



St Nicholas Church of England Primary School

Our Christian Community Growing and Learning Together

Spring 1 Newsletter 2020

Message from the Head Teacher

Having just completed my statutory safeguarding training and it being Safer Internet Day this week, I thought that would share some advice on online safety, which as parents you may find useful. The aim is not to alarm but to make you aware.

Top tips:

- **Explore together:** Ask your child to show you their favourite websites and apps and what they do on them. Listen and show interest and encourage them to teach you the basics of the site or app.
- **Initiate (and continue) conversations about online safety:** Ask them if anything ever bothers or worries them while they're online. Be consistent by reminding them, that if they see or hear (gaming) something online which makes them feel uncomfortable, worried, scared or sad that they must talk to you or someone at school they feel comfortable with.
- **Help your child identify adults who can help:** Help your child identify trusted adults from different areas of their life such as at home or at school.
- **Be non-judgemental:** Explain that you would never blame them for anything that might happen online, and you will always give them calm and loving support.
- **Supervise your child while they're online:** Keep the devices your child uses in communal areas of the house such as in the living room or kitchen where an appropriate adult is able to supervise. It is not always safe for children to access the internet unsupervised in private spaces, such as alone in a bedroom or bathroom. When not in use, make sure that web cams are put away and the camera on a laptop is taped up.
- **Talk to your child about how their online actions can affect others:** If your child is engaging with others online remind them to consider how someone else might feel before they post or share something. If they are considering sharing a photo or video of somebody else, they should always ask permission first.
- **Gaming:** If privacy settings are **not** set, your child can be contacted by people they don't know or be contacted by 'bots' (a computer-controlled character that may send messages to gamers). Messages from 'bots' can contain links to external websites which are inappropriate for young people; showing inappropriate content. If your child receives a message from an unknown user, ask them to not respond or click on any links contained within the message. The more you learn about gaming and PEGI age ratings, the more you will be able to help your child have fun safely.
- **Gifting:** Some games/apps have in-app purchasing options to improve or boost their performance. Most children don't have the means to be able to make such purchases, therefore offenders seize upon this to make gifts to children in order to gain their trust and begin the grooming process. Offenders have also been known to use these gifts as 'leverage' to persuade children to move onto different platforms or forms of communication. Please be aware of apps your child is installing/using online and on their phones. WhatsApp is a favoured app by offenders as it is encrypted.
- **Parental controls:** Make use of the parental controls available on your home broadband and any internet-enabled device in your home. You can learn more by reading our article on using parental controls.

If at any time you have a concern about your child or a child in our school, please pass on your concerns confidentially to me, as the Designated Safeguarding lead, or to our Deputy Safeguarding Leads - Mr Carere or Ms Somers.

On behalf of the AAC and staff, we wish you a good half term and we look forward to seeing you back at school on **Monday 24th February**.

Mrs. Sophie Sear
Head Teacher

Whole School Attendance

Group	% Attend
RR	93.1
11	94.6
22	98.1
33	97.6
44	98.1
55	95.9
66	98.5
Totals	96.6



Our Spring 1 Highlights!

Class R

Class R have had a very busy and exciting start to the new year. When we returned to school we discovered that we had been visited by a monster and all term we have been learning all about them! We read 'Bedtime for Monsters' and made our own monster puppets. We then used describing words to write all about our own monsters. When we read 'The Bog Baby' we created our own bog babies using playdough. We wrote instructions to help other people who might like to make a bog baby for themselves, making sure we numbered our instructions and used bossy verbs.

In maths, we have been learning all about measurement including length, height and weight. We have become really interested in using measuring sticks and balancing scales and have been using these to measure all sorts of things around the classroom.

This term we have also started forest school sessions. It has been really exciting to be outside in the forest school site and exploring independently. We have made clay monsters and enjoyed lots of different outdoor activities.



Year 1

This half term in Year One we have had lots of fun starting our Forest School sessions. Despite the grim weather the children enjoy heading into the woods to expand their learning and learn through play. We have been sharing the books Lost and Found and Claude in the City, where the children have produced information reports, poetry and written their own stories.

In maths we have focused on addition and subtraction and place value. The children have been looking at the relationship between addition and subtraction and the patterns of numbers. As well as representing numbers in a variety of ways and understanding the value of two digit number up to 50. We have been enjoying looking at a variety of musical instruments and discussing e safety when using the internet in ICT.

In PE the children have been using the equipment to explore movement and balancing in gymnastics and in RE we have been learning about the Gospel and the good news that Jesus brings. The children have enjoyed learning about this through role play and listening to a variety of bible stories. In science we have been learning about materials and the children carried out an investigation about which materials are waterproof which they had lots of fun doing. In geography we have been learning all about the United Kingdom and the countries and capital cities within the UK. The children have worked so hard this half term and I am proud of all of their achievements.



Year 2

With half term fast approaching, it's been another busy few weeks with lots of learning taking place. The children have enjoyed beginning our Oceans and Continents topic in Geography. We have been testing each other on the position of these places and using compass points to navigate around the globe with the help of Jack Sparrow!

After half term we will begin learning about the artist Georges Seurat and use his technique of pointillism to create our

own landmark pictures from around the world. In Computing we have been thinking about how to be safe online and using the internet to collect further research about bears. We have then used this information to support our home learning ready to start writing a report about bears and turning this into a leaflet.

Our new topic in maths has been statistics and creating and interpreting pictograms and tally charts. The children enjoyed finding out that in the class the favourite flavour crisps is salt and vinegar; most children would like a dog as a pet! In RE we have been exploring different stories from the Gospels and trying to figure out what the good news was that Jesus shared with the world. Finally, our topic in Science is habitats and we enjoyed exploring the pit as a local habitat. Next half term we will take part in a trip to Horton Kirby where we look forward to hunting mini beasts and finding different habitats in this location.



Year 3

Year 3's topic for this term has been the Mayan Civilisation and the class have really enjoyed finding out about their culture, society and religion. As well as learning about their gruesome rituals of sacrifice and blood offerings we also found out that the Mayans discovered chocolate by crushing cocoa beans. We did some cross curriculum learning by making mixed berries fruit salad topped with cocoa powder and chocolate chips. The children had to use their knowledge of scaling, which they were learning in maths, to turn the ingredients for one portion into the ingredients for a whole table. We also learned how to weave, as one of the jobs of the Mayan women was to weave and make the clothes.



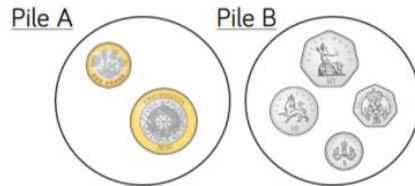
The book we have been studying is *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. The class have loved the story. They have developed a deep understanding of characterization and have learned so much rich and varied language through it.

In science we have learned about rocks and fossils. The children already knew a lot but were keen to find out more, bringing in specimens and finding out facts on their own. They used their scientific enquiry skills to classify, observe and carry out fair tests. They are definitely a class of budding scientists.

In ICT, following on from using Purple Mash to write a blog about our Roman trip last term, we have been using Purplemash this term to learn about coding. As well as this, the children have also demonstrated their musical talents in their recorders lessons with Mrs. Atherton. She has been very impressed at the progress they are making.

Our focus in maths has been investigating efficient methods of multiplication and division, finding preferred ways using factors, partitioning and formal written column methods. Having quick accurate recall of times table facts always assists with precise calculation and we have had an emphasis on the 11s and 12s whilst revisiting all the other tables, in particular the tricky 7s, and 8s. We have built on this learning to help calculate area of rectilinear shapes and more complex word problems.

Jack has two piles of coins.
He chooses one coin from each pile.



What are all the possible combinations of coins Jack can choose?
What are all the possible totals he can make?

We now turn our focus to fractions which will continue into Spring 2.

Science has been electric this half-term! Mr. Atherton brought his Van Der Graaff generator from Bishop Justus and helped us understand static electricity and how electrons pass from objects to objects. This was somewhat of a hair-raising afternoon!



We then experimented which objects we could pick up by rubbing polythene rods and wrote up our predictions, method and findings in a formal scientific way. Our topic concludes with an exciting Wacky Races project in which the children will be using their learning to create their own vehicle and make it move using a simple circuit, motor and propeller.

Beowulf is considered an old English epic poem where the main character is a hero who travels great distances to prove his strength at impossible odds against supernatural demons. We have used a simplified text to broaden vocabulary choices, respond through drama to help us write in role and develop character motivation. We have created hideous monsters and described both dark and cheerful settings, using our senses to add detail to our writing. Our punctuation focus has been using inverted commas for speech by imagining dialogue between Beowulf, our hero, and the attacking dragon.



Linking to our main text, in History, we have been learning about why the Romans left England and how we were then invaded by the Saxons in our "Raiders and Settlers" topic. We found out where the Saxons came from and how they settled here, named villages and what jobs they had. We have written a diary from the point of view of an axon child and designed Saxon brooches for e chieftain. We finish our learning researching Saxon gods and early writing using runes. Next half term the Vikings arrive!

The big R.E. question this half term has been "What sort of World does Jesus want for us?" We have been leaning about

parables in the Gospels and thinking about what they mean to us today and how the teachings of Jesus applies to how Christians should live their lives now. We have thought about who our "neighbours" really and how this links with our school's Christian value of friendship. We have researched local, church led and national charities and how they support those in need in our community and around the world.

In the Arts, we have continued with reorder lessons and are learning to play more complex pieces using a wider range of notes. Our artist of this term is Escher and we have had fun creating tessellated pictures using a variety of shapes.

Year 5

Our Geography topic is very current and relevant as we are learning about biomes of the world, including climate, and how humans are causing damage to the natural balance of the planet, for example by causing climate change. We created our own 'Biomes in bottles' which are completely self-sufficient, keeping themselves alive due to the water cycle and recycling of nutrients.



In music, we are learning about song-writing, including song structures and lyrics, building up to composing a class song on the topic of saving the planet. Our English lessons have also been closely linked to the topic of climate change: we have been reading the book 'Floodland' and doing creative writing based on this, including our own back-stories of one of the characters. Our non-fiction writing focused on a factual report on biomes.

In science, we have finished learning about the solar system. We asked tricky questions as a class, which we now know the answers to, such as 'What would happen if we had no moon?' and 'Why are the planets spherical?' We are moving on to our topic on 'Forces', which will include some fun investigations, and then our visit to Kew gardens on March 24th will kick off our biology topic on Lifecycles, in which we will learn about plants in different biomes of the world including their adaptations, and how they reproduce.

PE this term has been swimming lessons, as well as dance, where the children have been putting together pieces based on Victorian inventions and transportation. We've got some budding typists in class 5 as well, as we've been learning to about home keys, and a few are already able to type more than 20 words per minute.



Year 6

This term we have started a new text in English – 'The Arrival' by Shaun Tan. This wordless book has already prompted some interesting discussions and inspired some fabulous writing, and we are only a few pages in!

In maths we have been working on fractions, decimals and percentages; the children have worked well, making connections and applying their knowledge. We have used bar modelling to help us visualise more complex problems. Our next unit of work is algebra.

In Science, we have been learning about the electricity. We had a fantastic trip to the science labs at Bishop Justus where, among other things, we experienced static shocks from a Van der Graaf generator! Thank you to the parents who helped on this trip and all those who were able to collect children from Southborough Lane. Next half-term we will be starting a new topic on inheritance and evolution.



In P.E. we have been developing our team skills through football training with Coach Meade and working to improve our balance and flexibility through dance.
 In our topic sessions, we have started our study of America and each child has been asked to do a detailed study of one particular American state.

Charity Team News

Supporting Bromley Y

The Charity Team have been very busy this half term preparing for our workshops, which we have organised in support of 'Me Awareness Day' during March. Information to follow after half term.

We would like to thank you for all your support towards the charity. With your help we have raised a staggering £2000, through the following events:

- Hello Yellow Day
- Harvest Festival
- KS1 Nativity
- KS2 Carol Service
- Christmas Jumper Day

On behalf of the Charity Team, we hope you have a great half term!

Kind Regards,

The Charity Team

<https://www.bromleywellbeingcyp.org/>

Sports Update:

Year 3 and 4 are in their final preparations for the Crystal Palace x-country championships in March. Our girls' football team continue to shine, as they recently beat Hayes 1-0 in the Bromley Cup, and are now off to the ¼ finals. They also won their first group match in the top 'cup' group 1-0 vs Red Hill – well done girls!

Gentle Reminders:

- All pupils need to bring their boots into school.
- Please ensure that you child only brings a **plastic or metal bottle** to school. **No glass bottles please.**
- All belongings need to be named please.
- Ensure your child is appropriately dressed for winter weather.
- 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 for friendship by Harry Newton in Year 4

Dear Lord,

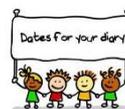
We are truly grateful for all those people you created that are special to us. In particular our families who love and support us, teach us and guide us; our friends who encourage and stick by us.

Just as Jesus laid his life for us, help us to understand the true meaning of friendship and to love our neighbour.

We are sorry that we are destroying the world that you made for us and hope you hear us when we will be a better friend to your creation and make the world a better place for everyone.

We give thanks for all that we have and ask that you help the people who do not have as much as us or are suffering in bad conditions.

In the name of Jesus, you son, Amen



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

Please note that dates will be updated in every newsletter.

Spring	February	17 th	Half Term week	
		24 th	Back to school	
		25 th	Yr.1 Leeds Castle trip	
		25 th	Year's R & 2 Knitted bible (Methodist Church) trip	
		26 th	Year's 3 & 4 Knitted bible (Methodist Church) trip	
		28 th	PTA World Book Day costume sale	
		28 th	PTA Year 3 Cake sale	
	March	March	2 nd	Book Week
			4 th	Aquinas Maths Challenge
			5 th	World Book day Book character dressing up day.
			6 th	PTA Year 2 Cake sale
			7 th	Cross Country at Crystal Palace
			9 th	British Science Week
			10 th	Class Photos
			10 th	Year 5 Class assembly (pm) - Parents invited
			10 th	Year 3 Kew Gardens trip
			11 th	Class Photos
			12 th	Year 2 and 3 Eucharist (am)
			13 th	PTA Film Night
			13 th	Aquinas Science Quiz (British Science Week)
			17 th	Year 2 Horton Kirby trip
			20 th	PTA Mother's Day secret room
			20 th	PTA Year R Cake sale
			24 th	Year 5 Kew Gardens trip
			25 th	Aquinas Poetry Slam
			26 th	Year R Trip to British Wildlife Centre
			26 th	No pen-day International Theme
			27 th	PTA Year 1 Cake sale
28 th	PTA St Nick's Comedy Night			
Summer	April	1 st	Easter Eucharist service	
		3 rd	Break up for Easter holidays	
		3 rd	PTA Easter Egg Hunt	
		20 th	Come back to school	
		22 nd	PGL Marchants Hill Y4 (3 days)	
	May	May	1 st	Year 4 Class Assembly - Parents invited
			7 th	School closed for polling
			8 th	Early Bank holiday for VE Day (Friday)
			11 th	Year 6 SATs Week
			20 th	Year 3 Class Assembly - Parents invited
			22 nd	Break up for half term
			June	June
	2 nd	Year 2 Visit to Chatham Dockyard (tbc)		
	5 th	Aquinas Darwin Day		
	8 th	Reception Class Height, Weight and Vision		
	9 th	Year 6 at Rochester Festival		
	13 th	PTA Summer Ball		
	26 th	Year R Class Assembly - Parents invited		
	July	July	1 st	Year 6 Class Assembly - Parents invited
			3 rd	Sports Day - Norman Park
			4 th	PTA Party in the Pit
			8 th	Year 1 Class Assembly - Parents invited
10 th			Year 2 Class Assembly - Parents invited	