

Year 2 Update 26.09.2025

National Teaching Assistant Day

Today is National Teaching Assistants' Day. This is an opportunity for us to recognise the invaluable role our TAs play in children's lives up and down the country. At St. Anthony's we are hugely fortunate to have dedicated and committed teaching assistants, many of whom have worked at our school for several years. It is impossible to list the number of tasks our teaching assistants perform daily. They are there for the children in the classroom to help them with their work. They are there in the medical area when they feel unwell. They are there on the playground during playtimes. They are there at lunchtimes when the children are eating. Many of our TAs work with small groups of children or on a one-to-one basis. They play a vital role in the children's progression.

Thank you to all our brilliant teaching assistants as we celebrate you today.

Forest School

Monday:

Our next activity was about wildlife tracking. Emma and I were privileged to attend a course about tracking in the summer break with a revered tracker from America who works with indigenous tribes in the Kalahari. Emma discussed what being a tracker means and the skills required. The children practised walking in a specific way to ensure their footsteps wouldn't make any noise when they were tracking. Then everyone went tracking to see what signs and clues of wildlife they could find. Emma gave the children special flags to put in the ground when they discovered something. Some of the discoveries included nibbled fungi, different bird feathers, and holes in the ground.

During the choosing element of the session, some children stayed with Emma to create a 'Master Tracker List' of our discoveries of what exists at St Anthony's. They listed all of the different trees, some plants and creatures. Our aim is to add it week to week. Other children chose to experiment with threading fallen sycamore leaves, some making crowns with them. Clay was another choice and some children made prints with different natural materials. Other children helped me begin to make a new creature habitat behind the stag beetle loggery which involved sawing some wood from long branches. In the morning, Forest Friends play was popular and in the afternoon a group of children made dens with the long poles, ropes, and tarps and showed a lot of good teamwork and perseverance.

Tuesday:

We began with the movement song the children learnt yesterday, but today we added a harder element to it which the children had a good try at. After this, the children took part in a mystery bag challenge. In small groups, the children explored different bags with only the sense of touch to try and work out which natural object related to autumn was inside.

Next the children played Squirrels which is fast paced and encourages the children to think quickly.

Back at the log circle, the children listened to Emma tell a story called 'The Stars Inside'. The main character is an apple tree and apples are a significant symbol of the Autumn Equinox. The story follows the little apple tree through the seasons and all the changes they bring. Important themes of patience and being grateful for what you have run through the story.

For the rest of the session, apples remained a focus to help us celebrate the Autumn Equinox. Some children chose to make Apple Poppity Pings with Emma. They prepared the fire, grated the apple,

added the other ingredients and mixed them altogether well. Other children explored apple halves with paint and rollers. They made different designs with the paint and some children printed animal creations with the apple shapes. Some children chose to work with conkers, acorns and elder wood beads to create necklaces or bracelets. The intention of this activity was to provide hand strengthening opportunities and knot practice. Some children returned to building the creature habitat and others were keen to build a den again. There was more interest in creatures again today and a group of children made a special home for a ladybird they had found which included a security system!

St Francis Feast Day

St Francis is our patron saint in Year 2, in celebration of his feast day the children can come to school dressed up as their favourite animal on **Friday 3rd October**.

RE

- In R.E this week children have begun to look at Baptism.
- We have thought about the different signs and symbols associated with Baptism.
- Next week, we will be focusing on Saint Benedict and how he helped people in need.

Vocabulary: Baptism, sacrament, sacred, oil, holy water, shawl, candle

English

- We have been applying our skills that we have been learning in English – past tense and conjunctions to write an alternative disaster for the book ‘Frog and the stranger’. We enjoyed using role play to re-enact these.
- Next week, we will be looking at new story and focusing on commands.

Vocabulary: verbs, conjunctions, describe.

Maths

- This week we have continued our place value topic by looking at the different ways we can represent numbers.
- The children regrouped numbers in different ways for example $51 = 40 + 11$
- Next week, we will be ordering and comparing numbers.

Vocabulary: tens, ones, digit, numerals, place value, odd, even, regroup

Science

- Our Science topic this half term is Living Things and their Habitats.
- We have begun to explore different habitats such as a woodland habitat and an ocean habitat.
- Next week, we will continue to explore different habitats.

Vocabulary: habitat, feature, food, supplies, water

Extra information:

- Please ensure children have plimsolls in school.
- Children should not be wearing any jewellery including rosaries in school.

- The trim trail is **not** to be used before or after school.
- **Friday 3rd October** - children can come to school dressed as their favourite animal.
- We would be grateful for any donations of tissues.

Have a lovely weekend,

Bella and Megan 😊