



St Nicholas Church of England Primary School

Our Christian Community Growing and Learning Together

Spring 2 Newsletter 2019

Message from the Head Teacher

Welcome to our final newsletter for the Spring Term! The term has been packed with fantastic opportunities for our children to apply their maths and English skills to a wide range of activities. As you will see from the class summaries, children have taken part in Book Week, Science and maths week and DT week. There has also been several school trips, which have been highly successful and further enhanced the children's learning.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank all our parent helpers, who have accompanied the children on trips and walks to the church. Furthermore, I would like to give Mr Sharpe a special thank you for giving up time to deliver finance workshops during maths and science week.

Christian Vision

Our Christian vision is central to everything we do and in the Summer Term, we will be focusing on what the vision means to each and every one of us in our community. As a result, we will be asking parents and children as to what the vision means to them. In our entrance hall, there will be a scrap book for parents and children to add photos, pictures, poems, stories and anecdotes, which showcase what the vision means to them. We would love you to contribute to our scrap book as it will support our up and coming Church of England up and coming SIAMs inspection.

Our Christian Vision

- To inspire all our children, with the knowledge and imagination, to develop their God-given potential and lead happy and fulfilling lives.
- To create happy and thoughtful young people who nurture wisdom; care for themselves and others; and make a difference to their communities.

St George's Day

On Tuesday 23rd April, we will be celebrating St George's day. As St George is the Patron Saint of Scouting, we would like to invite any pupils who are members of the Scout and Guide association to wear their uniform at school on this day. This also includes other youth uniformed organisations such as the Boy's Brigade.

Attendance and Holidays during the School Term

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our families for supporting their child's attendance. I am pleased to announce that our attendance has increased since our last newsletter and all classes are 2% above national.

Finally, on behalf of all the staff and pupils, I would like to wish you a very happy Easter and I look forward to seeing all the children back to school on Tuesday 23rd April. Should you need to contact me on the first week back, please note that I will be accompanying Class 4 on their residential to PGL in Marchants Hill, from Wednesday 24th to Friday 26th April.

Mrs. Sophie Sear
Head Teacher



...And the best attendance goes to:

All the classes!

Year Group	Spring 1%	Spring 2 %
Year R	96	97
Year 1	98	97
Year 2	96	97
Year 3	97	97
Year 4	97	97
Year 5	97	97

What have we been up to? The Spring term so far...

Class R

We have had a very busy half term in class R! We have learnt all about traditional tales and have spent lots of time writing our own stories and creating art work linked to the tales we learnt. During world book week we even explored traditional tales from the baddies point of view!

We have been on our first whole class visit to the British Wildlife Centre. We had a fantastic day, learning all about different animals and insects that live in Britain and we even got to meet an Owl named Kevin and a hedgehog called Turbo!

For the past few weeks we have been learning about People Who Help Us. We were very lucky to have PC Finch come to visit us and tell us all about being a police officer! She even let us try on some of her uniform and use her equipment.



Year 1

Another exciting term in Year 1! The children are busily consolidating their phonics in preparation for the assessment in June. Please continue to practise over the Easter break so that all of the wonderful learning is not forgotten. The children have accessed a week of maths and science focused activities and have been using the knowledge they have acquired so far to solve problems. In science this involved creating static electricity with a balloon and predicting whether a feather or polystyrene egg would be lifted the highest.

In maths we used our knowledge of number and shape to solve problems. During the period of Lent the children have been considering why Easter is important to Christians. The children enter into discussions with gusto and are both thoughtful and thought provoking. We have begun to prepare for Sports Day with Cross Country once a week, each week the children are very self-motivated to beat their own personal bests! After Easter we will venture into a new topic about Toys, in the meantime, we wish you and your families a restful and peaceful Easter.



Year 2

What a busy half term it's been! We all had a wonderful time visiting Horton Kirby and exploring the site. Lots of bugs and creepy crawlies were found! Our visit inspired us to write some great recounts of our day.



In RE, we have been considering the answer to this question – Why is Easter important to Christians? We thought about whether we think the Easter story is happy or sad and lots of discussion and ideas were shared. "The part when Jesus enters Jerusalem is happy and sad. Happy because everyone was shouting his name and were pleased to see him. Sad because he knew this was the last time he would see his disciple friends before dying."

In DT we have had lots of fun completing our food technology project. After looking at existing products, we practised food skills such as cutting, slicing and peeling fruit. We then made our final fruit choices before making our own fruit salads.

Year 3

In literacy we have been following the journey of Orundellico, who left his beautiful island to go with visitors to their land where they ate strange things and wore strange clothes. We have been practising our persuasive writing to convince Orundellico to stay on his beautiful island rather than go with the visitors.

In geography, we have been continuing our work on rainforests - comparing London and the rainforest and writing about what more we can do to look after our planet. We received an email from Professor Rob MacKenzie who looks after a special forest in Staffordshire and works at the Birmingham Institute of Forestry Research. He explained why he loves forests and asked us some questions. We have made booklets to explain to him what we have learned. We are looking forward to visiting Kew Gardens and the Palm House in the last week of term where we will experience and see their rainforest plants and take part in an exciting science workshop on plants which has been our science topic this term.

In RE we have been learning about how the "Big Story" events described in The Bible fit together. We have also been learning about what happened to Jesus at the end of his life and how we remember these events at Easter.

In art, we have been looking at the ephemeral artwork of Andy Goldsworthy. Having been inspired by his natural sculptures, we made our own Andy Goldsworthy-inspired artwork made from natural materials we have collected.

We recently enjoyed an eventful maths and science week where we took part in lots of exciting activities such as a financial workshop (kindly delivered by one of our parents), a maths investigation into square numbers, an afternoon of science demonstrations and an investigation looking at the difference in flight times between different types of paper aircraft.



Year 4

Year 4's topic this half term has been Rivers and the children have produced well researched, informative and beautifully presented projects. We have linked our work with Literacy, analysing 'river' poetry and Science where we found out how water cycles round from river to reservoir via cleansing and pumping stations, pipes, taps, toilets, sewers and back to being cleaned before returning to the reservoir. Our project concluded with bridge building. The children recorded the width of their chosen river and used their maths to build a bridge to scale that would take the (scaled down) weight of several cows. Some were more successful than others but we have identified the class has a few engineers of the future.



P.S. No real cows were harmed in our testing!

Year 5

In year 5, we have started a new book called 'Skellig' by the award-winning author David Almond, in literacy, about a boy who finds a strange creature in his garage. We have been looking at effective description for imagery, and how to create tension in our writing. In maths, we are all becoming experts at decimals and percentages and related problem solving.

As part of our 'Climate Zones and Biomes' topic in geography, we created our own 'biome in a bottle' and wrote reports on the biomes, including the process of photosynthesis! (See picture)

In our science topic, 'Forces', we have been carrier bag designers, planning and carrying out our own investigations into the strength of different varieties of bag. We have learnt to use Newton meters to measure forces. We found that the 'Bags for Life' were definitely much stronger than the old 5p bags.

Our DT project was to create a model Eden Project, in which the children chose a biome to model on a miniature scale. The results were incredible and I wish we could show them all!



Year 6

This half-term we have continued to explore the text 'The Arrival' by Shaun Tan, using it to develop writing skills in a range of different genres including story writing, newspaper articles and diary writing.

In Maths we have been working on shape, space and measure, specifically learning how to find the area and perimeter of 2D shapes and the volume and surface area of 3D shapes. Our final unit of work is ratio and then we will revise all areas covered in preparation for SATS.

During Maths / Science week, the children participated in a money workshop with Mr Sharpe from Santander Bank. We are very much looking forward to a follow up session in the Bromley branch next term to further develop children's money awareness and to offer them an insight into the banking profession.

In Science, we have been learning about healthy lifestyles and choices, the children have produced an information leaflet on 'Keeping Healthy'. After Easter they will be planning and undertaking an investigation about the link between heart-rate and exercise.

In our topic sessions, the children have had an opportunity to undertake research for their individual project on an American state. After the Easter holidays, the children will be expected to submit their written project and be prepared to present the information to the class. It is hoped that this assignment will be of a high standard so that it could serve as an exemplar of their best work, if requested by their secondary schools.

Y6 children demonstrating the double circulatory system



Gentle Reminders:

- All pupils need to bring their boots into school.
- All belongings need to be named please.
- To maintain our health and safety procedures, parents/carers must use the front door and not come in through the back door. We thank you in advance for supporting us to keep your child/children safe.

Finally... A prayer of for Easter by our lunchtime prayer club

Father God,

Thank you for new life,
 For spring flowers, baby chicks, new born lambs
 For spring sunshine and rain showers, which help the plants grow.
 Thank you for the bulbs and seeds, which spring into new life.
 Most of all Lord, we thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ,
 Who suffered and died for us on the cross,
 Whore again so that we might know forgiveness.



Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 Amen

Summary of key events for your diary...or fridge!

Please note that dates will be updated in every newsletter.

Term	Month	Day	Event
	April	5 th	Break up for Easter holidays – 1.40pm finish Termly reports home
		23 rd	Come back to school
		24 th	PGL Marchants Hill Y4 (3 days)
		25 th	St Nicholas Church Service – 9.15 am
	May	3 rd	Year 4 Class Assembly - Parents invited
		6 th	Bank holiday Monday
		13 th	Year 6 SATs Week
		20 th	Year 6 trip to France
		24 th	Break up for half term
	June	6 th	St Nicholas Church Service – 9.15 am
		7 th	Year 2 trip to Chatham Dockyard TBC
		12 th	Year 6 Class assembly
		13 th	Pentecost - Annunciation Church am
		20 th	Year R&1 Eucharist - St Nicholas Church - 9.15am
		24 th	Culture and Languages Week
	July	25 th	Year 5 – Church Schools' Festival @Bromley Parish Church.
		1 st	Health week
		3 rd	Year 3 Class assembly
		5 th	Sports Day
		10 th	Year 2 Class Assembly
		12 th	Year 5 Class assembly
		25 th	Year 6 Leavers' Service - St Nicholas Church - 2pm
		26 th	Last Day of term – HALF DAY
29 th July		INSET day – school closed	