



St Mary's News



Friday 22nd January

Home/School Learning

We are now getting into the rhythm of setting work for critical worker children present in school and those children learning from home, and we are very pleased with all the feedback we have had from parents this week. It has been overwhelmingly positive and, where there have been hiccups, staff have been working in partnership with parents/carers at home to address any concerns. Please continue to bear with us during the next few weeks as our knowledge and understanding of Teams continues to grow.



Remember that 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. Work does not need to be uploaded if it is completed during a live lesson, but this is down to personal preference.



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 the Infant Department

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 in the infants has been up to.

Year 2

Our science this term has focused on materials and their properties and lots of you enjoyed going on a material hunt around the house. In maths we have been focusing on

multiplication and looking at various strategies to solve multiplication calculations. The children are becoming adept at explaining their strategies using the correct mathematical terminology. We are also able to use our growing fluency with times tables to help us work efficiently. In Come and See we have been talking about ways we can think like Jesus, speak like Jesus and love like Jesus. The children had some really lovely ideas about how they can spread the Good News of Jesus. Our live phonics sessions have been a great success and the children have been using a range of strategies to help them learn how to read words with new spelling patterns.

Year 1

Despite the dreadful, dreary weather this week, Year 1 have been very focused and both our 'school superstars' and 'home learning heroes' have been working tremendously hard.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed the live phonics sessions, which have been taking place every day and we are sure that the mummies and daddies have learnt a few 'technical terms' from these sessions, such as phoneme, grapheme and even split diagraph! Children loved seeing their friends on the Interactive Whiteboard!

We finished our maths lessons looking at, and using, addition strategies and we are due to start subtraction on Monday. We continued with our topic of Special People in Come and See and learnt about all the different roles in the parish church. The children chose their favourite role, wrote about it, and drew pictures to illustrate their writing.



Our new topic of The Great Fire of London is proving to be a roaring success, with children showing such passion and interest in their learning of this memorable event. We have looked at how the fire started, how the city of London coped with this and next, we will be learning about a famous person called Samuel Pepys and the diary that he wrote and then buried, along with his smelly cheese and wine!

We continue to be proud of our Year 1 children and the way in which they have adapted to their different learning environments, whether they be at home or school. They are all shining stars!

Reception

Our Reception children have worked their socks off this week. Here's what we've all been up to...

We are learning about 'Special Days' in Come and See as part of our Other Faiths topic. We will be exploring Hanukkah next week.

In literacy, we are enjoying a new story, 'The Fox's Sack'. We have been retelling the story through story mapping, story stepping, singing and role play.

We are exploring the composition of numbers to 5 in maths. We have been finding out different combinations of numbers that make 5.

We are also working on strengthening our fine motor skills this half term. Last week, we enjoyed Dough Disco and this week we played lots of peg games.

Finally, the children at school have loved seeing their home learning friends during phonics this week. We hope our friends at home enjoyed joining us on Teams for our phonics sessions 😊 Keep up the super work, Reception!

Keeping Numbers in School To A Minimum

Thank you to those parents who have been able to keep their children at home on certain days due to their work patterns. This has helped to slightly reduce the number of children attending school on some days. However, we are still appealing to any parents who can help with this to keep their children safe at home: you can contact school if you are able to support your children to learn from home. We want everyone to be as safe as possible and, as previously stated, the work being completed in school is identical to the work being posted online for children learning from home.

Thoughts and Prayers

This week has seen some very extreme weather in our part of the world. While it is inconvenient for most of us, it has been devastating for many. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those people who have been affected by the severe weather from Storm Cristoph.

The terrible weather has, at times, hindered our opportunities to go outside for fresh air, but we are keeping windows open and distancing from each other as much as possible to keep everyone safe.

ABC Club

Remains closed until further notice.



Superstar Class awards and Home Learning Heroes

	<u>Superstar in School</u>	<u>Home learning Hero</u>
Reception	Domhall	Jax
Year 1	Leo	George
Year 2	Bobby	Martha
Year 3	Emily	Luca
Year 4	Olivia M	Sonny
Year 5	Jacob	Declan
Year 6	Lily	Millie

Well-being Week - w/c 25th January

As we approach the fourth week of National Lockdown, we thought we would take some time to focus our minds on everyone's well-being next week. It has been a tough time for everyone and, with this in mind, next week teachers will be posting some activities which will focus on positive mental health and self-affirmation. We will be using the excellent resources available at @Elsa Support (www.elsa-support.co.uk) and directing the children and their grown-ups to various activities throughout the week. We think it is really important that we take time out each day to focus on the positives, recognise all our wonderful talents and skills, and make sure we are talking to each other about how we feel.

For all our parents and carers doing a marvellous job of juggling all the different roles at home, this short news clip from the BBC reminds us how, in these challenging times, being 'good enough' is absolutely okay! It offers five top tips for helping your child and seeing "value in everyday learning and experiences" which many of you are embracing in this current climate. Take a look (it's only short!)

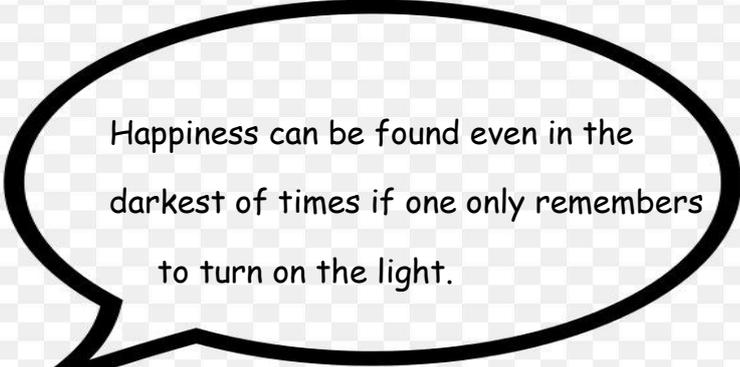
www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-55620288.

Parents' Evening

We are planning to hold parents' meetings later in the Spring Term, towards Easter, and not before the February half-term as is our usual practice. Clearly, these will have a different feel to our usual parents' evenings due to the situation we are currently in, but the opportunity will still be provided for you to converse with your child's teacher about their development. Look out for more details in future newsletters. Thank you.

Home Learning Catch Up

Hopefully, everyone learning from home has been contacted by a member of staff this week for a catch-up over the phone. It has been lovely for staff to hear the feedback that has been given by many of you. It has been predominantly positive and really makes the challenge of setting home learning and teaching live lessons worthwhile. Those who have raised concerns have allowed us to tweak our practice slightly where necessary to ensure home learning becomes even more effective.



Happiness can be found even in the
darkest of times if one only remembers
to turn on the light.

Albus Dumbledore

Take care everyone!

Let's all remember: We must stay at home. The single most important action we can all take is to stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives.

