

St Mary's Church of England Junior Academy

Newsletter 21 – 8th March 2024



Maths Sessions

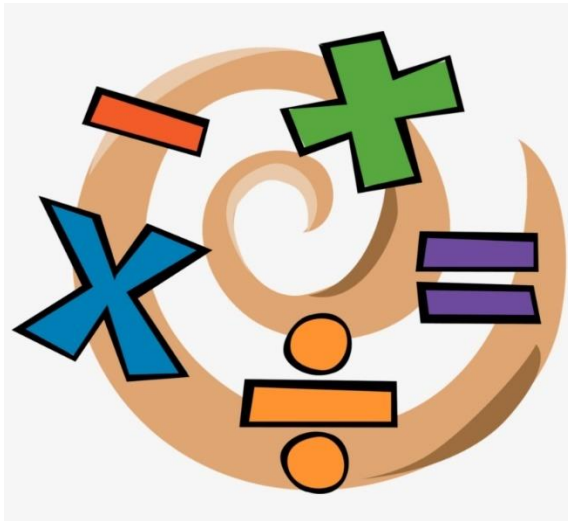
Next week, Thursday 14th March, we would like to invite parents in for Maths sessions run by the Maths Hub. Parents will have the chance to learn maths alongside their child.

These sessions will be:

Years 3 & 4 – 9.00am – 11.00am

Years 5 & 6 – 1.00pm – 3.00pm

We look forward to seeing you there.



"They will soar on wings like eagles"

CELEBRATING LEARNING

Congratulations to our Stars of the Week:

Week ending 8th March

Robin – William S

3 Skylark – James B

4 Kingfisher – Maisie M

4 Woodpecker – Oscar B

5 Avocet – Jamie H

5 Curlew – Casey T

6 Falcon – Thomas B

6 Red Kite – Hollie D-F

Star Value of the Week

Jack W-T

Georgina D

Dates for your Diary

13th March – Parents Evening (3.30 – 5.30pm)

14th March – Parents Evening (3.30 – 6.30pm)

14th March – Maths Sessions

Years 3 & 4 – 9.00 – 11.00am

Years 5 & 6 – 1.00 – 3.00pm

15th March – Easter Craft Afternoon for Years 3 & 4 & Robin Class
2.00 – 3.00pm

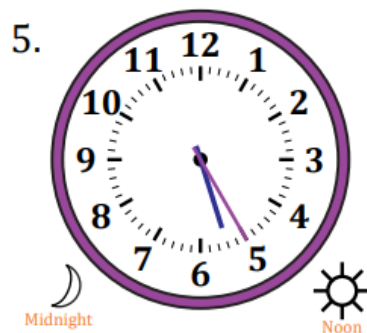
15th March – Red Nose Day (Non-school uniform)



Learning Blog – 4 Kingfisher Class

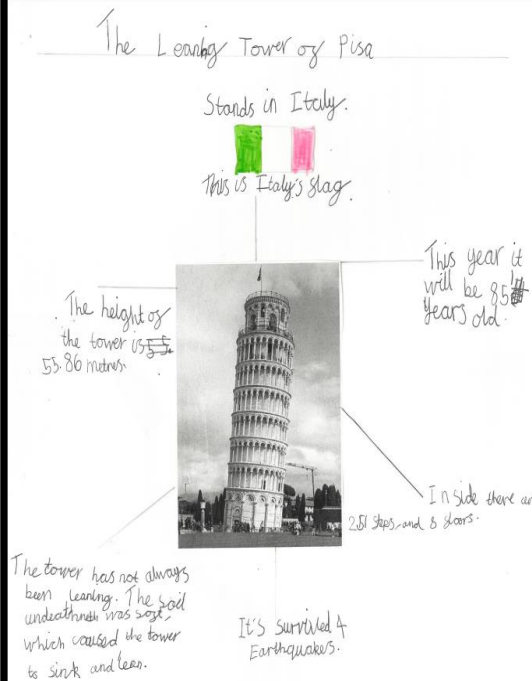
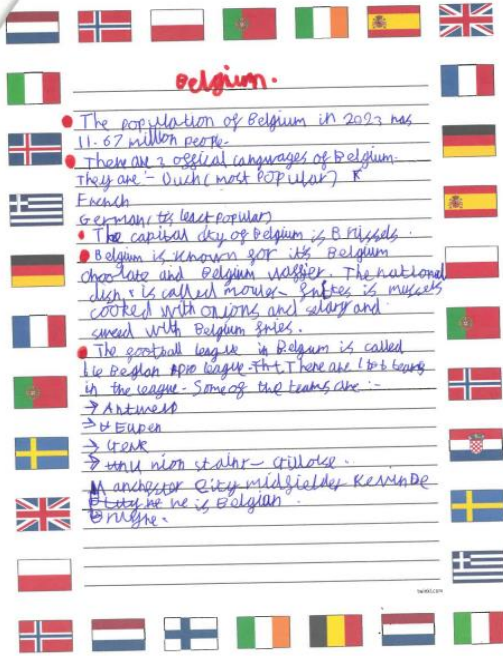
It's hard to believe that we are now half way through our school year, although by looking at the children's books there is no doubt as to the excellent progress that they have all been making, a reward for learning effectively and consistently working extremely hard in every lesson we have.

In Maths, the children have been working on what is possibly the hardest mathematical concept to understand...FRACTIONS. Slowly but steadily, as a result of hour after hour of small steps in progression, the children have becoming knowledgeable and confident about equivalent fractions, adding/subtracting fractions and finding fractions of numbers. They absolutely smashed their end of unit tests and I was immensely proud of what they have achieved. Another area of Maths that we have been revisiting is telling the time, an area of Maths that they had demonstrated they weren't very confident with. Time is another tricky mathematical concept, an important life skill that many children don't have the opportunity to practice doing at home due to emergence of digital clocks/smartwatches. Despite this, we've spent 10 minutes a day working on these skills and now the children are confident with reading the time on an analogue clock...why not try them with these clocks below. In addition to this, the children are continuing to work hard developing their times tables skills in preparation for the National Year 4 Multiplication Check in May. More details of this will be shared with parents during our upcoming teacher-parent meetings.



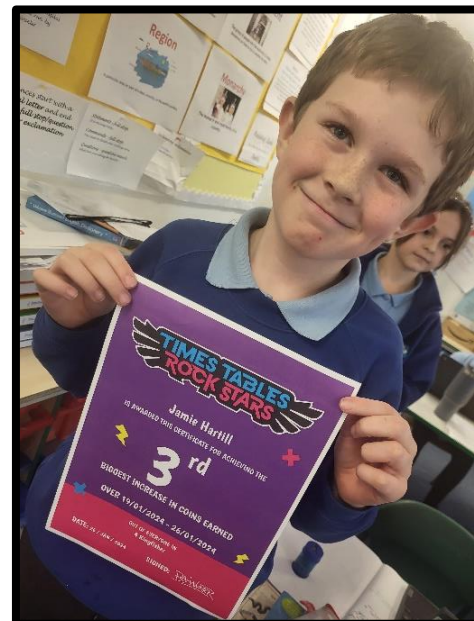
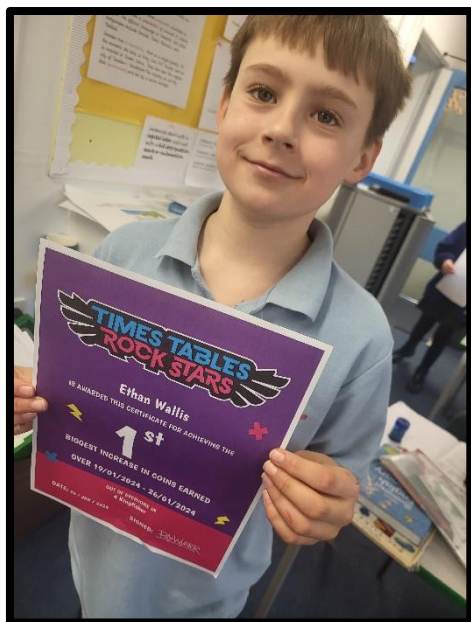
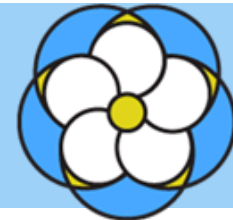
In topic, the children have been learning all about the physical and human geography of Europe, from the countries that make up Scandinavia, all the way down to Southern Europe, looking at Italy, Year 4 have been conducting their own research, finding out about aspects of these countries such as climate, population, popular landmarks and government. Many children have been awarded Gold/Silver awards for their homework projects, which have been produced not only with a lot of care and effort but also to a very high standard. Below you will see images of their excellent work.

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Compassion. Courage.



In computing, we have been looking at all the components that make up a computer network. We have been discussing inputs and outputs and looking at each component's function in a computer set up. As part of the topic, the children had great fun putting together their own 'gaming' set-ups, using a variety of computer components such as headsets, webcams, monitors and keyboards etc...

Finally, in music the class have just began a series of lessons being delivered by the Norfolk Music Service. In these lessons, the class are being taught by a specialist music teacher, who is teaching the children the music curriculum with Ukuleles. This week, the children have been learning how to play Bob Marley's Three Little Birds and The Yellow Submarine by The Beatles. Both of which, despite being decades old now, most seemed to know before starting! The Ukulele is such a great instrument to begin children's musical journeys with, they are both cheap to buy and relatively easy to learn, and the sight of the class strumming (and singing away) to a bit of Bob Marley is such a great sight and one that we undoubtedly need to share with parents in the near future.



Easter Craft Sessions

We will be holding some Easter Craft Sessions, similar to the ones we did at Christmas and would like to invite parents in to join their children for these sessions. The dates are as follow:

Friday 15th March - Year 3 and 4 parents (plus Robin Class) - 2.00 - 3.00pm

Friday 22nd March - Year 5 and 6 parents 2.00 - 3.00 pm

The sessions will be held in the Hall except for Robin Class which will be in their own Classroom.

We look forward to seeing you.

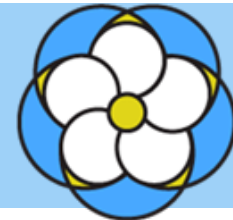
Red Nose Day – Friday 15th March

We will be holding a Non-school Uniform Day on Friday 15th March in aid of Red Nose Day. Please make your donations via the Parentmail app in the usual way.

Unfortunately, we are not selling Red Noses at school this year.



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Big Norfolk Holiday Fun

The Big Norfolk Holiday Fun (BNHF) activity programme provides holiday activities for children and young people aged 5-16 (or 4 if your child is slightly younger but in school) in Norfolk.

Children who receive benefits-related free school meals can claim free spaces on the activities, whilst paid spots are available on many activities for those who don't.

Read more on Big Norfolk Holiday Fun: www.activenorfolk.org/bnhf

The next Big Norfolk Holiday Fun programme will be taking place during the Easter holidays and will run from the **2nd April to 12th April**.

Online booking is now available for most providers visit: <https://www.everymove.uk/inspiration/big-norfolk-holiday-fun-activities>

Find out if your child is eligible for a free place at: www.norfolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

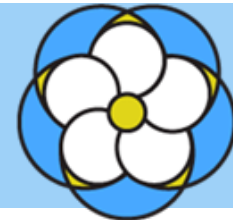
Food Vouchers for Free School Meals eligible pupils

We have been advised that Norfolk County Council is extending the scheme for one additional month up to April 2024. If you are already signed up to receive free school meals you will receive your vouchers on 6th April.

If you are not already signed up and feel that you may be eligible for free school meals, please take a look at the following website for more information:

www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk

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Celebrating Success

Caleb from Year 5 Curlew Class recently set himself the goal of walking 15 miles in half term in the hope of raising £50 for Cats Protection.

With the help of his aunty (and her dog Milo), along with getting up early and giving up precious gaming time, he achieved his goal and ended up raising a fantastic £130. Well done Caleb!



Attendance

Every day at school adds up, so make the most of it.

As part of the national 'Everyday Counts' attendance campaign, we will continue to monitor attendance very closely. If you need support on this matter please make an appointment to see Mrs Dale our pastoral officer or visit www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/attendance

Well Done to the following top three classes for their attendance during the week 26th February to 1st March 2024.

4 Kingfisher	99.52%
4 Woodpecker	96.11%
6 Red Kite	95.16%

Every Day Counts

Missed minutes

missed learning

missed opportunities

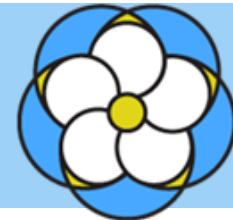
Guidance for Parents / Carers

Good attendance at school is one of the most important factors in ensuring that children and young people have the best opportunities in adult life.

justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/attendance

Norfolk County Council

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Dates for the year ahead:

13/03/24	Parents Evening 3.30 – 5.30pm
14/03/24	Parents Evening 3.30 – 6.30pm (No SATS Booster Club for Yr 6)
14/03/24	Yr 3 & 4 Parents invited into school to work alongside their child 9.00am – 11.30am
14/03/24	Yr 5 & 6 Parents invited into school to work alongside their child 1.30pm – 3.00pm
15/03/24	Easter Craft afternoon with Yr 3 & 4 parents and Robins Class
15/03/24	Red Nose Day – non-school uniform
19/03/24	SEND Parents Meetings 3.30 – 5.30pm
21/03/24	SEND Parents Meetings 3.30 – 5.30pm (No SATS Booster Club for Year 6)
22/03/24	Easter Craft afternoon with Yr 5 & 6 parents
26/03/24	Easter Raffle & Cake Stall 2.50pm
27/03/24	Easter Service at the Church (children only)
28/03/24 – 12/04/24	Easter Holidays
15/04/24	Back to School
22/04/24	SENDCo from Long Stratton High School meeting with Yr 6 SEND Pupils re transition
06/05/24	May Bank Holiday
27/05/24 – 31/05/24	Half Term
03/06/24	Back to School
18/06/24	Class and Yr 6 Leaver Photos
20/06/24	Sports Day 9.00am – 12 noon
19/07/24	Last day of Term

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