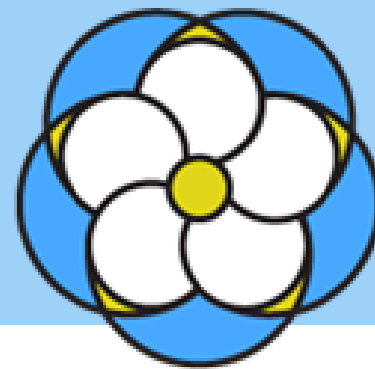


St Mary's Church of England Junior School

Newsletter 8 – 12th February 2021



From the Principal

Dear parents and carers,

What a busy half-term for everyone. We have made sure to use this time, whilst we have fewer children in the school building, to bring forward some projects that we had planned, in order to ensure that when children return to school they have some additional things to look forward to. Read on to find out a bit more!

I am sure you are all looking forward to the upcoming half-term break and would like to encourage you to try to get a well-deserved rest, for both you and your children. We have been focusing a lot on well-being this half-term, understanding that this has been a tricky time for many, and would like to say thank you for all of your hard-work, resilience and perseverance!

If you haven't done so already, please see the links below which are messages from the Principal and SLT, whereby we talk more about your well-being, and that of your children as well. Just click the link, or simply copy and paste into your browser.

For parents': https://stmarysjunior-school-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/head_st-marys_norfolk_sch_uk/EXcNMkgOP_FAgfW4XMuyyFYB8WQzRrpnO-Wj1wH-yMa0SA?e=z3BQMx

For children: https://stmarysjunior-school-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/head_st-marys_norfolk_sch_uk/EailmmoCSDZOsHeiRec2KUsBN-gUk-ommvs7SOjUfh1JBg?e=Hru1jW

We of course look forward to the government's announcement on 22nd February, whereby we anticipate some direction regarding schools re-opening. No doubt, it will also raise further queries, and so we will ask for your patience whilst we plan following the announcement. We will ensure to let you know as soon we are able, the plans that will be in place moving forward.

In the meantime, enjoy the break, enjoy the snow, and enjoy some quality time together and look after yourselves!

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
Remote Learning Stars of the Week:*

Week ending 5th February

*3 Potter: Kaleb W, Amelia S, Lewis H,
Faye L*

3 Dahl: Olivia F, Finley B, Beatrix M

4 Curie: Harriet H, Sophie H, Lucie-May H

*4 King Jr: Darcey M, Arthur N,
Phoebe D, Dexter N*

5 Attenborough: Lewis W, Olly W

5 Bevan: Adele O, Oliver T, Lois B, Mia F

*6 Parks: Merryn P, Molly S, Sophie N,
Chloe H*

6 Switzer: Abbie M, Sam P-S, Alfie B

And, for the week ending 12th February

*3 Potter: Michael A, Lily-Mae B, Molly H,
Thomas B*

3 Dahl: Edward L, Layla-Rose M, Jack C

4 Curie: Iyla H, Rudo M, Bella D

*4 King Jr: Zac B, Aylin B, Kaison P
Luka W*

5 Attenborough: CJ B-J, Poppy O'N

*5 Bevan: Ethan W, Cody W, Lois B,
Alife C*

6 Parks: Everyone in Parks

6 Switzer: Sophie N, Sophie H, Logan W



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>Show What We Know about...</u>	<u>Learning purpose</u>	<u>Lead</u>
4 th January	Raising aspirations	Geography	We are Geographers The Lay of the Land -Project based displays	Miss Laurie (Mrs Kirman)
11 th January				
18 th January		Science	We are Scientists Animals including humans -Science Display	Mrs Page Mr Power
25 th January				
1 st February				
8 th February		God's Love	Art	We are Artists A close study of great artists through the centuries. -Art exhibition
22 nd February				
1 st March	Reading		We are Readers We love reading- celebrating our joy for reading and... books, glorious books! Activities, competitions and World Book Day	Mrs Beuttell Miss Dutton Mrs Elvin (Mr Miller, Miss Laurie)
8 th March				
15 th March				
22 nd March				
		History	We are Historians Horrible Histories British and local history -'History on show'	Miss Laurie (Mrs Kirman)

*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!



SCHOOL NEWS, UPDATES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

School Lunches – Tuesday 23rd February

For those pupils who are back in school on Tuesday 23rd February, please note that we will be having the following menu on the Tuesday which is the usual Week 1 Monday choice:

Margherita Pizza and Potato Wedges and Rainbow Salad

Or

Jacket Potato with Veggie Mince Bolognese and Vegetable Medley (v)

Or

Cheese or Ham Sandwich

We will then continue with Week 1 Menu from Wednesday 24th February.

We are Readers – A plea to parents!

Our next curriculum topic, We Are Readers, begins on Tuesday 23rd February and is a celebration of books, books and more books! As it is not possible to include parents in our celebrations due to the ongoing pandemic, we would like some brave volunteers to take part in some virtual storytelling.

This would involve recording yourself reading a short story (this could be a picture book or a chapter of your favourite children's novel) and submitting it to the school via email. We then plan to share these stories in our 'Secret Reader' sessions over the two-week period, both in school and on google classroom. The idea is that children will have no idea who is going to be reading to them and the suspense and intrigue will (hopefully) encourage them to listen and enjoy. If you really want to make an impact, you could even dress up as a character while you read (although this is optional!). We will, of course, ensure your own child sees your story (but don't spoil the surprise!)

The recording can be made on most smartphones, laptops and there is also a facility on Zoom which allows you to record a meeting of yourself. MP4 is the most widely accepted format.

Recordings can be submitted to d.beuttell@st-marys.norfolk.sch.uk, as can any queries.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Beuttell and Miss Dutton



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PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

Ms Cranmer: "Mrs Beuttell, would you like to take on the role of PE Lead at St Mary's?"

Mrs Beuttell: "Hmmm, let me have a think about it..."

Ms Cranmer: "I can give you lots of (Sports Premium) money to spend."

Mrs Beuttell: "Money? For new things? Yes please!!"



This was sort of the conversation Ms Cranmer and I had last September! I do love a little project so when I was asked to take over as PE lead (and told I could have a budget), I excitedly began to make plans!

This week, one of the plans has finally been completed. After speaking to Mr Hughes about our playground markings, I discovered they hadn't been done for many, many years so I set about having some new games and activities marked out. Both playgrounds now have new sports courts (which include basketball keys and areas to play mini-football), mile a day markings around the edges, fitness zones, agility trails and target practice.

As you can see from the pictures, our Year 4 keyworker group were among the first children to have a go!

Our Year 3 keyworker group have also had a play and here is some of the lovely feedback they gave:

Eva-Bess- I loved the obstacle course because it was lots of fun to do different things.

Edward- I liked everything.

Bea- I liked the hopscotch.

Dexter - Jack and I liked the daily mile. We did 12 laps! We read this on the playground.

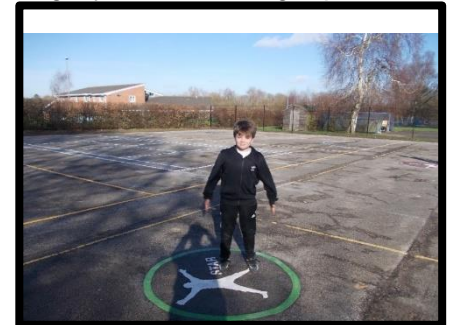
Baran- The playground reminded me of ROBLOX.

Amelia -T- I liked everything.

Daniel- I liked everything and it reminded me of an obstacle course.

Levi- I liked the daily mile and I did 2 miles; that's 24 laps.

Amelia - I liked the mini football pitch



We really hope the rest of the school can come and join in the fun soon. In the meantime, watch this space for news of our new wooden play equipment which will be installed on the school field.

Mrs Beuttell

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COVID Symptoms during Half Term

If your child has been attending school and they develop symptoms of Covid for 48 hours after the last day of term, please contact us using the Covid email address covid@st-marys.norfolk.sch.uk, so that we can make the necessary arrangements to isolate bubbles where required.

Isaac, Curie Class helps his brother raise money for Charity.

Isaac's brother who is 20months old, was born with heart defects and is climbing his stairs 125 times for charity. Isaac has been an excellent support and is keeping a tally of each climb!

Please take a look at this article from this week's EDP

<https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/long-stratton-family-raise-money-for-tiny-tickers-7317116?fbclid=IwAR1k7hpOCZbq8C0FD7pLz4MfB-ufNWCF7mJHKZFZVFTMArroO8DP63mnHBc>

Virtual Half Term Camp from Barracudas

We know it's been really tough for parents and children working from home and home schooling, so we've put together a virtual half term camp with activities available online led by some of our fantastic staff!

We've also added some more free resources to our website with fun activities children can try on their own at home. Entertaining children and keeping them active in the school holidays is what we do, so we thought we'd help out this half term and make the holiday more enjoyable for kids and easier for parents.

Please see our timetable of events and the link below to our free Virtual half term camp activities:

<https://www.barracudas.co.uk/locations-prices/virtual-half-term-camp/>



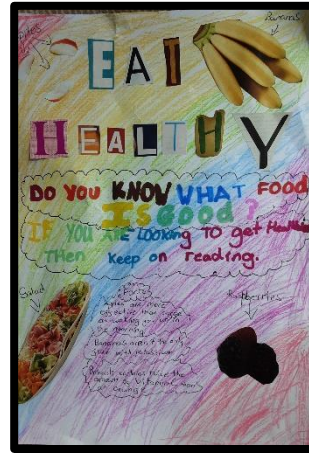
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THE GALLERY



Max, Dahl Class
Kandinsky inspired
apples picture



Eleanor, Dahl Class
Persuasive Poster
about Healthy Eating

My beautiful world
I can see bright red roses all day long
Sit there and listen to the birds tweeting and the wind whistling.
See the snowflakes melt in the winter nights
Swim in the sky blue sea in the summer season
Playing with my sister making sandcastles on the beach
Such a beautiful world
Eating cake on my birthday with my family
Having midnight feasts on sleepovers with my friends
Sitting on the beach eating fish and chips
Playing fetch with my cat
Such a beautiful world
Doing bike rides with my dad
Playing in the paddling pool with my friends
Baking with my mum
Playing bowling
Going to my friend's birthday parties



Charles
Rennie Mackintosh
inspired artwork by
Aiden, Curie

My Beautiful World by Lucie, King Jr Class



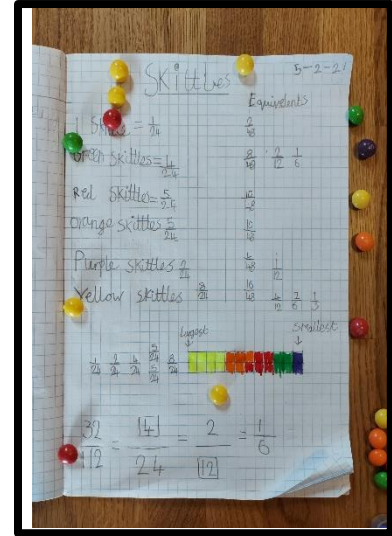
Fun Snow Pictures!



William Morris inspired
Artwork by
Poppy, Attenborough
Class

and

Maths Skittle Challenge
by Olly, Attenborough
Class



Dear Ms. Cranmer,

I am writing to inform you about the most wonderful idea I have been thinking through and through for absolutely ages. I assume that you have heard Sir Anthony Seldon explain that "Every school needs a pet for wellbeing." Many previous education secretaries have supported this idea and I am sure you do as well. Clearly, having a school dog like many other academic buildings across the country, will improve the already spectacular school life at Saint Mary's.

I am confident that you will believe me when I say that, like Mr. Damian Hinds told the conference, that the relentless presence of social media made growing up "more pressurised". Hinds said young people were under pressure from false expectations created by this, such as TikTok. Certainly, it would be easier for such a fantastic headmistress like you to have a fabulous school dog to help adjust those problems, so you will be able to focus on some more urgent issues. This is not a prohibited idea, as I can gladly reassure you. Did you know that school pets - especially dogs - help soothe anxiety, just by their presence? I am delighted to say that most school's dogs are proving to make pupils feel more secure and able to concentrate better!

Did you know that having a school dog is a very easy method that surely will help to improve wellbeing issues? Headteachers across the globe need to think about wellbeing being taught as well as education, but it's undeniable that you already do make matters even better, children can relate to animals when they are hurt, anxious and sad in a way that they can't always with humans!

If you have already been informed, you will recall that quite a few universities have increasingly been bringing pets on to campuses at exam times, as a way of reducing stress. The education secretary said "that his visits had shown Damian how common "wellbeing dogs" were becoming in schools." As you already know, the Year 6 students are constantly gobsmacked about the tests and exams piling up on their teacher's desk. I've already said that children feel better with animals when they are anxious. I'm sure that all test results would increase miles above the standard rate. Do you want a better imprint on the entire school?

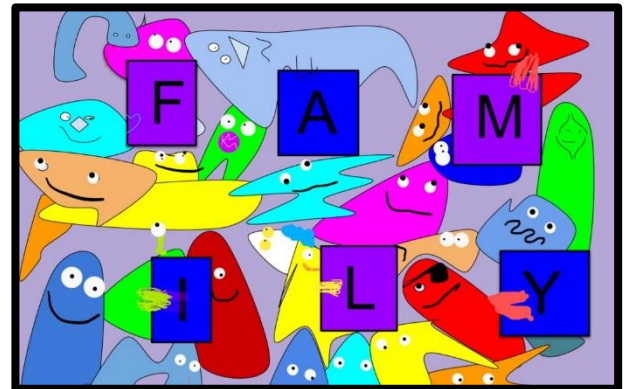
In utter conclusion, Mr. Hinds said (and I'm positive that you'll agree), that having at least one dog in every school across the country is the quickest way to improve staff and pupils wellbeing. "This is one of those things that wasn't around when I was at school, and "it's hard to think of an easier, quicker benefit," he stated. Just one dog in Year 6 would mean that the internet problems would be solved, children would learn wellbeing - not all schools get that opportunity! - and our already big test results would go up. I'm certain that we'll all be child geniuses if we go with this idea. I have a very strong and powerful instinct that you have a few things playing on your mind, and now they're all solved! Miss Dutton has very kindly said that she will train this dog to be a mature, role-model to all other schools with pets. Lastly, if some students have allergies, we will get another species or breed. Plus, it will teach children to be kind and caring to animals. Wouldn't this help climate change?

I would give up all my test results for this amazing opportunity for our school to shine in the spectacular, academic world.

Having a pet from a dog to a mare,
Will help schools with their mental welfare!

Yours sincerely,
Isla, 6Switzer

Jon Burgermann artwork by Madison, Switzer Class

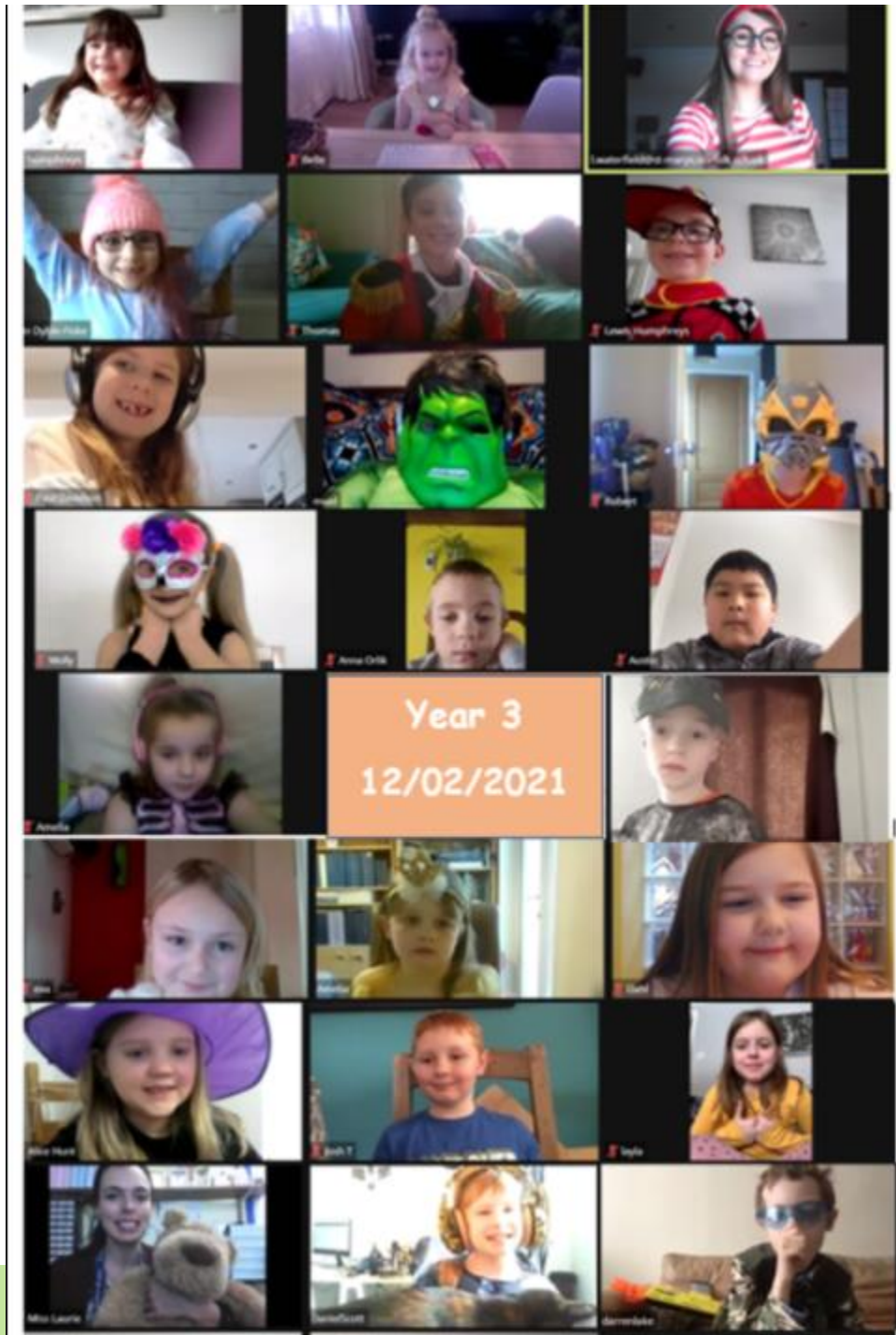


Persuasive Letter by Isla, Switzer Class

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YEAR 3 FANCY DRESS DAY





2020 – 2021 CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING...

Please don't forget that St Marys Church of England Junior School - Long Stratton is registered with easyfundraising. So, although we're unable to get together and hold fundraising events in person, we can continue to raise free funds, at no extra cost to you.











When you shop via the easyfundraising website or app, with over 4,100 of your favourite retailers, including John Lewis & Partners, eBay, Amazon and many more, you will raise FREE donations for the school.

If you're not already registered, please visit our easyfundraising page here:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmaryscoejs/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=s-e3

This will really make a difference to our school! Thank you for your support.

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	 mind for better mental health	4 Curie has raised £142.16 for	Marie Curie Cancer Care 
5 Bevan has raised £16.16 for	 each East Anglia's Children's Hospices	5 Attenborough has raised £16.16 for	 WWF World Wildlife Fund
6 Parks has raised £16.16 for	 STOP HATE UK STOP HATE. START HERE	6 Switzer has raised £160.66 for	 JDRF IMPROVING LIVES. CURING TYPE 1 DIABETES.
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...



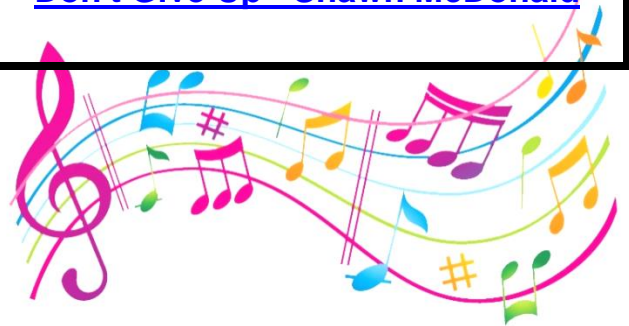
St Mary's Church of England Junior School

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>



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

Contact us: St Mary's Church of England Junior School
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01508 530459

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