



Theme for next week: Lent

Head's Message

Dear Parents,

As we approach the half term holiday, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our pupils and teachers for their continued hard work, as well as our parents for their continued support. Last week we held our Year 7 Parents' Evening and this week our Nursery, Year 1 and 2 parents had the opportunity to meet with the teachers and discuss progress. I thank all of you who attended and hope you went away with some useful strategies to support your child.

Tuesday was a busy day as our Year 2 play was staged in the afternoon. Once again, I am amazed at the talent of our young pupils. It was a highly entertaining show with an excellent message which supports our education for social responsibility. Well done to our Performing Arts Department and teachers. Later that evening, our choirs participated in the annual Stratford Choir competition. The children performed well and the Junior Choir received a distinction, as well as winning the trophy. Our Senior Choir competed against specialist choirs but still managed joint second place. Well done and thank you to Dr Brand and Miss Manser for preparing the children so well.

Attain's new app for parents of children at St Aubyn's School. Keeping up to date with events and activities can be challenging for parents. Schools send many emails, newsletters and social media posts, but it can often be too much. Attain has a solution. Parents simply download the Attain app for their mobile or tablet and enter the special 'School Access Key' (unique per school). This provides full access to all news, notices and the School calendar feed. The app is free, and no registration is required. To try the app, simply download for iOS (attain.education/app/iOS) or Android (attain.education/app/android) and login using the School Access Key for St Aubyn's School – 27guuz.

I am pleased to announce that St Aubyn's is in the process of becoming an Eco-School. At the start of the term, we were awarded the Bronze Eco-Schools status in recognition of our achievements in working towards a sustainable lifestyle. To obtain the Silver Award, we needed to prove that we are reducing our energy consumption, saving water and surveying the wildlife on the School grounds. Our committee acted on these requirements and we received the Silver Award just before half term.

The building works have finally come to an end. When we return, the School will be back to normal and the children and teachers will be able to enjoy the new facilities. It has definitely been worth the wait. We were very pleased with FA Lane Construction LTD. They took their responsibilities seriously and were considerate and understanding of the School's needs. They went about their business in a very professional manner and, as a result, we have a well-designed Senior Department and the Performing Arts Centre now boasts a wide staircase, a larger reception area and a Performance Studio. The governors have been excellent in ensuring that our campus continues to develop and improve. We have had four large developments in the past six years that include the dining hall, the Nursery, the changing rooms and the current development.

Six weeks have flown by. I have no doubt that we will all enjoy the half-term break.

Sincerely,

Leonard Blom

Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy.

-John Paul II-



The Senior School held their Construction Competition during the week. Many congratulations to Hayton, who won very convincingly.



Senior Schools pupils, Nia and Emerald, practised their resuscitation skills in the weekly first aid after-school activity run by our School Nurses every Wednesday afternoon.



In the Library, Year 5 have been examining the trustworthiness of social media in their lessons on fake news. Many of us have devices and access to social media so thinking critically about what we read is more important than ever.

The Digital Leaders gave their first presentation to the whole school to celebrate 'Safer Internet Day 2020.' They made a video to tell everyone about the origins of Safer Internet Day and held a quiz to test the children's knowledge of how to stay safe online.



A celebration of the work of children from St. Aubyn's School will form part of an open exhibition of children's art, design and technology work, held at Chigwell School on Saturday, 29 February from 10am to 12 noon. All are welcome to attend.



We are delighted to announce that, in a short space of time, the Eco-Committee have been awarded the Eco-Schools Silver Award. To achieve this, they have carried out a successful Switch Off fortnight campaign, verified that Eco-School topics are embedded in the curriculum and have demonstrated involvement from across the School community.



On Tuesday, both our Junior and Senior Choirs participated in the Stratford Music Festival. Both choirs performed incredibly well, and showcased the hard work they have been putting in to learning and rehearsing their songs. The Junior Choir came first in their class, bringing home a well-deserved trophy whilst the Senior Choir were awarded a distinction – a first for our Senior Choir at the Festival! A big thank you to Miss Manser for all her inspiring work directing our choirs, and to Mr Stear for accompanying them in both their rehearsals and at the performance.



We have noticed that some children are returning to school, following vomiting and/or diarrhoea, earlier than guidelines advise. We follow the advice of Public Health England, which states that there should be a 48 hour exclusion period from school following the last episode. In addition, the child should be eating and drinking normally without symptoms returning. This is to reduce the spread amongst other pupils and staff. This information is on page 36 of the handbook for parents. We are grateful for your cooperation



Congratulations to all of Year 2 for their performance of 'Eddie and the Penguin Saves The World'. The children put on a fantastic show which had an important message about taking care of the planet. Dressed as penguins, polar bears and an assortment of humans they delivered their lines, actions and songs with great confidence! They joyfully reminded us to make simple changes to save energy and to do our best to recycle more.



SPORTS NEWS



Last week, all of the Year 4 girls played against WGPS in some friendly football matches. For some girls, this was their first ever football match and so the excitement levels were high. There were plenty of goals scored in all the matches with the A team winning 6-1 and the B team winning 9-2. In the two C team matches, one was won 8-1 and the other match was a thrilling 9-9 draw. It was great to see all the girls putting in to play what they have been working so hard on in their games lessons. Well done!

On Saturday, pupils from St. Aubyn's took part in the WGPS Football Tournament. The squad consisted of Simon, James, Oscar, Freddie, Lucas, Edward and Ranveer. Edward and Ranveer were both Year 3 representatives, whilst the others are all in Year 4. The concept of the tournament was to encourage attacking play, as the team who scored the largest number of goals at the end of the event would be crowned 'champions'. St. Aubyn's fought hard throughout the event and scored a total of 11 goals, finishing in third place overall.



This week, the Years 7 and 8 boys took part in their first school rugby match. Rugby has only recently returned to the Year 7 and 8 curriculum and the match against Normanhurst School was actually the first match of the century for this age group. In a fantastic match, both sides looked to play with speed and size. A number of strong tackles from our boys stopped the opposition scoring and with good individual runs, St. Aubyn's won the match 10-6.

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At the end of last week, both the Year 5 and Year 6 rugby teams travelled to Bancroft's Rugby Club to play against Loyola School. In two thrilling matches,

there was great running, dominant tackling and positive team work. Although the Year 5 team initially struggled to adapt to a passing rule change, the game finished 6-5. In the Year 6 match, the boys took an early lead but had to restrict the scoring chances of their opposition. Fortunately, they made a resurgent effort to win the match 9-6. Well done to all the boys for their energy and effort.

3JA worked hard in their PE lesson this week to put together a gymnastic sequence with their partner, which had to include all of the different moves they have been working on this



half term, including forward rolls, teddy bear rolls and arabesque leaps. They then enjoyed performing their sequences to the class.



Last week, the U11A netball team had their final group match of the league on a very chilly Tuesday evening. Yet to concede a goal in their 5 matches they were determined to keep another clean sheet

against Mossford. With some quick and accurate passing, lots of interceptions and excellent shooting, the girls won 22-0. This means they have topped their group, and will now go on to compete in the top group when the groups are re-arranged for the second half of the league.



Last Saturday, the U9A netball team took part in a netball festival at WGPS. Unlike usual festivals, the winner would be the team who

scored the most goals across the morning! Determined to score lots of goals, the girls got off to a very good start, beating Forest 8-1. The goals continued to be scored from here as they went on to win their other matches 10-0, 8-0 and 9-0. They scored a further 4 goals in the shooting competition. This meant they were unbeaten all morning but, most importantly, scored 39 goals in total, which made them clear champions of the day, as the team which finished in second place scored 8 goals in total! Well done girls, on such a fantastic performance!