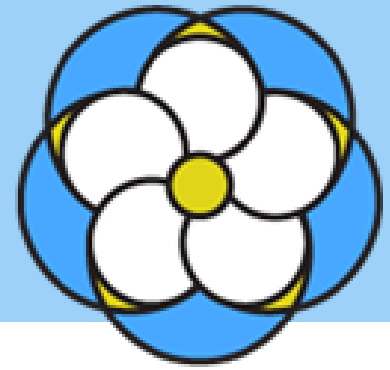


St Mary's Church of England Junior Academy

Newsletter 9 – 11th February 2022



Dear Parents and Carers

The first half term of 2022 has been one of the most challenging ever in terms of managing staff absence. We are sure that all parents and children would like to share our grateful thanks to all of the staff who have come forward to cover and cope with an unprecedented number of staff absences. The staffing issues have not gone unnoticed by many and we apologise to everyone who has been affected by a number of issues, including keeping in touch, meeting and greeting in the mornings and organising home times. We have tried not to cause any panic, but I have to be truthful in saying that there were some occasions when we had to consider closing certain year groups; thankfully we have avoided this.

We are very encouraged by the latest Government news that all self-isolation will cease from 21st February, this will make everyone's life so much easier.

We are very sorry to have had to say goodbye to Mr Miller, a valued and popular teacher in Year 4. He is pursuing his career in a school in Norwich. Miss Dutton will have overall responsibility, with Mrs Beuttell sharing, in Year 4 New Orleans whilst we look at possible recruitment after Easter. The children have been very sad to see Mr Miller go but we are sure that everyone wishes him success in his future career. We will keep in touch with him and hope that the children will be able to write to him with news about how they are getting on.

The demands of teaching will not be without impact in the Senior Leader Team office and there will be very limited capacity for responding quickly to messages and emails from parents. Please bear with us as we understand that communication is very important but we will be busy teaching in the classrooms and might not be able to reply or call as quickly as usual.

We are pleased that the introduction of staggered timings has had an impact on the children's experiences whilst eating and playing at lunchtime. We would like to thank Miss Laurie and Mrs Dale for their vision for The Temple which is provided for children who prefer a quieter, more structured time at lunchtime. Donations of good quality appropriate toys to be used in The Temple are always needed; you are welcome to bring in items that your children no longer use. We are looking into providing structured sports activities for children during the coming warmer days to make their lunchtimes even more enjoyable.

We would like to wish everyone a restful half term break and look forward to the lighter mornings and afternoons as we return for the second half of the term on 21st February 2022.

Regards from

Mrs Lindsay Hanger
Interim Head Teacher

CELEBRATING LEARNING

*Congratulations to our
Stars of the Week:*

Week ending 28th January

3Athens – Luke B

3Rome – Reece H

4Merida – Anaiya M

4New Orleans – Dexter C

5Beijing – Stanley McC

5Mumbai – Aylin B

6Cape Town – Libby R

6Casablanca – James W

and, for the week ending
4th Feb

3Athens – Megan H

3Rome – Ivy-Lea H

4Merida – Holly D-F

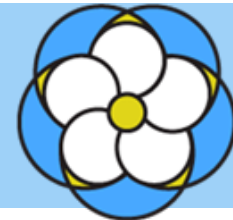
4New Orleans – Olivia F

5Beijing – Francesca W-S

5Mumbai – Anna B

6Cape Town – Esther D

6Casablanca – Poppy 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>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!

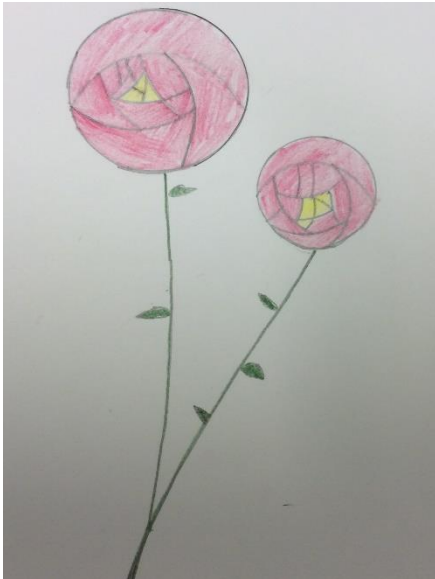


Class Learning Blog – 4 New Orleans

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

This week in 4 New Orleans we've been working hard on Maths and English assessments but mixing it up nicely by enjoying some relaxing afternoons of Art learning about Scottish artist, architect and designer Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

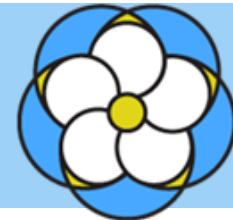
Below are some lovely examples of the children's interpretations of Mackintosh's rose motif which show the range of work produced; from Arran's simple but very precise and careful rendition to Bea's rather more psychedelic approach. I'm sure you'll agree that both examples are very beautiful in their own way.



As this is my last week at the school (I will be starting work at a school closer to where I live after the Half Term break), I'd like to thank all of the children, parents and colleagues I've had the pleasure of working with over the last 2 and a half years for their support, enthusiasm and kindness.

Mr Miller

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



PE Days – Reminder to Parents

Please remember that on PE days we ask that all children arrive in school, correctly dressed in suitable PE Kit including footwear.

- T-shirt
- Jogging bottoms or shorts depending on weather
- Track suit top
- Trainers or soft shoes

Earrings should be removed or covered with tape if removal is not possible. Children who arrive in school wearing unsuitable clothing and footwear will have to miss their PE session and complete work in a parallel class.

Please remember that all long hair needs to be tied back appropriately. This is a health and safety requirement.



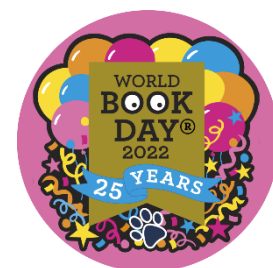
Art Exhibition

We are very excited to announce that St Mary's church will be hosting an exhibition to showcase the hard work our pupils have put into their 'We Are Artists' topic this term.

The exhibition will be open to all parents, children and members of the public on Monday 28th February, Tuesday 1st March and Wednesday 2nd March between 3.15 and 4.15pm. All children at St Mary's will have their work on display - please pop down to view it!

World Book Day – Thursday 3rd March

It is World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March and we would love pupils to come to school dressed as a book character. Year 6 will be having their PE day on the Wednesday this week instead of the Thursday. All pupils will also be bringing home a £1 book token on this day to spend on a book of their choice.



Parent Consultations

We will be holding Parent Consultations for Years 3, 4 and 5 on 1st and 2nd March. Please look out for appointment times on Parentmail when these become available. Year 6 will have theirs later in March during the week commencing 28th March.

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Learning Ambassadors and School Councillors

Congratulations to our Learning Ambassadors and School Councillors who were announced last week. Today, we had our first meeting and distributed the all-important badges. I was very impressed with how seriously all the children are responding to their responsibilities. At our next meeting, we will be giving feedback to each other about our learning and nominating a chair.

School Councillors

Years 3 & 4



Years 5 & 6



Learning Ambassadors

Years 3 & 4



Years 5 & 6

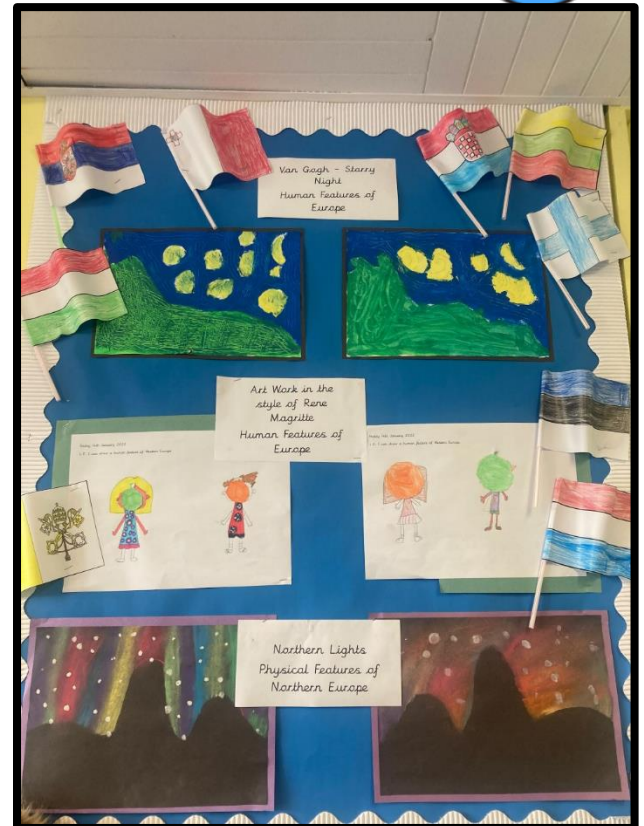
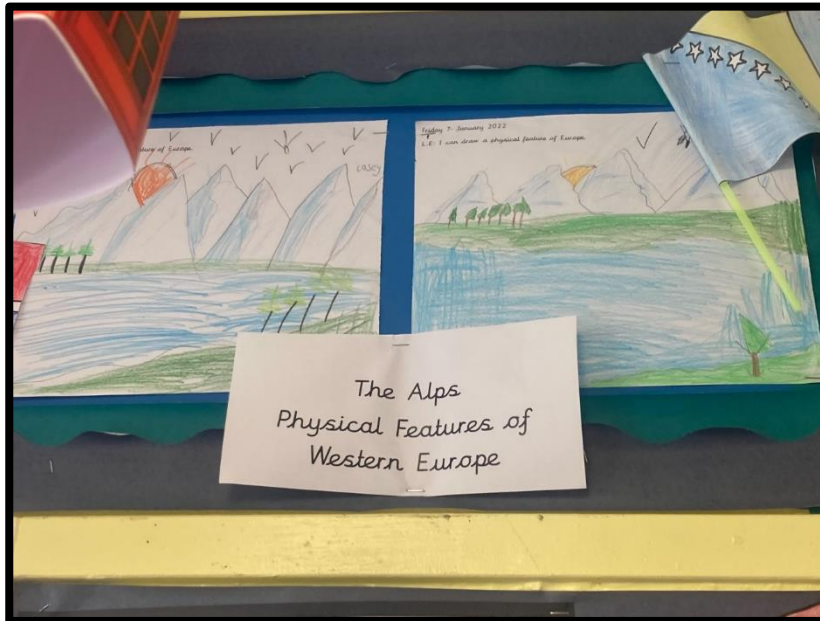


***Raising aspirations and a love for learning through
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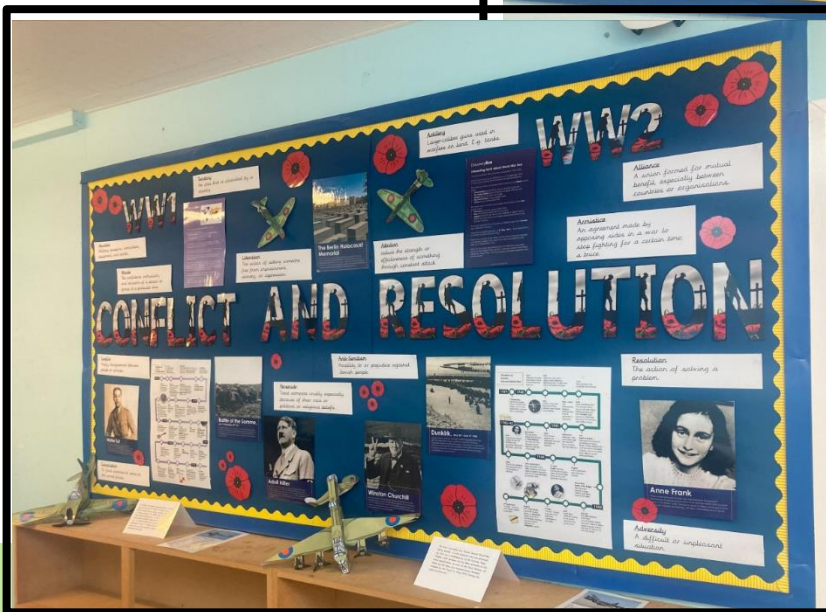


Pupils Work on Display

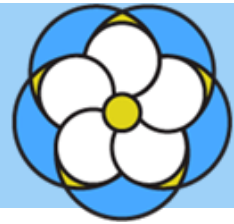
A huge thank you to all of the teachers and children who have contributed to creating some of our fantastic new displays, showcasing our 'We are Resilient Explorers' unit. The displays really show off how hard our pupils have worked this half term, and all of the new technical vocabulary they have acquired. Well done everyone!



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



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SAFEGUARDING

Online Safety

As a parent or carer, you play a key role in helping your child to stay safe online.

The below age-limits for video games and social media will help support safe, responsible and positive use at home.



The minimum age to open a **Facebook** account is **13 years old**.



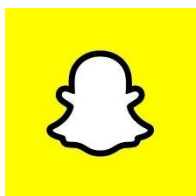
The minimum age for **Tik Tok** is **13 years old**.



You should be **13 years old or over** to use **Instagram**.



Fortnite is a game suitable for anyone **12 years or older**.



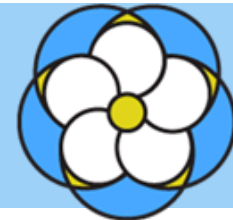
The minimum age for **Snapchat** is **13 years old**.

Below is a link to a 2-minute video showing how to set up child-friendly **PS5 and PS4 games** accounts with age-limits:

<https://www.askaboutgames.com/news/playstation-5-parental-controls-introduction-video>









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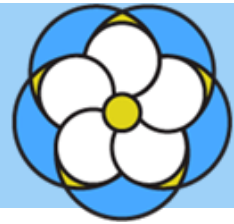


2021 – 2022 CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING...

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 |  |  |

Raising aspirations and a love for learning through
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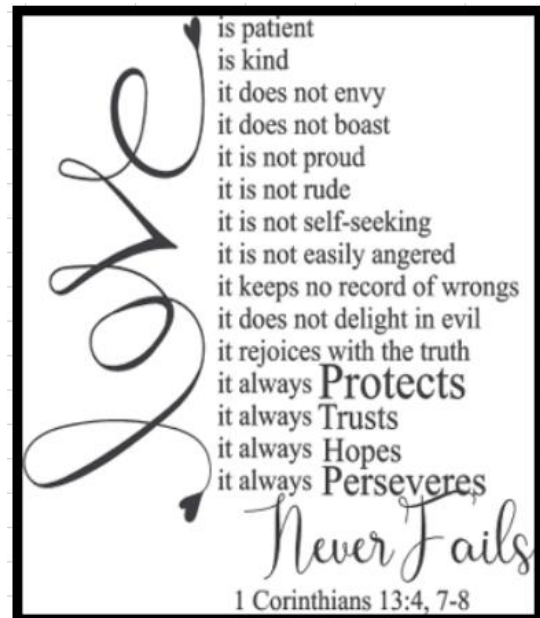
CHRISTIAN DISTINCTIVENESS

This half-term we are celebrating 'God's Love'

We develop a positive, joyful community spirit, contributing to the wider community through the love of God.

 Diocese of Norwich
St Benet's
Multi Academy Trust

*For God
so loved the world,
that He gave His
only Son
John 3:16*



Songs for God's Love:

(click link below)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sc6SSHuZvQE> (Reckless Love)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rv6_fpUzjdc (Love Like This – Lauren Daigle)



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

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