

Celebration of R.E, Catholic Life and Prayer and Liturgy

2021-2022

Godly Play

This year, we continued to explore Godly Play across all year groups. Godly Play is an imaginative approach for working with children that supports, challenges, nourishes and guides their spiritual journey.

Godly play assumes children have some experience of the mystery of the presence of God in their lives but that they lack the language, permission and understanding to express that.





Catholic Social Teaching

This year, we have started exploring the Catholic Church has seven principles of social teaching. We understand that Christ shows us how to walk in his footsteps, bringing love and care to those both near and far. It is our vocation to live as Jesus and saints throughout the ages, bettering our world for everyone.

Helping those who have been displaced (Solidarity and the Common Good)

We were deeply moved by the events taking place in Ukraine and wanted to take action to support those who had been displaced. Each class planned and held a fundraising event raising an amazing £523. These including selling items, collecting and donating items to be driven over to Ukraine and standing together in solidarity creating a rainbow using the Ukrainian colours.



This money was then donated to CAFODs Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.



Mission Weeks

Loving Week

During the first of our Mission Weeks 'Loving Week', we collaborated with our MAC family to raise an awareness and an understanding of issues linked to climate change, linking to 'Stewardship of God's Creation'. Pope Francis called on Catholics to take action for our common home during the Season of Creation, which lasted from the 1st September until 4th October (the Feast of St Francis.) Our Holy Father encouraged each of us to question the way we live and to turn 'towards lifestyles that are simpler and more respectful to the environment.' This was the focus for our activities during this week and we were all been impressed by our children's knowledge, understanding and passion about all issues relating to the damage we are causing to our beautiful Earth, gifted to us by God.

Children in Reception kicked off the week by litter picking in our school grounds, we really appreciated how lovely our school site looked after their hard work. When sharing their views, they said:

'We need to keep school tidy to keep all the animals safe.'

'We need to look after our world.'

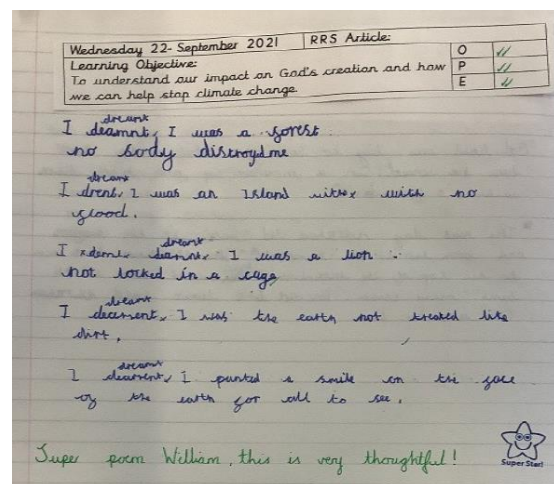
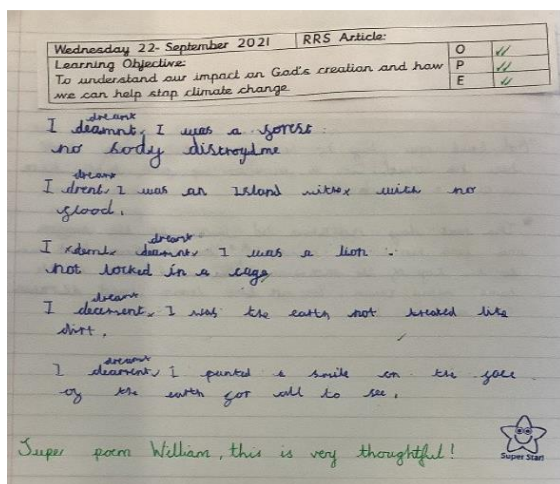


Year Two also went litter picking to ensure that our local environment was looking at its best.

Year One focused on their class saint, St Francis of Assisi. He is well known for his love of the earth and for animals. They decorated their outdoor 'saints tree' and made a beautiful image of St Francis for us all to enjoy. Their efforts reminded us of the words of St Francis himself.



Year Four supported preparations for a demonstration to be held outside school and taken to Birmingham Town Hall. They really inspired us by sharing their strong independent views and by producing some excellent banners and placards which will be used to share their collective voices on climate change with the wider community.



Year Five wrote formal letters to our local MP, Saqib Bhatti ex-pressing their views and suggestions for how we can work collectively to tackle the adverse effects of climate change.

Mrs Turner and a group of children from all our KS2 classes worked on a fantastic art project, again linked to our focus on the Season of Creation. They worked collaboratively, using a range of materials that can be recycled and, perhaps more importantly, using many that cannot, to produce a beautiful Sea Turtle. This creature was chosen, not only for its serene beauty but also because it is one that relies so closely on the fine balance of nature to survive, often against all the odds.

We went over to St. Anthony's to work with an artist and to collaborate with all the schools in our MAC family. Each school individually decorated a bicycle wheel out of recycled materials. Each piece would come together to make a large scale piece of art.

Living Week

During Living Week at St. John's we celebrated 'Year of the Family' by Pope Francis. Below are just some of the ways we used Mission Week to think about how important our home and school families are to us.





We used our school trellis to display beautiful photos and artwork of our MAC and home families.



Early Years drew pictures and talked about the people who are special to them in their family.



Year 2 children created family collages.



Year 4 celebrated their families this week by making viennese whirls to take home and enjoy together. Not only did we mix together butter, flour and other ingredients but we also mixed in some love!



Father Michael visited Year 6 during Living Week, discussing his role as a priest.

Year 6 prepared and asked him some fantastic spiritual questions!!



Sacraments

First Holy Communion

As preparations began First Holy Communion, such an important celebration in each child's faith journey as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, children and their families were treated to a special celebration tea organised by Mrs Turner. It was a wonderful opportunity for all to rejoice in this special time. Thank you to Mrs Turner who worked so hard organising the celebration tea, and thank you to the families who attended.



Congratulations to our Year 3 children, who on received their First Holy Communion this year. It was such a precious occasion, we would like to thank Father Michael and all of our families for their support.

Confirmation

During preparations for Confirmation, our Confirmandi children were joined by their family members for a 'Confirmandi Workshop' where together they created saint bags. As you can see from the photos, they had a lovely time and made unique and beautiful bags. Thank you again to Mrs Turner for organising another lovely get together, and thank you to the families for their support.



The sacrament of Confirmation was received by some of our Year 6 children. Coming together with Guardian Angels to welcome our Bishop as celebrant; a wonderful evening was shared by all for this wonderful event in the children's Catholic life.

Charity Work

We are part of the Catholic Primary Partnership, the partnership has recently contributed £2750 to the Sisters working in the Primary School in Kiruhura, Rwanda. The funds have contributed to the construction of a small library for the children.

The partnership has also contributed to the school fees of several students. One of the former students we helped to support with school fees has gone on to discern his vocation as an aspirant with a religious order called the Missionaries of Africa, better known as the White Fathers.

The Catholic Primary Partnership and the Sisters working in Rwanda are very appreciative of all of the support given. Please hold them in your prayers.

MAC

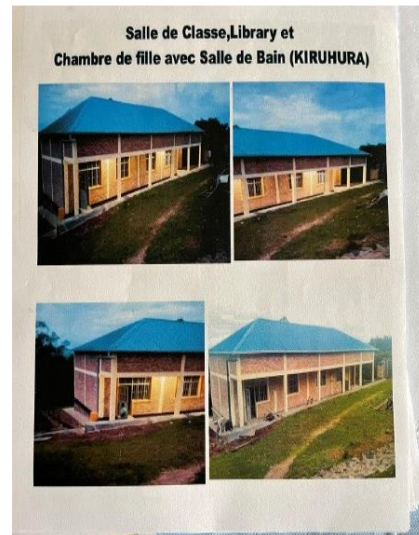
This year we were proud to announce the launch of our 'We Are All Saints...Children's Charter' to mark the one-year celebration of the formation of Our Lady and All Saints Catholic Multi Academy Company. The charter outlines the offer of all schools within the MAC and sits at the heart of our mission to provide high quality Catholic education for all our pupils. In the most basic sense, a saint is a "holy one," someone who is set apart for God's special purposes.

As a result, every follower of Jesus Christ can be a saint. By following the examples of the saints, we will guide, lead and teach our children to emulate their virtuous behaviours and to follow in their footsteps. Our charter is arranged into the following principles:

- All Saints have a love for others
- All Saints use their gifts wisely
- All Saints are servants of Christ
- All Saints are risk takers
- All Saints have a love for the world around them

The five sections set out a blueprint for the overall offer of experiences that our children and young people can expect to receive as they undertake their journey through each stage of both their primary and secondary school lives, within Our Lady and All Saints Catholic MAC. It seeks to equip them to become active Christian citizens in their communities and across the world. We want every child and young person, following the example of Christ in his likeness and in his Gospel teachings, to leave school fully confident that, not only are they academically fulfilled but they have also experienced a wide range of activities enriching their hearts, minds and souls. The principles of our charter will be explored and unpicked at focus points throughout the liturgical year but we'll also be looking for and celebrating examples of saintly behaviours each and every day.

All parents/ carers Were emailed the 'We Are All Saints...' Children's Charter and it can also be located on our website by clicking on 'Our Faith' We look forward to embedding the Children's Charter offer for all of our pupils at St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School.



"The saints were not superheroes, nor were they perfect. When they recognised God's love, they followed it and served others." Pope Francis

All Souls

Throughout the month of November, we thought about family and friends who are no longer with us and pray that they are happy and at peace in heaven.

Our children had the opportunity to offer their own personal prayers for people they care about who are now with God Our Father.

We also had our display on our trellis, allowing us to come together as a whole community in prayer and remembrance. Families added photographs of loved ones to remember them.

