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 5th February 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

This week we have been celebrating **Children's Mental Health Week** and we have spent much time thinking about how we can **express our thoughts and our feelings** so that we can have **positive mental health**. The children have produced some wonderful artwork, songs, and dances over the course of the week as a way of sharing their emotions and today, we all dressed to express ourselves! We have **African Queens, princesses** and **superheroes**, and members of our school community dressed from head-to-toe in **different colours** to express who they are and how they are feeling. We are all unique individuals and it is wonderful to celebrate what makes every member of our family special!

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

Nursery

This week Nursery have acted out the traditional tale '**Billy Goats Gruff**.' Miss Bagnall was the terrible troll and the children pretended to be the Billy Goats crossing the bridge. The children drew some impressive pictures of the trolls and described them so well - so beware when you're next crossing a bridge to not wake up the 'Big hairy troll with bulging eyes and stinky slimy breath.' In Maths we have been looking at the composition of 6, 7 and 8 and the different ways we can make the numbers. For example we can show 7 as '5 and 2' or '6 and 1' or '3 and 4'.

Reception

This week Reception have been thinking all about **diversity**. We have been looking at what makes us the same and different and celebrating these differences and what makes us special. We have also been considering **different feelings and emotions** and how we all have feelings. The children have produced some really lovely work; in the form of drawings, using lots of different colours to show different emotions and we made a **handprint wreath** to show everyone is welcome in Reception class. We have also been working hard on addition to 10 using our toys to count together.

Year One

This week Year One have been learning all about a **VERY naughty bus**. We read the story, sequenced events from the book, looked at time connectives and at verbs. The children practised their photography skills by taking photos of scenes they created from the story. In maths, we have been learning all about shapes and using **directional language** to escape from a maze. In science we continued to learn all about animals, and used our scientific knowledge to put them into groups depending on their features. Well done for a super week of learning, you are all GREAT.

Year Two

Year Two had a visitor this week- **Beegu the alien!** She got up to lots of mischief around school and the children have written diary entries about her day at St John the Divine. She was even caught in Mrs Warland's office! In Maths the children have learnt more about 3D shapes and their properties and begun to compare them to 2D shapes. They have also enjoyed their virtual sessions in **Music and PE** with the children at home.

Year Three

This week in Year Three, we have been looking at the key features of **persuasive writing** in literacy. The children have applied their learning to write their own persuasive letters to Marcy, convincing her not to steal the moon eye from Ra. In maths, Year Three have been working very hard at solving complicated multiplication questions using the grid method. The children have become a lot more confident with partitioning numbers and solving multiplication questions that involve three-digit numbers.

We have used our learning from last week's maths sessions to present the results of our science experiment in bar charts and we have used these to helps us draw conclusions. It is amazing to see the children at home using their brilliant computing skills to draw up their bar charts on Microsoft Excel or Word.

In our RE lesson this week we have been looking at the different elements

Year Four

This week in Year Four we continued reading '**The Indian in the Cupboard**.' We are really enjoying Miss Z. reading to us, especially the parts where she is reading in an American accent. The story is getting more and more interesting and we are looking forward to seeing what will happen with Little Bull and his 'owner' Omri. We are wondering what they are going to get up to and whether or not Omri can keep a secret. In maths we have been consolidating formal methods of multiplication and can now apply this knowledge to solving word problems. Another lesson that was very interesting was our science lesson, where we predicted the melting point of chocolate. We used a candle, chocolate chips on tin foil, and a

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of **Hindu Mandirs** and understanding the value of each item and rituals there.	thermometer to measure the temperature. Do you know at what temperature chocolate melts and becomes a liquid? We do now!

Year Five	Year Six
This week as part of their **environmental topic** Year Five started to learn about great sea mammals from the whale family. Pupils carried out research about their evolution since the Cretaceaous period, their habitats, feeding techniques and ways of communicating through singing and echolocation. In addition to this, pupils have looked into the **geometry that we find in nature**, which has linked to their Mathematical learning on angles. Pupils had the opportunity to create **Fibonacci spirals**, and complete some art work developing their understanding of geometry and close observation of wildlife. As homework, pupils have researched about the atmosphere, and its importance to preserve life on the planet. All the research that pupils are completing will culminate into the composition of an extensive non-chronological report about our environment.	In Year Six this week, we have been learning about our mental health as part of **"Children's Mental Health Week"**. We have discussed how everyone has mental health, what it means to have good mental health, and how to help ourselves if we are worried about our mental health and who we can talk to. In English, we have sadly come to the end of Macbeth but we have written some excellent book reviews to encourage other children to read Shakespeare because we have loved it so much! In maths, we have been tackling long division which is not always easy, but we have shown terrific perseverance.

Miss Durrant's PE update

It was brilliant seeing everyone again during our Physical Activity Wednesday session. For our PE lessons, starting from the week of Monday 8th February, there will be live sessions just like your other lessons. This will happen during the pupils normal PE lessons. Physical activity is really important not just for our **physical health, but also for our mental health and well-being**. We will be doing a mixture of activities: gymnastics, fitness, skills, yoga, and dance. All activities will be tailored, so that you will be able to take part whilst inside at home.

Mr Postles' Music update

This week, Year One and Year Two have been getting noisy at home and in the classroom, using objects around them to make their own **drum kits**. The children then put these drum kits to work, learning to play several common drum beats to popular rock songs. Year Three continued with their topic of the term 'The Piano', learning how to play Bill Withers' timeless tune **'Lean on Me'**. Year Four improvised melodies using the pentatonic scale as they delved deeper into traditional **Chinese Music**. Year Five continued developing their understanding of cyclic and polyrhythms in the context of West African drumming. At the top of the school, Year Six looked in depth at the music of the 2000s, focusing in particular on the genres of **pop, indie rock, grime and hiphop**. Keep up the excellent work everyone!

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

Nursery	Tiwalade for excellent communication and language skills. Milicent for speaking in a loud and clear voice in live lessons
Reception	Matthew for his beautiful drawings this week especially his drawing of a zoo. Abdullah for his 'snail and the whale' drawing showing people rescuing the whale
Year One	Riyan for always trying so hard with his work and submitting it every single day. Cristian for writing an amazing non chronological report about trains. He used his phonics to sound out words and remembered his capital letters!
Year Two	Tiwatope for a brilliant poem where she describes her imaginary planet- 'Planet Tiwa'! Tiwa used lots of adjectives to describe everything on her planet. Helen has made her own rocket and it has been visiting a different setting every day! Helen has thought of some great endings to the sentence 'Helen's rocket is...'
Year Three	Anayah for her mature attitude toward her learning throughout this half term.

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	Kamiyah for exceptional effort with her online reading.
Year Four	*Ephraim for writing and improving his non-chronological report about Iroquois tribe.* *Summer for her patience in lessons, even if her camera and microphone don't work.*
Year Five	***Ayo** for becoming more confident at reading 5-digit numbers.* ***Jalil** for taking care to complete your online work well every day.*
Year Six	***Lourdes** for being conscientious in checking her feedback and sending in her work* ***Saron** for doing a brilliant performance of Macbeth's dagger monologue*
PE	***Reception** - Grace for trying really hard to follow Ms Durrant's instructions.* *Nahier for following the instructions and making good use of space.* ***Year One** - Adriel for showing us some impressive ball control skills in tennis. She was able to hit the ball with great aim.* ***Year Two** - J'anae for participating in Miss Durant's live sessions so enthusiastically each week!* ***Year Three** - Mikaylah for her fantastic performance during the physical activity festival on Wednesday.* ***Year Four** - Divine for joining all PE online lessons, listening to instructions and working out hard.* ***Year Five** - Scarlett for following Ms Durrant so well during the dance session.* ***Year Six** - Memunatu for practising a dance independently to perform for her teachers*

This week's House Point totals are as follows:

GARRISON	72	AUGUSTINE	80
FRANKLIN	87	DICKENS	79

On a final note, please be reminded that next Friday we break up for the February half term break – now would be a good time to check on your daffodil bulb!

Kind regards

Mrs Warland
Head Teacher