



# St Mary's News

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January

## Home/School Learning

Well it's been full steam ahead for remote learning this week with our three infant classes all working from home. Most children across the school are managing to access their daily tasks and activities via School Spider on our website. A lot of children are feeding back to school how they are getting on, with many using a mixture of their Home Learning packs and digital. A massive well done to all our children and their parents in supporting them with this.



This week has seen our first full week of Live Lessons offered via MS Teams. All the infant children are invited to a Letters and Sounds session with their classteacher each morning. In KS2 there has been a range of live lessons across the classes. On the whole, it has gone remarkably well and we have had some lovely feedback from many of you. Harry from Y2 says he is really enjoying the sessions and we even had a dog join us on Wednesday morning in Y2!

Thank you for being so patient and kind. It has been a steep learning curve for many of us!

Where we did have problems, ICT support from the LA worked tirelessly with us to try and rectify the problem, however it perplexed them just as much as it did us here in school. ICT support have made a few changes here in school and it did run more smoothly - but it is still not completely resolved and we are working on it. Watch this space!

Lessons on the dashboard will be kept active until the close of school on Friday. For those of you who are juggling home learning and working from home, should you choose to complete work at the weekend, you can go onto the School Spider site and download the work before it is removed on Friday afternoon.



## School Website

In this ever-changing situation, please keep up to date with the school website. Please be aware that you may have to scroll down to the bottom of the screen in order to see the latest updates and letters

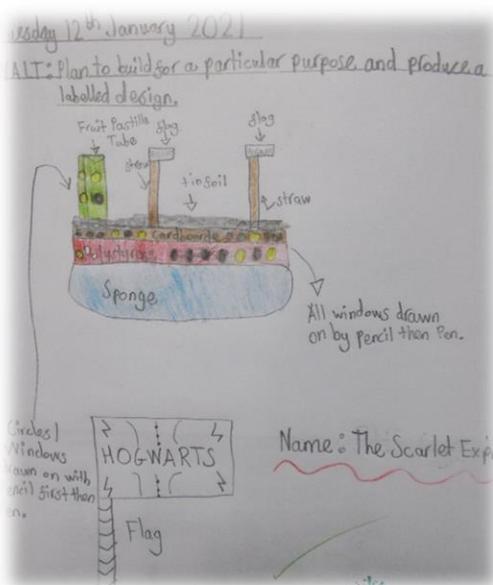
(particularly in relation to the 'Coronavirus Updates' page).

## Class Updates - this week we will focus on KS2

As previously mentioned, this week has been a busy one, with children learning remotely from home and in person at school. Here is a little summary of what everyone has been up to.

### Year 6

We have been extremely busy this week! Our maths lessons have been run as live Teams meetings. It was lovely seeing everyone on screen (and a few pets made appearances as well!) Our maths lessons have been based on fractions and the children have coped extremely well with some difficult concepts this week. In literacy, we've just started a unit on Sherlock Holmes and have been looking at images of Victorian London to inspire us to write a very detailed, historically accurate setting description. The fun doesn't stop there! We've taken part in athletics, learned all about adaptation in science and designed our very own boats, which we are going to test for their buoyancy. All in all, a very busy week! Here are a few of our designs.



## Year 4

The children in Year 4 have adapted to home learning brilliantly! It has been lovely to see so many of them joining the classroom each day for our live lessons! They have worked so hard this week and sent some fantastic work into school, Miss Gradwell is really proud of them all! The children, in class and at home have started the new term by beginning to explore their new topic The Rotten Romans! They have learnt about the legend of Romulus and Remus and have spent time learning how to create a timeline using events from the Roman era. In geography they have explored the continent of Europe, using maps to identify the countries in Europe and their capital cities. Their memories were put to the test in a missing countries quiz, the children were better than Miss Gradwell at identifying which countries had been removed from the map! They have also begun their new science topic by looking at the properties of solids, liquids and gases and sorting items into these three categories. Finally, they have spent time on their new RE topic, Community, looking at the importance of the apostles and discovering the people that help make up the Church community. I think you will agree they have had a busy start to the term! Keep up the amazing work Year 4!

## Year 5

This week, Year 5 have all joined in with the Microsoft Teams Maths live lessons every morning, and Miss Davies is so proud of them for managing to adapt so well to this new way of learning with enthusiasm and determination! We have been learning all about perimeter so far.

Y5 have also been introduced to their new class novel 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes, which fits into their new 'Stargazers' Space topic. They have completed lots of exciting writing activities in between reading chapters of the story and have worked very hard to produce some excellent descriptive writing- including a diary entry, robot action and character descriptions.

We have started our new R.E. topic, 'Mission- Life Choices' and have discussed how we can become inspirational leaders through our love of God- finding a mission we can achieve in life that has only been given to us. We created our own charities and discussed why and how they would inspire others.

Finally, we have researched and watched videos about different Life Cycles, including amphibians and mammals, and will be comparing them with other life cycles next week.

### Year 3

This week Year 3 have risen to the challenges of home learning and key worker school. In Come and See we have started our new 'Journeys' topic and we have been looking at our journey through the year. Year 3 have enjoyed our daily maths Teams sessions and our quick daily catch up. We have started reading the BFG which is linked to our new writing unit. Year 3 have completed our daily tasks as well as working on iPads to practise our times tables. We have been finishing off our last few pieces of work on Ancient Egypt.

Well done Year 3, I am very proud of you!

### Increasing Numbers of Covid-19 cases in the community

Please read the letter on the website asking if you could re-consider your child's place in school. If you can and have not already done so, please contact the office.

### ABC Club

Regretfully, from next week, ABC Breakfast and After School Care Club will no longer be open. When we are in a position to open once again, we will let you know ASAP.



### Return to School Following Closure of Infant Bubbles



Y2 children of **Critical Workers** only - **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January**

**PLEASE ONLY SEND YOUR CHILD INTO SCHOOL IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY**



Reception and Y1 children of **Critical Workers** only - **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January**

**PLEASE ONLY SEND YOUR CHILD INTO SCHOOL IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND YOUR CHILDREN INTO SCHOOL WITH THEIR HOME LEARNING PACKS. WE WILL QUARANTINE THEM BEFORE WE USE THEM!**

**Welcome to the Senior Leadership Team**

Mrs Cotterill (Y3 Class Teacher) and Mrs Naylor (Y6 Class Teacher) have been appointed as Head of Lower KS2 (Y3 and Y4) and Head of Upper KS2 respectively. We wish them both the very best of luck and know what a marvellous job they'll both do!



**Thank You**

A special thank you to Mrs Bailey, one of our local parishioners, who has very kindly bought and donated a brand new laptop to school. She hopes it will help one of our children with their home learning during these difficult times.



As the Wizard of Oz says:

Stay safe at home.

Take care everyone!

