



LOVE, RESPECT & FORGIVENESS

Newsletter 2 2023

Dear Families,

As we bring another hugely successful term and year to an end – it always makes my heart sing to sit back and reflect on all we have learnt and achieved this year!

Our schools continue to go from strength to strength and I am sure you enjoyed both our pledge service and the book look today! We do an awful lot of work in a term don't we? Huge thanks to our wonderful Year 3s who entertained us with their songs during the service and huge thanks to Mrs Golding for preparing them so well!

And this newsletter could not go written without the biggest congratulations to our Infants for the most incredible Nativity – I'm sure you know this – but it takes the most **GINORMOUS** amount of work getting the nativity together – from the costumes, to the script, to the songs – so whilst we celebrate the bravery and wonderfulness of our children - I do want to take the opportunity to thank the Infant team who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure you enjoy the show!!

As you know we have recently changed the vision and values at the Junior school and also how we share your children's learning with you across both schools. A big part of that is going to be the postcards we send home – and as some of the artists from the current postcards are now well into their secondary school – we thought it was time for some new ones!

And so your child is bringing home with them today a piece of white card to design a new postcard for ASS! I have spoken to our children in assembly about this and talked about what they might like to put on a postcard – thinking especially about the vision and values in both schools. If they can work on this over the winter break that would be amazing and bring them back in the new year – we are going to display them all in the hall and choose some that we think would translate best into a postcard and get them printed up! Exciting!!!

And taking of art – we held a **BIG DRAW** this term – this involved our children all participating in a National Art event – drawing weekly with the theme of our five senses. All our children worked incredibly hard on this but as with lots of things in life – we do have a winner and that is **ELIZABETH BRINCH** – so huge congratulations to her and a massive well done to our runners up **Leksha Dundigella, Divyanshi Singh** and **Emma Ensell**.

And finally all that it remains for me to do with this newsletter is wish those of you celebrating the merriest of Christmas', you all a happy Winter break and very very Happy New year – which I hope, more than ever, brings peace and love and hope to everyone.

See you on [Monday 8th January 2024](#)!!!! 2024 – how did that happen!!!

Best wishes,

Susannah

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter – as it is where we upload photos of learning and reminders as well!!

We can be found at @ASJSASIS - you do need to join our twitter circle to ensure you get to see all the photos – so please make sure you do that as well – if you are unsure how please email our admin team and they will help you out!!

****ATTENDANCE****

The National Figure for 2022/23 was 92.5%

The current National Figure is: 93.7%

Our target for 2023/24 is 97%

Infant Attendance 96.6%

Junior Attendance 97.7%

Our Junior Attendance is fantastic – thank you for working with us on this! And – whilst below or target - our Infant attendance is better than it has been for a while – so another big thank you for this!

We can only ensure that your children make the progress that they are capable of if they are in school on time every day – so we look forward to working with you to ensure this happens in 2024!!

****Learning Round Up****

Ducklings

This term has been packed with exciting learning and events. We began with learning all about Guy Fawkes and bonfire night, then the Year One's continued to study the Great Fire of London, which they were fascinated with. They loved comparing photos of London then and now, and got very passionate about the inadequacies of the fire service in that era! In Science we've all been learning about materials and their properties involving lots of investigating and sorting. In more recent weeks we've been madly getting ready for our nativity which was, undoubtedly, a resounding success! It's always so exciting for the children to get dressed up and perform in front of such a large audience and they, quite rightly, felt enormously proud of themselves – a huge well done to them all. Wishing everyone a relaxing Winter break and season's greetings to you all.



Cygnets

So here we are at the end of our first term together – we have achieved so much this term and have worked incredibly hard. We have explored all different elements of light in RE and why it is so important to people's religions, we have run around every Monday in PE, we have become brilliant music composers on Purple Mash and also become real detectives and historians, as we are now experts in The Great Fire of London and how it started.

A little Elf came to visit us on the 1st of December! We named them Candy Cane and they have been keeping an eye on us ever since, making sure we are working hard and learning to the best of our abilities - but the festivities did not stop there! We had our infant nativity show, a Christmas arts morning, sang some beautiful carols at our local care home, watched a pantomime with the Juniors' and made Christmas cards for each other in class.

A great term always needs to be followed by a well-deserved rest - have a brilliant Winter break Cygnets class and families, see you in the New Year!



Year 3

As we approach the end of an exciting and bustling term, I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude for the incredible energy, enthusiasm, and curiosity your children brought to our classroom each day. It's hard to believe that a whole term has passed already, filled with engaging learning experiences, exploration, and plenty of fun activities! Your children have shown remarkable dedication and eagerness to learn. Their creativity has shone through in every project, and their laughter has filled our classroom with warmth and joy. It has been a pleasure witnessing their growth and development over the past few months.

I am also pleased to say that we are now ready for our well-deserved Winter break and want to wish you a truly magical and joyous holiday season. May this time be filled with love and cherished moments with your family and friends.

Can't wait to see you all in 2024!



Year 4

It has been another wonderful term of learning! Children have been hard at work focusing on delivering their best in each lesson. In English, our theme of invention and innovation has been truly inspiring allowing us to showcase our creativity through our various written texts: an explanation text, a diary entry and a non-chronological report. These writing pieces were based on our reading books for English and we have been blown away by the presentation, choice of phenomenal vocabulary and use of advanced punctuation. A particular highlight this term was our class Reader, *The Wild Robot*. There was no lesson where the children were not enthusiastic to read out aloud and answer the questions. A great present for your child as a keepsake! Our learning journey took us further into understanding the importance and value of our rivers in Geography and we conducted a number of experiments in Science. Overall, a very busy learning time!

However, a particular stand-out moment for me was their performance at the Hexagon – singing their hearts out to all the jungle-themed songs and making our school proud by their enthusiasm to belt out the lyrics. I have no doubt that this experience will be one they remember for a lifetime.

We wish all our families a happy Winter break and look forward to welcoming you all back in the new year.



Year 5

We have had another very busy half term in Year 5 and the children have worked extremely hard in all areas of the Curriculum, producing some super work. As a class, we have been learning all about life in different 'Slums' around the world. We have written, acted out and published some amazing work based around our English books 'The Odyssey' and Shakespeare's 'The Tempest'. The children have immersed themselves in our Science and DT topics. We finished off the term with a very exciting visit to Reading Museum and the Abby Ruins; where we had a guided tour and talk, learning lots of wonderful facts about the history of Reading. I have been so impressed with the children's learning and they deserve a well-earned rest. Happy Holiday's everyone and Well done, Year 5!

Year 6

It's been an incredibly busy half term with the children working their socks based on a beautiful book culminated in their own we are hoping to share with enjoyed producing including some amazing a happy and relaxing holiday and look forward to the new year.



term in Year 6, with the off! Our English has been called 'The Promise' and has narrative poem sequel which Cygnets. We have really environmentally friendly art, painted leaves! We wish you all



****UPDATE FROM OUR INFANT GB****

This past half term seems to have raced by and it doesn't seem long since my last contribution! However, despite that, there's been a lot of governing body activity in that time. For example, I had the pleasure of being involved in two visits from members of the local authority's school effectiveness team. One was a general review of last year's educational outcomes, and the other was a visit monitoring our provision on Writing, which involved some time spent in each class and reviewing some of the children's books. Across both visits, the local authority representatives were highly positive about what the school is doing and the progress being made by the children.

For those able to be at this week's nativity in the church, I hope you'll agree with me that it was an absolute delight. I was so proud of all of the children who delivered such an brilliant and entertaining performance, reflecting the huge amount work that they and the staff have put into the preparations. I also had the pleasure of seeing the children from Years 1 and 2 sing the more familiar seasonal songs at Maitland House care home the day before; they sang with great gusto, in their fabulous nativity costumes, and their behaviour throughout was exemplary. I know the residents and care home staff really enjoyed it.

At our latest governing body meeting, we had a jam-packed and highly varied agenda that I really can't do justice to with a few words here. All I will say is that to find out more about the kinds of things we discuss and make decisions about, do please consider joining us! We have a number of governor vacancies and do really need some more people to join the board. There are vacancies for parents of ASIS children, but also for others. So even if you do not feel like this is for you but you know someone who might be interested do please mention it to them. If you would like to find out more about being an ASIS governor do contact me at stevedaniels@allsaints.reading.sch.uk or speak to another governor (details of the current membership of the governors are on the school's website).

*For now, I hope that you have a lovely, healthy holiday.
Steve Daniels, ASIS Chair of Governors*

****UPDATE FROM OUR JUNIOR ACC****

We're slowly getting our heads around the changes being made by the Anthem Trust to our Anthem Community Council (formerly the Local Governing Body). Whilst we continue to adapt to the changes, we'd still love to hear from parents, carers or family members looking to nominate themselves to the new role as Parent Champion.

Anthem Trust describe the role of Parent Champion as the following:

"The role of the Parent/Carer Champion is to focus on capturing the lived experience of all parents and carers with students in the school and ensuring that they are heard by the Anthem Community Council. This will ensure that the voices of parents and carers are heard by Anthem's National Team and the Trustees, allowing us to address issues and share in celebrations and lessons learned across the Trust."

So, if whilst you're nibbling a mince pie you'd like to hear more information on the role of Parent Champion please feel free to pop myself, or our Clerk an email on one of the email addresses below. We'd love to hear from you.

Elizabeth Kenny: lkenny@allsaints.anthemtrust.uk

Katherine Green (Clerk): kgreen@allsaints.anthemtrust.uk

Hope you all have the most wonderful Winter break!