Friday 6th November 2026

Year 5 update

R.E.

Topic: Prophecy and promise

- This week we have been learning about the life of King David and the Book of Samuel. We have retold stories from the Book of Samuel about how David was chosen as king and how he defeated Goliath.

Key Vocabulary: Covenant, prophet, anointed.

Pre-teaching:
Next week we will continue to learn about the Book of Samuel.

English

Topic: Writing to Entertain
Book: *Cloud Tea Monkeys*

- This week we have started the story 'Cloud Tea Monkeys'. We have been thinking about the use of sensory and figurative language to create vivid descriptions.

Key Vocabulary: metaphor, simile, personification, figurative language, sensory language.

Pre-teaching:
Next week we will be looking in more detail at character descriptions.

Maths

Topic: multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000.

- We have learnt to multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1000.

Key Vocabulary: place value, multiply, divide.

Pre-teaching:
Next week, we will be looking in more detail at multiples and factors.

Science

Topic: Materials: Properties and changes

- Children have been investigating the hardness of different materials by doing a pattern-seeking inquiry.

Key vocabulary: hardness, properties, variables, control variable.

Pre-teaching: next week children will be learning about transparency.

Forest School

We began our session with an introduction to our new welcome chant. This has been updated to reflect our values and current Forest School practice. One element it includes is 'Honourable Harvest'. This is from the book 'Braiding Sweetgrass' by Robin Wall Kimmerer. It is a set of guidelines to encourage taking only what you need from the Earth, with principles of gratitude, respect, and reciprocity. Next we recapped our updated motto: Knowing Me, Connecting with Others and the Natural World, and Harmony with the Earth. The children worked in three groups to chat about what they felt these elements looked like at Forest School. There was a lot of positive and productive discussion.

Next the children took part in two observational activities to encourage them to slow down, connect and notice the environment and nature around them. The first one was called 4 Count. Children worked in pairs for this and had to walk four paces together with their eyes closed and then open their eyes and call out something new they noticed in their vicinity. The next one was called 10 Count. The children worked independently to discover and write down specific numbers of things in nature with the challenge to add an interesting description to go with it. Then we came back together and amalgamated some of the ideas together to make a poem. There were some thoughtful and creative lines written by the children; for example, "Five cooking bowls dangling down like Christmas lights", "Six wobbly lines on a leaf", and "Seven chopped up logs like cucumber pieces".

After this, the children listened to Emma tell a story called 'Grandmother Spider and the Light'. It is based on a Cherokee tale about a wise and resourceful spider who brings fire and light to the world.

For the rest of the session, some children chose to continue the spider theme of the story and made wool pom pom spiders and webs woven around a 'y' stick'. A lot of children were drawn to an autumnal craft Emma had brought along - making a fabric pumpkin. This involved using an autumnal coloured sock, adding stuffing and spending time moulding it into the pumpkin shape by winding string around it. This required focus and perseverance. Children in both groups were interested in den building and made use of the new peg and clip resources efficiently. There was a focus today on ensuring dens were secure and encouraging children to concentrate on how they move longer logs with reminders about spatial awareness. Children in both classes enjoyed returning to the hammocks, slackline, and digging area - lots of need for physical activity and sensory movement were met through these!

During our Closing Circle time, the children shared ideas about what they would like to do during this term at Forest School. We will weave these ideas into our planning over the next few weeks.

Best wishes,
Carrie and Emma

School Council

St Anthony's School Council

Would you like the opportunity to become
a class representative for our school council?
Are you confident, well-organised and full of good ideas?
Then we need you!

What will being a class representative involve?
***Recording the views of your fellow classmates.**
***Attending school council meetings and reporting back to your class.**

If you would like to join our school council,
please prepare a short speech to present to your class next week.
Your class will vote and **one** member from each **Lisbon** and **Padua** class
(**Year 3- Year 6**) will be elected.

Extra information

- 'Odd socks day' is on Monday 16th November.
- Parents' Evenings are on Tuesday 17th November and Wednesday 18th November. Please make sure that you have signed up for an appointment.
- School is closed on Friday 20th November for occasional day and Monday 23rd November for an INSET day.

Have a lovely weekend,

Abbie, Fatim and John