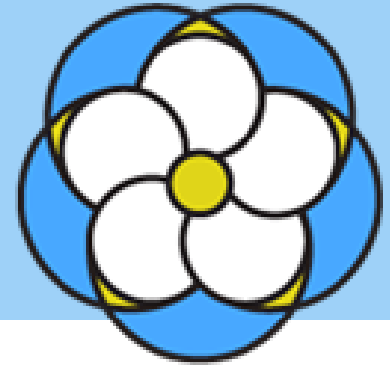


St Mary's Church of England Junior Academy

Newsletter 8 – 28th January 2022



Dear Parents and Carers

We are very encouraged by the possible end in sight of the restrictions and separation caused by two years of a global pandemic. We will still make sure that we are cautious and as safe as we can be, but are looking forward to having more opportunity for shared events, assemblies and collaboration between classes as the recommendations from the government are reduced.

One very clear sign of a positive change are the recently planned visits to the local library by Year 3 pupils. We are keen to encourage a love of reading for pleasure; the best way to do this is to make sure that every child chooses a book that suits their reading ability and is a subject that attracts their interest and attention.

Many children enjoy fiction and fantasy but increasingly children are drawn to books that deal with current affairs, ecology, sports and biographies of celebrities. The choice is endless and we are so pleased that the children have been able to look at the huge choice available at Long Stratton Library.

With the subject of libraries in mind we are committed to making some changes in our school library and want to focus on making it an attractive place to encourage children to visit. We need to do some major refurbishment including changing seating, organisation of bookshelves and increasing our selection of attractive books for children. Watch this space as we will focus on "before" and "after" photos!

We would like to thank all of our teachers for working so hard to cover the increased staff absence over the past weeks. Soon we will have nobody left to catch COVID! Thank you to all of our parents for continuing to engage with the school to ensure that children at home are taking part in the online learning that is provided.

We are concerned at the amount of litter around the school and in the playgrounds. Please encourage your children to put their litter in the bins provided. We want all of our children to understand the importance of keeping their environment clean and tidy.

It's difficult to believe that February begins next week, January is usually such a long month and it has flown by! It will be great to see the longer days as we get closer to spring.

Take care everyone

Regards from

Mrs Lindsay Hanger
Interim Head Teacher

CELEBRATING LEARNING

Congratulations to our Stars of the Week:

Week ending 14th January

3Athens – Ocean L

3Rome – Charlie T

4Merida – Hannah D

4New Orleans – Maddix B-J

5Beijing – Marley C

5Mumbai – Sophie A

6Cape Town – Charlotte A

6Casablanca – Thea H

and, for the week ending 21st January

3Athens – Lola H

3Rome – Archie N

4Merida – Charlie B

4New Orleans – Finley B

5Beijing – Keiran H

5Mumbai – Jacob S

6Cape Town – Joshua McK

6Casablanca – Lucas J



LEARNING AND CURRICULUM NEWS

Spring 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>Coverage</u>	<u>Learning Purpose</u>
6 th January (2 days) 10 th January 17 th January	Raising aspirations	<u>Geography and History</u>	<u>We are Humanitarians</u> – Resilient explorers Creating hallway displays to demonstrate ambitious vocabulary.
24 th January 31 st January		<u>Science</u>	<u>We are Scientists</u> – Making connections Producing informative leaflets to share our learning with parents and carers at home.
7 th February (half term homework project) 21 st February		<u>Art</u>	<u>We are Artists</u> – Inspiring future generations Every child is an artist. Whole school outdoor Art Exhibition
28 th February 7 th March		<u>Reading</u>	<u>We are Readers</u> – Spreading the magic of books TBC by English leads
14 th March 21 st March 28 th March		<u>Computing and DT</u>	<u>We are Technicians</u> – Creating solutions for the future TBC by computing and DT leads

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

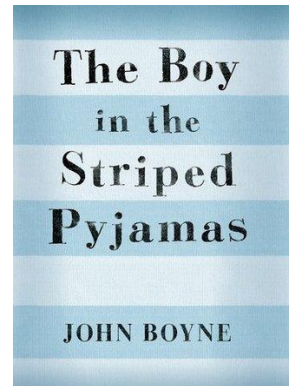
Raising aspirations and a love for learning through courage, resilience, positive relationships and God's love!



Class Learning Blog – 6 Casablanca

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

It has been a busy but rewarding half-term so far in year 6. Our writing has been based on ***The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas***, which has given us a fascinating if not sobering insight into the very real horrors of the Second World War. We are now starting to write our own alternative endings to this story and we are looking forward very much to reading how else this moving story may end.



Our recent topic has been very much linked to this story as we have looked in depth at the conflict and resolution that has been a part of global life over the last hundred years through the first and second World wars. I know that all of year 6 have been hugely engaged with this rich area of history and have learnt a great deal about the world. It has been a delight in Casablanca to hear some of the stories involving family members during the war. We have heard about evacuees and naval soldiers on special missions and it has really helped bring this topic to life. As we move forward we are looking forward to studying the science of evolution and inheritance over the next couple of weeks.

In maths, we have been investigating fractions and decimals and how to convert between the two. We will be expanding our knowledge to percentages shortly and it has been pleasing to see the children grow in confidence in a complex topic.

Our R.E lessons have seen us start to look at the concept of awe, and how this may link to God. We have also begun to study the New Year's Carol by Benjamin Britten in our music lessons.

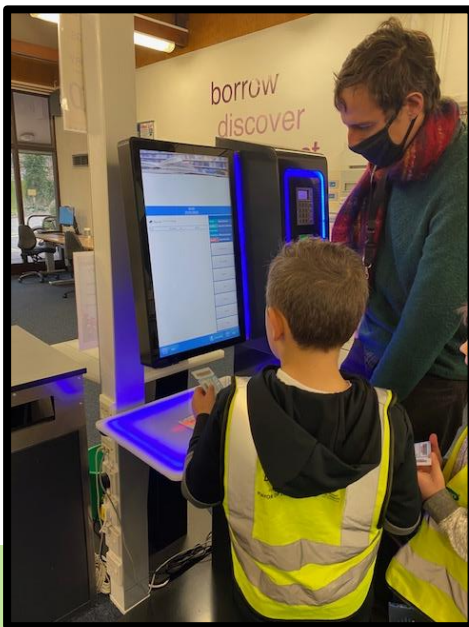
We have also been delighted to welcome our new school councillors and learning ambassadors. Every single candidate put in a huge amount of work into preparing their speeches and they should all be very proud for putting themselves forward. Congratulations to Thea and Adele, our school councillors, and to Mia and Amy, our learning ambassadors. We look forward to seeing how they help to improve the school over the next few terms!

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



Yr3 Rome Library Visit

On Tuesday 25th January, 3 Rome were lucky enough to go on their first school visit for a while albeit only to the Long Stratton Library! All the children thoroughly enjoyed their visit and were introduced to the children's section by the library manager, Ryan Watts, who was also kind enough to create a quiz to test our knowledge of recycling.



It was lovely to see the children enjoying the books and all were amazed by the high-tech machine which allows you to borrow and return books digitally. Next week, it is the turn of 3 Athens!

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Adult Learning

Here at St Mary's, we create a love for learning for all our pupils, and hope this will make them all lifelong learners believing that education is key to success at all stages of life.

Many of the adults in our school continue with their learning in various different ways too, enabling them to become better practitioners and to gain the sense of achievement and pride which comes from completing additional qualifications.

Across the county, there are many free opportunities for parents and carers to undertake courses to gain extra qualifications. The Norfolk County Council website (see link below) provides information and many of the courses can be taken online from the comfort of your own home. The Open University is also offering free access courses to those learners who meet certain criteria (see link).

We hope you will be tempted by these opportunities and would love to hear of any success stories!

https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/adult-learning/courses/search?page=3&searchterm=&subject=English_and_Maths&location=&daterange=

<https://www.open.ac.uk/courses/do-it/access#study-free>

SAFEGUARDING

Supporting mental health.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

We all have mental health, just like we all have physical health. It's about how we think, feel and act. When our mental health is good, we feel motivated and able to take on challenges and new experiences. But when our mental health is not so good, we can find it much harder to cope.

Young Minds is a charity that provides information and advice to young people, parents and carers. The website offers tools to help look after our mental health. It is full of advice and information on what to do if you or your child is struggling with how they feel.



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Norfolk Constabulary Internet Safety Webinars for Parents and Carers

Dear Parents / Carers,

Keeping children safe online is a huge priority for us within the Norfolk Constabulary's Youth Engagement and Safer Schools Teams. The internet is an amazing tool, however, many of the issues the Police deal with when it comes to young people involve online behaviour. The recent Ofcom "Children and parents: media use and attitudes report" (2021) found that 97% of children aged 5 - 15 watch content on video sharing platforms. Only 30% of parents use controls to restrict their children's access to inappropriate content and just over half of 12-15s have had some form of negative online experience.

One of our Safer Schools Support Workers, along with a Safer Schools Police Officer, will be running some webinars on the dates below in which we will provide advice and guidance for parents and carers about how to keep their children safe online. We will talk about the apps and websites young people are likely to be accessing and the risks they face when using these. We will highlight some of the things that parents and carers should be aware of that might indicate that their children are experiencing difficulties online and we will give advice on what to do about this and how to have conversations about internet safety. We expect the webinar will last around an hour and there will be the opportunity to ask any questions you may have about the subject.

Dates Available.

Monday 7th February at 12:00pm

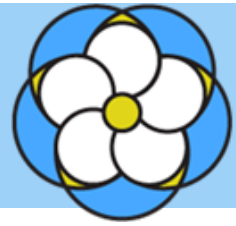
Wednesday 9th February at 12:00pm

The webinar will be held on Microsoft Teams. Please email the Youth Engagement Team mailbox YouthEngagementEvents@norfolk.police.uk, stating the date you wish to attend and we will send you the link to the meeting. (Please note, you should just be able to click on the link in order to access the meeting. You do not need to download the Microsoft Teams app!)

We look forward to seeing you there.



The Youth Engagement Team
Norfolk Constabulary.

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2021 – 2022 CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING...

Charitable Fundraising

2021-2022 Class Charities <i>(Please be advised that we continue to support additional charities such as comic/sports relief, children in need, jeans 4 genes etc)</i>			
LKS2 Class Name	Linked Charity	UKS2 Class Name	Linked Charity
3 Athens	The Hamlet 	5 Beijing	Nelson's Journey 
3 Rome		5 Mumbai	
4 Merida	Norfolk and Waveney Mind 	6 Cape Town	Finnbar's Force 
4 New Orleans		6 Casablanca	
London and After School Club	NSPCC St Mary's Church, Long Stratton		

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CHRISTIAN DISTINCTIVENESS

This half-term we are celebrating 'Raising Aspirations'

We seek for continuous improvement, pushing what we believe we can achieve with hope and ambition.



For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11



"But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

ISAIAH 40:31

Songs for Raising Aspirations:

(click link below)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwjHLKCiaZM> (New Name Written Down in Glory/Jesus is Mine)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BK6J4haWzHI> (Believe – Lin Marsh)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srgQjaB83YA&list=PLzSLwLUyOSnkPZmpKV5d3dXo5KeBV5RkM&index=13> (A Million Dreams – One Voice Children's Choir)



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

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