



The Three Saints Academy Trust

"If you can believe, all things are possible to those who believe."

Mark 9:23

Newsletter

Issue 15 Autumn 2020



St Ann's Church of England Primary



St Mary & St Thomas' C.E. Primary



St Michael with St Thomas C.E. Primary

Message from the Chief Executive Officer

We are delighted to welcome you our 15TH edition of The Three Saints Academy Trust newsletter and the first for this academic year.

This year has been unique and not like any other. We have seen very clearly how important it is to support each other, to expect the unexpected and most importantly be kind to one another. I am very proud of the way we have seen our children and staff in our schools and families look after one another and adapt to the world we are living in currently.

We were very pleased in the summer to have our work as a Trust highlighted on the BBC news and on several radio stations. This clearly showed to all who viewed this that we are a family of schools who support each other and our communities, for that we can feel very proud

Your support of staff in the schools has been overwhelming and whilst we have had to sacrifice many of the events we would normally enjoy such as; nativity plays and carol services, we must hold the true spirit of Christmas in our hearts and minds and remember it is about the birth of a very special baby boy.

You will get a flavour of this amazing work on the following pages that has continued in our schools despite the extraordinary times we find ourselves in. This says much about the resilience of our staff and pupils.

All the staff, Directors and school committees would like to extend their best wishes for the festive season and thank you for your continued support. We pray that everyone

stays safe over the Christmas break and we can return in 2021 to a better year for everyone.

Kirsty Tennyson
Chief Executive Officer
The Three Saints Academy Trust



News from St Mary & St Thomas

Believe, Achieve, Shine

Macmillan Coffee Morning

This is a worthy cause that we support every year, but this year we had to approach it slightly differently. Sadly, we couldn't welcome our families into school for our usual coffee morning, but instead the children paid to take part in a 'cake break', in the afternoon. A tasty treat, and we managed to raise £155 for MacMillan cancer support.

#GrowYourHappy



Our year 6 pupils have worked in consultation with the St Helens Youth Council to help launch a new initiative. #GrowYourHappy is a fun online mental health toolkit full of mood-boosting content informing young people of the importance of self-care.

National Poetry Day

In October we all celebrated the joy of poetry; we all looked at poems and enjoyed writing poetry ourselves, practicing our language skills and performing our work. Our classes all shared their poems on their class web pages so please take a look.

Worship

Children have enjoyed worship in their classrooms this term, and special class assemblies have been performed and recorded to be shared with parents and other classes. Every Monday we share a 'Zoom' key stage worship and have used these to explore our school values of Trust, Resilience and Hope through bible stories. Reverend Harry came into school to deliver Eucharist to our year 5 and 6 pupils, the service providing a welcome peaceful and reflective opportunity for staff and pupils.

Road Awareness and Safety

We have worked with the Highways Agency to make Barton Close a safe pedestrian zone during school drop-off and pick-up times, and response from families has been very positive.

Our year 5 children brought in their bikes and helmets and worked with the Bikeability team. They learned how to communicate using hand signals and how to ride their bicycles safely on the road.

Some of our children took part in a competition run by the Highways Agency, 'Be Bright Be Seen'. They designed their own reflective back packs.

Odd Socks Day

During Anti-Bullying Week, we took part in Odd Socks Day, wearing odd socks to raise awareness of difference and celebrate what makes us all unique. The children all worked with Altru Drama on the theme of 'United Against Bullying' and explored how they could help prevent bullying in school and the community. The children showed that they are totally invested in our zero-tolerance approach towards bullying, with some fantastic work and discussion.

International Children's Day

During international children's day classes completed a range of work exploring the sustainable development goals. As a UNICEF Rights Respecting School, we are always excited to learn about the global goals and use them to improve our school and environment.

World War Week

Each class has researched a different aspect of war time Britain. Some great research and some spectacular art work has been produced.



Pentathlon Success

During PE lessons, the children have been taking part in an indoor pentathlon. The events included: speed bounce, long jump, target throw, vertical jump and shuttle-runs. Every school in St Helens took part and the children with the best scores have been selected to progress on to the Merseyside games. We were proud that six of our children have been selected for speed bounce, long jump and shuttle run

Christmas

Christmas may be different this year but it hasn't stopped us from celebrating. We have enjoyed a festive Christmas dinner, Christmas jumper day, a Christmas craft day, and on party day enjoyed a virtual pantomime and an online visit from Father Christmas. In support of our local community, we have donated toiletries to our Reverse Advent Calendar and have made and sent Christmas cards to the residents of our local care homes and shelters.





News from St Ann's

Always our best for God, each other and ourselves.

WORLD WAR II WEEK



This term saw the introduction of WW2 focus week into our Lunar Curriculum. During the week each year group studied this great war through a different lens focusing on broader concepts such as equality, democracy and children's rights.

ALLOTMENT DAYS

As part of our mental health and wellbeing focus this year, we have introduced regular opportunities for outdoor learning. So far, these sessions have taken place in our allotment and moving forward will also incorporate our woodland area. These sessions have been hugely enjoyed by the children, and parents have also passed comment on the value and importance of these sessions.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY WEEK



We were very excited to introduce Design and Technology Week this year.

The children thoroughly enjoyed designing and making Christmas related structures, mechanisms, as well as electrical and food products with Steph O'Donnell, a DT consultant. We were impressed with the quality of the children's work, and hope you were too! Thank you to all the voluntary contributions we received which enabled this experience to go ahead.

OPEN DAY FILM



There was a huge buzz around the building this half term when a short film about our school was made for prospective parents/ carers. The director of the film said the children were a credit to our school, and we are led to believe that the film has been very well received by all who have enjoyed it.

CHRISTMAS TIME



We may have had to do things a little differently this year, but hopefully you will agree that it was as special as always. The children have benefitted from taking part in online nativities, Christmas and Christingle services, bubble Christmas parties, Christmas jumper day, a Santa Dash, and even a visit from the big man himself! Huge thanks goes to Rainhill Rotary for funding a Christmas panto for the children to watch. It certainly added some extra sparkle to our festivities.

CHARITY WORK



We are extremely proud of our Town Trooper's Super Leader Team who have taken the lead on our charity work this Christmas time. We are delighted to announce that with all the food and present donations, our Town Trooper have been able to make up the most wonderful Christmas hampers for those less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you also to all our parents/ carers who contributed – our Town Troopers could not have achieved this without you!

GOODBYE AND GOODLUCK MRS MCDOWELL

It is with deep sadness that today we are saying farewell and good luck to Mrs McDowell. Mrs McDowell has worked



at St Ann's since 2010 and worked her way up from Newly Qualified Teacher to Deputy Headteacher. Not only is Mrs McDowell an exceptional teacher, she is also an exceptional leader. Mrs McDowell is passionate about teaching and learning but above all else the children's safety, well-being and happiness. Her legacy will impact on St Ann's pupils and staff for years and years to come. I'm sure all parents/ carers would like to join the staff, School Committee and Directors in wishing Mrs McDowell all the very best for the future as she leaves us to turn her attention to her own family for a while.



News from St Michael with St Thomas

Learn, Achieve, Love, Believe

Reception Wellie Walk Fundraiser



This term our Reception class have taken part in a fundraising wellie walk, to raise funds for their new puddle suits. The suits will enable them to make full use of their new outdoor learning area throughout the winter. Altogether the children raised over £600 and managed to buy a full class set of the puddle suits! They have already made fantastic use of them in the wet and muddy weather over the last few weeks!

UK Parliament Week

Our KS2 classes took part in the national UK Parliament week, alongside many other schools across the country. The pupils learned all about how our British Parliament works and their role in running our country, giving children an even deeper understanding of the Fundamental British Values that we teach across our curriculum. The children also had a 'virtual visit' with our local MP Derek Twigg, who was very impressed with their knowledge and mature questions.

Y6 Become Published Authors!

Our Y6 took part in a Young Writers competition, entering an original piece of writing based on the idea of 'Pets', to be judged by a panel, with the winning entries being chosen to be published in a children's poetry book early next year. Out of over 10,000 entries, an amazing 12 of our pupils had their piece chosen for the final publication! We are very proud of our outstanding



writers, and cannot wait to see their work in print very soon!

Festival of Reading

As a school we took part in the national Festival of Reading, which took place this Autumn. The children took part in a range of reading inspired activities, as well as being introduced to new authors and books. Y5 took part in a webchat with a Cressida Cowell, the best-selling author of 'How to Train Your Dragon' and were very excited to have had their questions chosen to be answered as part of the online chat.

Fun Food Chef

This term we had a socially distanced visit from our Fun Food Chef – who taught us how to make a delicious new recipe for a 5 course meal as part of our food technology curriculum! The pupils learned lots of new skills for preparing different vegetables, as well as making their own



bread and sauces from scratch! They were also very adventurous when trying all of the dishes that they had prepared.

Christmas Celebrations!

Despite the current restrictions in place across the country, we didn't let stop us from celebrating Christmas with our school family! All classes took part in a virtual pantomime, followed by Christmas parties in our bubbles. We also wrote letters to the residents of the local care home and sent them videos of our Festive dances that were learnt as part of our PE curriculum, as we know that many of them won't be able to see family this Christmas and that they are missing our usual choir visit to sing carols.