



ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

At St George's, God calls us by name to love,
learn and achieve together, safe in the palm of His hands.

'I have called you by your name; you are mine' Isaiah 43

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Newsletter no. 36~ 1st May 2020

To our wonderful parents, families and community,

THANK YOU!

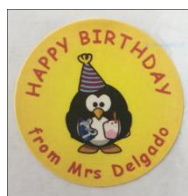
Words cannot express the whole staff's appreciation of the beautiful video which was organised to say Thank You! As you can imagine, we were all very emotional after watching it, as we miss the children so much, and to see their faces was an absolute joy.

The staff have LOVED speaking with you and the children during this week. Lots of the children were a little nervous at first, but after 30 seconds, they got into the swing of chatting with their class teacher. We thank you for facilitating this for your child.

It was great receiving positive and constructive feedback on how home learning is panning out for different families. As part of this feedback process, the governors have sent out an online questionnaire, to all families, as they would like to hear your views during this difficult period of 'lockdown' due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We encourage all families to respond so that we can put further support in, as necessary, in addition to giving us feedback on the areas that can remain unchanged for the time being. All survey replies will be entered in to a GRAND DRAW where one lucky child will be selected for a series of prizes when we are able to return to school. This includes a non-uniform day for their house team, time on the adventure playground and trim trail for their class. Finally, they will also have the opportunity to be joint Head Teacher for the day! It will be a Friday and they will have the chance to give out all the weekly awards, as well as other activities during the day! We hope that every family responds.

Have a great weekend, much love,

Annabelle Delgado



Birthdays

Congratulations to all those who celebrated their birthday this week

Erin (St Francis), Isla (St Joseph) and Edward (St Anthony)



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Registered number 7696989.

Feedback from Parents

I have regular 'virtual' meetings with the school's local governing committee, and at our most recent, Mrs Nathan shared some initial feedback from the class reps. I thought it would be good to share the responses to the questions that arose.

What has happened to the previous blog pages on Purple Mash?

They have been 'archived'. They are still accessible to the staff but the children can no longer see them. This was due to feedback that some children, and parents, were confused as to where to share posts. Please be assured, it is all saved and can be accessed at a future date if, or when, necessary.

How do I turn off the alerts on Purple Mash?

This is an area that all Purple Mash users find. We have contacted Purple Mash and they are endeavouring to make this more useful. To cope with the increased traffic on Purple Mash and to avoid interruptions to the service you may have noticed the number on the alerts bell isn't always visible. The notifications number is currently disabled, but you can click on the alert icon to check your notifications manually to see if there's anything new.

Is there anyway that staff can load videos onto Purple Mash etc., for the children?

We cannot load videos on to Purple Mash but we are looking at ways that we can use secure online 'meeting' facilities for interaction between the staff and the children. We will keep you updated of the developments in this area.

We do not have a printer at home for the worksheets

Staff plan activities that do not require printing. If it is a worksheet, the children can write their answers on paper, a whiteboard/chalkboard etc. and upload a picture to Purple Mash, if necessary. We will continue to monitor this area.

I am worried that my child is unable to understand the task/read the instructions

The activities come with lots of examples and we encourage the children to read through and 'have a go'. Even in school, some children lack the confidence to try it on their own first. The staff will continue to provide tasks that are matched to the individual's level.

How much work does the school expect my child to complete?

As I said last week, we fully understand that everyone's family looks very different at this time. It is important that your child completes activities to practise key skills, and interacts with the class and staff, via the blog, for safeguarding reasons and their well-being. The staff have provided an array of activities to provide opportunities for all types of learners. We do not expect that ALL activities will be completed week in, week out, however we do strongly recommend daily reading, English and Maths activities, alongside R.E and creative tasks, will ensure a balanced learning experience for all the children.

Can my child work at weekends and I will then upload work on a Monday?

This is absolutely fine. We understand that different families have different working days. For us, the most important thing is that we 'see' your child online at least once or twice a week.

I hope this has answered some of the questions that you may have. As I said, we will be looking at any queries or feedback from the questionnaires and will give similar style responses in future newsletters.



Head Teacher's Award

Well done to all the children recognised for their achievements this week.

Damian (St Francis) ~ for contributing well in all areas of learning! In particular, you have shown us some great days of the week and months of the year work. Fantastic!

Katie (St Therese) ~ for working so hard this week. She has made some amazing musical instruments and contributed brilliantly on the blog.

Mia (St Elizabeth) ~ for her happy, cheerful, loving and enthusiastic personality when chatting to her on the phone this week! Keep it up Mia!

Aubrey (St Bernadette) ~ for his wonderful work. He produced an excellent card for Colonel Tom.

Florence I. (St Bernadette) ~ for sharing a wonderful variety of work online.

Lilah (St Joseph) ~ for putting great effort into her story writing this week. She read her story to Mrs Howell during her phone conversation with great expression and even sang the song she had included in her writing. Mrs Howell thought it was a lovely treat!

Finley (St Anthony) ~ He has blown me away with his hard working and positive attitude. Even through posting pictures on purple mash, I can tell he is trying his hardest in all that he does.

Finley is continue to grow in confidence with his maths and has even had time to make a sparkly dragon egg this week. Keep being a superstar Finley!

Amelie (St Peter) ~ for engaging so well with all of the online activities and tasks which have been set this week. Keep up the fantastic focus and effort Amelie.



Weekly update 27th April – 1st May 2020

It has been another action packed week in the EYFS! 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' story has formed the basis for most of our learning this week. We have been learning about the days of the week, months of the year



and the seasons. There has been some great diary writing from many children too. As part of learning about the world, we have created butterfly life cycles and then made symmetrical butterfly paintings. We even carried on the theme with a Cosmic Kids yoga about the Hungry Caterpillar! Some children have been busy in the kitchen making fruit salads, choosing some fruit that the caterpillar ate himself. There has also been lots of practical and creative



maths along with some super handwriting practice. We appear to have lots of helpful children in the EYFS who have been helping out around the house with cooking, and with DIY and gardening outside. Well done all!



As I write this I am in the middle of speaking to our lovely YEAR 1 families and it's such a joy to catch up with everyone and chat to the children too. Everyone is working so hard to make the very best of this situation.

This week continues to be an exciting one. We have continued our Fairy Tale theme

but have turned to the dark side to create villains by drawing, describing them and thinking about their deadly deeds!



I have seen some amazing practical maths all about fractions and sharing quantities with children using all manner of items in and outside to count and share.

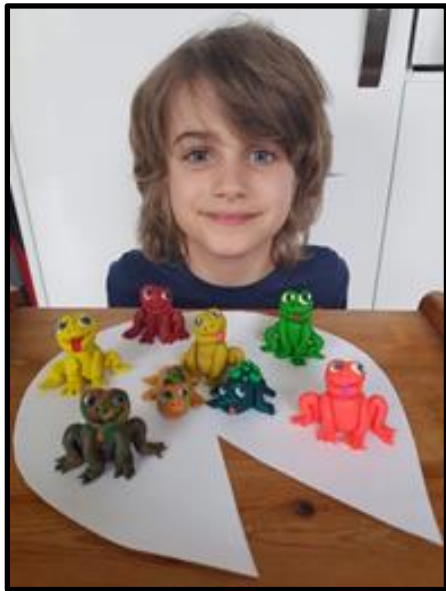
Well done everyone!



And there is an air of excitement about the new pirate topic with all kinds of pirate names and pirate hats appearing on Purple Mash! I will be finding my pirate hat soon myself!

Not to mention all the other activities, exercises, musical instrument making, tree hunts and plant labelling that has been going on! Who would have thought that we could still be doing so much when not at school! Well done Year 1 on another fantastic week!

Year 2 It was wonderful to be able to speak to almost



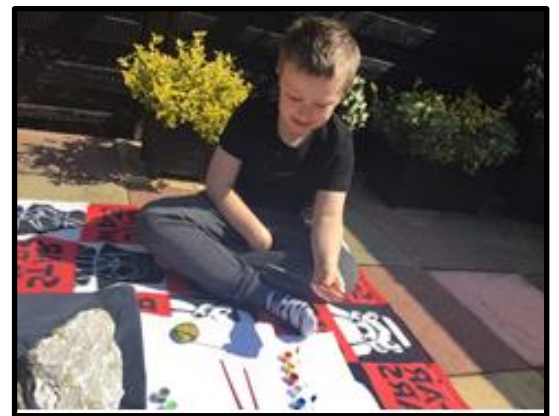
everyone in the class and their parents. It was so special to hear your voices again! Everyone sounded in great spirits and I could tell that they are really beginning to miss school! The variety of home learning taking place this week has once again amazed me. I have really enjoyed seeing the children's computer work this week, as they were asked to create an animation about a beanstalk



growing. The results were so impressive! I think we could have a few children working for Disney in the future with such fantastic animation skills already! I have also been very impressed with the 2Dos tasks completed this week where the children had to give change



using a range of coins. They were then encouraged to play 'shops' and put their skills to the test! The children had to make price labels and write shopping lists. The artist of the week has



been very popular once again this week where many children in Year 2 made creations from things from nature. Many others have also been busy still making their instruments, I loved Jack's harp! Oliver was busy painting pebbles in the garden, Kieran made a frog family from

polymer clay and Otilie and her friend drew a portrait of each other whilst they had a Skype conversation! Mrs Cracknell had set a Science task about plants this week and the children found out about the conditions needed for germination. Many children also went on to plant seeds to investigate the different conditions needed for them to grow. In R.E we have been learning about the coming of the Holy Spirit and many of the children have been learning to sing and do the actions to the song, "The Holy Spirit Fills Me Up" which they thoroughly enjoyed! Once again, I would like to say a big thank you and well done to the children and parents in Year Two as they have been working so hard with their home school learning.

Year 3 have again been superstars this week and have continued to blog and produce wonderful pieces of work, which I have enjoyed reading and looking at. This week the weather has not been the best and I asked the children to choose a film to watch with their family. Year 3 then became film critics and wrote film reviews. After reading their reviews, I now have a number of films on my list to watch!

As well as completing the activities set this week, year 3 have again shown a number of ways of being creative at home. Thomas has impressed me with his Covid-19 themed monopoly game that he made. According to his family, Thomas is a



monopoly master! I look forward to playing his game, once we all

return to school. Last week was 'National Stationery week', and the challenge of the week was to create a new piece of stationery or build something, to put stationery in. Corey came up with a brilliant idea of a desk tidy, and has recycled materials to make it. Well done Corey!

The best part of my week has been going into school, and making phone calls to all the children in our class. It was so lovely to speak with you all! As always, take care and continue with all the fabulous work you have been doing year 3.



Year 4 Although the weather has turned grey and rather wet, my day definitely brightened on Tuesday when I had the pleasure of speaking to so many of St Joseph Class pupils and parents. It was lovely to hear that you and your families are keeping well and how the children are succeeding with their home learning. I am really enjoying reading all the wonderful messages and looking at the 'at work' photos on our Class Blogs.



I have been delighted to see that the introduction of Spelling Shed and Times Tables Rock Stars has encouraged another fun way of continuing learning at home. Next week will bring a new tournament, not just boys versus girls, but also the opportunity to compete against other Southend Schools. I know many of the children in St Joseph Class

will make up part of a fantastic team and support each other to success.





This week, I have been hearing about the children's enjoyment of the English tasks on Serial Mash, that 'The Sleeping Volcano' has been a great read. Accompanying work, such as the leaflets and stories, has demonstrated that the children are still using the techniques for writing that we had been working on in class. Keep up the great work St Joseph Class; I am looking forward to



seeing what further successes will be achieved next week.

Year 5 continue to amaze me with their hard work and creativity! I am so lucky to have such a wonderful class. It's been lovely to catch up with you all and to learn about all the amazing things you have been up to at home. We've got campers, artists, bakers and gymnasts in year 5 and we've seen chickens laying their first egg, ducklings on our walks, lots of seeds germinating, slime making, Harry Potter reading to our family and football fun.



In addition to all the fabulous fun we have been having, we've been hard

at work adding and subtracting decimals and learning about instructions. We all had to follow the instructions to draw a house and incredibly, they all turned out very similar! We are starting to write our own instructions for 'Rainbow Drop Sweets' so watch this

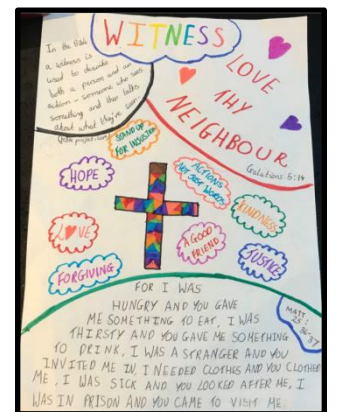


space! We've also seen our first boys v girls challenge on Timestables Rockstars, where it looks like the boys have claimed it this week. I wonder if the girls are ready to make a comeback next week?! And we've seen some more Greek name plaques, dragon art, flower drawings and animations of our RE work. We have been busy. Next week we will be celebrating VE day, looking at Greek Democracy and looking at butterflies and life cycles. I can't wait for more wonderful work and to see what



surprises next week will bring!

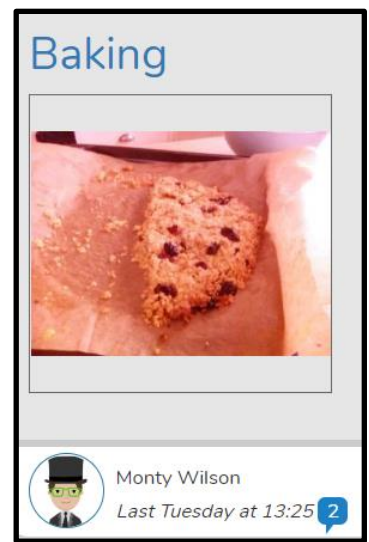
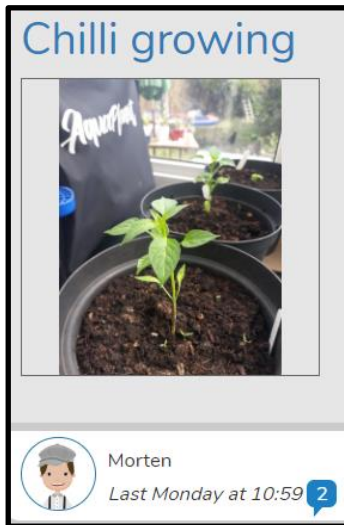
It has been another busy week for Year 6 – the days just seem to disappear! In RE we have seen some lovely posters about what it means to be a witness and more importantly what it means to be a witness of Jesus. The children worked hard to find and include appropriate bible quotes. This week we began a new Science topic – Evolution and



Inheritance. The class were asked to think about what traits and characteristics they have inherited from their parents and also which ones they share with their siblings. Again we have seen lots of lovely work produced on our Science blog. All of the English and Maths tasks have kept them busy – especially the boys vs girls challenge on

Times Tables Rockstars. Last time I checked the girls were winning but it's not over until next week so keep on playing! Other highlights of the week include Emily's fantastic giant bubbles, Joseph's 1000-piece puzzle, Morten's chilli plants growing and

Lily's butterfly spotting and photography in her garden, not to mention Monty's delicious flapjacks! My personal highlight of the week was of course getting to speak to all of you on the phone. It was so wonderful to hear your voices, to hear what you have been doing to keep busy and just to have a little chat! Have a great weekend.



Artist of the Week

This week Mrs Gillett had set a theme of working with nature and take inspiration from the artist Andy Goldsworthy. Once again, this week has been so difficult for her to choose just one artist of the week, so she has picked some very well deserved runners up this week as well!

The winner of this week's artist of the week goes to:

Nathan (St Francis) ~ for his amazing Very Hungry Caterpillar made from leaves!

The runners up are:

Jacob (St Elizabeth) ~ for his delicate spiral which had been so carefully created.

William (St Joseph) ~ for his fantastic Tiger Fish made from pebbles and seaweed (which apparently had a special mention on a local Facebook Group as William had left the artwork on the beach for everyone to see!)

Julia (St Joseph) ~ her beautiful beach heart of a heart and a spiral

Harry C (St Joseph) ~ for his pebble and flower circles.

Eliana (St Peter) ~ for her beautiful spiral made from flowers and leaves.

Lovely to see our first brother and sister runner up award!



The theme for next week's Artist of the Week is the 75th Anniversary of VE day. Friday 8 May 2020 marks 75 years since the end of the Second World War. On VE (Victory in Europe) Day in 1945, millions took to the streets to celebrate peace after years of conflict. You may want to create a poster of peace, make bunting or produce something equally creative. We look forward to seeing all the different ways to celebrate peace through art.

Reading Awards

WELL DONE to:

Corey (St Bernadette) for reaching 100 reads and gaining his SILVER award
Ocean & Isla (St Joseph) our GOLD readers who have reached 150 reads
Albert (St Therese), Archie (St Elizabeth), Florence I. & Daniel (St Bernadette),
Scarlett, Isla, Isabelle & Julia (St Joseph) and Jessica & Stanley (St Anthony)
our DIAMOND readers who have reached 200 reads

Sports Awards

No sports awards this week. **DON'T FORGET**, Miss Rusz puts lots of activities on the P.E. blog to encourage you all to try something new and get involved. She would love to hear what you have been up to!

Times Tables Rockstars

St Mary's C of E school, Prittlewell, have challenged us to a Times Tables Rock Stars tournament! We have to answer as many questions as we can during the month of May to beat them. Are we up for the challenge?



Purple Mash Home Learning

Some of our parents asked for a blogging guide to help with home learning. The document can be found in the useful links for remote learning page of the school website. Please do not hesitate to contact us via email if you have any more questions.

Prayers

We continue to pray for all our families and community during this difficult time and remember all our families who are grieving for loved ones who have died.

God Bless,

Mrs Delgado