



**Autumn 1**

Our first half term has been wonderful despite some of the challenges such as a reduced staff or worries about the health and needs of some of our staff, children and families. We have pulled together like one big family and made what is a very unusual time as normal and vibrant for our children as possible.



Our safety measures have been well received and have seemed to work very well indeed. Children work and play in class bubbles with their own resources and move safely round school. Like everyone else, they are washing their hands a lot and we are cleaning all the time!

Our first 3 weeks were about reconnecting and our curriculum themes were linked to Ralph, our school dog, Uganda and NHS week! These themes enabled zoom visitors from midwives to paramedics and worship leaders too. All children returned raring to go!



Needwood is linking with Mama Mercy School  
All Saints is linking with Vineyard School



Please view our gallery of artwork which was produced for NHS week and will be bought by families as a donation to the NHS.

Needwood <https://www.theforestfederation.co.uk/gallery/?pid=16&gcatid=4>

All Saints <https://www.theforestfederation.co.uk/gallery/?pid=16&gcatid=4>



Children's bikeability lessons taught them about road safety. Needwood's forest school was fantastic too and they got to visit the Deer Park! All Saints look forward to their slots from November to Christmas.



Our Harvest events were beautiful, some was filmed in church and the rest were held, live on Zoom. Our collections went to the YMCA and we also collected books for the school which burnt down in Derby.



As we couldn't have an open day we filmed our school and held a Q&A zoom for prospective parents. It was a fun day of filming and children were fantastic. Parents evenings were also virtual and successful. Click here to see our virtual tour:

Needwood [https://www.amg-it.co.uk/forestfederation/Needwood\\_Virtual\\_Tour.mp4](https://www.amg-it.co.uk/forestfederation/Needwood_Virtual_Tour.mp4)





All Saints: [https://www.amg-it.co.uk/forestfederation/All\\_Saints\\_Virtual\\_Tour.mp4](https://www.amg-it.co.uk/forestfederation/All_Saints_Virtual_Tour.mp4)

Children at All Saints enjoyed cinema nights in their bubbles! We also entered the light of hope event with Lichfield Cathedral.



## Autumn 2



When we went back to school celebrated All Saints Day by lighting a candle in worship.

We thank Tom Coltman for delivering our worship all about Remembrance and William Coltman.



We had a beautiful remembrance service. It worked absolutely perfectly across the forest family with pre-recorded videos and a live link up to the Cenotaph.



Children came to school dressed in their football shirts and pledged donations on the fundraising site for Football Shirt Friday in aid of the Cancer Research, the Bobby Moore Fund which aims to raise vital funds to help tackle bowel cancer.



Children had a great Christingle service, they made Christingles during a live worship with parents watching, it was fun!



The Deer Park in Hoar Cross. Paddy Prince kindly took the children around the milking parlour and chatted about life on a working farm. The children loved it and behaved impeccably. A credit to the school.

Children in both schools have enjoyed their Jujitsu lessons.



Christmas lunch was wonderful, we had a great celebration in bubbles this year.

We couldn't go to the Christmas pantomime so it came to us, complete with snacks.

We had a wonderful, Christmassy afternoon attending the virtual

Lichfield Christmas Festival 2020.

Chess club continued virtually!



Both schools had amazing Enrichment party days. A massive thank you

to our amazing PTFAs for all their hard work to make these days' brilliant.

On International children's day we reflected on our international friends and write to our partner schools in Uganda.



We had a very special, virtual Christmas service with readings, prayers, pre-recorded singing, glockenspiel, and boom whackers, a full nativity service filmed in advance and, a 'different' rendition of 12 days of Christmas from the staff. What a lovely afternoon we had.



Class 4 loved their virtual author visit with a session of story-telling, creative tips and advice for budding writers. Amy Wilson (author of Snowglobe, our current class read) was engaging, interesting and inspirational; teaching us about the writing process and giving us lots of ideas to unlock the writers' within.

Forest school continued brilliantly in both schools.



Both schools offered a musical Christmas present to those in our community in need of comfort and joy joining with St Pauls Cathedral and their 'flash mob.' [#ComfortAndJoy](#)



Ralph was busy being bathed, walked, read to and listened to the children when they were unhappy or chatty on a daily basis across the Forest Family and is firmly part of our team.

Staff were inundated with positive messages and we created a display wall to say thank you to our awesome team

We thank staff, children and families for a fantastic autumn term and a very merry, safe and peaceful Christmas.

### Spring 1



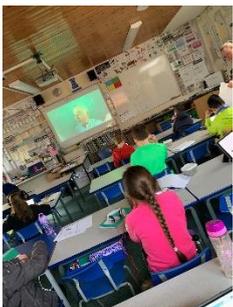
What a wonderful half term we have had. Whilst the Nations third lockdown, it's the second lockdown for our schools and we are working hard to ensure children get a great education and super connection with each other despite learning at home or school. At All Saints we have 4 bubbles open and have 36% of the school population in school in comparison to 4% last March. At Needwood we have 3 bubbles with 40% of the school in school compared to 9% last March. We have had so many positive messages that we shared them on a display board in each school!



All Staff are deployed daily to teach live, video and seesaw (our online platform) activities with daily feedback on all lessons.

We enjoyed one snow day which enabled children to continue with virtual lessons and get outside to make some sculptures!

Our international studies work and links to Uganda are going well and this half term sees our language of the term – Swahili! Children are greeting each other using a range of phrases.



We have some great worships across the Forest Family led by Jordan from Renew Church. Additionally, daily worship and opportunities to connect and class readers have been provided for all children and families both with their class and the whole school.

Class 4 at All Saints had a wonderful session with the author, Frank Cottrell-Boyce, the author of the book they are currently reading. It was great that their questions were answered and they got a shout out!



We enjoyed 'Fresh Air Freedom Friday' for our screen break day with all classes doing awesome things from baking, outdoor activities, learning to tie a tie, physical activity, creating, crafts, building and learning new games! Class 2 made cakes and dens in our local wood!





We had a bonus snow day which still saw remote learning continue and some fantastic snow sculptures too.



As part of Needwood's local study, Class 1 bubble have been for a walk in the village, spotting key geographical features and then locating them on a map. It was great fun and such a beautiful day to be outside.

We launched our language of the term by sharing a counting book in Swahili in our worship and now our bubbles at school are sharing it too. A great way to engender empathy with other cultures and encourage international learning. Our language of



the term is going well as part of our international studies and commitment. We set a competition for this half term's language. We are starting to get in some responses and we've enjoyed greeting each other in Swahili too!

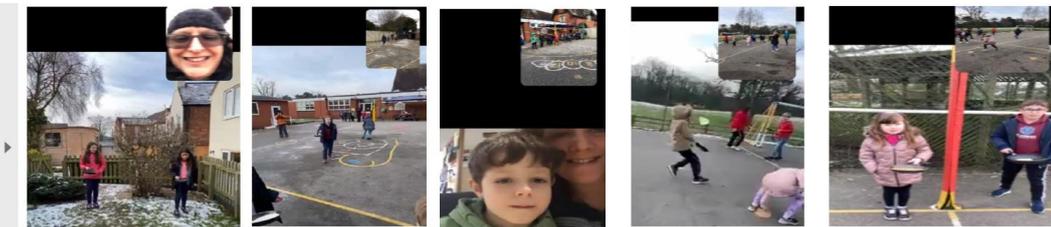
We enjoyed marking children's mental health week. Children, staff and families have had great attitudes and fun and where there have been some challenges, they have worked together for some very supportive solutions.

Our second screen free 'Fresh Air, Freedom Friday' was awesome! Children learnt lots of new things and enjoyed lots of creative and physical activity.



Our safer internet day was a success and, whilst this is at the forefront of much of our

work with regular discussions and reminders, it was a national day to reflect more deeply on how to stay safe online. Children did some super things and we received some great competition entries. Some useful links are listed further in the Newsletter for our parents and are regularly posted in our safety section.



Our Shrove Tuesday races at both schools were fabulous fun seeing children at home joining in too!

We had a wonderful walk for Captain Sir Tom Moore on the final Friday of the last term. Thank you to everyone who sent their miles/steps/circuits. I have collated them all. Our grand total was **243.83 miles**. We said we would see where this took us!



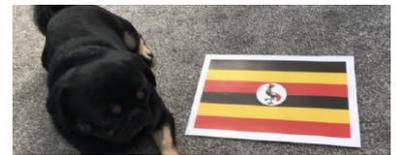
So, we walked over half of the Kagera River, an East African river emptying into Lake Victoria in Uganda or, we could have collectively walked to Edinburgh! Thank you to everyone who took part and shared their miles.





Our language of the term has been fun and staff offer this half terms connection video in Swahili! Enjoy!

<https://www.amg-it.co.uk/forestfederation/SwahiliStaffMessage.mp4>



We're proud to say that the vast majority of our children are joining our live lessons and we are having so much work sent in to provide feedback for, well-done everyone.

### Spring 2

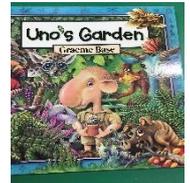
Spring 2 saw just a few weeks of school before all of our children returned. Prior to this, we really enjoyed the World Book Day activities, linked with JTMAT, which have been shared with the trust on their World Book Day website and on twitter. Our work centred around our text, Uno's Garden as well as other, wonderful books and linked to the theme of global responsibility and our environmental impact. Please see the links below from all our World Book Day activities including staff stories, pictures and activities:

<https://jitmatlovesreading.co.uk> All schools stories and work!

<http://jitmatlovesreading.co.uk/category/school/all-saints-rangemore> - staff stories

<http://jitmatlovesreading.co.uk/category/school/needwood-primary-school> - staff stories

The Forest Family celebrate World Book Day 2021 – JTMAT Loves Reading – pictures of work and children.



Class 3 at Needwood enjoyed writing with Frank Cottrell Boyce, the author of Cosmic for creative ideas and writing tips!



Our work towards connecting children and National Science week went very well indeed, thank you to Miss Williams for leading and sharing The Crayon Man text to launch our week and spring-board our ideas for lessons too, there was so much science linked learning.



Children settled brilliantly this week and it is so special to feel our schools so vibrant and full.

Children enjoyed their bikeability lessons and the weather wasn't too bad!



Our Virtual Mothering Sunday services were wonderful. Thank you to Father Graham Bott for leading in sermon and it was so great to see all children involved as each class delivered their part. Great to have some recorded singing, readings, prayers, poems how wonderful. Well done everyone, we hope all our mummies or people in the position of mummy have a lovely Mothering Sunday day.



This week saw international women's day, a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. As a primary school, our role is to ensure all children believe in themselves and the power that that have to be and achieve whatever they choose. This day (and others through our curriculum) enables us to recognise influential women and provides a reminder of the powerful advocacy and influence of young woman like Malala Yousafzai and Greta Thunberg who are quite literally changing attitudes about our world. I love this poem, please share with all our girls!

Governors met, virtually, and continued their strategic work for the year. They thanked our staff and families for working hard through the recent lockdown to ensure good learning for all of our children whether at home or in school. They thanked All Saints PTA for their hard work in securing planning permission for the field by school and look forward to seeing the children on there in the summer. They scrutinised data, budgets, business plans, curriculum and school improvements and we thank them for their hard work and dedication to support and challenge senior leaders to ensure the schools are the best they can be!



Our language of the half term launched brilliantly with our Language experts – our Polish pupils, it was great to share a text and some key words to start us off!



Ralph helped with interviews for the National Forest Teaching School for student teacher applicants starting in September. The children did a good job too! He was also 4 this term and, as he is such a lucky, happy dog, the children thought it would be great to make him some cards and donate food, toys and blankets to Crowfoot Kennels. We thank the families for being so generous. Ralph had a great birthday





We had special Easter activities and a service online, children shared readings, songs which were pre-recorded outside, prayers and some wonderful artwork too - the Easter tree looked beautiful. It was fabulous to see so many families. What a vibrant end to the term.

We were grateful to the Author Addy Farmer for donating a book to our school about bereavement and loss.



### Summer 1



As we Enter Summer 2, our Forest School continues to go from strength to strength.

Year 5 learnt great life skills this week in their bike ability sessions. A great opportunity to get fit, have fun and stay safe to



Our year 3/4s loved their first violin lesson and were excited to go home and show their parents their violins. They have continued to progress well.



Whilst we haven't been able to attend tournaments, we have enjoyed outdoor sports in our bubbles.

We are so lucky to have had more guinea pigs joining class 1 at



Needwood. (Biscuit, Ginger and Snowy - to add to our animal family including, Class 3s Guinea Pigs, Pepper and Truffle).

We also had chicks and froglets in school for a time as well as butterflies hatched and grown from caterpillars. What a start to the half term!



Our relaunch (reminder and re excitement about) TTRockstart and National Numeracy day, it was great to have a day of Maths, curriculum linked activities.



KS2 loved their virtual author visit with Jen Camey, biscuit eating and a great Q and A.



Our Family took part in the 'Festival of School and College Arts' where we collated and celebrated everything creative including dance, music, singing (safely), art, craft and design.

Deforestation day saw some very important work towards developing our children's understanding of the importance of protecting our world and the rainforests - such as these posters for not using palm oil. This continues our wonderful work towards being global citizens, our international award and our British Council Work with Uganda.

All Saints organised a friendly Rugby tournament with St Peter's Yoxall and everyone had a super time.



Our language of the half term, Urdu, was enjoyed by our children.

Mental health and wellbeing of our whole community has always been important and never more so than at this time. We continue to enjoy regular sessions of mindfulness in our classes.



### Summer 2

As the Euros kicked off and we have thrown ourselves into the celebrations linking learning about global links, languages, countries to themes such as anti-bullying and team work. Football Friday Euros culminated our week of curriculum work from Geography to maths. We've reflected on Gareth Southgate's letter in which

many important issues are raised from upholding the Nation's values to equality, inclusivity, racial injustice and social media bullying. Forest schools continues to be vibrant and fun and the sun has helped!



Our final Language of the half term has been French. We are pleased to have enjoyed learning some basics of a range of languages across the year, especially Ugandan - linking with our British Council linked schools and we hope to continue these links and projects into next academic year.

We had 7 trips in several weeks and our year 5/6 children had a great day at Whitmore lakes starting the trips off with bang!



We thank Morrisons for donating some of the produce for the 'make at home pizzas' for Father's day last Friday. We thank our PTA for organising such a wonderful event and outing together such amazing packs for our families and fathers - and people in the role of dad. A great opportunity.

Conkers was a hit with class 3 at All Saints and Packington for class 1 at Needwood, children had a fantastic time - very tired on their return, but a wonderful day with great weather and super opportunities for learning and play. It was funny and brilliant that Mrs. Jones hosted worship from the climbing wall!



Y6 at both schools had had a very informative session with the Drugs Education team this morning. Lots of quality questions asked and surprising facts learnt.

We met Mel Reid in worship today, from all the way over in Florida! She'll be competing in the golf for Team GB in the Olympics this year. The children asked some super questions. Good luck Mel, we'll be watching and supporting you!



The rounders tournament was so excellent, children played excellently and had such a great time. It was a brilliantly friendly against John of Rolleston and The Moseley. The children all showed and developed their individual skill, team spirit and fantastic sporting behaviours.

Class 1 and 2 at All Saints had a fantastic day at conkers, it was very wet but lots of fun!

Needwood's sports day was such fun. We were so proud of our children, they didn't moan, even when the heavens opened for such a long time, and then when the sun came out and it was too hot! Our clothes were



steaming – and so was our effort in the races. Children had an excellent afternoon showing their skills in running, passing, throwing, hurdling, egg and spooning and, running like Ralph!



In our penultimate week we, were so desperately sad to have had to close a bubble at All Saints, we really hoped to get to the end of the year with no cases and only a couple of false alarms. We are also distraught that this was our Year 6s final couple of weeks but, we are pleased to have rearranged, their sports day and leavers service!



Children held a silence in memory of Rev. Les on the day of his funeral which was such a beautifully orchestrated day showing love, respect and memories shared. Mrs Gethin read out children's memories celebrating church school life so superbly through Rev. Les and Wendy.

Needwood were very lucky to have a very EARLY start and a visit from Good Morning Britain @GMB to celebrate England's win, our Euro fever and our letters to the England team. Our children were amazing. They enjoyed some football skills and had high energy from 5.30am (staff and crew before 5.00 am!). The children spoke so very well in deed and we are really proud. GMB took lots of live and saved footage and we were on television lots



throughout the day! Watch here:

<https://twitter.com/GMB/status/1413365281368465410>

<https://twitter.com/NickDixonTV/status/1413372969724821507>



Children at both schools enjoyed a brilliant Commando Joe days! They showed excellent teamwork, communication and resilience which was clearly demonstrated during their Commando Joe missions.

Circus skills morning with a really vibrant time and children learn lots of new skills and enjoy themselves greatly, a huge thank you goes to our PTA for this. They also enjoyed their ice creams

as well! A great start to a sports day extravaganza.



All Saints sports day was so lovely, not as vibrant as having the whole school but, having it in bubble slots worked well and, we were blessed with the weather.



Our leavers services were fantastic. Such beautiful memories of school life, reflecting on the children's growth as well as a lot of fun!



Our enrichment days were vibrant with food tasting, making things and lots of learning about different countries. All Saint's PTA balloon race was a success, what fun!



I am grateful to everyone for such a beautiful final service which was so moving, so well organised and, it was so beautiful to see so many wonderful people with whom I have worked. Of course it was made all the more special by the children's contributions. Thank you for all your generosity in words and gifts. I have so much gratitude and am blessed. So, it is with a heavy heart that I write my last blog for the Forest Family, a labour of love which I hope that you have enjoyed. They form a log book somewhat to add to those from the schools' archives dating back to 1873 at All Saints and, are a record of the work and love of our staff, families and children. I wish you a magical summer and, wonderful, successful happy and healthy lives ahead. God bless.



You can also view regular tweets about weekly learning and whole school events at: <https://twitter.com/NeedwoodOf>, <https://twitter.com/AllRangemore> as well as Ralph's Instagram page which includes daily postings of our children's involvement with him and their learning. [Ralph Gethin tff\\_pug\\_ralphy](https://www.instagram.com/pug_ralphy)