



The School Journal



**ST LAWRENCE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
VOLUNTARY AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL**
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Head Teacher: Mrs Beth Hanna

Friday 4th October 2024



Dear families and friends of St Lawrence,

It has been a wonderful week with lots of events which have taken the children off site and into the village. Reception went to see Bob and Pat on Monday, with a wonderful trip to the farm. Mrs George was so proud of the children for their behaviour and conduct. They enjoyed making shelters for toy animals, exploring the forest school area and most importantly drinking hot chocolate! On Tuesday the whole school, from Reception to Year 6, walked up the church for the Harvest Service. Sue Watkins and the Rural Dean (Andy Batchelor) led a wonderful service which was made even more special by the contributions of our worship group and the school orchestra. At both the farm and church it was delightful to see so many parents getting involved, supporting the children and living out our school vision of nurture, togetherness and soaring. We are always so appreciative of volunteers and guests. Thank you all! On Thursday, the children were treated to a musical assembly by Caroline and Miss Todd - they were demonstrating the wonderful sound that string instruments can make, hopefully inspiring some of our children to take up strings. They do add such a lovely element to the orchestra! As I write this, the sun is shining, the children are outside playing - hopefully the bright weather continues for the weekend. I look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday for another fantastic week at St Lawrence.

Mrs Beth Hanna

This Week's Awards

Congratulations to today's Stars of the Week: **Tansie (Y6), Alfie (Y5), Jasper (Y4), Talitha (Y3), Dylan (Y2), Freddie (Y1) and Daniel (Reception)**. Well done to **Austin, Talitha and Alfred** who received extra-curricular awards this morning, to our raffle ticket winners **George B, George H, Jack W and Alexander**, and to everyone who was awarded a team point certificate. And thank you so much to **Alyssa, Catherine, Harry and Mrs Foxwell** who treated us to two lovely musical performances in assembly!



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)

Harvest Festival

What a lovely service we had up at St Lawrence Church on Tuesday to celebrate **Harvest!** The weather didn't stop us from walking up the hill and the whole school from Reception to Year 6 all came together to give thanks to God for the food we eat and the people who make it possible for us to do so. Mrs Rose's assembly planning group shared some lovely prayers and poems with us, and the orchestra accompanied the singing beautifully. Thank you so much to Sue Watkins, Helen Eadon, Caroline Adams and our rural dean Reverend Andy for their respective contributions to the service, which we appreciate such a lot. And we're so grateful too to all the families who made harvest donations (which will be taken to Coventry Foodbank by Year 5 in due course) and to everyone who joined us for the service in church - thank you for your support.



Mrs Foxwell writes: Tim in Year 5 deserves a special mention this week for being kind and generous in lending his flute to another flute player so that they wouldn't feel sad at missing the Flute Group rehearsal. Also a big well done to Tim for fabulous practising and for producing a wonderful sound!

Mr Snook's Warhammer Alliance
(our tabletop miniature games club for Year 6 pupils) is in full swing!



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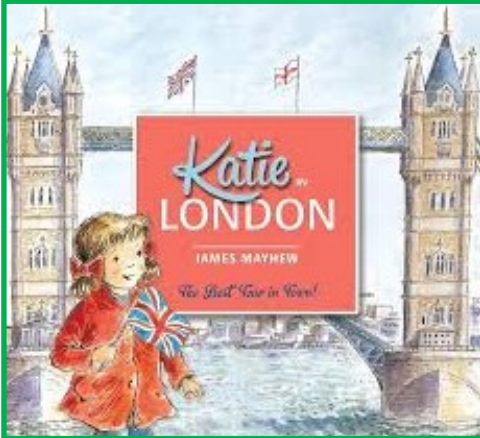
We love Autumn in Early Years as the opportunities for learning about the world around us are everywhere. This week **Little Lawrences** discussed Harvest and what this new word meant. The children developed an understanding of the important work farmers do towards Harvest and shared their knowledge of growth. We have introduced new vegetables, and using our senses to describe how they feel and smell. We then set up provocations to explore further whilst using tools such as knives, spoons and rolling pins in a safe way; helping the children to develop a sense of independence and accomplishment.



This week, **Reception** loved visiting the farm, making animal homes and collecting Autumn treasures. Thank you so much to Bob and Pat for having us and to Sharon and all the parents who helped us! The children have also enjoyed creating 'dinosaur lands' and learning about hedgehogs. They have made some little clay hedgehogs too, which are very sweet indeed!



This week has been a great week in **Year 1!** The children have been so busy and have now really settled into Year 1 life. We have introduced 'whisper phones' to our phonics sessions this week, which has



been so much fun. We have been busy learning alternatives to different sounds and discovering the rules of where we will find them in words. In maths, we have been comparing numbers using practical resources. We have discovered lots about different materials and where they are used in science and in our topic work, we have looked at world maps to try to locate the UK and Africa. I have been really impressed with everybody. What a lot of work!



Year 2 have had another fantastic busy week! We enjoyed our visit to St Lawrence church for our Harvest festival service on Tuesday, even though we arrived slightly damp and have continued to predict and investigate the different properties of materials in Science. Through our Topic and English lessons, we have been further exploring London using the wonderful book 'Katie in London' by James Mayhew and finding out facts about the famous landmarks. We wrote some amazing sentences using expanded noun phrases and discovered more about the Yeoman Warders and ravens at the Tower of London through our questions and fact files. We were shocked to hear that some believe that if the ravens ever leave the Kingdom and tower will fall! In Maths we have been wowing our teachers with our knowledge of placing numbers in a number line and comparing numbers. We were also delighted to have Krishaana's mum in school to teach us all about the Hindu festival Navarathri. What a great week!

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Year 3 began their work on their 'Street Beneath our Feet' introductions. We explored the model text, adapted it for our own countryside version and, once we were happy, wrote them up carefully ready for illustrations. In science, we looked at the properties of different types of rock and investigated their hardness. Meanwhile, in topic, we began to develop our understanding of planet Earth by learning about tectonic plates and how they cause earthquakes. It's fair to say we had a lot of questions about how people prepare for earthquakes in countries where that is a possibility. Fortunately, it's not something we have to worry about. However, it's always good to remember how to cope with worries and the early warning signs that might signal when we're not safe. That is an important part of this term's PSHE unit as we reinforce that message that 'we all have the right to feel safe'. Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Year 4 have had a brilliant week, with great work happening on our character descriptions in English. They have been mastering the use of FAST grids to efficiently generate interesting and realistic characters, whilst building on their grammar foci from previous weeks. I can't wait to get them onto their final pieces, which will form part of our class display. In maths, Year 4 have been introduced to the concept of rounding to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000. They're doing really well, and just need to keep developing that all important fluency. They have also been doing daily, 15-minute 'Mastering Number' sessions in order to develop their multiplicative reasoning skills, and the pupils are really enjoying the programme. I expect you'll hear more about that in the next journal! Year 4 also had Rugby this afternoon, and they were very happy to see George from Coventry Rugby once again. Have a great weekend!



Have you ever wondered how the magnetic poles affect the Earth itself and its impact on it (for example migration of birds and whales...)? In **Year 5** we've considered how these poles affect some of the world's biomes, and how they are useful in helping others with navigating positions. - we had fun following directions using the 8 points of a compass. In maths we've started our new topic: adding and subtracting, and we've been getting to grips with multiple exchanges and using the inverses to check calculations: remembering to always line up place value. In Science, we've been describing the movement of the Earth, and other planets, relative to the Sun in the solar system, by examining the geocentric and heliocentric theories. More theories, and themes, were

discussed in English following further exploration of our class book, 'Race to the Frozen North': the story of Matthew Henson, who was an African-American explorer. He accompanied Robert Peary on seven voyages to the Arctic over a period of twenty-three years. And although they spent eighteen years on expeditions together, he has only just recently been acknowledged for his successes at reaching the North Pole (probably first). We considered how he overcame adversity -poverty, violent mistreatment, prejudice and racism- to go for his ambitions and dreams. What dreams and aspirations do you have? What challenges do you need to conquer? How can you help others succeed? In addition, it was an absolute pleasure for Year 5 to accompany the Reception Class to and from church, and to share some of their fabulous poems and prayers on Harvest with the congregation. We're also looking forward to measuring out ingredients and bagging them up for shipment to communities facing food shortages around the world on our forthcoming trip to the Trussell Trust Foodbank in Coventry, as well as delivering the bounty of donated food from this Harvest Festival to those in need closer to home: may we be forever grateful and eager to share, and may hunger and despair be banished.



Year 6 have excitedly started reading their new class book, *Holes*, by Louis Sachar. The class has already completed the first few chapters, which recount the journey of Stanley Yelnats, a possibly innocent boy from Texas, to Camp Green Lake, a correctional facility for young offenders. Stanley, a historically unlucky boy, is convicted of stealing sneakers belonging to a famous baseball player, but he insists that he is innocent. The sneakers had fallen into his hands by chance, yet Stanley attributes his arrest to a family curse...

Furthermore, in Maths, we have been exploring squared and cubed numbers, and have spent considerable time addressing some misconceptions around long multiplication, particularly multiplying two-digit numbers by four-digit numbers. In Computing, students have started a collaborative online project, learning how to work together even when in different locations. Art lessons this week have focused on finishing and displaying harvest-themed watercolour paintings. In Science, we completed a detailed conclusion for our recent investigation, using the PEE (Point, Evidence, Explanation) method to analyse our results.



Sandra and the Larks 'n' Owls team do all sorts of wonderful activities with the children in after-school club, and this week they made and decorated gingerbread men!



Musical instrument care - a note from Mrs Foxwell

Just a note to ask everyone to be extra careful during any musical activities with both their own and other people's instruments. I have had to repair 3 this week which have been significantly bent or damaged. Instruments, particularly flutes, can damage or break very easily and one drop or knock can lead to a big repair bill!!

To help, please encourage your child to follow some simple rules:

- Do not leave your instrument on the floor or on a chair where it could be easily knocked off.
- Don't leave your instrument unattended.
- If you do have to leave it, make sure it is in a safe place or give it to a member of staff to look after.
- When it's not being played, keep your instrument in its case.



We'd like to remind all families again about the importance of parking safely, respectfully and legally in the vicinity of school. No one should be parking on the yellow chevrons in the entrance to the staff car park at any time, or in the staff car park itself unless the vehicle is being driven by a member of the school staff. Thank you very much for your support.

The whole school was treated to a fabulous **string assembly** on Thursday, led by our Curricular Music Lead, Miss Todd, and our new violin teacher, Mrs Caroline James. They introduced the children to the cello and the violin, gave a demonstration of how they're similar and different as members of the orchestral string family, then finished with a lovely duet performance. If your child was inspired yesterday morning and would like to explore the possibility of learning a string instrument, please email the school office and we'll be delighted to give you more details!



We're so proud of our fabulous recorder group - Mrs Foxwell is working really hard with them every Friday morning!

This is the next PTA event! All families have been emailed details about **Autumn Games**.

NAPTON ST LAWRENCE PTA

AUTUMN GAMES

WEDNESDAY 16TH OCTOBER

STRAIGHT AFTER SCHOOL UNTIL 5PM

**BUY
NOW**

£5 PER CHILD OR 3 FOR £12
PAY ON SCHOOL MONEY

LL aged children will need an adult to join them

TICKET DEADLINE - 5PM MONDAY 14TH OCT

Just a reminder that the **PTA AGM** will be held in the school hall at **8pm on Thursday 10th October**. We would love you to join us for a short meeting followed by an informal drink across the road in the Victory Club to chat about what the PTA does during each academic year and the plans they've already made for the coming months. Hope to see you there!



St Lawrence Primary School with Little Lawrences



Reception Open Morning
Tuesday 22nd October 2024
Tuesday 3rd December 2024
School tours between 9.45am–11.15am

If you have a child who'll be starting Reception in September 2025, or know someone who does, please keep Tuesday 22nd October or Tuesday 3rd December free!

We will be holding a Reception Open Morning for you to visit the school and ask any questions you may have. We would be delighted to show you around!

Please contact the school office to arrange a tour with the head teacher, Mrs Hanna:
07510 423 038 / office@stlawrenceprimaryschool.co.uk

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Your photo proof card will be coming home with your child today.

Orders to be placed online by...

Friday 11th October 2024

www.mangoinschool.co.uk

We are no longer able to accept late orders so please order by the date above.

Every order generates funds for your school too!



Photo proof cards have all gone home now - please email the office asap if you don't have any order details yet. Please order by **Friday 11th October** on the **Mango website**. We are not able to take orders through the school office.