



Monday 12th October 2020

After a few days of very changeable weather, it was nice to enjoy some warmth from the sunshine yesterday - watching my son play football is so much nicer when there are blue skies rather than rain!

Whole school news



When I arrived at work on Friday morning, I was faced with a large truck and crane! I did ask if I could have a go...but wasn't able to!!

We needed some work done on the roof of our school hall and classrooms so a team came on to the school site to carry out this important work. Many children loved seeing the crane in action and talked about what it must be like to go that high!



I really enjoyed Cookie Club on Friday - seeing the children who have impressed their teacher with who they are. Many positive words to describe the children at our school: responsible, determined, hard working, polite, kind, respectful, good attitude, gracious and humble. It ends the week in such a positive way and I know that all children are really enjoying the homemade cookies which are baked in our very own kitchen!



The 'School Street project' has made such a positive difference to drop off and collection times - it has reduced the traffic around school and made the journey into school for all of our families much safer. We have had a lot of positive feedback from

many parents and carers - thank you to everyone for supporting the local council and school in ensuring this success. Moving forwards, we are looking for parent volunteers to support in the management of the scheme longer term - if you are interested in this, and would be willing to support, even during one morning or afternoon session each week, please either let Mr Munday know or email in to the school office. We would be very grateful for your support to ensure our 'sfare school streets' are maintained.

You may have heard that one of our PE teachers, Mrs Curtis, has hurt her ankle and is now going to be 'out of action' for a few weeks. We have been so lucky that Mrs Du Toit has supported the PE team during the first week as well as carrying out her lunchtime duties and we are happy to announce that, from this week, we will be welcoming Mr Pilinski from Winyates who will be working at St John's until Mrs Curtis is well enough to return.



In and around school



Is Father Christmas keeping an eye on us already?

When I was a child, I was always told that Santa would send out robins to check that we were being good and this week, in Year 3, we had an unexpected visitor. Mrs Riddy said, 'He had lost his way and got a bit confused. His friend (another Robin) did try to encourage him from outside the window but that confused him more! We did eventually help him find his way out. Maybe he heard we were the owls and thought we should flock together!'



Mini Queen Victorias!

Year 5 have been challenging themselves, again, this week by editing and redrafting their diary entries as Queen Victoria. Miss Peyser has been so impressed with their 'can do' attitude and drive to constantly improve. It is always so lovely to hear how hard children work and even better when they also have fun! Miss Peyser told me that the children had 'so many giggles whilst role-playing to get into the character of Queen Victoria!'



Thinking of others

Last weekend, Miss Gaa received such a heart-warming message from a parent who has kindly given us permission to share.

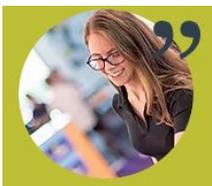
'Amy was really touched about the subject of homeless people this week at school. She wanted to do something so decided to make up packed lunches for them and handed them out in town. She even included a little teddy in each of them, to stop them feeling so lonely. Thank you so much for covering this subject in class.'

We really do work with some amazing children and their families. Amy, your kindness and generosity has changed people's lives. Thank you.



Let's learn online

Children in Year 6 across Winyates, St John's and Barnack have been learning online with all of their teachers. The initial technical glitches of internet access have been ironed out and the children are really enjoying the re-igniting the links they made with this group of children during lock down earlier this year. The staff are looking forward to getting to know all of the children while taking part in some really exciting mathematics; collaborating effectively in order to develop their skills.



Taking on the role of teacher

Miss Moles shared with me over the weekend three excellent movies created by two children in her class. Abrie and Chloe have been filming themselves explaining different mathematical concepts - teaching the skill and practising the skill. Such fantastic focus and dedication towards understanding the subject - if you can teach it, you can do it! Well done to you both.



More from 4RM....Miss Moles wanted to add that the children in her class are loving Forest School - particularly getting muddy!





Mrs Foster

Firstly, I would just like to say how truly grateful I am to have such resilient, understanding, flexible and supportive parents and carers working with us to educate the children of St. John's. Our whole school attendance so far this term is 96.6%, which, in the midst of a global pandemic, is just incredible! Thank you for trusting in us, and for working with us so openly. This term, has, without a doubt, been more challenging than I ever could have imagined! The successes so far are all credit to our school community, so thank you! Your trust in us is truly heartwarming and your honest and heart-felt feedback is valued... 'together, we achieve, learn, and grow'!

My highlights of the last couple of weeks have to include our Reception classes - I have been truly inspired by their readiness to learn and the kind, responsible and lively ways that they engage with each other! A 'stand out' example of this is when the children worked together last week, across their two bubbles to build a brick house for the '3rd little pig' from either side of their outside area, the children were so excited to be working together and were so engaged by the project. I think the house is pretty impressive too!



Another highlight is my first discussions with our newly formed Y6 'Female Debate Team' from Mrs Ross' class - they are truly awe-inspiring, in both their knowledge and ability to articulate their understanding and thoughts, across a range of topics. Our discussions so far have included; pollution, animal rights, black lives matter, mental health, smoking and women's rights! The girls have shown real talents and I believe they will go far! Our next steps are to engage in some debates with other schools, and to record some 'podcasts' for a local radio station - I look forward to working with the girls again in the coming weeks, they are the next generation of 'changemakers'!



My final highlight to share is some great news for the whole school community! With huge thanks to Mr Munday for his collaboration with Peterborough City Council, I am pleased to let you know that work has begun to improve Peanut Park and the paths surrounding this. The park area has been fully weeded and the bark has been refreshed already. The next stage will be for new paths to be laid, which will be hugely beneficial in supporting our drop-off and pick up arrangements at different gates through the winter months. We are hopeful that this work will begin soon - watch this space!

And finally...a message from our Chair of Governors

Another very encouraging newsletter. Well done to all the children in the cookie club. To read such positive words: gracious and humble, difficult concepts for all of us, easily forgotten, wonderful that the children of St John's are reminding us of them. What a treat, too -home-made cookies!

This newsletter shows how the children at St John's show their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn and grow both inside and outside school. Abrie and Chloe from Miss Moles class filming themselves explaining mathematical concepts; a brilliant example of practising and learning beyond the classroom.

Well done to Amy - you are a truly thoughtful person, to pursue something covered in class in a very positive way. St John's is truly blessed with amazing children and families. Loved the extra kindness of a Teddy bear, too. Hope your thoughtfulness brought a smile to their face, in very difficult and fraught times for all homeless people.

The children's enthusiasm and motivation to learn is truly inspiring. A big thankyou from all the governors to all the staff who work tirelessly to encourage and inspire the children to learn and grow.

The Christmas Robin brought back memories for me also. Glad he made a visit to Mrs Riddy's class.

Lovely photos.

Do hope Mrs Curtis gets better soon and thanks to Mr Pillinski from Winyates for stepping in to help.

Helen Koenig, Chair of Governors.



I wanted to finish today with a photo from 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse' by Charlie Mackesy. I was incredibly lucky to be given this book by Mrs Riddy last week. It is such a wonderful story which is brought to life by the images, thoughts and friendship within it. I am forever grateful that I work with such kind and generous friends.



Mrs Harwood and all at St John's.