



The Scoop

at St John's

*Together we achieve, learn and grow
in a caring, Christian environment*



Friday 5th March 2021



The excitement amongst all the staff this week has been so visible, they cannot wait to get all of their children back into school next Monday. I'm sure as parents you cannot wait either! The school has not quite felt the same these last few weeks.

Every two weeks I read these newsletters with such joy, they often make me laugh, cheer or bring a tear to my eye. This week I was particularly struck by Adler's story and his sporting success. I remember him so well, and I particularly remember his performance in Netball at the county finals. He was determined and passionate, he was a real team player and had a wonderful sense of fun - no wonder he has gone on to be so successful and hopefully inspire many of you.

I know that many of our children will be in this newsletter in years to come when you go to University or play sport for your country or invent the next spaceship to explore planets as yet unexplored or even when one of you becomes the Prime Minister! We will be incredibly proud of your accomplishments, maybe Miss Embrey will be using your story in collective worship to highlight how you have stood up for what you believe and made a difference to the world.

We have high hopes for you!!!

Whole School News

Wellbeing Wednesdays

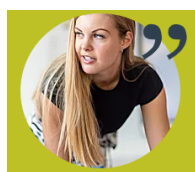


There have been so many wonderful suggestions so far throughout this year from our 'Wellbeing' team - and this week has given me a chance to reflect back to earlier suggestions to remind me how to keep well - physically, emotionally and mentally.

I will be honest, I haven't been as active as I had hoped - when the sun is shining, I enjoy being outside, going for a walk or bike ride with my family - but I feel less motivated to do this on grey days...hopefully, with spring just around the corner, I will be able to get 'out and about' more often.

I hope that you have found these weekly suggestions useful.

Our Christian Value of the week: Morality



Our Big Question this week, led by Miss Embrey, focused on morality and, in particular, people in our past and present who have stood up for what they believed in to make the world a better place. We were reminded of the work that heroes like Rosa Parks, Emmeline Pankhurst, Greta Thunberg and Marcus Rashford have made on us and the community we live in.

Children were given time to think about those around us who have inspired us to be better and do better - it was lovely to hear and read about how many of us are inspired by our parents - to follow in their footsteps on the sports field, in work or - in general - in life by being kind, caring and loving.;



British Science Week



British Science Week is on the horizon - a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths!

I am delighted to share that for our upcoming 'British Science Week', we will be running a science 'read-a-thon' across all three schools. The purpose of this fundraiser is to encourage children to read as many science-related books as possible by Friday. Teachers, friends and families can set children a target to achieve at the beginning of the week depending on the year group! Children will be asking you to support them, in particular by sponsoring them. The money raised will go towards the NHS 'Over and Above' charity trust. We believe that this is a

great way to incorporate reading within our wider curriculum and also show our appreciation for the staff who has worked so tirelessly to care for our community during these challenging times.

In addition to this, there will also be a variety of science related activities taking place in classes during the science week, including a poster competition! The theme for 2021 British Science Week is 'Innovating for the future' - with this in mind, children can create whatever version of the theme. Inspiration can come from anywhere – innovation in technology or health care, or maybe even innovation that is used in STEM careers. Each year group will also be given plenty of opportunities to work in groups to explore and problem solve to create their STEM designs and innovations.

It's significant that we support children during the science week as this is a great way to provide the intellectual tools for our future scientists, inventors and engineers!

I know I am excited to see the children's wonderful innovations and designs during the science week - I hope you are too!

Thanks for your continued support,

Mrs Joseph

Book recommendations

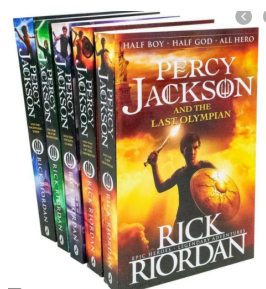


Mr Mucklin has recommended his favourite set of books this week: the Percy Jackson series by Rick Riordan. For anyone that loves ancient history, magic and adventure this really is a great series full of twists and turns. There is even a follow up series called Heroes of Olympus! The film which was released really does not do the books justice. Disney have bought the rights to it and are creating a TV series for 2022! Mr Mucklin recommends this series of books from anyone in Year 4 and above.

Percy Jackson- is the son of Poseidon, God of the Sea, Earthshaker, Stormbringer, and Father of

Horses. Percy is 12 years old and has dyslexia and ADHD. Percy has been kicked out of 6 schools in 6 years. His best friend is Grover Underwood (a Satyr). His mother's name is Sally Jackson who he describes as the best person in the whole world. His step-father, Gabe Ugliano, is the worst smelling piece of garbage Percy has ever met. Percy is very loyal and will do anything he can to help his friends. He also has amazing water powers and is a very strong demigod (half human and half god).

Zeus' master weapon - the lightning bolt has been stolen and Percy is the one to be blamed for its disappearance. Will Percy and his friends save the world from the beginning of World War 3?



Site news



Our site team has been busy refurbishing the area behind 3DR and 3BM's classroom. It is almost complete and ready to be used by children again. It looks like it'll be a lovely outdoor classroom area and we are excited for when the weather is warmer and we can use it regularly.

We are so grateful to have such a talented team working to ensure that the environment we work and learn in is the best it can be.

Maths Eyes



This week's 'Maths Eyes' image is a sculpture created by Barbara Hepworth.

My 9 year old daughter is currently studying the work by Hepworth and drew our family in this style and it made me realise how mathematically beautiful the artwork and sculptures are as well as how aesthetically pleasing they are. I wonder what maths you can see in this image.

Please let your teacher know if you have any reflections about this image or any other pieces of Hepworth's artwork.

Sporting Rewind:

One of our ex pupils, Adler Nascimento, has had some recent success being called up and playing in Peterborough United U18s team against Leyton Orient in which he put in a man of match performance scoring a hat trick. This is what his manager Matthew Etherington (ex premier league player) had to say, "Adler took his goals really well. He looks a real asset and he has lots of potential, he can link play, play with his back to goal and is a great finisher".

Adler has shown all the vital sporting attributes in order to achieve his goal in being called up into the Peterborough Squad. We wish him all the best as he continues his footballing journey with the club.

Mrs Curtis



Whole School Development

Returning to school preparation / Comeback Curriculum



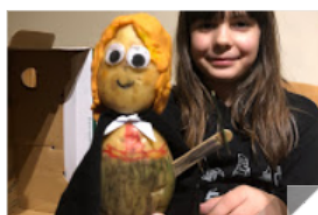
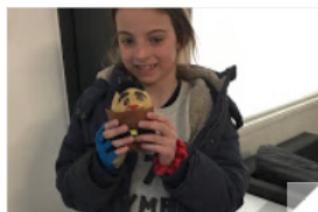
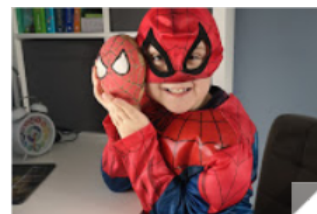
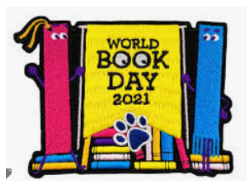
In recent weeks, a number of staff members across the three schools have been working together to construct a curriculum (until Easter) to ensure that when all the children return, they are able to seamlessly transition their learning and engagement into the school environment. The intention of the plan is to help support children's return to school with the focus being on their mental, physical and emotional agility.. We are proud and excited to launch this on the 8th March.

As a result of this thinking, in this week's staff meetings, we have focused on implementing our new 'Comeback Curriculum'.

Staff are excited to get started with our 'Comeback Curriculum' which will be implemented across the school in PE lessons to hand writing, Maths and English and, very importantly, our wellbeing team will run a daily session to allow our students to relax and have the opportunity to express themselves through different activities.

World Book Day Special - photos 'hot off the press'

We thought it would be nice to share some photos from World Book Day on Thursday 4th March - can you guess what everyone's favourite book character is?



Thank you so much to everybody who joined in with World Book Day on Thursday! We all had a fantastic day and there was a real love of reading seen as you all described why you had chosen your books and characters. Hopefully, the children in your class have inspired you and you have seen something that you can't wait to read.

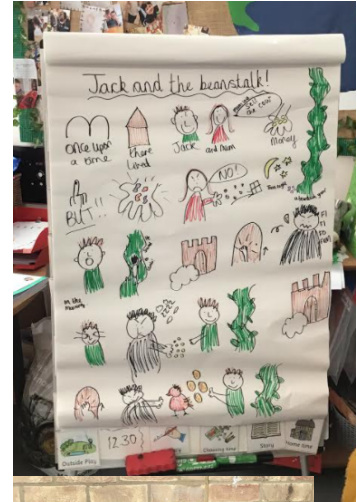
Your wonderful potatoes are being judged and winners will be announced very soon. Miss Brundle

In and around school

Reception

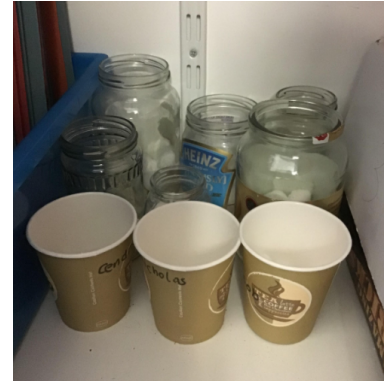
Last week, we planted our own bean plants and focused on the story Jack and the beanstalk! We have learnt about how to help our world and now know that planting more plants helps our air to be cleaner!

This week, we have been making our own recycled paper using old scrap pieces of paper which we have finished using. The children have really enjoyed this process and could talk about where paper comes from and why it is important to reuse paper so we don't have to cut more trees down!



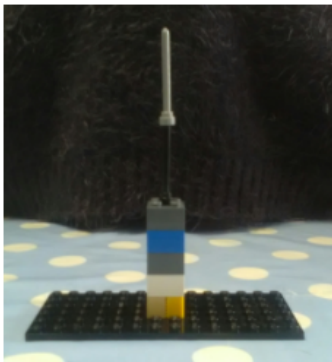
Year 1

Over the next 5 weeks we are experimenting with planting. We have learnt that plants need air, water, time and sunlight to grow, so we have planted some bean seeds in different places in the classroom to find out where they grow best. We have planted some by the window and some in the cupboard, and each week we will record what we see and what has happened to each plant.



Year 2

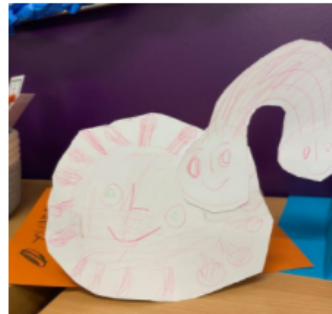
"This week, the children in Year 2 have been creating monuments to commemorate aspects of the coronavirus pandemic, just like the monument created to remember the Great Fire of London. The children have expressed their ideas by designing and constructing their own chosen monuments. We are incredibly impressed with the children's outcomes!"



Lily Q 2LM



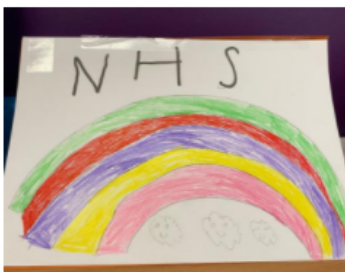
Lily W 2LM



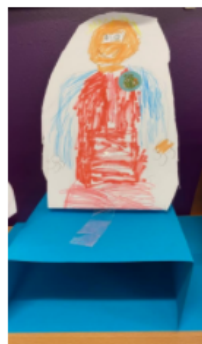
Suzanna 2RD



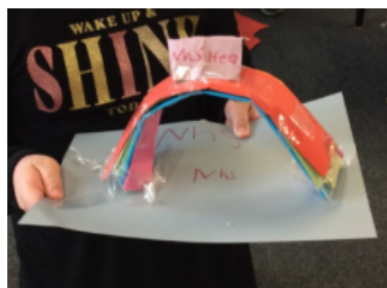
Ethan 2LM



Elsie 2RD



Keegan 2RD



Gabriella 2GM



Cezare 2GM

Year 3

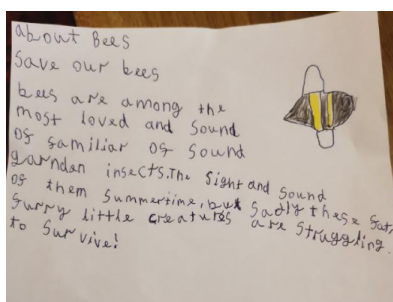
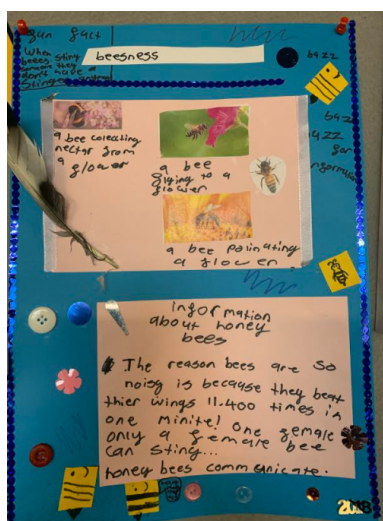


"Last week we took our learning outdoors to make the most of the beautiful sunshine and great outdoors. The children loved putting their new knowledge of the plant life cycle into pavement drawings. At the end of the lesson we had a group photo, it was so lovely to see so many smiling faces at the camera! It really has been a great week back after the half term break. They have all been superstars!"

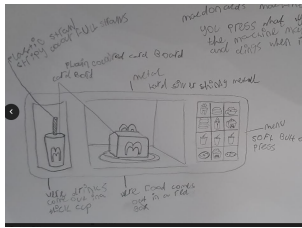
Miss Weston



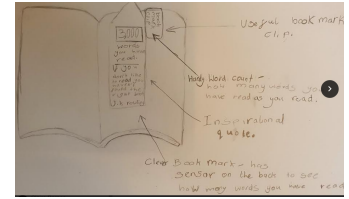
This week, Year 3 have been finding out about bees...they wanted to share with everyone what they had learnt!



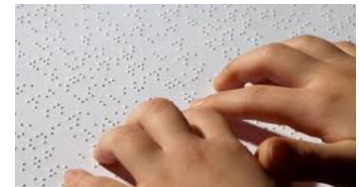
Year 4



This week, we have been looking at changes in technology. We were excited to interview an older person to gather our own observations about how technology has changed. Now, we have begun to design our own revolutionary technology (we have had some very exciting ideas!) Miss Moles



Year 4 have been thinking about inventions and how people like Louis Braille invented Braille at 15 years of age. We found it amazing that the choices of people so young can really have an impact on our world. Now we are thinking about the inventions we could create that would make an impact and then we are going to write a description of them.



Mr Hurford

Year 5



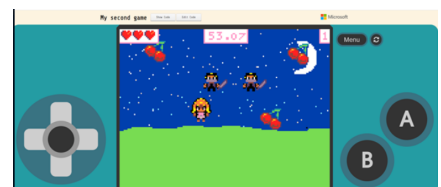
During British Science Week Years 5 and 6 across all three schools will be hearing from some wonderful speakers who work in STEM roles to help the children understand more about what this might entail.

Our speakers will include Chief Technology Officer Alex Shaw who normally runs a Coding Club at Barnack Primary School; a pilot for TUI airline; a traffic engineer for Transport for London; a Technology Director at a major chemical company; and an RAF squadron commander!

This is an exciting opportunity for our Upper Key Stage 2 children to begin to consider roles which might interest them when they are ready to think about their future career and, we hope here at St John's, that our current Year 5 and Year 6 will return one day to share their career and the impact that the STEM subjects had on helping them secure it.

Year 6

We have continued to be so impressed with the engagement and quality of learning from the children at home and in school. As a year group, due to the circumstances we have explored new areas of learning such as coding. Over the recent weeks, the children have used their experimenting and tinkering skills to construct multi-step games. The detailed coding has meant they have produced a game in which you have a main character that can earn points collecting items whilst avoiding an enemy - which can take your lives. It has been great to see the desire the children have had to develop and improve their coding abilities. Here is a screenshot of one of the games:



PE

The children have been very busy this week in school during their PE lessons using many of their learning powers particularly exploring and collaboration in tennis and gymnastics. The groups have been imitating and creating sequences that include balances and linking movements. In tennis the children have been revising basic skills such the forehand shot and racket control. Finally, the groups got the chance to discover Archery which is a new sport and the children showcased some good target skills.



Forest School



It has been a great start to this half term, we are fully embracing Spring and all the positive energy it is bringing. The warmer weather has been putting smiles on all the children's faces and is filling the days full of hope. As World Book Day is almost upon us EYFS and Year 1 have explored traditional fairytales and have enjoyed house building like the Three Little Pigs and keeping themselves safe from the wolf in Little Red Riding Hood!



Year 2 have put their knot tying skills to the test by making nature mobiles to display all the great things that they discover while exploring the school grounds. Year 3 have been working hard at writing and performing their poems ready for filming their poetry recital! Year 4 have continued to submit wonderful photos for their photography exhibition, showcasing all the beautiful flowers in the local community. It is planting season once again and Year 5 planted potatoes which prompted interesting discussions about where food comes from. Year 6 have been spreading kindness by making their own version of love on the rocks- renamed St. John's on the Rocks! Look out for them and their messages of kindness and hope around school!



I am really looking forward to welcoming the children back into school next week and have lots of Forest School fun planned for everyone!

'This is a one-way road now' is a phrase we have all been saying a lot in school this week, as we have been preparing to reopen again for the third time within a year! We must all be determined to do everything we can to ensure that each step is forward so that school can stay open, and then, piece-by-piece wider society can also reopen. We are 'ready to go' here as I am sure you all are at home too!

I just have a couple of further logistical messages for next week:

1. **'Home Loan Chromebooks' - Mr Hollingsworth will contact everyone directly to organise a time slot that you can return the equipment to the school. Please keep a look out for an email from him on Tuesday 9th of March.**
2. **I would like to clarify that parents will still be unable to access Peanut Park between 8:25am - 3:35pm on school days, and that Gate E and F remain at the external Peanut Park gates. We have reposted the Gate Map on the school website and hope that this provides more clarity.**

All that's left for me to say is; have a restful weekend and enjoy your 'back to school' preparations! We cannot wait to have a school full of children again on Monday! Well done to all the parent 'home schoolers' - you have not only 'made it to the end', but have done an incredible job - thank you so much!

Mrs Foster, Head of School



Its back to school next week. Everyone has been waiting a long time for this moment. It's encouraging to see that a 'comeback curriculum' will focus on well being for all. I'm sure these vital few weeks leading up to the Easter holidays, will be of great value and benefit everyone in the transition back to school and learning together once again.

A very strong choice of people when you focused on the Christian value of morality. Amazing people who have made a difference across the ages. I'm sure Marcus Rashford and Greta Thunberg will continue to do so.

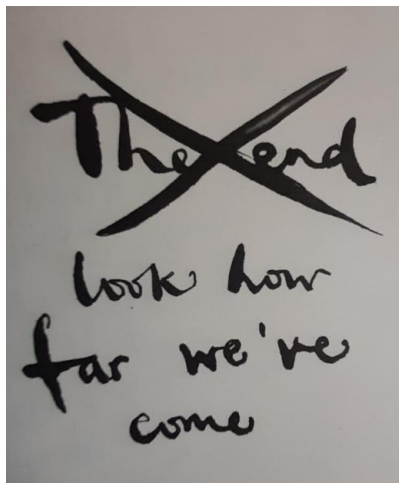
Science week and World book day: a busy and interesting week. What a variety of learning the children have had and many opportunities to develop their own ideas. Every year group has shown their enjoyment and commitment to learning, very inspiring. A Read-A-Thon sounds a great idea for science week. Hope it goes well.

Will be thinking of you next week when St John's opens to all the children. Have read the poem posted by Mrs Kent, wise words. On behalf of all the governors a huge thank you to all senior leaders and staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure a smooth return to school, your commitment is much appreciated.

Helen Koenig
Chair of Governors.



With plans firmly in place to welcome all children back to St John's on Monday, I want to simply end today's newsletter with a hope that everyone enjoys their weekend and an image from one of my favourite books 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse' by Charlie Mackesy. This is the end of remote learning for most of our children but look how far we have all come - we are so proud of you all.



Sending joy to you all

From

Mrs Harwood and all at St John's.