



Audlem St. James C.E. Primary School

*Let your light shine'*

*Matthew 5:16*



9<sup>th</sup> October 2020

### Our School

I just thought I would share with you my thought for this week. The new proposal for wearing face masks when we are on the school premises has worked really well. A huge thank you to all those parents that have worked with us. I can't thank you enough. If we carry on working together then we will be able to get through these uncertain times. The quote below shows just why it's so important:



I can't emphasise enough how important it is for us to work together and, for those of us who are in positions of influence in our communities e.g. parents, that during the current situation we regulate ourselves. If we take care of ourselves, we're going to be able to help the people around us stay calmer, and everybody's going to be physically, socially and emotionally healthier.

Dr Bruce Perry, March 2020

### Thought of the Week

Everyone is always learning something new every day. We should never stand still and there is an abundance of knowledge out there.





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### Prayer of the Week

In these times more than ever its important that we keep our faith and stay strong.



### Praise Book Children this week

**Mrs Burgess and Mrs Maughan's class:** Howie Goldrick - for working really hard in our phonics lessons.

**Mrs Hayward's class:** Nia Brown - for being a super scientist during our autumn leaf investigation.

**Mrs Richardson and Mrs Smith's class:** Matthew Jones - for excellent home learning and for an amazing rocket design.

**Mr Davies' class:** Orion Morgan - for displaying impressive effort and stamina during his PE lesson this week.

**Miss Morris' class:** Barney Goldrick - for proving his answers to word problems in Maths with accurate diagrams.

**Mr Blenkiron's class:** Callum Lambie for always trying his best in every task, and consistently reaching for Diving for Pearls.

**Mrs Bird's class:** Malin Smallwood - for great engagement with our discussion about Climate Change.



### Harvest Heroes - Wednesday 7 September

Thank you to everybody who sent in a £1 donation towards our Harvest Heroes "Send a Cow" appeal (£123 at the final count). The children had great fun on Wednesday wearing their superhero masks whilst taking part in a range of activities. The children watched a harvest assembly video highlighting how climate change is affecting people's harvest in rural Africa and showing how the money we raised goes towards helping families grow their own crops on their own land combatting climate change, producing their own harvest. KS1 children performed songs in their bubbles outside in the 'Learning Shack' and KS2 took part in a Philosophy for Children session with their teachers. Videos and photographs of the day will be uploaded onto our school website.

### School

Here is an overview of what has been happening in every class this week. Everyone has been extremely busy.

**Amethyst class:** This week in Amethyst Class, we have read "Squash and Squeeze" by Julia Donaldson. We have also read the story "Dear Zoo," in maths and been comparing by size, amount, capacity and mass. On Wednesday, we also practised and sung our Harvest song "Dingle Dangle Scarecrow." We learnt all about how harvest was a celebration of all the food that grows in farms and gardens and talked about how a good harvest needs the right amount of rain and sunshine to make sure vegetables can grow big and healthy.

**Sapphire class:** This week, the children have been writing letters to me, inviting me to see a meteor shower. I've had some really imaginative letters. In maths, the children have been introduced to the part, part whole method to assist with addition-based activities. In science the children have carried out an investigation to find out if all leaves are the same.



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**Pearl class:** Year 2 sketched Tudor houses using lines of different thickness and then they explored the London skyline using pastels. They are learning positive wellbeing strategies using the Zones of Regulation displayed in the classroom. In PE, the children have been practising throwing and catching and playing team games to develop agility.

**Amber class:** Amber class have continued to have their writing influenced by the life of Katherine Johnson - the mathematician that calculated the flight plan of the Apollo missions. Maths has seen the children complete their unit of work on Place Value and we are looking forward to the challenges of addition & subtraction next week. We have been reading *The Sea Book* during our Guided Reading sessions and have been learning all sorts of different facts about the oceans and seas. In PE, we used the skills we have been developing in jumping to help us learn or improve our skipping. We also developed our coding skills by programming a model we made to test the rigidity of different structures - something that links to our science topic of rocks and seismic activity.

**Emerald class:** This week Emerald class have been using subordinating conjunctions in their English lessons to write a letter or application for their dream job. They have practised counting in 50s and 25s and worked with negative numbers and roman numerals in Maths. The children have participated in their class assembly in which they showed out what they have been working on so far in year 4.

**Ruby class:** In maths this week, Ruby Class have begun to work on addition; adding four-digit numbers involving more than one exchange in the calculation. They have used this knowledge to solve straightforward addition problems and also reasoning problems involving missing numbers and incorrectly formatted calculations.

In English, the children have been finding out more about Jackie Robinson. They have watched a short biographical film about his life, and have been taking down notes in bullet-point form to help inform a longer piece of writing on persuading people to celebrate Jackie Robinson Day on 15th April.

We have continued to discover more Rebel Girls this week. This time we have encountered South-African singer and anti-apartheid activist, Miriam Makeba, and Taliban-opposing Nobel Peace Prize-winner, Malala Yousafzai.

We have been putting our hockey skills to the test by completing the CNSSP Quick Sticks challenges involving dribbling and aiming, and we have received our first piece of French correspondence from the Montessori School in France. This week the children and I will work on a response in English before tackling the more difficult task of writing back in French in a fortnight's time.

For our Harvest activity this week, the children watched a video from Send a Cow about how climate change is affecting people around the world, particularly a family in Ethiopia, Africa. We then had a P4C session in which we debated the 'Philosotree' statement: *Climate change doesn't affect Britain all that much, so we shouldn't have to change.* The arguments put forward by the children were overwhelmingly against the statement (though they did manage to come up with some counter-arguments for the sake of a balanced debate) so the Philosotree was blown down by the gusts of wind and lightning bolts that the children provided.

**Diamond class:** Year 6 have been finding out more about how Climate Change affects different parts of the world and have been thinking about philosophical questions they would like to debate. Our chosen question was: *Why do people use paper instead of plastic if they are both bad for the environment?* A very thoughtful question which they are looking forward to discussing. They have also been finding out more about the main world religions to see how they compare and to notice how many world religions have kindness and leading good lives at their core. A very thought-provoking week!

Everyone!

You are all amazing shining stars.



#### Attendance this week

In EYFS/KS1 Pearl class has the highest attendance and in KS2 Amber, Emerald and Ruby have equally high attendance. Well done to all four classes.



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### Friends of Audlem School

Friends would like to thank all the parents for continuing to support them in the current circumstances. A Friends Newsletter has been sent out with today's newsletter and a report on the meeting held on 5 October has been placed on the website at <https://www.audlemstjames.org.uk/p/friends.html> The AGM will be held using Zoom on Tuesday 10 November.

### ABC

Holiday club is filling up fast; if you need a place please book in to avoid disappointment. We are beginning our 2-week theme 'animals' this week. It is a favourite amongst both the staff and the children. Listen out for the interesting facts the children will be coming home with. As always thank you for your ongoing support.

### Parent/Teacher Meetings

Our first Parent evenings of this school year will be held on Tuesday 13 (Wednesday 14 for Sapphire only) and Thursday 15 October (all classes). Letters about these meetings have been sent home via school parent mail. Please contact your child's class teacher if you have not already made an appointment for this. I hope many of you are able to take this opportunity to have a telephone conversation with them.

### Important reminders - social distancing and arrival times

Please remember the social distancing rule when dropping your child off at school. We are aware that arriving and leaving promptly at your child's set time is difficult if you have two or more children **but could everybody else please keep to the allocated times**, especially when bringing children to school at 8.45 or 9.00 am. We have identified the beginning of the school day as the most difficult time when adults are most likely to be congregating on the premises. These rules have been introduced to keep the children, staff and parents safe and we very much appreciate your help.

### Cold Weather

There has been a real chill in the air over recent days and we have had to remind a number of children about the importance of wearing coats and jumpers to keep them warm outside. Please ensure your child/ren have jumpers and coats with them each day so they can enjoy outdoor break times whilst remaining warm. Thank you.

### Healthy Snacks and Lunchboxes

Can I remind all families of our healthy eating policy in school. Please ensure any snacks from home are fruit only - no chocolate bars or crisps please. We also encourage all children to eat healthily at lunchtimes and we ask that parents support us with this when sending packed lunches into school.

### **Finally**

It is important that our newsletter and all other forms of communication we send out to parents and carers, give you a clear and detailed picture of our work in school, so that you are kept up to date with events in school and our community. If you have any ideas, comments or suggestions about the content of newsletters please get in touch with me.

A.Perry