



Monday 28th September 2020

Almost a month back in school already and hasn't time flown by! Children have adapted to their routines like professionals and we are pleased that the improvements which we have made to the start and end of the day have been positive.



Whole school news

Staff are working hard in school planning for a rich and vibrant curriculum using our question, 'What Makes Us Who We Are?' We are excited to see how children respond to this question in different ways than last year.

We have some work going on at the back of Mrs Riddy and Mr Mucklin's classroom to develop our outside area there so that it can be used by children again. We have also been busy rearranging some of our spaces upstairs and have built two extra group rooms so that 1:1 sessions can happen safely with current distancing protocols in place.



Due to the change in weather last week, we moved from our picnic style lunches outside to eating inside. Thanks to the excellent collaboration, dedication and hard work from all of our lunchtime supervisors, this has been very successful. We have plans for being able to eat outside whenever it is dry moving forward; purchasing large tent carpets which will allow more children to sit together.

At St John's, we encourage our children to play outside in many different conditions and, with PE and Forest School outside, we would like to remind parents to send their children in with warm, preferably waterproof, coats now that we are heading into the colder months.



We have been working with Peterborough City Council since school reopened and, from Wednesday this week, the council's 'School Street project' will begin on the roads around our school.

The scheme is aimed to reduce traffic at key times of the school day - ensuring it is safe for everyone. We would encourage everyone to walk to school when you can and, when you need to drive, parking in the Ortongate Centre car park is recommended. We are committed to trying to improve the school run for parents, children and the wider community and believe this scheme will enable us to do this.

In and around school

Year 4s have been busy!

Year 4 had a fantastic Viking Day last week. one of their highlights was writing their very own secret messages using Viking Runes - it was fun trying to figure out what everyone had written!



As well as a day of being Vikings, Year 4s have been very busy with their RE Day, exploring Sikhism. The children created their own puppet show to explain the significance of the 5Ks showing resilience and reciprocity for their performance.

Year 4 Superstar!

Mrs Weston shared some words about a child in year 4 - can you guess who it is? 'She has WOWed me since returning to school. She has matured so much as a student and an individual since year 3 and has impressed me every day with her 'can do' attitude to learning. She constantly shows the 3 Rs and is a sheer delight to have in the classroom. We are so lucky to have her in our class!'

Well done to Leah!

How lovely that classes and individuals are impressing their teachers so much already.

A big welcome!

Last time, Mr Nay was keen to share how well new children had settled in to school and has said the same again with another new addition to Y3. It is always so heart-warming to hear that the children and community at St John's welcome new students with open arms and happy, smiling faces.

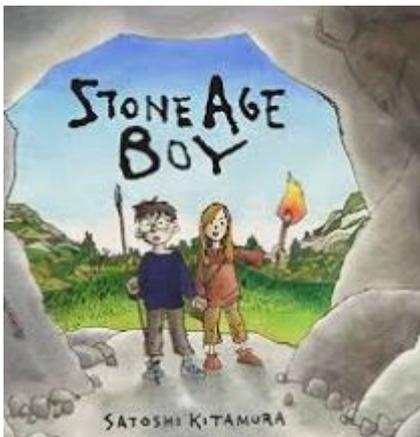
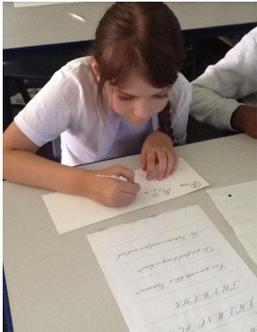
Apples, apples everywhere!

In Forest School this week, children (and adults) have enjoyed 'pressing apples' to make the most delicious juice. Here are some photos to show the equipment used and the happy faces of children enjoying the 'fruits of their labour'.



The Victorian Era

Year 5 had a wonderful Victorian day! The children learned all about Victorian schools, wrote with a quill and ink, played Victorian playground games, had a Victorian tea party and even managed to find time to visit The London Museum - virtually of course! Miss Peyser said, 'We had such a fun day and loved absorbing ourselves within our learning!' Here are some photos showing some of the events the children took part in.



Stone Age Boys (and Girls)!

Year 3 have been using their creative skills to share with their teachers what they wanted to learn about the stone age.

Here are some of the questions they came up with:

How long ago was the stone age?

What kind of rocks did they use?

Where were Stone age people?



News from the PE Team

This week, students have carried on their Netball and Fitness Units within their PE lessons. The focus has been on continuous training and fitness methods, whilst in Netball they have been focusing and developing on the key passes and techniques used in the sport. The students have started to use the skills they have developed and will soon begin to incorporate them into small-sided games.



Mrs Foster has many highlights from her week but particularly wanted to mention a conversation she had with one of our new teachers. *'She said that she felt like she has real purpose in her life now she is teaching at St. John's. So heartwarming to know that it doesn't take long for all to find a 'place to belong' at St. John's, children and adults alike!'*

Year 5 has really stood out for Mrs Foster this week, too. *'Children in 5AJ were amazed that I still knew all their names even though I don't see them all on the door every morning any more and even those who only joined St. John's last year! They promised to keep testing me too!'*

The after-lunch routine in 5AP has been very impressive, *'They are just so mature and responsible and clearly cherish the time and space to enjoy reading their books.'*

It isn't just Year 5 who have stood out this week, *'Seeing the Year 4 children playing so nicely together outside at lunchtime, whilst being so responsible staying in their separate 'bubble' areas.'*

It really is such a testament to our children's resilience, maturity and responsibility that they have worked so well to meet our new expectations of keeping 'Covid safe'.

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

It's good to read that the start and end of the school day improvements have been well received. The learning environment that staff and the positive response by the children is very encouraging, from the Stone age, Vikings and the Victorians. Apple pressing in the Forest School looked so interesting and tasty! What a wealth of experience and knowledge the children at St John's are given. The photos show how engaged the children are in all these activities and their enthusiasm to learn.

I watched Mrs Foster's celebration collective worship last Monday and was so impressed with the variety of work that is celebrated each week. A wonderful way to start the school week for the children and Mrs Foster.

Again on behalf of the governors we appreciate the dedication of the staff and the positive approach children are showing towards their learning.

Helen Koenig, Chair of Governors.



We work with a sense of hope and joy for what the rest of this term holds for us all.
Have a blessed week

Mrs Harwood and all at St John's.