

24TH MAY 2022

# ST ETHELWOLD'S VA SCHOOL



Good afternoon and welcome to your newsletter

You might have noticed a bit of a strange grass cut to the roundabout outside of the school? We have been working with Councillor Ron Davies and Flintshire County Council and managed to get the roundabout on the list of roadside wildflower sites. The ground has been prepared and we are just waiting on a final date for the seeding which we are hopeful that our pupils can get involved in. Expect a colourful roundabout in the not-too-distant future.

I am using the newsletter this week to let you know about a couple of projects we have going on in school.

## SPECIAL MENTIONS

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JESSICA & HARRI FOR  
FANTASTIC PHONICS WORK

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LEILA FOR TRYING HARD IN  
NUMBERS WORK  
CHLOE FOR TRYING HARD  
IN READ, WRITE INC

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HARVEY & TEAGAN FOR  
THEIR EXCELLENT  
PARTICIPATION IN THEIR  
LEARNING

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NATA & LEXIE FOR THEIR  
SENSIBLE, MATURE  
ATTITUDE AND APPROACH  
TO THEIR WORK

## Sensory Room

We have applied for funding totalling around £14,000 to equip the school with a sensory room. For many children, interaction in a sensory room can help them to develop their sight, sound, touch and hearing, as well as encouraging independence. The use of sensory equipment can help children to develop and practise a range of skills including:

- Hand-eye coordination
- Fine and gross motor skills
- Colour recognition
- Communication
- Sensory skills

Sensory rooms in schools are an effective way to work with children on regulating their behaviour. The calming environment allows pupils to work through any difficult emotions in a safe and supportive space, together with a member of staff. Handling behavioural issues in this way improves focus in the classroom, which has a knock-on effect on the rest of the school population. In this way, sensory rooms in schools are beneficial for everyone. We have been successful in one grant application for £4000 and are awaiting the result of another application for the remaining £10,000.

## Signs

Since we had the roof replaced and new facias installed, we have not had any signs with our school's name around the place. We have applied for funding to install signs on the facias facing the playground and, on the facias facing the school field and Aston Park Road. Included in the funding bid, are signs on the main car park gates, welcome signs by all our entrances and replacements for the St Ethelwold's signs at the front of the school and at the top of the playing field. We think these signs will make the school feel much more welcoming as well as brightening and freshening things up. We will bring you more news as soon as we have it.

We try to find as many funding opportunities as we can so that we can add to the excellent experiences that your children receive at St Ethelwold's.

Dear Lord, I pray that You give me strength to be strong for You,  
amid all the temptations of this world. You know that there are  
struggles that I will go through today..

# Class 1

In Class 1 this week we have been following the children's interests and have been learning about minibeasts. The children have been busy exploring in our Insect Investigation Area and we have been learning about symmetry by making symmetrical butterflies. Our class story has been the very wonderful *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle - a classic! Next week we'll have some very special visitors in school in the form of caterpillars and earthworms.

This week our Reception pupils have settled well into their new Read Write Inc groups, while our Nursery children continue to enjoy a range of stories, songs and Nursery Rhymes.

# Class 2

This week Year 2 s have been practising counting in 2s, 5s and 10s adding actions to help us remember while Year 1s have been playing a shape bingo game to help remember the names of 2D and 3D shapes. We have also worked on the connection between addition and subtraction and investigating the different ways to make 10 and 20. For our topic of Adventurers and Explorers we imagined we were explorers and after talking about it we wrote where we would like to explore , what we would see and why we would like to explore that place. Lots of the children want to explore under the ocean and wrote great descriptions of what they might see.

To finish the week, we had our celebration party as the class have gained 1000 dojos in total. With lots of games, dancing and music the children had a great time

## Diary Dates

**Friday 27th May- 3.15pm-** School closes for half-term

**Monday 6th June-** School re-opens

**Friday 10th June-** Jubilee Celebration

**Thursday 16th June-** Sports Day

# Class 3

This week in class 3 the children have been learning what each part of a receipt represents. They have learnt that rounding off to the nearest pound helps to do mental calculations with money. The children have used their knowledge of multiplication tables to work out the total for products costing the same amount of money. They have looked at differences in order to calculate how much money is saved when there are special offers available. Our class were fortunate to have Mr Tahir teach them on Tuesday as he is a practising Muslim and so the children were able to ask him questions supporting their learning about the 5 Pillars of Islam. Class 3 have developed the sensory garden further by evaluating what they have done so far and deciding that the next steps are to create a beach area. So if you are collecting shells and would like to add some to the sensory garden, please send them in!

# Class 4

The highlight of the week in Class 4 this week was our trip to Xplore in Wrexham. The class were nearly as excited to go and learn all about Aquaponics and how we can incorporate it into our allotment project.

We travelled by using our trusty legs and train which the pupils enjoyed. We took part in an hours workshop about Aquaponics and the pupils worked in pairs, using excellent problem solving skills to put together their own system.

We have booked a follow up session with Xplore for a few weeks time where they will be coming to school to drop off a system for us to use for a month. Can't wait! Oh, and the pupils are looking forward to it too! In Maths this week we have been learning about circles and how to calculate their circumference. We will use this skill to create a semi circular net over our strawberries in the allotment.

In English we have finalised our research questionnaires to build our own Newspaper reports from which we will start next week.