

Parents' Newsletter

Love, Respect, Honesty, Perseverance



Friday 4th October

Dear Parents

This Newsletter is dedicated to the work our community have done locally and globally to ensure we all live well together. A huge well done and congratulations to you all!

We are thrilled to announce that we have been awarded a Global Neighbours Accreditation, our whole community can feel very proud of this achievement, demonstrating our commitment to encouraging our pupils to have Brave Voices and be the leaders of positive change in the future. Much of the work is a result of our Trust designed Living Well Together Curriculum which has already been praised by Ofsted, SIAMs, our independent Advisor and our Diocesan Adviser.

Please see below our press release giving you further details of the thoughts of our assessor. We have also the full reports on our website in the Global Neighbours Area.

<https://www.st-andrews-halstead.co.uk/global-neighbours/>

As part of our work as Global Neighbours, the Global Neighbours Group (made up of the School Council and the Collective Worship Committee) have been raising awareness and raising funds for WaterAid with the creation of a silver river across the school hall. The whole school showed great support when Brian and Carole Willis came in to school to talk to the children about the work of WaterAid. We learnt how a lack of local access to clean water impacts on children the most within a community; with the young women of the community as both women and children often being the water carriers, meaning they cannot go to school.

The children then led their own Worship to let the community know what they could do to help. The school is full of wonderful posters raising community awareness and the silver river was certainly a sight to behold. We have captured some of these moments in the pictures below.

Kind Regards

Bridgette Gough



Reflections and Collective Worship

Last week we focused upon the power of positivity and we had Delana from CYO visiting school who shared Parables linked to this theme. We also had a No Outsiders story about Shaun Whiter, who lost both his legs but has turned his anger and frustration into something positive; his determination leading to being able to walk and swim once again and even completing a marathon on blades.

Below is a picture of our Reflections Area, which has followed the Theme of Water, where children can draw and add prayers to the display. The WaterAid website has links to many short films, this 'Water Walk' film was showed by Carole and Brian and it's just 2 minutes long but we thought very powerful for our community to see.

<https://vimeo.com/86299224>

Global Neighbours Group meeting with WaterAid Speakers:



WaterAid speakers delivering Collective Worship:



Global Neighbours Group leading Collective Worship:



Silver River:



Pupil of the week

- Tiger Cub Class: W1- Mya
W2- Oliver
- Reindeer Class: W1- Orla
W2- Connie
- Fennec Fox Class: W1- Isabella
W2- James
- Panda Class: W1- Dolcie
W2- Lucy
- Snow Leopard Class: W1- Elsie
W2- Frankie
- Turtle Class: W1- Oliver
W2- Zara
- Seal Class: W1- Hallie
W2- Mason



Birthdays in October

- Talia
- Juliette
- Jaxon
- Harley S-B
- Joe C
- Layla
- Monty
- Rosie T
- Henry M
- Agnès
- Chloe M
- Willow
- Myles
- Chloe D
- Danniella



Going For Green

Chloe & Isabella

Sports Cup

Summer & Freddie



News Release

27.09.24

St Andrew's, Halstead work tackling global poverty is recognised with Christian Aid award



Pupils at St Andrew's have been presented with a Silver Award from Christian Aid's Global Neighbours Scheme for their global citizenship work.

This is the first school in the area to earn the Silver Award.

From foodbank donations and Plastic-Free July to promoting Fairtrade shopping pupils and staff at St. Andrew's have been working hard to take their place as global citizens.

St Andrew's Church of England Primary School has achieved Silver Award status in Christian Aid's [Global Neighbours scheme](#), in recognition of its initiatives to encourage children to think of others throughout the world.

The accreditation programme celebrates school communities who are helping pupils learn about global poverty and the Christian responsibility to tackle it, as well as giving them the tools to play a confident part in creating a fairer world.

Mrs Bridgette Gough (Headteacher) said: "We are thrilled to be recognised for the work of our pupils and everyone in the staff team have done as a community to raise awareness of the inequalities across our globe and perhaps more importantly, the steps we can take to address these. The pupils learn about global issues regularly and gain an understanding of injustice, they have demonstrated their "Brave Voices" against these through the many opportunities open to them in and out of school.

"Pupils have been learning about examples of people who faced adversity and overcame this to be courageous advocates for change. These stories have challenged the whole school community to think about how each of us can make a difference in our local community and globally.

"Our world is increasingly connected and our hope is for our children to grow as responsible global citizens who care about issues such as the environment and access to healthcare. The children have especially enjoyed participating in climate justice art exhibitions of their own work and engagement with their MP."

Alison Brown, Global Neighbours Schools Programme Officer at Christian Aid, said: "The Global Neighbours Scheme was launched in partnership with the Church of England's Education Office with a vision of helping young people understand more about the inequalities in this world and helping them to become courageous advocates for change.

"It's wonderful to see how staff and pupils at St Andrew's have taken this to heart and are seeking to tackle injustice.

"Any primary school in England can join the Global Neighbours scheme. There are three levels of accreditation: bronze, silver and gold. These are verified by independent assessors, who look for evidence across five areas: school leadership, teaching and learning; collective worship and spiritual development; pupil participation; and community engagement."

Cathedral Visit



Children from the school choir also had the opportunity to speak at Chelmsford Cathedral on Wednesday evening about WaterAid and other climate injustice projects. They sang a beautiful song entitled 'I am the Earth' with the pupils of Colne Engaine School, which was a definite Goosebump moment for me and I'm sure all in attendance.

Harvest Festival

The week ahead is focused upon our Harvest Festival and we will be visited by ministers from our church community. We are once again aiming to support families locally, by teaming up with the Trussell Trust foodbank in Halstead.

With this in mind we have included below the current Trussell Trust request list and message, but any tinned or packet items will be gratefully received and will form part of a lovely Harvest display the children will put together themselves, all taking their gift, however big or small, to the hall and placing amongst everything offered.

"We are continually overwhelmed by your generosity, especially in these difficult times. Where once a packet of pasta was affordable to give to someone in food poverty, that packet of pasta is needed to feed those at home. Increased demand for our services is outweighing donations we are receiving. This year we need to buy nearly half the food required to meet this demand. This is why every donation we receive is so very welcome."

Food items

- Cereal (small box)*
- UHT Milk or milk alternative*
- Tinned Hot Snack (Ravioli, Macaroni Cheese etc.)*
- Tinned Hot Meat (Stew, curry etc.)*
- Tinned vegetables*
- Packet of instant mash*
- Tinned rice pudding*
- Coffee (small jars)*

** Please note: We ask for small packs, as larger packs do not fit in our boxes making it difficult for our clients to carry home*

We are already practicing our Harvest Hymns and songs and writing Harvest Prayers in readiness.