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 8th January 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Happy New Year! 2020 was a very different year for us in so many ways, it was challenging at times, but we made it through and the lessons we learned stand us in good stead as we begin 2021. Life is what we make it and, here in school, we are determined to make this year a great year!

Our value for the month of January is ***Kindness*** *and we know that the one thing that can hold us together, and help us get through difficult times is kindness. Although we cannot change the situation we find ourselves in, we can choose to respond to others (and ourselves) with kindness. And when we are kind, everything goes better. We help others, we help ourselves and we encourage others to be kinder too. In the words of Saint Basil the Great:*

"A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love."

Our start of term themed week has been centred on ***Saints****. Each class has been learning about a different Saint, finding out where they came from, why they are considered holy, what they did to show their love towards God and Others, and using this learning to further develop their own spirituality. The children have written fact files, biographies and prayers and they have produced portraits of their Saints. In our collective worship we have been finding out about Saints who demonstrated kindness during their lives and we will use this learning to guide our acts of kindness as we go through the month. The children have also reaffirmed their commitment to our School* ***Pledge of Kindness****, which is attached to this newsletter for you to share at home.*

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

Nursery	Reception
This week we have been learning about ***Saint Patrick****, finding out why he is a saint. We found out, through* ***reading stories*** *about him, that he compared the three leaves of the shamrock to the Holy Trinity: The Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In maths we have been looking at counting songs that involve the number 5, and we have been sharing them in class. We then used a 'five frame' to identify different amounts. We were set a challenge by Mrs Honeybourne to create a Stained glass window and a Stained glass biscuit. The children really enjoyed these activities and we have been impressed with their attitudes to learning.*	*This week Reception have done fantastically to adapt to their new way of learning. We have been looking at* ***Italy*** *as that is where our saint,* ***Saint Dominc Savio****, was born. Reception have been sending in lots of pictures of the wonderful things they have been creating at home. We have also started working on* ***rhyme*** *and the children are already showing how well they can recognise rhyming words. I am very proud of Reception and the way they have taken to online learning, please keep submitting work as I love seeing it.*

Year One

I would like to say a huge congratulations to all the children who have been working so hard on google classrooms this week. We have been learning all about ***Saint Margaret of Scotland****, a queen who was made a saint for all her acts of kindness. The children have been researching and writing biographies about her life, writing fact files about Scotland and drawing some amazing portraits of her. In PE children made up some fantastic Scottish dances, and the children in school practised their tennis skills. Well done for all your hard work this week year one and remember to upload all of your wonderful work onto google classroom.*

Year Two

It has been an interesting first week of Spring Term for Year Two! The children have done a fabulous job of adapting to working online on ***Google Classroom*** *and using their 'mute' buttons! It is a very different way of working for everybody, so I am very proud of everyone completing all of their activities and logging on for our sessions together. For our themed week of 'Saints', the children have learnt and written biographies about* ***Saint Josephine Bahkita.*** *They have also learnt about the country of her birth,* ***Sudan****. We used Google Maps to look at the continent that Sudan is in and the countries around it. We learnt about the weather in Sudan and the wildlife that is found there - there were some very creative fact files! The children have also worked hard on their Maths this week, using their understanding of tens and ones to compare numbers, add/subtract in tens and complete 100 square puzzles.*

Year Three	Year Four
As part of our themed week on Saints, Year Three have been learning about ***St Damien of Molokai.*** *We began the week by looking at different saints and understanding what makes a person a saint. We then went on to using our fantastic computing skills to research key facts using search engines. The children*	*The first week of school in year 2021 we have been learning everything about saints. Our chosen saint was* ***St Charles Lwanga*** *from* ***Uganda.*** *We've really enjoyed learning about his life and his path to sainthood. Did you know you needed to*

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learnt a lot of information about St Damien that was then used to **write a biography** about him.

In English, we have been looking at the different features of a fact file such as **using facts, writing in the past tense and using subheadings**. The children then used their learning to write their own fact files about Molokai. We concluded our week with drawing beautiful portraits of St Damien using different media. The children have had a wonderful week and we really appreciate the effort that parents are putting with helping our online lessons run smoothly.

perform a miracle to be considered to become a saint? In our English lessons the children wrote a biography about St Charles Lwanga. In our **Connected Curriculum** lessons we have been discovering all about Uganda, a country in east-central Africa. We found out that in Uganda some people say 'I am going to make a short call' for politely saying that they are going to use the toilet. In our art lessons we have been learning about portraits, and the children drew a portrait of St Charles Lwanga.

Year Five

Despite the shift of learning circumstances, it has been a really productive week in Year Five. Pupils have enjoyed completing their themed week on **St Francis of Assisi**. St Francis was a really peculiar and loving man who lived an incredible life caring for God's creation. After finding out about his life, pupils wrote **Haikus** on St Francis and his love of nature. We then learnt map reading skills and used Google Draw to create a contour map of Assisi in Italy. In addition, we looked at **Medieval Art** and created a portrait of St Francis. St Francis loved nature and is the patron saint of the environment, which will be our focused topic of study from next week.

Year Six

I have been so proud of the way that Year Six have responded to the challenge of remote learning and the **resilience** they have shown under very unusual circumstances. This week we have been learning about **St Maximilian Kolbe.** We have researched his life, written a biography and drawn a pop art portrait of him in the style of Andy Warhol. We have also been solving some addition and subtraction problems in maths alongside learning about **time zones in geography.**

Miss Durrant's PE update

Physical Activity is really important for your mental health and wellbeing, especially during the current times. So I am setting you different physical activity challenges each week. You will find these challenges on our PE twitter page: @SJTDPrimary_PE and posted on your **Google Classroom**. In addition to this, every Wednesday I will be running an activity session online for ALL of the children across the school. It would be great if you could be in your PE kit for the session, so you know you are wearing appropriate clothing for exercise.

Next week we will resume our weekly awards assemblies – the children at home will be sent a link by their teacher so that they can login and join us for the celebration.

This week's House Point totals are as follows:

GARRISON	37	AUGUSTINE	35
FRANKLIN	38	DICKENS	43

On a final note, I have emailed all of our children a **Blended Learning Feedback Form** today. I would really like to hear from the children how they are finding the sessions, to identify what is working well and what improvements we can make to ensure their learning experiences, whilst working online, are as good as they can be. Do please encourage your child to complete this form and, if your child is in the Early Years or Key Stage One then I ask that you support them in sharing their views.

Kind regards

Mrs Warland
Head Teacher

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Our Pledge of Kindness

I pledge to myself,
On this very day,
To try to be kind,
In every way.
To every person,
Big or Small,
I will help them,
If they fall.
When I love myself,
And others, too,
That is the best,
That I can do.