakes fighting so long over a frog that the frog wanders off. Of course, a great idea needs great writing skills and we tried hard to include fronted adverbials and carefully punctuated dialogue in our stories. In science, we looked at different types of skeleton including exoskeletons, endoskeletons and hydrostatic skeletons. Did you know that tortoises have both an exoskeleton and an endoskeleton? In topic, we used our reading skills to find out about the three Kingdoms of Ancient Egypt. We discussed the concepts of continuity and change, and thought about some of the changes that occurred during this period. We were surprised that the iconic Egyptian pyramids were only a feature of the Old Kingdom. Our Year 3 cup stackers really did us proud: they were recognised for their impeccable manners and positive attitude. What a credit to our school!

What a busy week **Year 4** has had! They have: created trading cards with fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases for mythological Greek figures and creatures, spelled words with the suffix 'tion', and worked so hard on their speech punctuation! They developed their own classification keys for creatures in science, and worked on dividing by 10 and 100 in maths. In topic, they wrote a fact page about what life was like in ancient Athens. Good work everyone!



This week **Year 5** has worked so incredibly hard again. They have finished the maths unit on multiplication and division - Miss Shepherd was very impressed with how quickly you applied your knowledge to unfamiliar problems involving calculating area. Mrs Hanna was also very impressed with the way they tackled the end of unit assessment with care and attention. In English the class have been looking at character description, using their knowledge of conjunctions to create comparative descriptive sentences, alongside developing their ability to effectively use fronted adverbials. This has then all been put together as they write their own action sequence about the Queen and the dwarves travelling through the caves under the mountain based on the book stimulus - *The*

Sleeper and The Spindle. In topic, they have been exploring the scope and influence of the Roman army, discovering how the republic became an empire and why the Roman army was so successful. In art, Year 5 have been working with Miss Todd creating some fantastic sketchbook pages on mosaics. Well done on a busy week!

The **Year 6** children have been working ever so hard - parents, they are a credit to you. In English, we've already powered through chapters 1, 2, and 3 of *The Boy at the Back of the Class* by Onjali Rauf. Could this be a new favourite class book yet? Even better than *Holes*? We've written in role, made inferences about characters, and explored the features of an information text, ready to write our own next week. In maths, it's been all about algebra: one-step and two-step function machines have kept us busy, and we've used our new knowledge to express simple equations. Keep an eye out



for homework to help consolidate this. SATs practice continues, and we've now tackled the 2024 Reading SAT under exam conditions. The children agree they're growing in confidence, and some even said they *enjoyed* it! Our Maya topic continues to be a triumph, with some incredible double (or is it quadruple!) page spreads. Finally, homework matters more than ever. Time isn't elastic, and this final stretch of primary school is our last chance to make a real difference. Let's go for it!

Parking

We'd like to remind all adults who drop off and pick up children at school at any time of the day that parking spaces in the staff car park are only available to members of the school staff.

This applies whether you are dropping off and picking up for or from Larks 'n' Owls, or at the normal start and end of the school day. Parents, family members and visitors are welcome to park their cars in the **Victory Club car park**. Please leave your car somewhere safe, legal and considerate in the village when you are dropping off or picking up your children.

Thank you for your help in safeguarding the children in our school community, which is of the utmost importance to us all.



Ralph the cuddly dog has become very popular among our musicians and has been visiting a few family homes recently! Here he is, playing the piano with Amy and riding Penny's pony with her. What fun!



Thank you for all who supported St Lawrence School

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