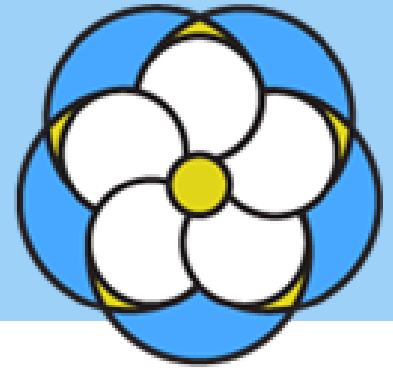


St Mary's Church of England Junior School

Newsletter 1 – 11th September 2020



From the Principal

Welcome back!

Firstly, I would like to say thank you for all of your positive encouragement and support during this time of adjustment.

The first week back to school has been full of joy, enthusiasm and lots of learning about our new routines, whilst also building up to increased learning time back in classrooms.

Thank you for all of the hard-work and reassurance that you have put in with your children, in preparing them for coming back to school. This has undoubtedly made a world of difference!

It has been a delight to see all of your children and I have been so proud of their courage and resilience this week, stepping in to the uncertainty of what school would now feel like. Your children have made me smile, laugh, and I may have even had the odd watery eye from the joy and life that they have brought back into the building. I was reminded this week, of a comment that Mrs Hancock made as she retired last year, "A school is not made up of the bricks and mortar, it is made up of the people within the building." Her comment couldn't be more true – here at St Mary's, we are truly blessed by the people within our walls – no matter what their age!

This is going to be a great school year!

God bless,

Ms Cranmer

Raising aspirations and a love for learning through courage, resilience, positive relationships and God's love!

CELEBRATING LEARNING

Congratulations to our super stars:

3 Dahl: Arran M

3 Potter: Josh T

4 Curie: Ana Cisa

4 King Jr: Jacob S

5 Attenborough: Harry H

5 Bevan: Amelia O

6 Parks: Merryn P

6 Switzer: Leo H

We are holding celebration assemblies with one class hosting and presenting to the rest of the school via video feed. This is in order for us to keep the whole school unified, despite our physical separation, and to ensure that we encourage children to continue celebrating each other's achievements.

Children will be handed their certificates in class, however, Unfortunately, we will be unable to have our 'Friday Hot Chocolates,' as we cannot gather children from across the school together for this. In order to keep the spirit of 'Hot Chocolate Fridays' alive, we will be sending home hot chocolate cones, so that your child may enjoy their hot chocolate at home with you, whilst sharing in celebrating their success.



LEARNING AND CURRICULUM NEWS

Class Learning Blog

Look at how we have been learning this week...



Year 4 have been working hard and demonstrating our love for learning in English!



Year 6s showing a resilient approach to gymnastics as they take it outside.



Building positive relationships as we get to know Mrs Franklin in Year 5!

Raising aspirations and a love for learning through courage, resilience, positive relationships and God's love!



Year 3s have high aspirations as they tackle some challenging maths problems!

A summer fundraising report from...

Super Switzer Sponsors!

Way back in July, I set my new class a challenge to complete over the summer holidays. The only rule was that the challenge had to be based on the number 26.2, in honour of the marathon runner Katherin Switzer, our class' inspirational person.

A huge thank you to Nathan Hartill, Ryan Martin, Sophie Horne and Madison Zofia-Reynolds, who embraced the challenge and collectively raised £210.50! This is an amazing start to our fundraising effort this year and I really appreciate the time and effort you all put in.



You may also remember just before lockdown, I mentioned in a newsletter that I was taking part in the Brighton Marathon. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, this can no longer take place. However, rather than waste all those miles of training, I will be running a virtual marathon on Sunday 4th October around the local area. Having already raised money for JDRF and St Mary's, I am continuing with this effort so if you would like to support me in anyway, you can donate via the school office.

Thank you for your support – and please ask your children to be gentle with me on the 5th October. I may be a bit tired and sore!

Mrs Beuttell

Half of all monies raised goes directly to the charity that each class supports and half of it goes directly back into learning resources and technology for your child's class. Therefore, we thank you for helping to support both your class charities, as well as the school and your child's class. Look to the next newsletter as we tell you more about all of the wonderful fundraising that took place year, and all of the charities that we will look to support this year.



Autumn Term Curriculum Calendar

Curriculum vision: The curriculum here at St Mary's Church of England Junior School is an avenue for discovery and knowledge of the wider world. We will use clear purpose, audience, engagement, interaction and oracy to drive learning of a wider curriculum with an outcome of 'showing what we know' - a display of knowledge and celebration of learning through high aspirations, courage, resilience, positive relationships and God's love.

<u>Week commencing</u>	<u>Mission and values/ Christian Distinctiveness</u>	<u>Show What We Know about...</u>	<u>Learning purpose</u>
7 th September	Courage	History	<u>We are Historians</u> An inspired classroom -Virtual presentations to parents
14 th September			
21 st September			
28 th September		RE/ART/ DT	<u>We are Artists,</u> <u>Thankful for our Community</u> Celebrating and supporting our community
5 th October		Reading	<u>We are Readers and Storytellers</u> We love reading - celebrating the history and storytelling of other cultures <u>-Let us tell you a story...</u>
12 th October			
19 th October			
2 nd November	Resilience	Science	<u>We are Scientists</u> Celebrating Earth Science Week -Science Fair
9 th November		Geography	<u>We are Geographers</u> Maps and globes – Quiz masters
16 th November			
23 rd November			
30 th November		Science	<u>We are Scientists</u> Extraordinary Experiments on display
7 th December		Religious Education and Music	<u>We are Humanitarians:</u> Virtual Christmas productions Christmas Around the World -Let's celebrate together virtually
14 th December			

*Please note that music, RE and languages will continue to be taught weekly.

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SCHOOL NEWS, UPDATES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Attendance

Whilst we will not be presenting an attendance cup at this time, we will still be encouraging attendance, but with added sensitivity in light of our response to Covid symptoms. To clarify, based on some parental feedback, we are only asking that you do not send your child in if they are experiencing COVID symptoms, no matter how mild:

- A new and persistent cough
- Raised temperature
- Loss of taste or smell

Please do encourage your children into school if they are experiencing other symptoms outside of this, such as common cold symptoms like runny noses and sore throats. Stomach bug or sickness should be 48 hours out of school, unless you know that their illness is due to another cause such as an allergic reaction. If your unsure, please contact the school for advice, **before** bringing your child in.

Homework

Please do send in your child's 'lockdown home-learning' by next Friday 18th. We know that both children and parents put in a lot of effort and teachers would like to recognise and celebrate this.

From next Friday, 18th September, please find weekly homework, on the school website, <https://www.stmaryscoejunior.co.uk/> and then to 'School Closure Information' (as we wait for this folder to be updated), or click on this Homework link to get direct access. You will then click on your child's year group, 'Autumn Term 1 – 2020' and then 'Homework.' We are doing our best to ensure that your child's homework is accessible in this way today but, as we have unfortunately been experiencing some technical difficulties, your child may be receiving their homework via email.

Please inform the school if you are unable to access your child's homework in this way, so that we may provide you with a paper copy.



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School gates...

You will have noticed all of the new bollards and lines outside of school which have been put in by the Long Stratton Parish Council. A huge thank you to them for adding this extra layer of protection for our children and families. Please do not park across the road from the school, in front of Nelson's Lodge, as this creates unsafe road conditions for our families, as well as interfering with their access. Thank you.



Drop off and collection times

In light of the current change to guidance and levels of infection rising, we have been considering further ways to ensure that we are doing everything possible to protect our children, families and staff here at St Mary's. Whilst there has been some improvement to the crowding outside of school gates upon drop-off and collection, unfortunately, it seems that the heavy traffic is unavoidable – particularly as both the Infant and High Schools start and finish at similar times, and as we are all in such close proximity to each other. **We will therefore be asking ALL ADULTS (not children) who are dropping off, or picking up children, to where a protective mask outside of school gates from Monday 14th September.** We very much appreciate your understanding and support!



If your child is currently on our 'walking' list, please ensure that they are able to do this safely and responsibly. We would be happy to keep your child safe, just inside the school gates with adult supervision, if you are finding that you are running slightly late due to clashes with Infant or High School pick up times. If you wish to take your child off of the 'walking' list, in order to ensure that they stay within school premises, please just contact the school office. Please also contact the school office if there is any change to your child's current arrangement.

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Safeguarding report

10 Tips for Keeping your Children Safe Online

The greatest message we can send to you is to **always monitor what your children are doing** and this includes when they are on the internet. The following tips are quite handy!

1. **Have a conversation with your child/children** - Children are getting their first internet-connected gadgets at young ages. So start talking to them early. Warn them about the dangers they could come across. Let your child/children know you're looking out for them, speak honestly with them, and *listen*. After all, if it's just you talking, it's not a conversation. It's a lecture. And no one likes a lecture.
2. **Keep your computer in a common area of the house** - It's more difficult for strangers and online bullies to harass your child when you can see what your child is up to. So make sure your kids aren't going to bed with their laptops and phones. Keep internet time in the common areas.
3. **Know which other computers your children are using** - Your children most likely have access to computers at school or their friends' houses. Ask them where they go online, and talk to their friends' parents about how they supervise their own kids' internet use.
4. **Remind your children, "Don't talk to strangers — or meet them"** - Make it clear that online strangers are not friends. Remind your children that people often lie about their age, and online predators often pretend to be children. Emphasize that your children should never reveal personal information like their name, address, phone number, school name, or even their friends' names. Knowing any of this could help an online predator find your child in real life. And under no circumstances should your child ever meet up with someone they met online.
5. **Make internet time family time** - You watch movies together. Why not browse the web together? Making it a family event can be fun. You'll learn more about your kids' interests, and can guide them to websites that are more appropriate to their age.
6. **Know your children's passwords** - If you've got a younger child, create an account for them in your own name to avoid exposing their name — and so you'll have the password. But please respect the age limitations on accounts. If a site says you should be 13 to sign up, then your child should wait. Whatever your choice, though, make sure you get their passwords and warn them that you'll be checking their accounts from time to time to make sure everything's ok. (Spying on your kids' accounts without their knowledge could weaken their trust in you.)
7. **Watch for changes in your children's behaviour** - Being secretive about what they do online, withdrawing from the family, and other personality changes could be signs that an online stranger is preying on your child. So keep an eye out for any behavioural changes.
8. **Pay attention to any gifts anyone gives your children** - Online predators may send physical letters, photos, or gifts to children to tempt them. Stay alert, and ask your child/children about any new toys they bring home.
9. **Check your children's browsing history** - Open your child's web browser and look for "History" to see a list of websites they've been to. Also check the recycle bin to see if any files have been deleted. You may be surprised.
10. **Set rules - and stick to them** - As a parent, it's your job to limit your kids' screen time, set boundaries for inappropriate content, and make sure your children stick to them. So do it. Talk to your internet service provider about filters you can use to block inappropriate websites, or invest in a Wi-Fi router with parental controls.
11. **Age limits for social media (Facebook, What's App, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat)** - In Europe, most social media platforms have a minimum age of 16 (13 with parental consent) before a user can create an account, due to the General Data Protection Regulation, or GDPR, which came into effect on May 25, 2018. Please bare this in mind when you are monitoring. These recommendations are for a reason!



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CHRISTIAN DISTINCTIVENESS

See our new school banner...

God said to Noah and his sons, "I am putting my rainbow in the clouds. It will be the sign of my covenant with the world.... the sign of my promise to all human beings." Genesis 9. 13, 17.

How apt that the symbol of hope that we are using now is also the rainbow.

Be blessed and have a wonderful weekend!



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