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 29th January 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

As you will be aware, the Prime Minister announced on Wednesday 27th January that schools will not return to full, face-to-face teaching after the February half term break and the current restrictions will be in place until **8th March at the earliest**. This means that children will continue to **learn remotely** until this date. Whilst this is far from ideal, we will continue to deliver the curriculum, online, through **Google classrooms**; children can now access the site from their class page on the school's website.

On a brighter note, this week we have been taking part in a borough-wide **Sumdog** competition, and I am delighted to share our results with you – hot off of the press:

46 classes took part **441 children played along** **161,734 questions were answered** **136,248 answered correctly**

Of the 46 classes – **Year Four placed first!**

Three other classes placed in the top 20: Year Three 14th place, Year Six 16th place, and Year Five 17th place

Of the 441 children – **Kai placed 6th answering 963 of his 1000 questions correctly, with Somto placing 7th, answering 967.**

In addition to this, on the **24th January Year Six** were the daily class winners, and **Year Three were the daily winners on 23rd January**. Well done children for your excellent efforts – parents, thank you for your support!

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

Nursery

This week we have been learning about '**Little Red Riding hood**' and the children have written character descriptions for the main characters such as '**sneaky Big Bad Wolf**'. A highlight of our week was making a jam sandwich for Little Red Riding Hood to take to her Grandmother's house! In Maths we have worked on measurement and looked at capacity. We also looked at measuring ingredients and following instructions. We made playdough for our own dough disco at home and school.

Reception

This week Reception have been reading '**My granny went to market**'. They used different objects and pictures to represent their numbers up to ten. The children produced some beautiful work drawing **story maps** to retell the story and illustrate what granny bought. We all had great fun writing helicopter stories and acting them out over Google meet. The children have also enjoyed sharing activities they have been doing at home in addition to their school work which is really lovely to see.

Year One

Year One have continued to learn about **transport** this week. We have been writing **non chronological reports** in English. The children researched facts about trains and put them into a report with a title, an introduction, subheadings and pictures. In maths we have been **subtracting**, and using this knowledge to solve word problems. In history we learnt about the tragic bomb disaster that happened at Balham Tube Station; we put ourselves 'in the shoes' of those who experienced the event and tried to imagine what it must have been like to have been trapped underground. In music we learnt to **drum a beat** to the song 'We Will Rock You'. Another great week of learning, well done.

Year Two

Year Two have become **designers and makers** this week! We learnt about what a 'mechanism' is and made space scenes using levers and sliders to make characters and objects move. There were some fantastic creations! In English the children have been using lots of **descriptive language** to describe imaginary planets and write poems. In Maths they have been focusing on subtraction, solving subtractions in different contexts.

Year Three

This week in Year Three, we have started reading our second core text of this half term '**Marcy and the riddle of the Sphinx**'. The children have really enjoyed reading the story, as they have been able to make direct links to their connected curriculum lessons on Egyptian Gods and Goddesses. In our literacy lessons, we have been looking at the ways in which we can improve our writing

Year Four

Another week of online learning is behind us. Miss Z prepared a short survey for us so we could share what we like about learning from home as well as what makes it difficult. There are still many technical issues, but we are persevering and trying

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by including powerful verbs and adverbs. In our connected curriculum lessons, we have been learning about the different Egyptian Gods and Goddesses and the symbols associated with them. The children have then drawn portraits of a God/Goddess of their choice. This week in Maths, our topic has been ***statistics****. We have been learning and understanding how we present and interpret data on bar charts. We began the week by collecting our own data on all the birthdays of the children in Year Three and we then presented the data in a bar chart. By the end of the week, the children were able to interpret more complex data from bar charts and answered word problems based on them. We have had quite an interesting RE lesson this week on the concept of* ***Karma*** *in Hinduism. The children have shown great enthusiasm learning about the Hindu beliefs of having an afterlife through reincarnation, as well as the idea of breaking that cycle of life and death through reaching Brahman.*

our best.

In maths we have been learning about ***2D shapes, lines of symmetry and co-ordinates****. We have also been very busy taking part in the Sumdog competition and we are delighted to have been the highest performing class! It feels so good to be a part of the brilliant team that is Year Four. Team work for the win!*

In English we have been writing a ***non-chronological report*** *about Iroquois tribe. Now we know what they used to eat, how they dressed, and what they believed in. We tried to include some technical language in the report, as well as pictures with captions.*

Year Five

This week, Year Five learnt about ***climate and atmospheric pressure****. Pupils are increasingly interested to learn about the environment. I gather from them that there is so much awaiting to be discovered about our world! In addition to their Geography work, pupils have used animal facts about bulldog bats and marine iguanas to review how to use coordinating conjunctions and expanded noun phrases in their writing. In Maths, we have reviewed how to use* ***formal methods*** *for addition and subtraction, and it has been good to see more pupils participating online. In RE, we have started a very interesting learning enquiry on "What does it mean to be a Muslim?" So far, pupils have learnt about the unique relationship that Muslims hold with the Qur'an. We are also planning to look at how geometry is at the heart of Islamic art, and this should inform some of our learning within the next couple of weeks.*

Year Six

In Year Six this week, we have continued reading the story of ***Macbeth*** *which is getting rather gory with lots of murder! We wrote a brilliant* ***persuasive letter*** *to Macbeth either persuading or dissuading him from killing Banquo, and the children finished the week by writing their own scenes. In maths, we have been thinking about patterns in numbers, learning about highest common factors and lowest common multiples. We also learnt about the importance of sleep in PSHE and how we all need 9-11 hours sleep every night when we are in Year Six.*

Miss Durrant's PE update

This week, we continued to develop our fitness levels in our whole school, Wednesday session, it was great to see so many children taking part and working hard. Next week, we will be developing our football fitness skills. Do not worry, if you do not have a ball - the activities can be adapted with using a pillow, pair of socks or a jumper! Keep up the great work.

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

Nursery	*Jayden for excellent participation in live lessons.* *Francisca for trying hard with her initial sounds in her writing.*
Reception	*Daniel for having confidence to contribute in our online sessions.* *Matthew for asking some brilliant questions.*
Year One	*Aziz for trying so hard with his maths all week, using the counting on method to solve addition problems.* *Adelicia for writing a wonderful, hilarious story about a pigeon. She included persuasive language and some great adjectives.*
Year Two	*Caiden for all of his fantastic online learning. It is great to see how much learning you are doing at home Caiden!* *Chloe for beginning to join in with our online learning sessions. It is a very difficult time to join a new school and we are very happy to have Chloe with us in Year Two!*
Year Three	*Karis for independently writing sentences to describe a character from Pepi and the secret names.* *Samuel for his excellent skills using google draw. Samuel has made a beautiful Hindu Rangoli independently using google draw.*

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Year Four	Divine for persevering with online learning, even though you had some issues with the tablet. Well done for submitting work by writing it down in a notebook and sending in photos of your work! Cerys for your short and to the point recaps of chapters to the class. You really help people in our class with their work!
Year Five	Tidankay for consistently trying to read and improve your writing. Jamal for making excellent contributions during online learning.
Year Six	Mel for participating enthusiastically in online lessons even when it is difficult Kamari for a mature attitude towards his home learning
PE	Reception - Chucks and Maissa for independently using the tennis rackets and balls hitting the ball to each other. Year One - PE- Nicole for following instructions so well during Mrs Durrant's live PE lesson, and showing lots of enthusiasm Year Two - Miranda- For her enthusiasm during Miss Durrant's online PE sessions! Year Three - Aliyah - For her excellent performance in the cool down work out during the physical activity festival on Wednesday. Year Four – Ephraim – For actively taking part in our Year Four online PE sessions. Year Five - Divine: for engaging so well during the online PE lesson led by Miss Durrant. Year Six – Daniel for his enthusiastic participation in all his home PE sessions
Music	**Calvin – Year Three** - for consistently working incredibly hard whilst learning from home, and for practising 'Mary had a Little Lamb' independently during our music lesson. Calvin then performed the song from home to the rest of the class. Excellent work Calvin! **Lourdes** – Year Six - for writing her own rock drumbeat online during our learning about 1980s British Popular music. **James** – Year One - for throwing himself into every music lesson so enthusiastically, and making such excellent progress in his listening and understanding of rhythm.

This week's House Point totals are as follows:

GARRISON	67	AUGUSTINE	94
FRANKLIN	91	DICKENS	97

Next week we will be celebrating Children's Mental Health Week. The theme for the week is **'Express Yourself'** and the children will be encouraged to find ways to share their feelings, thoughts and ideas creatively; this could be through art, music, writing, dance, drama, photography or film, doing activities that make them feel good. We will also be taking part in **'Dress to Express'** on **Friday 5th February 2021,** whether the children are in school or at home online, **they are invited to wear a colour or an outfit that expresses who they are.** If you would like to find out more visit: www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk

On a final note, this term we have two members of staff who will be leaving us - Mrs de Haast, our Teaching Assistant in Year Six, will be leaving us at the end of the month as she is relocating out of London. Whilst Mrs de Haast has only been with us a short while, she has made a great impact on the children in Year Six and she will be missed. I also share the news that **Mr Camilleri has been successful in securing his first Headship** and will be leaving us at the end of this half term. This is a bitter-sweet moment; we are delighted that Mr Camilleri has been offered this opportunity but saddened that he will be no longer with us. However, once a member of the St John's family, always a member and I know that Mr Camilleri will miss us and visit us often. I am sure you will join with me in thanking him for his hard work and commitment to our school and in wishing all of the very best for his future endeavours.

Kind regards

Mrs Warland
Head Teacher