

Year 1 loved the Owls!

Year 1 have been learning about owls. The children were very excited about the owl visit to St Joseph's. Since the assembly the children have all produced some wonderful diary extracts



detailing their experiences, as well as some fantastic descriptive work on what the owls looked like and how they behaved. Year 1 had a lot of fun trying to make their own owl out of playdough.

learn the story of the birth of Jesus and Mary's role in it. In lesson they created an angel to represent Angel Gabriel visiting Mary as well as a wreath. Year 1 performed a beautiful assembly to the rest of the school and parents to show their learning and understanding of the topic.



In Science Year 1 have been learning about different types of animals. Part of the science curriculum is to observe and compare the bodies of fish, birds and reptiles.

In RE Year 1 have been learning about Mary, Mother of God. They have had the opportunity to reflect on how we can prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus as well as



Fish were brought into school for the children to hold and spot the features of them and understand how they differ to birds and reptiles.



In January our school value is *Determination*

During the school working week discussing our special school DETERMINATION and every discuss how we can be more choices especially linking to gather together for collective work and relevant stories. ones that all children can be known to them. We want our talk about and understand



we spend time thinking and values. This month our value is class throughout the school determined to make good New year's resolutions. We worship, discussions in class, art These simple key values are clearly understand and should children to be able to discuss, values

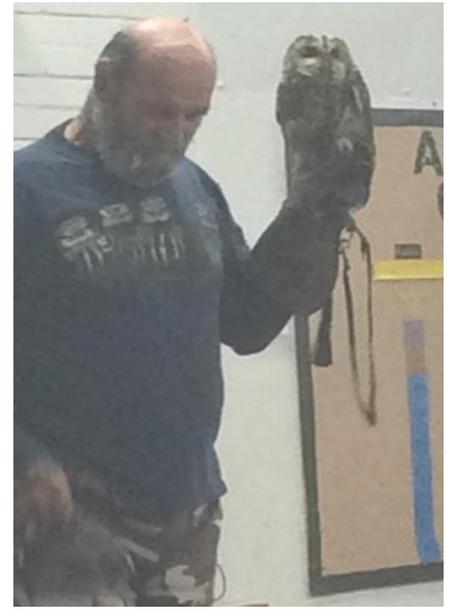


in a real way that will impact on their everyday lives. These are aims that follow our school value that "Together in faith, we nurture, encourage and inspire each other to achieve excellence and become all that Jesus calls us to be "

When you call into the Main office take a minute to read our work displayed by all the different Year groups. The Minnie Vinnie group have made a "Determination tree" including many Inspirational words to help us focus in assembly time.



Year 3 make a great start to new term



The children have had a fantastic start to the spring term.

At the beginning of the week Year 3 met some beautiful Owls. A very special visitor called Terry came from The Moonshine Owl Sanctuary to visit us with his three of his favourite owls.

Terry taught us lots of interesting facts about the owls. We learnt that the colour of the owl's eyes help us determine whether the owl is nocturnal or not. Owl's with orange or coloured eyes shows that they are active around dawn and dusk. The owls with dark brown or black eyes like to hunt at night. Owl's can move their heads 270 degrees so that they can

see, as they have tubular rather than round-shaped eyes, so they aren't able to move them around much.

We proceeded to base the weeks remaining lessons around Owls.

In art we sketched the Owl's following step by step instructions carefully to get the sizing and proportions of the picture correct. First we completed our sketches in pencil lightly and then added colour and detail on our second attempt.

During our English lessons we learnt a rhyme about a wise old owl and performed about a wide eyed owl using actions. Then we created our own Owl shape poems.

A Wide Eyed Owl

I'm a wide eyed owl,
With a beak for a nose.
I've got tufts on my ears
And talons for toes.
I sit in a tree and I watch for you,
Then I flap my wings and say,
T'wit t'woo, t'wit t'woo!

School Dinners

We have recently noticed that some children are choosing to have a school dinner when this has not been pre-ordered or paid for. As a result of this we have on some days run out of hot meals. Please ensure that if you wish your child to have a hot dinner on a particular day that the class teacher is told and payment of £2.00 is made on the day (unless your child receives free school meals). School meals are free to all pupils in KS1 and F2. Thank you for your cooperation with this.



School Attendance

Attendance is below our target at present. Well done to all who have still got 100%! And to everyone who has made an effort to be in school everyday. It is a key priority for us to ensure that attendance remains at **97% or above.**

And to everyone who has made such an effort this week to be in school every day

Attendance overall including Foundation Stage: 94.6% %

Attendance overall without Foundation Stage: 95.36%

Those who have already fallen below national average will be invited into Attendance Panel or receive a home visit from our Education Social Worker



CLASS	LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK
Foundation 1 Mrs Fretwell	87%	87%
Foundation 2 Miss K Allen	91.67%	94%
Foundation 2 Mrs Walker	83.33%	94.2%
Year 1: Miss J Turner	98.33%	98.7%
Year 1: Mrs Osiac	89.29%	98.6%
Year 2: Miss Last	94.50%	93.6%
Year 3 Miss Finnigan	97.84%	97.2%
Year 4 Miss Davies	97.20%	96.3%
Year 5: Miss J Allen	81%	86.4%
Year 6: Miss Morgan	97.37%	95.3%
Year 6: Mr Broughton	100%	96.4%



Family Mass

Thank you to all those families who support these Masses; the children love taking part, and we would like to encourage more families to share these special occasions.

**Please join us at 11am
on
Sunday 2nd February
in St Joseph's Church**



Parish of St Joseph and St Alban



Messy Church is a fun family afternoon with drawing, painting, cookery, arts, crafts and lots more

Please join us in
St Albans Parish Centre
on
Sunday 19th January
from 3pm - 4.30pm

Please note that children must be accompanied by an adult



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



“Together in faith we nurture, encourage and inspire each other to achieve excellence and become all that Jesus calls us to be”

Headteacher Mrs K Vernon

School Office 17th January 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a lovely two weeks back in school and the children have settled quickly back into routines. The term got off to a lovely start on the first day back with a visit from the 'Moonshine Owl Sanctuary' and some very special feathered friends. The children loved meeting the different types of owls and learning many important facts about them. This visit provided the focus for lots of inspirational writing and creative artwork throughout the week.

Attendance

Congratulations to all our children who achieved 96% attendance or above during the Autumn Term and in particular a very special mention for those children who achieved excellent attendance of 100%. Their achievements were celebrated and rewarded in a special assembly last



week. Congratulations must also go to Miss Davies' class who achieved the best class award for attendance last term at 96%. We are very proud of you all. Well done.

We are all working hard, together with you, to improve school attendance and achieve our target of 97% attendance by the end of the year. However, our attendance figure is currently at 93% below our target figure, so there is certainly more work to do.

Please remember if your child is absent you must contact the school as soon as possible on the first day of absence, by telephoning the school office or calling-in in person. If we receive no notification of the reason for your child's absence then the absence will be noted as unauthorised. Unauthorised absences can lead to an Education Penalty Notice being issued and may lead to a fine. Please continue to support school by ensuring your child maintains good attendance.

Accelerated Reader

It has been fantastic to see the excitement and motivation for reading by children in KS2 since we introduced Accelerated Reader last term. The children are so engaged with reading and love completing their quizzes online. Well done to all the children who have been reading their Accelerated Reader book regularly in school and at home and who are now members of '85% Club' (achieving 85% or above in their online quiz). Please continue to encourage your child to read their AR book at home as this will really support their progress.



Every blessing

Mrs Vernon

Golden Assembly 17th January 2020	
Mrs Walker	Emily MacPhee
Miss K Allen	Tammy Winter
Miss J Turner	Cole Whitburn
Mrs Osiac	Alexander Culshaw
Miss Last	Skye Kelly
Miss Finnigan	Kyle Price
Miss Davies	
Miss J Allen	James Mellor
Mr Broughton	Aleisha Harris
Mrs Morgan	Christian Quirk