



Audlem St. James' C of E Primary School

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



31 March 2023

Happy Easter Everyone

Here we are halfway through the school year, Easter is upon us and it all appears to have gone in a blur. The Easter story brings many challenges to our door relating to faith and the attitudes with which we face in our lives. Some things that seem possible are impossible and, likewise, some things that seem impossible are possible but unless we witness them first hand we have to decide whether to have the 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?

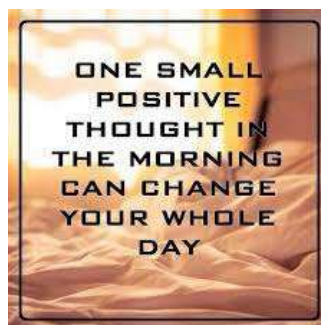
If a water bottle is full to the half-way point is it half-full or half-empty? Of course, it depends on how you look at it. This is a good image, I think, for how people look at life: some focus on all the things that are going wrong and wake each day with a sense of dread, while others focus on the 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 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, well equipped to be successful learners and successful in life.

Thought of the Week





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Easter Service at school on Wednesday 29th March 2023

Our service took place in a packed church so thank you to all the parents and friends who came to support us. We are especially grateful to those of you who gave up your time to walk with us to and from St James. It was a joy to hear the enthusiastic singing and drama produced by every class. Well done to everyone.

Football Tournament – Timperley Shield – Final – Monday 27 March 2023

Our Year 6 Football Team took part in the Timperley Shield competition on Monday afternoon. The competition sees the top 2 teams from the qualifying rounds battling it out to be crowned area champions. Audlem placed in their qualifier competition already marking the team as in the top third of all local primary schools! We played extremely well throughout the tournament and the sportsmanship and camaraderie on show was exceptional from all players. During the group stage of the competition, the team played well, passing accurately a building pressure in all games. We progressed to the final match in second place in our group, meaning our final game was the third / fourth place play off. The team again played brilliantly but unfortunately couldn't quite come back despite the goal of the tournament being scored in the dying seconds of the match.

Overall, the Year 6 team came fourth in the Timperley Shield - the culmination of football competitions open to all primary schools in Crewe, Nantwich and the surrounding rural area - a huge well done to the team! A photograph of the very happy team appears below.





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Special Assembly for Mrs Hayward – Friday 24 March

Last Friday afternoon the school held a special assembly for Mrs Hayward who came in to visit and say goodbye to everyone. Flowers were presented and the children had made farewell cards. They were able to thank her and celebrate her time in school. The Governors also gave her a card and gift,

Praise Book Children

This week's Praise Book children are:



Mrs Burgess' Class – Arlo Allen
Mrs Kemp and Miss Cooke's Class – Erin Wynne
Mrs Richardson and Mrs Smith's Class – Isla Bonell
Mr Davies' Class – Sofia Tinsley
Miss Morris's Class – Amelie Leslie
Mr Blenkinsop's Class – Esmae Fellows
Mrs Bird's Class – Isla Rowe
You are all amazing Shining Stars!



The 5 'R's

As a school we are concentrating on the 5 'R's – **resilience, reflectiveness, responsibility, resourcefulness and readiness to learn**. These are the children who have shown such qualities this week:

Resilience: Nazar Yurchenko

Reflectiveness: Molly Parris; Zac Hassall

Responsibility: Theo Jones; Maisie Baker

Readiness to Learn: Carter Swailes

School

Amethyst Class In Amethyst Class this week, we read the story 'Sharing a Shell' and 'The Rhyming Rabbit' by Julia Donaldson and continued our work on rhyming words. In maths, we continued to develop our subitising skills (seeing the quantity without counting) in increasingly complex arrangements, e.g. 6 dots in a random arrangement. We looked for patterns and groups within these arrangements to support future calculation strategies. We also enjoyed learning about the Easter Story and making Easter crafts.

Sapphire Class This week in Sapphire Class the children thoroughly enjoyed going outside to test the materials to see if they kept Teddy dry! In English, we have finished reading our class story 'Nibbles the Book Monster.' We wrote a list of advice for anyone who needs to stop Nibbles nibbling things! In geography we drew and labelled a diary entry to show what a typical day looks like for a farmer in preparation for our school trip next term. A letter will be sent out today with more information about the visit.

Pearl Class This week in Year 2 we have started reading two new books 'Owen and the Soldier' and 'Major Glad, Major Dizzy.' We have enjoyed exploring new characters and vocabulary. In Maths we have been working on multiplication-recognising equal groups, adding equal groups and using the multiplication symbol. We have continued to learn about Easter and we have made pictures using rocks to represent different scenes from the story. We enjoyed performing Hot Cross Buns in our Easter service in church. In Science we have discussed food chains and sorted pictures in a food chain game. We looked closely at daffodils and created detailed drawings. We explored watercolours and used these to paint a 'golden host of daffodils.'





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Amber Class This week, Amber Class have enjoyed their last swimming session of the year at Nantwich pool. It has been fantastic to see the progress children have made and the determination exhibited - a huge well done to them! In our maths work we have started to look at fractions by comparing fractions with different denominators and in our English work we have been looking at how important the layout of a text can be to its' meaning. We have finished reading This Morning I Met a Whale which has ended in a way that we weren't expecting and have discussed the importance of happy and sad endings to stories and why an author may choose a sad ending to add impact.

Emerald Class This week, Emerald Class have completed their maths unit about division. They practised using efficient methods to calculate their answers. The class have now started their work on fractions. In English, the children edited and received feedback on their letters from Livia and Tranio to their parents. The class started reviewing the rules around punctuation for direct speech. In art, the children painted the clay pots that they sculpted last week and in Geography the children worked with using grid references. The children rehearsed their songs for the Easter Service and enjoyed their final swimming session.

Ruby Class This week in Ruby Class, the children have been continuing to deepen their understanding of decimals and their equivalent fractions. In English, the class have been précising information based on the moon landing. In D&T, the children have been finishing off sewing their Anglo-Saxon cushions and have painted their Anglo-Saxon pots - we talked about how these would usually be grey, peach or 'buff' in colour, but decided we would like to put our modern spin on these..... We also combined history and English, and learned how to write arguments like a historian while considering the question "Are we Anglo-Saxons?"

Diamond Class In Year 6 this week, the children have been continuing to develop their hockey skills in PE, and have enjoyed a Forest Schools session with Mr Hadfield. The children are still working hard in readiness for their SATs in May, but are enjoying learning more challenging concepts. We have been focusing on our reading comprehension and have been making sure we have learned all our key spellings.

Attendance

As you are aware, we are aiming for overall attendance of 97% in the weeks ahead so it is pleasing to report that this week we achieved 97.07%. We will be reporting back on this every week. In EYFS/KS1, Pearl class had the best attendance and, in KS2, Emerald class had the best attendance. Well done to both classes.

Funtopia in Verdin Park, Northwich – 12 April and 22 July

We have been sent a poster about this event which we have attached to the 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.

