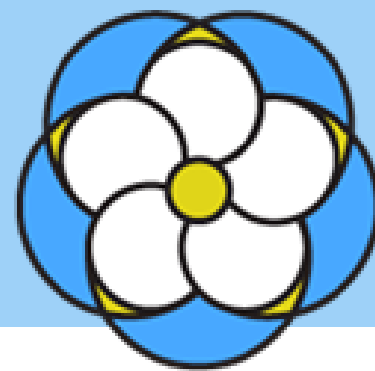


St Mary's Church of England Junior School

Newsletter 4 – 20th November 2020



From the Principal

Happy Friday!

It has certainly been a busy but productive Autumn term where children, staff and parents alike, all continue to model 'Resilience.'

We took some time to remember the courage and resilience that our country showed, during our school's Remembrance celebrations, where we gave thanks to those who gave their lives so that we may live.



Whole-school and class assemblies were shown, alongside some fantastic virtual resources and replicas, and children took part in a two-minute silence as well as tying red ribbon to our front gates to honour our soldiers, and to also remember and recognise all of our community who continue to show courage and resilience during this difficult time. We appreciate all you do!

God bless,
Ms Cranmer



CELEBRATING LEARNING

Congratulations to our super stars!

Week ending 6th November

3 Potter: Ryan Z
3 Dahl: Beatrix M
4 Curie: Harry C
4 King Jr: Luka W
5 Attenborough: James W
5 Bevan: Charlotte A
6 Parks: Jessica H
6 Switzer: Edward H

And, for the week ending 13th November

3 Potter: Jacob W
3 Dahl: Robert C
4 Curie: Isaac B
4 King Jr: Lucie Q
5 Attenborough: Poppy O
5 Bevan: Austin Z
6 Parks: India E
6 Switzer: Pippa W

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



LEARNING AND CURRICULUM NEWS

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		PSHE/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 Authors 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		Science	<u>We are Scientists</u> Extraordinary Experiments on display
30 th November			
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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Class Learning Blog

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

Parks Class Learning Blog



Our Virtual Book-shopping Experience!

Before half-term, our Year 6 Reading Ambassadors were given a budget to buy some new and exciting books for the classroom! We were desperate to use the money to support a local business but Covid restrictions meant that we couldn't visit a bookshop ourselves. Fortunately, we were lucky enough to take part in a unique 'Virtual Shopping Experience' with the incredible team at Bookbugs and Dragon Tales.

Here is our account of what happened:

Leanne and Dan, who run the bookshop, met us on Zoom and did a fantastic tour of what it looks like inside. They showed us their amazing display and walked us through the shop to show all of the colourful and exciting books. We were amazed at the artwork on the walls and all the added extras, like comfy places to sit and a mini gift shop!

Then, Leanne gave us a chance to talk about our own favourite books. We stood up to the camera and talked about books we had read in the past. Leanne and Dan used their wide knowledge to find us new books that they thought we might enjoy. It was funny to see them run around the shop looking for books!

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SCHOOL NEWS, UPDATES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Resilience indeed!

We have been speaking to your children about what this means to them. This week, we will share what the youngest in our school had to say about 'RESILIENCE.'

Resilience

*We have the endurance to keep going even if we are struggling.
We learn to never give up and always try our best.*

Written by 3 Potter

Resilience

*We keep going and persevere, even when our learning feels a bit tricky.
We show resilience with beginning to learn joined up handwriting.
Even when we find something hard, like doing up our own coat zip, we keep trying and don't give up.*

Written by 3 Dahl

Super Surprise for Switzer Class

You may remember that last month we took part in the London Mini-marathon, covering 2.6 miles around the school field. We did not think we had entered in time to receive a commemorative medal so imagine our surprise when a large package turned up for Mrs Beuttell this week!

Well done all of you, you fully deserve these and remember to tell the story of how you ran the London mini-marathon virtually. Keep on running!



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



Governor News

Wow, we are already into the second half of the Autumn term and what a busy time it has been for everyone.

The governing body has seen some changes over the last few months, with Mark Wallington joining the governing body as a parent governor and Ms Kirman and Ms Dutton joining as staff governors. Also, Julie Adams has renewed her term of office as foundation governor. We still have a couple of vacancies on the governing body as follows – 1 community governor and 1 foundation governor. If you or someone you know might be interested in becoming a governor please get in touch with either Ms Aziza Cranmer or Rev Heather Wilcox for more information on what the role entails.

The three core functions for governance in all academies are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Executive Leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

At St. Mary's Junior school, everything we do as a governor body is held together under the vision statement.

***'Raising aspirations and a love of learning through courage, resilience,
positive relationships and God's love'.***

Since the beginning of this academic year the governing body has been divided into three sub-committees, based on the experience and strengths of the governors, these being;

- Ethos and Community
- Resources
- Standards and Curriculum

As a governing body, we have been working collaboratively with the St. Benet's Multi Academy trust as associate members, which is proving to be a mutually beneficial experience, supporting and strengthening the governing body. We hope that over the coming months, this will bear more positive fruit. We continue to value regular feedback from all stakeholders in the school, which shapes and informs us in decision making as we move forward.

The governors would like to express our thanks to all the members of staff and senior leadership team for the way the children have been able to return to school in a safe way. This has required an immense amount of hard work and everyone has faced many challenges along the way. The attendance figures for the first half term of this academic year are well above the national average and are indicative of how safe everyone feels within the school.

We would also like to express our thanks to all the parents and carers for your patience and support over the last few months. It has been a challenge, but as I have witnessed when walking around the school, it continues to be a safe and happy place in which to learn.

If you would like to know more about what the governing body does to support the school, please do get in touch, the chair can be contacted through the school office.

Heather Wilcox (Chair of Governors)

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Parent consultations feedback

I do hope that you have found your Parent Consultations, whether by phone or by video call valuable. We appreciate your patience as we navigate around new ways of doing things...our staff have certainly been having to demonstrate their resilience here and we know that there have been some technical difficulties which we will begin to work through. We knew that the first time around may have some snags, but we do hope that the essence of the meeting and the feedback that you received has been useful. We would very much appreciate your feedback, as your feedback enables us to keep the 'good stuff' and improve in the areas which require further development. Please copy and paste the following link into your browser to complete the questionnaire by **Friday 27th November**.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=roPF0bAbO0m5sFGmUcn5iCsSD46_podHu2346xLuSdxUMjg0SkM0UDZXM04yOENGnkVVOVNQQ0INTy4u

Covid can't stop Christmas!

As Christmas is quickly approaching, we have had some queries as to whether we would still be able to celebrate Christmas in school this year. The answer to this is a resounding YES! Though, we may have to make some adjustments to how this is done in a safe and compliant way. Therefore...

Yes – We will still have **Christmas Jumper Day** on Thursday 17th December

Yes – We will still be having **Christmas dinners** – this will take place in bubbles on Thursday 17th December

Yes – We will still have **class celebrations**, though this will not involve shared party foods and discos. Instead, these will be a Christmas movie and activity afternoon following their Christmas dinners. Christmas activities will include some Christmas maths and English, as well as a Christmas reading book such as *The Little Matchmaker* and *The Velveteen Rabbit*. Children will be able to bring their own snack for this afternoon, 17th December, but snacks should not be shared and cannot contain nuts.

Yes – We will still have a **Christmas production**, though this will be shared with parents virtually this year and children will contribute to this in their bubbles.

Yes – We will have **Christmas caroling**, following Covid risk assessment guidelines, outdoors, in bubbles and socially distanced.

Yes – We will still be reinforcing with your children, the joy of giving, by reaching out to the community, as the children will be involved in an EDP project called **Christmas Cards for Care Homes**.

Ultimately – Your children deserve to have, actually, your children **need** to have, as close to a traditional Christmas experience as ever - we WILL continue to share the joy and the light of the holiday!



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SAFEGUARDING

Healthy sexual development in young people

It's important to understand what healthy sexual development looks like in children as they grow. Children's sexual development is shaped by their environment, experiences and what they see.

Every child is different and may become interested in relationships, sex and sexuality at slightly different ages. But as children get older, the way they express their sexual feelings changes.

Many sexual behaviours children and teenagers show as they grow up are normal and healthy, so long as they're not causing harm to others or to the children themselves.

This can sometimes be a difficult topic to discuss with others. The following link provides some guidance on what is appropriate or inappropriate behaviours for different age groups.

<https://legacy.brook.org.uk/our-work/category/sexual-behaviours-traffic-light-tool>

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2020 – 2021 CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING...

Children in Need – Friday 13th November











Thank you to everyone who purchased items for Children in Need on Parentmail and to everyone for dressing up on Friday in Non-School Uniform. We managed to raise £181.90 for this very deserving charity.

Easy Fundraising

If you're shopping the Black Friday sales (27th Nov), make sure you use #easyfundraising. Over 4,300 shops and sites will donate, so you can raise a FREE donation for St Marys Church of England Junior School - Long Stratton every time you grab a bargain!

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmaryscoejs/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=s-e2

Well done and thank you for your support!

3 Potter has raised £16.16 for	The Dream Factory 	3 Dahl has raised £16.16 for	Hallswood Animal Sanctuary 
4 King Jr has raised £16.16 for		4 Curie has raised £16.16 for	Marie Curie Cancer Care 
5 Bevan has raised £16.16 for	 East Anglia's Children's Hospices	5 Attenborough has raised £16.16 for	WWF World Wildlife Fund 
6 Parks has raised £16.16 for		6 Switzer has raised £16.16 for	JDRF 
After-school club has raised £16.16 for	NSPCC  Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.	Keller Class has raised £16.16 for	St Mary's Church 


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 us to raise an equal amount shown above for each class.

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CHRISTIAN DISTINCTIVENESS

This half-term, we are learning about...



St Mary's Church of England Junior School

Resilience

We embrace challenges, feedback and set-backs in a positive manner – 'bounce-back-ability.'



Songs for 'Resilience':
<u>Rescue - Lauren Daigle</u>
<u>Look Up Child - Lauren Daigle</u>
<u>Echo - Elevation</u>
<u>Don't Give Up - Shawn McDonald</u>



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