St Mary's Catholic Primary Academy
September - Newsletter

Email: office@smp.nelcmail.co.uk and Telephone: 01472 357982
School Website: https://www.saintmarysprimarygrimsby.co.uk/

DEAR PARENTS, CARERS AND SCHOOL COMMUNITY

A very warm welcome to all our families as we end out first academic month at St Mary's Catholic Primary School. We extend a special welcome to all the children and families who are new to our school community. We hope you are ready for a year filled with learning, growth, faith, and achievement.

The beginning of a new academic year is always a wonderful opportunity to look forward with hope and optimism. We were delighted to see the children return with such enthusiasm and are proud of the positive start they have made.

October: The Month of the Holy Rosary

As a Catholic school, October holds special significance as it is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. Throughout the month, children will learn more about the importance of prayer and reflection through the Rosary, which helps us to grow closer to Jesus through the example of Mary.
Classes will have opportunities to participate in Rosary prayers and liturgical celebrations, and families are encouraged to pray together at home during this special month. We ask for Our Lady's guidance and protection as we journey together through the school year. Can I please ask that at home, you also take the time to pray as a family and always remember the power of prayer in our lives.

Important Reminders

The are several key dates in the newsletter so please read and take a note for the coming weeks ahead.

Attendance Matters

Excellent attendance is vital to children's learning and progress. Please ensure your child attends school every day unless they are genuinely unwell. We believe that every day in school counts. Regular attendance is essential for children to make good academic progress, develop important social skills and build positive relationships with their peers and teachers. When children attend school consistently, they are more confident, engaged in their learning and better able to achieve their full potential. Even a small number of missed school days can have a significant impact on learning over time, making it harder for children to keep up with lessons and develop key knowledge and skills. Arriving on time and attending school every day helps children establish good habits that support lifelong success. We ask all parents and carers to work in partnership with us to ensure children attend school regularly and punctually unless they are genuinely unwell. Together, we can give every child the best opportunity to thrive, succeed and enjoy their school experience. Can I also ask parents to ensure they have read the new attendance guidance and policy on the school website.
Communication
Please continue to check:

- School newsletters
- Parent communication app/messages
- School website
- Letters sent home

These remain the best ways to stay up to date with school events and important information.

Safeguarding

The safety and wellbeing of all children remains our highest priority. If you have any concerns regarding the welfare of a child, please contact the school immediately.

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Working Together

We recognise that a child's success is built upon a strong partnership between home and school. Thank you for your continued support, encouragement and commitment to our school community. We greatly value the positive relationships we share with our families. We look forward to celebrating your children's achievements and sharing many memorable experiences throughout the year. May God bless you and your families as we begin this new academic year together.

Kind regards,
Joe O'Connor
Headteacher



(More important dates/times to be added please keep checking Class Dojo)

*Some sport competitions are for selected children only and you will be notified on dojo via Mrs Solomou or class teacher if your child is selected.

Dates	School Calendar
Tuesday 6th October	12 x Y5 children attending Havelock for PE
Tuesday 6th October	Y4 and some Y5 children at singing Blundell Park
Friday 9th October	Y4 and Y5 Singing at Havelock
Friday 9th October	Harvest Festival
Monday 19th October	Y6 Focus Week and IntoUniversity
Monday 26th October	Half Term Week
Monday 2nd November	Back to School
Wednesday 18th November	Parents Evening (TBC)
Thursday 19th November	Parents Evening (TBC)
Friday 20th November	Flu Vaccination (TBC)
Thursday 26th November	KS1 and KS2 – Panathalon
Friday 27th November	Advent Wreath Making (TBC)

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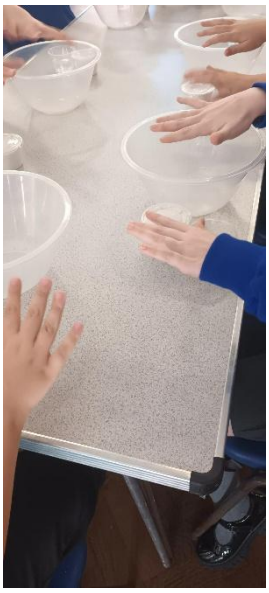
BREAD MAKING WITH ASPENS

The Year 4 class had a visit from James Finch he is the Operations Manager for our new school catering company Aspens. The school started with Aspens from September 2026.



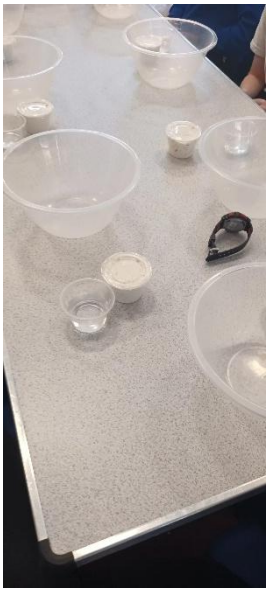
Here is what they have to say - ***Fresh Thinking and Healthy Eating We take our responsibility of catering for today's children and young adults seriously. Our dishes are prepared fresh every day, using high-quality, seasonal ingredients that are responsibly sourced. Our trusted suppliers and traceable supply chain can ensure the provenance of all produce. Our dishes are created and served by experienced and enthusiastic teams who care about both what's on the plate and the message behind it. It's about helping children build a positive relationship with eating and supporting their ongoing food and nutrition journey. We believe school mealtimes are the best time of the day and a chance for children to eat nutritious and delicious food, learn and create great school food memories. What really brings the dining experience to life are our fun and engaging theme days! Based around school curriculum topics to enrich your child's learning and support the wider school experience. Our staff may dress up and decorate the counter to serve something deliciously different on the menu - as the provider we are proud to play a part in your child's school journey!***











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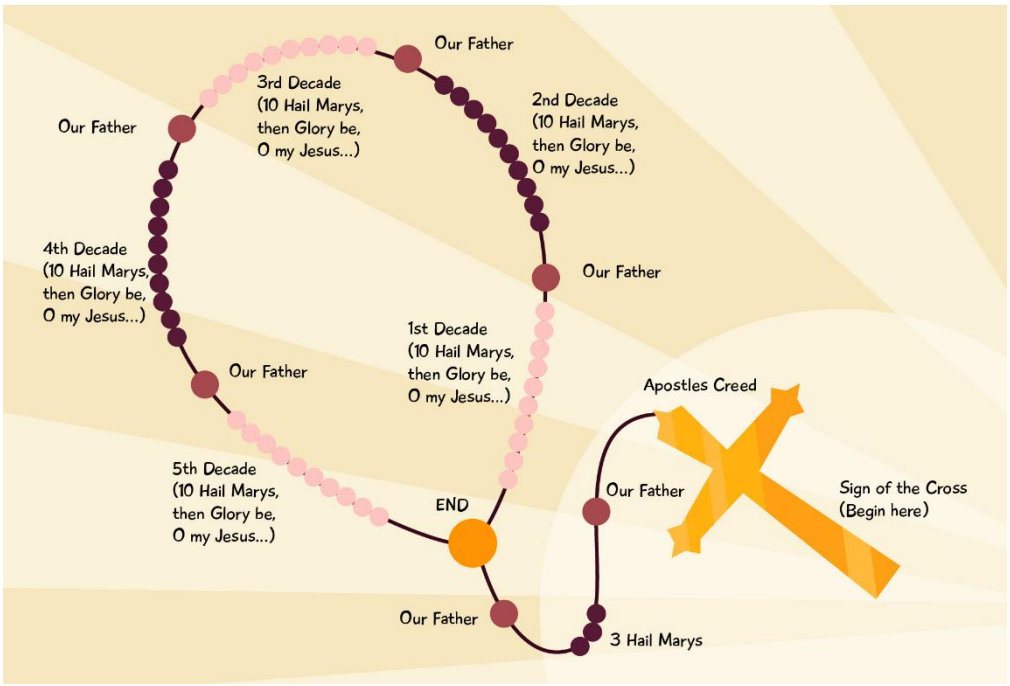
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Catholic Life at our School

We are excited to welcome new members to our Chaplaincy Team, who are currently being chosen and will begin their work next week. The team will play an important role in helping to build and strengthen our Catholic Life across the school. They will work together to plan Celebrations of the Word, fundraisers, prayer events and other opportunities for our school community to come together in faith. We would also love to encourage our parents and wider community to get involved in the prayer life of our school. October is traditionally celebrated by the Catholic Church as the month of the Holy Rosary, making it a wonderful opportunity to pray the Rosary and offer your prayers for our school, our pupils, families and staff. If you would like to pray along with others or learn how to pray the Rosary, there are some wonderful resources available, including the Rosary in a Year podcast and The Rosary with Bishop Robert Barron, available on YouTube and most podcast apps. You can also use the Laudate and Universalis apps, which provide helpful guides and resources for praying the Rosary.

Mrs. Aimee Clark

Lay Chaplain

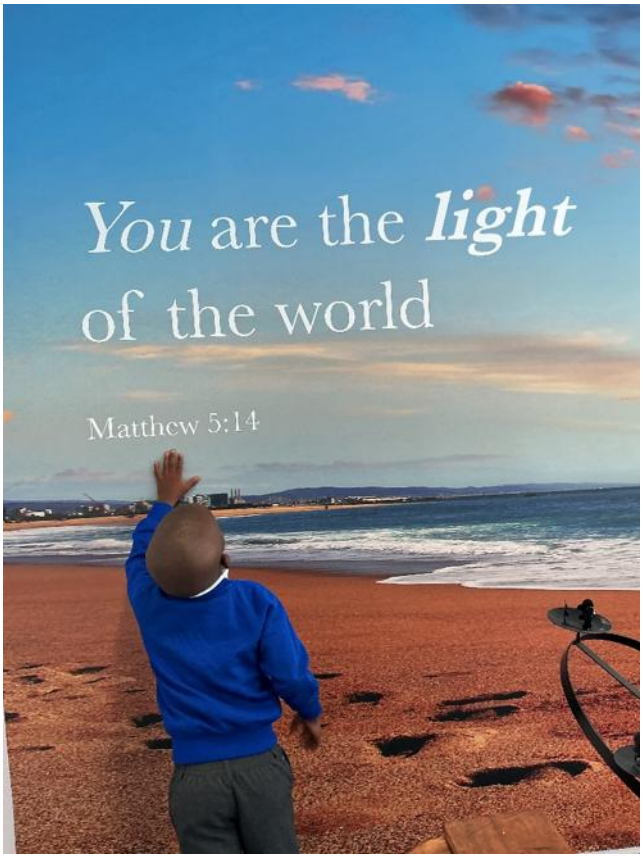


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WHAT WE HAVE BEEN UP TO IN CLASS

Reception Class had our first visit to our school Chapel this term. As part of our Creation and Covenant topic we are thinking about the question How can I look after Gods world? We acted out a Baptism, as we know this is when children are welcomes into Gods Family. Children showed respect as we prayed and sang. In our next lesson we will look at how we can care for our planet that God made.







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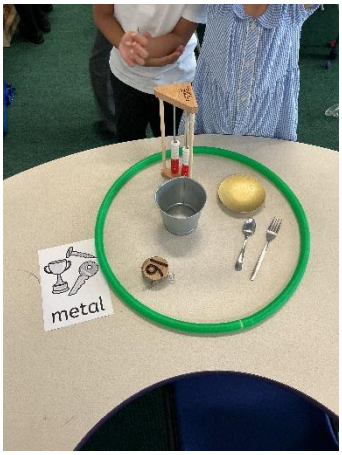
The children have settled well into key stage 1 during the first few weeks of the school year. They have been getting used to their new environment and the routines of Year 1.

In English we have been working on letter formation and describing a woodland setting. We have linked this learning to the Gruffalo and Owl Babies stories.

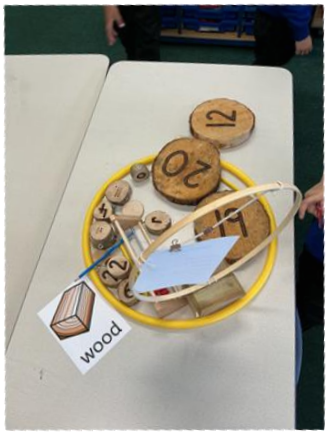
In phonics we have begun our new phonics programme, learning sounds, blending these sounds in our heads to read words.

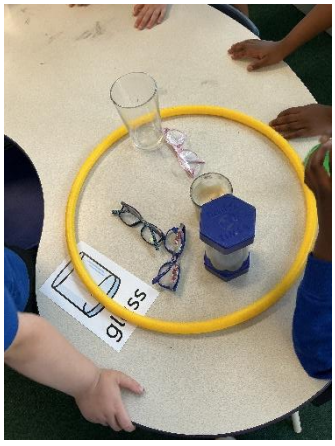
In RE we have been learning all about the creation story and how we can take care of our God given world. We are all making a pledge as to how we can make our school and community a better place. As part of this we will also pledge to live out our Mission Statement by signing up to it with our fingerprint.

In science the children have been learning all about materials and have been identifying and naming what an object is made from, including, wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, and rock.







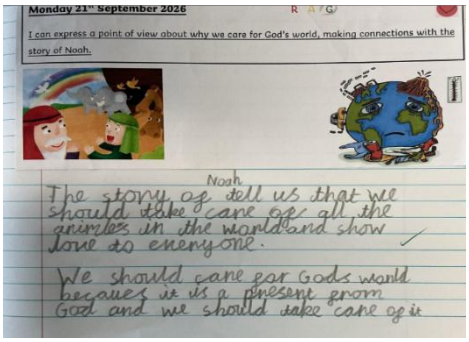


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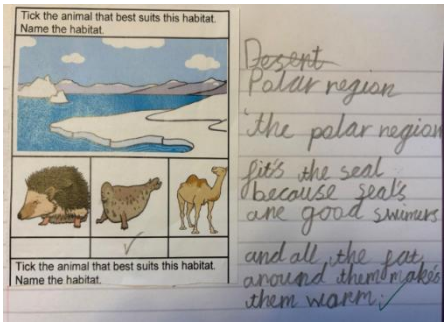
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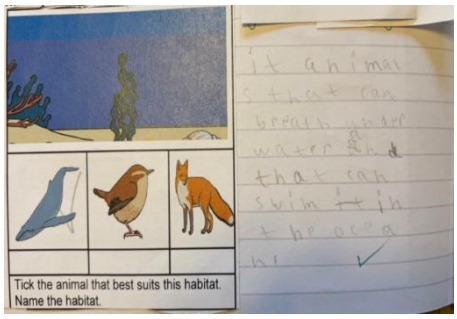
In RE Year 2 children have learnt what being a good steward means as we explore the topic Creation and Covenant. They are revisiting The Creation Story where God created the world and everything in it. They are beginning to learn which Bible stories are found in the Old Testament and those found in the New Testament. One of the stories they have learnt and retold was Noah and the Ark. This Bible story demonstrates what a good steward is and God's love for us.











In science children have been learning about living things and their habitats. Children discussed why we find certain animals in different habitats, thinking about their basic needs for survival.

In half of our PE lessons children have been understanding the importance of fitness and learning new skills around cardio exercises. They have applied what they know about speed, agility and coordination in different relay games.







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In Year 3, in science, our current topic is **Forces and Magnets**. So far, the children have enjoyed investigating **friction** by using ramps, toy cars and a variety of different surfaces. They explored how friction can affect the **speed of an object and the distance it travels**. We have also used **Newton meters** to measure the amount of force needed to lift a range of objects from around our classroom. In RE, we have been learning about Laudato Si', Pope Francis' letter encouraging us to care for the Earth, our common home. The children have thought carefully about the responsibility we all have to look after God's creation. They created thoughtful pledges and posters explaining the different ways in which we can be stewards of God's creation and make positive choices to care for our world. In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of number lines up to 1,000. The children have been learning how to identify and place numbers accurately on number lines with different intervals. We took our learning outside the classroom and worked together to create our own large number lines, helping us to apply our place value knowledge in a practical and engaging way.









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The Year 4 class took part in a Bread-making workshop with our caterers, Aspens. The children made their own bread by adding water to the flour and yeast mix. They learned how to bring it together into a dough, knead it and shape it. They could then take their bread home to eat. They children gave the session and their own bread a big thumbs up.

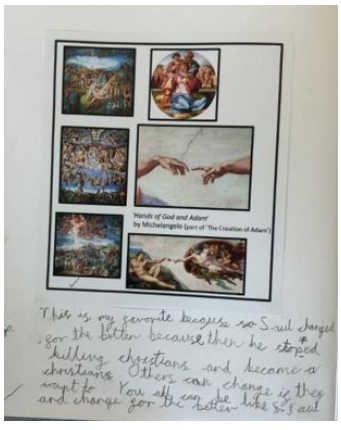
Year 4 are learning how to draw hands, using the techniques of cross-hatching, shade and tone. They have looked at hands in paintings as well as their own hands.













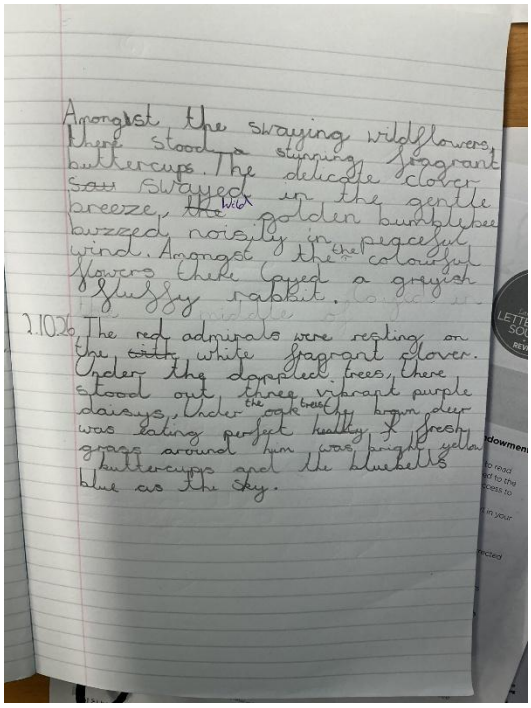


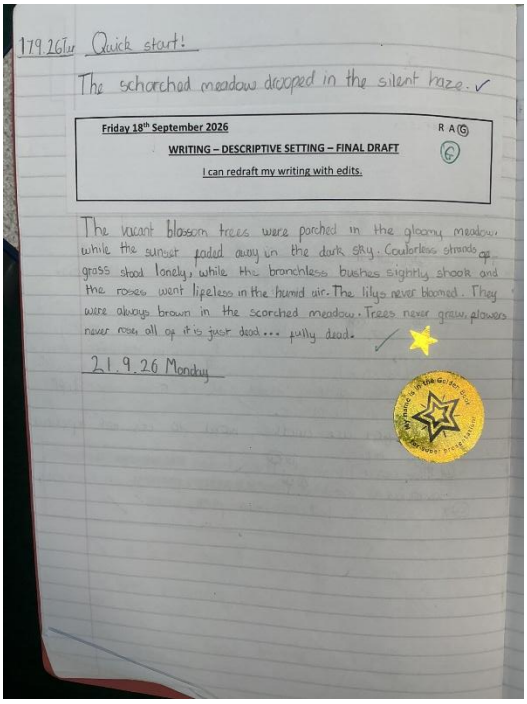


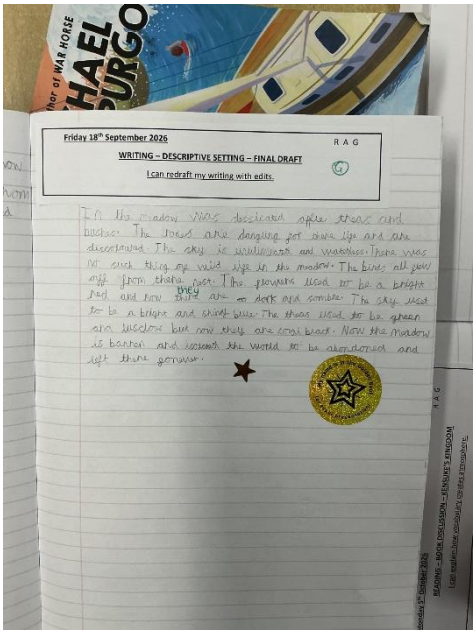
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This term so far in Writing, Year 5 has been practising uplevelling their writing using more precise vocabulary. We have produced our own paragraphs about an abandoned meadow and a luscious meadow and we are so proud of the sentences we have written! Here are a few examples of our fantastic writing.







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Year 6 have been working hard to understand place value and negative numbers. They have been working collaboratively to complete problem solving and reasoning. We now know how to round any integer to 10, 100, 1000, 10000 or 100000.

In English we have completed our descriptive narrative. We have learned how to extend our writing using adverbial phrases, relative clauses and prepositional phrases. In English we have completed our descriptive narrative. We have learned how to extend our writing using adverbial phrases, relative clauses and prepositional phrases.

As part of our topic on light, we have been investigating how light travels. We have studied the parts of the eye and how we are able to see things. We now understand how a shadow can be distorted.

In History, we have been identifying the reasons why World War 2 was such a significant part of history. We are learning how people carried on with their lives and supported the soldiers.



