ST. JOHN THE DIVINE PRIMARY SCHOOL

WARHAM STREET • LONDON • SE5 0SX • Tel: 0207 735 4898
Headteacher: Mrs. C. Warland • Deputy Head Teacher: Mr. J. Camilleri
Chair of Governors: Peter Truesdale • Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Williams

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Friday 15th January 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

This week learning has begun in earnest – it is clear to see that children have adapted to our new way of working, and, although it can never replace face to face teaching, the children seem to be getting to grips with on line learning. I know that this is in a large part down to the help and support you are giving your children and for this I thank you. There will of course, be technical issues that arise time to time, do please let us know if your child loses their password or is struggling to turn-in work so that we can help get them back on track as soon as possible. All children who are at home should be accessing online learning.

Below is a summary of the learning that has taken place in your child's class this week:

Nursery

This week in Nursery we have been reading **'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'**. We worked hard in class and at home creating a wanted poster, retelling the story and then writing a letter in role as Goldilocks to say sorry for all her bad choices.
In maths the children have been comparing amounts – looking at more than and less than – following this with comparing numbers to find out which was more and which was less.

Reception

This week Reception have been reading 'Handa's Surprise!' They have done brilliant work creating African masks, drawing all the different fruit, and retelling the story when Miss Smith got all the pages jumbled up! The children have worked really hard on subtraction in maths this week and have been able to use their fingers to work out how many fruits there will be left when the animals have eaten them.

Year One

This week we introduced our new topic theme **'Transport'**. The children designed and created their own toy cars and I was so impressed with how resourceful pupils were with finding materials at home to use. They came up with such creative ideas, including cars made of Lego, toilet roll tubes, and an incredible ice cream van made from a milk carton! In English the children really enjoyed reading the book **'Don't let the pigeon drive the bus'**, and wrote some wonderful persuasive letters to the bus driver. Let's hope he listens! In R.E we began learning about **Judaism**, and discussed types of parties and religious celebrations. Please remember children learning at home should be submitting their work onto Google classrooms and children must complete all tasks set, as they would at school.

Year Two

The Year Two children have worked hard on applying their understanding of place value to part-whole models and number lines this week. In English the children have read **'The Way Back Home'** and they have drawn story mountains to explore the structure of the story. They have also written their own versions by changing the characters, setting and how they travel. There were some wonderful stories- I think we might have some authors in Year Two!
It has been great to see the children overcoming the challenges that learning online has brought us, and how enthusiastic all of you are about your learning!

Year Three

This week in Year Three we have started reading our new core text **'Pepi and the secret names'** based on our topic **Ancient Egypt**. The children have been learning about how we write in role, through writing diary entries, from the perspective of the characters in the story. In our connected curriculum lessons we have been learning about the different stages of mummification and decoding sentences written in hieroglyphics! The children have greatly enjoyed writing their names using hieroglyphics too.
This week we also started our new topic in RE on **'Hinduism'**. We have been learning about the importance of family for Hindus and understanding the different roles each family member has.

Year Four

This week in Year Four we started reading a new book, called **'The Indian in the Cupboard.'** Miss Z. sent us the books in the post and we were really happy to receive them! We made predictions on what the book might be about and now that we have read the first three chapters, we have looked back at our predictions to see if any of our thoughts were similar to the story. In our Maths lessons we have been learning about place value, and we learned about **negative numbers**. Before this, if we saw a number sentence saying 5 – 9, we said it is not possible to solve it. Now that we know about negative numbers, we are able to answer the question. Do you know what 5 – 9 is? If you do not, just ask us! In Topic we started learning about **North America**, the third biggest continent on our Earth. We are looking forward to learning more about it.

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Year Five	Year Six
This week Year Five started to learn about the **environment** and pupils carried out research about biomes of the world. In English we have delved into the wonderful picture book written by David Wiesner, '**Flotsam**', which tells the story of a boy who finds an old camera that takes him on an adventure by the seashore. In Maths, we have revised how to read and round large numbers (up to 500,000).The pupils working from home have continued to develop their IT skills and understanding of Google Classroom. It is important that this continues as we move forward into the term.	In Year Six this week we began looking at our new topic of '**Kings and Queens**'. We read the story of "**The Twelve Dancing Princesses**" and wrote our own alternative version. We also learnt about the **Battle of Hastings** and how William the Conqueror became King. In maths we have been learning about place value, including solving some problems where we had to explain our reasoning.

Miss Durrant's PE update

It was great seeing so many children taking part in our first virtual **Physical Activity Festival** on Wednesday; it was lovely seeing the children's smiles whilst they were working hard. These sessions will take place every Wednesday. Next week, you will need a pair of socks and a hardback book or a tennis racket.

Just a couple of points: to help the smooth running please **do not unmute** yourself. If you have any questions please wait until the end. Do try your best to arrive on time, we will start inviting pupils in at 1.55pm. Thank you for your support.

It was wonderful to see so many children joining in our first ever **whole school, virtual awards assembly.** We've tweaked the time slightly and the assembly will now take place on a **Monday morning at 9:10am** before the online learning sessions begin for the day.

Head Teacher awards were presented to the following children in this week's virtual celebration assembly.

Nursery	Wayne for excellent contribution in online learning. Francisca for excellent participation in all areas of learning in school.
Reception	Melajah for working so hard especially on her pizza made out of pizza and stained glass window. Maissa for using mathematical language as he played with and matched the dominos.
Year One	Imra for making fantastic contributions to our discussions on google classroom and for trying so hard with his learning all week. Roshaun for having such a positive attitude to his learning throughout the whole week and writing an incredible biography on Saint Margaret.
Year Two	Nicolas for his excellent fact file on Sudan, the country of our Saint. Blessing for challenging herself in Maths this week, completing her work carefully and having a go at the hot chilli challenges.
Year Three	Vienna for her focused attitude in class and completing all her work. Vienna has also shown the value of kindness by consistently offering to hold the door for her peers and teachers. Calvin for his excellent concentration level during online sessions. Calvin has attended all his online sessions and completed all tasks that have been set for him.
Year Four	Aridunu for being very helpful with remote learning, explaining to her class mates how to access the files and how to submit them. Sherifah for her excellent effort from the very first day back at school, submitting all the tasks set for her
Year Five	Daniel for choosing words well in his Haiku about St Francis of Assisi. Jalil for creating a detailed map of Assisi using Google Draw.
Year Six	Michaela for having a fantastically positive attitude despite being the only Year Six in school Joshua for his mature attitude towards his home learning and asking for help when needed
PE	Year Three – Abdulai for his outstanding effort in his hockey lesson. Year Four - John-Angel for being a great role model to his peers.

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This week's House Point totals are as follows:

GARRISON	61	AUGUSTINE	72
FRANKLIN	78	DICKENS	76

On a final note, with everything else going on we almost forgot about your ***daffodil bulbs****. Hopefully they have been busy over the last few months getting ready to bloom; do please remember to give your plant some water and, if it is beginning to shoot, pop it on the window ledge so that it can get some natural light. With some tender love and care I've no doubt that our entries into this year's competition will be the best yet!*

Kind regards

Mrs Warland
Head Teacher