



Audlem St. James' C of E Primary School

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



28 March 2024 - Happy Easter Everyone

Here we are halfway through the school year; Easter is upon us and the weeks have gone by in a blur. The Easter story brings many challenges to our door relating to faith and the attitudes with which we face it.

Some things that seem possible are impossible and, likewise, some things that seem impossible are possible; unless we witness them firsthand we have to decide whether to have FAITH in what we're told about them. Over Easter Christians celebrate the belief that Jesus died and rose from the dead. How far you each believe this is your choice... but if we do have faith in the resurrection of Christ, what does it mean for the way we live our lives?

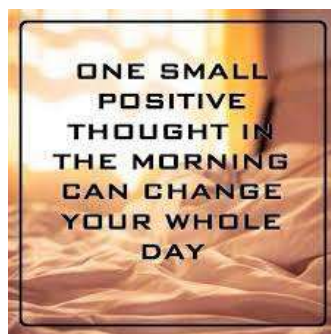
If a water bottle is full to the half-way point, is it half-full or half-empty? Of course, it depends on how you look at it. This is a good image, I think, for how people look at life: some focus on all the things that are going wrong and wake each day with a sense of dread, while others focus on the things that are going right and give thanks for the things that they are grateful for. It was like this for the characters in the Easter story; as the disciples and followers of Jesus lost hope and saw their world crashing down around them only Jesus could see the positive side of events as they unfolded. He faced his death with serenity because he knew that his suffering was part of a bigger plan and that he would rise again.

Christians believe that on the first Easter Sunday, Jesus rose again. He came back to life, defying the expectations of his friends and his enemies. We also believe that, in this event, good overcame evil, life is stronger than death, light shines through the darkness and the half-full bottle is superior to the half-empty bottle.

And that's the challenge for us: if we believe in the resurrection, we need to take the half-full approach to life. Life undoubtedly has its challenges for each and every one of us but with a belief that the bottle is at least half-full we can tackle those challenges head on and overcome them.

At Audlem St James CE we work on developing positive attitudes to learning in all our children. We do not accept that our children cannot do things; instead, we prefer to think that they cannot do them YET (and that they will be able to do them in time). We are actively aiming to teach not just content in our lessons, but we are striving to encourage the positive mind-sets and characteristics that we associate with people that are successful in life (and not just tests): resilience, curiosity, empathy, openness to experience, attentiveness, perseverance, self-control and tolerance of diverse opinions. As this approach to teaching embeds itself, we believe that we will be turning out children who are: academically agile, independent, resourceful, able to transfer skills to different situations, bold, brave and responsive to feedback. Essentially, children who are well equipped to be successful learners and successful in life.

Thought of the Week





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Easter Service at St James on Tuesday 26 March 2024

This was a fitting end to the term and was very well-attended. The children performed and sang beautifully. Thank you to all the parents and friends who walked with the children and came to the service. We very much appreciate your support.

Maths Workshop – also on Tuesday 26 March

Nearly 50 parents, many of whom had already attended the Easter service earlier, came into school to participate in maths lessons alongside their children. This was a follow-up to the English workshop held earlier in the term. Comments we received included “Brilliant! Lovely to see the different ways of learning”; “Fab interactive maths lesson” and “Thank you – tested our brains!!” From this we conclude that it was a success.

Praise Book and 5R children – names carried over

Due to the shorter week and the fact that Y4 will be out on a visit to the Deva experience in Chester, we will be mentioning this week's children in the Praise assembly at the end of the first week back after Easter, Friday 19 April and their names will appear on the newsletter that is sent out on that day.

School

All the children have enjoyed the different work that they have been learning throughout the week and the classrooms have been buzzing with activity. Here is an overview of what has been happening in every class.

Amethyst: This week in Amethyst Class, we read ‘Shark in the Park.’ We wrote a list of all the places that we saw the shark, became authors and made our own books and found rhyming words. In maths, we further explored the composition of 6 and 7 as ‘5 and a bit’, and saw that both 8 and 9 could be composed as ‘5 and a bit’. We compared representations on fingers/dice/tens frames to generalise that each of the numbers 6 to 9 *can* have 5 as a part. We also enjoyed our trip to St James Church for the Easter service.

Sapphire: This week in Sapphire Class we have enjoyed going to the church for our Easter Service and singing with the whole school. We also have been working hard on finishing off our stories about the Lion. We have been focusing on writing sentences which use 'and' and 'because'. In Maths we are working on addition and subtraction- we have just moved onto subtraction and using our number bond skills to help us. We all enjoyed having you come and visit our Maths session on Tuesday. In PE we enjoyed a dance session using music from Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat. In Music we have enjoyed using instruments and singing songs. In Art we have been creating a page about the artist Christine Restall and doing some weaving in our outdoor area.

Pearl: This week Pearl class have been creating clay tiles, experimenting with fastening and indentation. The children also made Easter cards to celebrate Easter. They made everyone very proud in the school's Easter service when they told the tale of the Three Trees. In maths, they have looked closely at their 2 times table and in English the class were examining heroes.

Amber: This week, year 3 have been finishing up their maths topic on division and practising dividing with remainders. In English, the children edited their setting descriptions of Spring and worked on spelling rules for adding -ing. The class enjoyed performing their Easter poems in church and had a wonderful trip out to Chester Zoo. The children saw the new Snow Leopard environment and took part in a rainforest workshop to support their Geography learning. The children also enjoyed their recorders and French lessons.

Emerald: This week, Emerald Class have been investigating whether gases have mass by weighing fizzy drinks before and after stirring them. They found out that the drinks were lighter after releasing the bubbles, but not all the fizzy drinks were the same - cola seemed to have more gas. The children also enjoyed having their





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parents and grandparents joining in with their Maths lesson and we were so pleased to see so many parents coming in.

Ruby: What a great final week in school before the Easter holidays. The children worked exceptionally hard to learn the songs which were sung beautifully in the church service on Tuesday morning. Followed straight after by the maths morning with parents, which I hope was enjoyed by all who were able to make it. Ruby class continued the week by planning and drawing a monument in Art, using all the architectural skills learnt over the last few weeks. In English, we have started our new book 'The Darkest Dark' where we are learning about the character Chris. Ruby class show continued hard work in all other foundation subjects.

Diamond: This week in Diamond Class, Year 6 have choreographed their contributions to the Easter Service which synchronised narration, poetry, dance, art and music for an immersive experience in church.

Using Arithmetic SATs questions, we solved cryptic clues to find out who stole Mr Blenkiron's Easter eggs - turns out it was Judas the Jellyfish! In Art, the children researched Mexican artist, Diego Rivera and created mood boards in their art books using his artworks, his artistic styles, facts about him and their own small pieces sparked by the above.

Attendance

Whole school weekly attendance this week is 95.56% which is unfortunately still below our school aim of 97% every week. In EYFS/KS1, Amethyst class has the highest attendance. In KS2, the best attendance has been in Amber class. Congratulations to both classes.

62 Miles in March – Diabetes UK - update

Mr Trude would like to inform everyone that the school has currently raised £185 and he is very grateful. The children in Y5 have been averaging 27.8 miles each! If anyone would still like to donate to the cause, the link appears below:

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/AudlemStJamesCofE1709132860162?utm_source=copyLink&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=AudlemStJamesCofE1709132860162&utm_campaign=pfp-share&utm_term=d833e76f652147afa9bd2822f9ee28d1

Bingo Night Report – Friends of Audlem School



Last Friday, Friends hosted our Easter bingo night. It was so lovely to see so many families joining in the fun. Steve Leonard kindly hosted with his quirky bingo calls and 5 families were lucky enough to win our rainbow hampers. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended and raised just over £450 towards our school projects (which we hope to share with you soon). Thank you to all who supported by donating prizes, joining in





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the fun and to all the fantastic volunteers without whom it could never have happened. Friends would like to wish you all a Happy Easter; we hope you all enjoy the holidays!

Easter Colouring Competition – Aramark School Meals

The Easter competition which has been running for a few weeks was finally judged and the seven worthy winners (one per class) have been given their Easter egg prizes today. There were a splendid number of entries and some excellent designs. Well done! We have placed an updated menu with Summer term dates on the school website under Parent Information/School Dinners. In the first week back beginning 15/04/24 we will be following the Week 1 menu.

Nantwich Museum – Easter Activities

Nantwich Museum have asked us to publicise their family Easter workshops running on 10th and 11th April. They are completely free to attend. They also wished to advertise drawing workshops that are running over the next six weeks. They have a small charge of £2 to cover materials but are free for children. Posters for both events are included with this week's newsletter.

Finally

It is important that our newsletter and all other forms of communication we send out to parents and carers, give you a clear and detailed picture of our work in school, so that you are kept up to date with events in school and our community. If you have any ideas, comments or suggestions about the content of newsletters please get in touch with me.

A.Perry

