



The Saints Federation

'Shine as lights in the world.' Philippians 2:15

Newsletter

24th November 2023

St Andrew's

In Comelites we have been diving deeper into our class text Tin Forest and have been exploring the problem of plastic pollution. We researched and wrote non-chronological reports and have enjoyed thinking about the thoughts of the main character within our diary entries. In maths we have begun to divide and multiply. We are thinking hard about the inverse relationship between these operations and have been working on our factors and prime number knowledge. In RE we have been looking at Christian and Islamic art and the similarities and differences within each faith. We thoroughly enjoyed our Children in Need fundraising, last Friday, as part of our courageous advocacy. Our favourite thing this week has been the commencement of the Christmas play and Mrs Sexton and Mr Dunscombe have particularly enjoyed the spontaneous singing of carols.

In Butterflies we have written a story based on the Hodgeheg and have created our own character and problem. In maths we have been learning to add and subtract and we are developing our use of different strategies. We enjoyed learning about Diwali and created diva lamps by folding paper. This week we have begun a new class text, The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch, and we have been learning all about letter writing. We are also enjoying our preparation for the school Christmas play.



Hapton

It has been yet another busy fortnight in Ladybirds Class! In Science, we have been exploring the uses of everyday materials as well as carrying out our own experiments to test absorbency. In Geography, we discovered that whilst we are enjoying warm, sunny days in Summer, people in India are instead experiencing a season of continuous wet monsoons! As part of our courageous advocacy work, we joined forces with Rockets Class to raise money for the British Red Cross by holding a jumble sale. Thanks to the generosity of our families and friends, we raised a grand total of £74. 86!

The Rockets have also had another busy fortnight. In maths, we have been increasing our confidence with formal multiplication methods. We have also been modelling prime numbers, square numbers and cube numbers using counters and cubes in order to become experts in our understanding. In art, we have explored complementary and harmonious colours; we have considered where and why artists use these in their own work. We have researched some key artists and experimented imitating their styles. Well done to the Rockets and Ladybirds for their great efforts raising money for the British Red Cross!

Online Safety

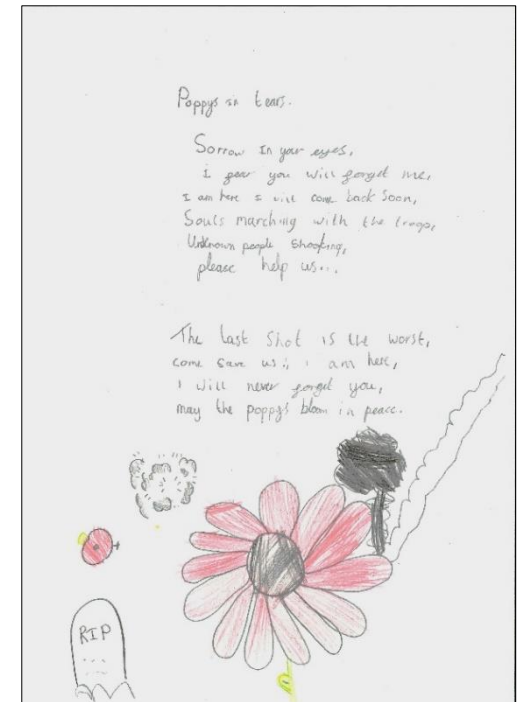
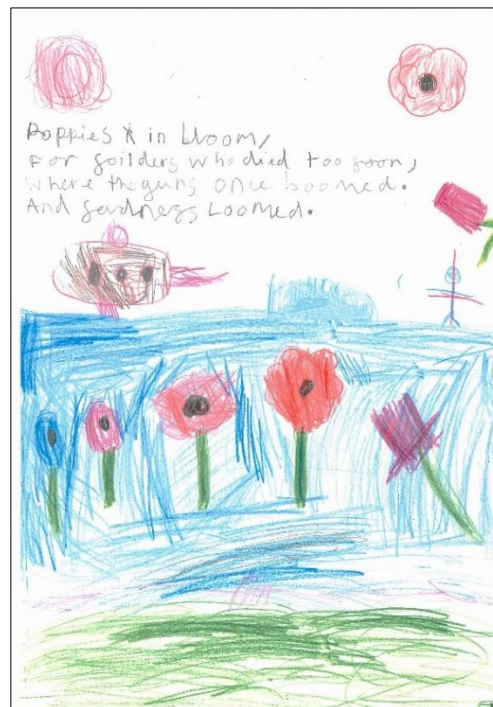
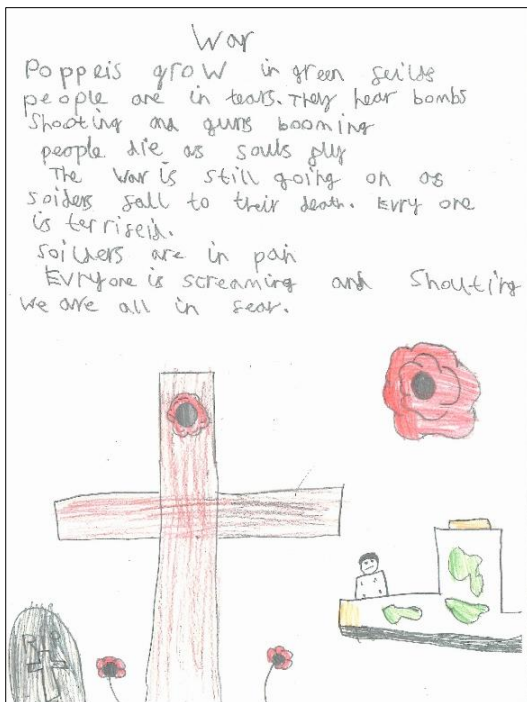
So many households nowadays have an 'artificial intelligence software assistant' – one of the most common is 'Alexa'. Alexa can be found on all Amazon Echo devices as well as on smartphones and tablets. It is even starting to be integrated into clocks, speakers and TVs. It can be extremely useful: Alexa, call my brother; Alexa, read me the news; Alexa, tell me when the Battle of Hastings took place; Alexa turn on my light. With its growing presence, it is worthwhile knowing all about it and any associated online safety considerations. Read on to find out everything you need to know about Amazon Alexa.

Some of the poems and pictures produced by All Saints pupils for Remembrance Day

All Saints

Dragonflies have been having lots of fun with their new book *The Lighthouse Keepers Lunch*. After reading the story for the first time, we used role play to retell what happened to poor Mr Grinling and his lunch. Lots of the children wanted to play his fluffy cat Hamish! We then looked at the character Mr Grinling in more depth and how he felt when the mischievous seagulls devoured his yummy lunch Mrs Grinling made him. In maths we have continued with addition and subtraction using lots of different methods to build our confidence. Preparations for our Christmas production are in full swing now, but we have also been busy with science experiments, computing tasks and learning all about advent and the Nativity. A very exciting visitor also came into school and talked to us about Hedgehogs and how to look after them. A very big thank you to all who donated cat food for the sanctuary. It is very much appreciated.

Asteroids have been reading *The Tin Forest*. We have been thinking about the old man, and how he is passionate about looking after the world around him. We researched the impact that plastic is having on our environment, especially our oceans, and used this to write some really thought provoking fact files. We have also been looking at persuasive writing and developing our use of emotive language to engage the reader. In Maths, we have consolidated our understanding of addition and subtraction. To support this, we have been focusing on using the stem sentence "I know this because..." to really think deeply about the problems we are solving. We are now moving on to looking at multiplication and division. Our big question in RE, "How has belief in Christianity and Islam impacted on music and art throughout history?", has really got us thinking about legacy and the cultural impact religion has had on both local and global communities. In History, we have discussed why people chose to settle in certain locations, and debated and discussed these reasons and what we would need if we were an Iron Age clan.



Attendance Matters!

	Number of pupils with 100% attendance	Whole school attendance
Hapton	9	94.93
All Saints	16	91.87
St Andrew's	8	93.15
Whole Federation		92.82

Save the Date – Federation

20 th November	Flu jabs – St Andrews
23 rd November	New Reception Intake Open Day – all sites
23 rd November	Flu jabs – Hapton 13:30
4 th December	Christmas Performance – 14:00 & 18:00 - Hapton
5 th December	Christmas Performance – 14:00 & 18:00 – All Saints
11 th December	Christmas Performance – 14:00 & 18:00 – St Andrew's
13 th December	School Christmas Lunch
15 th December	Christmas Church Service 09:15 - Hapton
15 th December	Christmas Church Service 14:30 – All Saints
18 th December	Christmas Church Service 09:15 - St Andrew's
19 th December	Christmas Extravaganza Trip
20 th December	Last Day of Autumn Term
Term 3	2024
4 th January	School opens to pupils and staff
4 th January	Eco Week across the Federation
11 th January	Yr6 & YrR – Weighing and Measuring – St Andrews
15 th January	Yr6 & YrR – Weighing and Measuring – All Saints

Destiny

Trapped,
Surrounded by none other than death.
We tried to scream,
Nothing.
For destiny has decided,
That thy shall dwell,
For we have fall,
In Flanders fields.

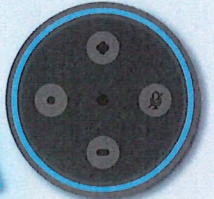
Do not grief,
When we shall leave,
destiny taking us in her hands,
to heaven.





What parents & carers need to know about...

AMAZON ALEXA



Alexa is an artificial intelligence (AI) software assistant created by Amazon in 2014 through which smartphone, tablet and smart device users can issue voice commands and ask questions in a range of languages by issuing the 'wake' or activation word Alexa. It can be accessed in several ways and is integrated into a growing number of 'smart' products including speakers, phones and clocks. Once viewed as expensive gimmicks, Alexa is now one of the most used voice assistants in the world.



Privacy concerns

By their nature, AI voice assistants involve the collection of large amounts of data. How this is stored and the uses to which it is put has aroused growing concern. Experts also worry about who has access to voice recordings, which in 2019 the company admitted sometimes included employees of Amazon and its commercial partners. There is also the more general anxiety that internet voice assistants might record private conversations and not only commands or questions.

Age-inappropriate content

Using Alexa as a speaker to play your favourite songs is one of the most popular uses for the device. However, without any parental controls in place, Alexa won't filter the lyrics so it's possible that children could hear something they shouldn't. Similarly, Alexa isn't always able to identify who or what age the person is who is issuing a voice command so if children ask a question which might not be age-appropriate, the chances are they're likely to get an age-inappropriate answer.



Insecure devices

The devices and their background services are another worry, which can have software vulnerabilities that make them insecure in complex ways. In 2020, for instance, researchers discovered that the services to which Echo products connect were insecure, potentially allowing hackers to access personal information such as voice conversations. In 2017, researchers were able to directly hack an Amazon Echo to send audio to attackers. Amazon has a good record of fixing security problems when they are discovered but it is never possible to find every problem.

Changing Tech Relationships

In a 2019 report published by the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation, concerns were raised on the disruptive effect that voice assistants and smart speakers, such as Alexa, were having on the way that children interact with technology. From building sentiment and forming relationships which could encourage them to overshare personal details, to a fear of consuming content driven by commercial algorithms and an inability to assess reliability, how Alexa operates could considerably change children's relationship with technology in both the short and long term.



PRIVATE

Safety Tips

Check privacy settings

It's possible to delete Alexa's recordings either entirely, or for a given period, with the instruction "Alexa, delete everything I said." Alternatively, set up the Alexa account privacy settings for that account to delete recordings every three or 18 months. Existing recordings made using the Alexa app can be deleted via Settings > Alexa Privacy > Review Voice History. A final tweak is to turn off the setting that allows Amazon to use voice recordings to improve Amazon services.

Control voice input

If privacy is paramount, one idea is to locate Echo devices in only one room rather than having several throughout the home. In addition, Alexa can be activated only when it is needed by manually turning off the microphone on Echo devices between uses. Users can tell when Alexa is in listening mode as an indicator light should appear or an audible tone should sound.

Set pin code

Amazon account users can order items from the company using a voice command, for example "Alexa, buy some toilet paper." To counter accidental use or misuse and avoid racking up big bills, this can either be disabled or protected with a PIN code (it should be noted that this is an audible PIN however, so is not as secure as a typed code).

Look out for 'Skills' apps

A big appeal of Alexa is that thousands of companies have created apps, which Amazon calls 'skills', that add useful capabilities, often integrations with other products or services. These are installed by asking Alexa to 'open/play/start' the skill. For example, a travel skill might be installed to check and automate checking train times and hotel bookings. However, it's important to remember that each of these might have a different privacy policy. A cautious approach is to install as few as possible, de-installing ones no longer in use.

Talk about technology

As more and more homes install voice assistants and smart speakers such as Alexa, it's a good idea to talk to children about safe use of technology. Talk to them about what Alexa can be used for, how useful it can be and how to use it properly. Use it together to begin with and discuss any concerns they might have. Always make sure that children know to never share any personal or sensitive information and that if they need to talk about anything, they should always speak to a trusted adult.

Meet our expert

John E. Dunn has edited and written for numerous computer and technology magazines since the early 1990s, most recently Which Computing, The Register, Forbes.com, Techworld, Computerworld and Naked Security. He is a specialist in online cybersecurity and cybercrime and their growing effect on education, young people and the public.

