



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



Eagle Way, Shoeburyness, Essex SS3 9RN.

Telephone: 01702 293522

Email: office@st-georges.southend.sch.uk Website: www.sgcps.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs A. Delgado

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To our wonderful community,

It has been an absolute pleasure speaking to parents and carers this week. Because of spending quality time on the calls, we still haven't managed to get to everyone! We will continue on Monday and Tuesday next week. I can only echo once again to all parents...

THANK YOU



You have all been truly amazing during this unbelievably difficult time. The vast majority of you said that there are times when it's difficult to motivate the children because they are missing their friends and missing school. They are not alone in this. I know that every child, parent and staff member also misses not being in school. With the government's announcement that schools will not reopen until at least the 8th March, it means that we have to stay put for an extra few weeks. Please be assured that we are here to support families working from home in any way we can. Firstly, I think confirming the key messages of our home learning provision:

- 1) **Do what you can and work around the whole family.** It may be that your home working days are at the beginning of the week, so therefore you can only support the learning towards the end of the week. That is absolutely fine. We always look forward to seeing work whichever end of week (or weekend!). If your child is finding an activity difficult, or is not engaged, leave it, take a break and come back later, or complete a different activity. I think as adults we can find it hard at the moment to always stay focused and on track; it is no different for the children.



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- 2) **Don't compare yourself to other families.** Everyone's family situation is different, everyone's approach to technology and posting is different. Some families post daily, some post weekly, some post on a week day, whilst others post at the weekend. The only 'right way', is the way that is right for your family.
- 3) **Regularly attend Google Meets with the class teachers.** Many of you commented that this was a real highlight for your child as they love seeing their classmates and their teacher. Keeping the routine of a daily meet really benefits the children, and parents, as it is a time when the children know they have to be there, and hopefully it gives the parents a quick break. I know the teachers are using them not only as their live learning for the day, but also as a time for discussion, quizzes, games, even show and tell!

If you are struggling with the pressure of lockdown, home-schooling and would like to have support, have the opportunity to discuss various strategies and possibly hear a new one, or just chat in a safe space with our school counsellor, then I encourage you to click on the link below. The confidential online support group will be early evening, after dinner, and will take place via zoom. It will be a small group, around 6 – 8, and is organised and run by Huibrie Putt from the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. If we are over number, priority will be given to parents who are supporting their child on their own. We have extended the closing date to NEXT FRIDAY, with sessions beginning the following week. I encourage any of you that need this support to register your interest by clicking [HERE](#).



Next week is Children's Mental Health week and the children will be completing a range of activities to promote positive health and well-being. As I have previously said though, parents and children are not under any pressure to complete it, as that would completely defeat the aim of the week! It is something that the staff will weave into the timetable.

One thing we will be introducing from next week onwards is a Screen-Free day (with the exception of the daily google meet). Each class teacher will share which day it will be. There will still be daily activities, but these will be planned to be completed away from the screen. There are so many benefits to having a screen free day for the children and parents: completing practical tasks, being physical, being social rather than just online, feeling less pressure than other days, being able to support other siblings who may be completing work online etc. It may be that parents use the screen free day as a catch up day from earlier in the week. We really hope that this supports children and parents alike.

The school will be following the dates for February half term, 15th to 19th February. We will be fully closed and there will be no learning set during this week. Everyone would have been working flat out for 6 weeks, so a week's break from it all is definitely deserved!

As ever, if you need to get in touch, email office@st-georges.southend.sch.uk and mark it for the attention of whichever staff member you would like it passed to.

Take care and stay safe
Much love, **Annabelle Delgado**



Head Teacher Awards

Vinnie ~ (St Francis) ~ for his enthusiasm during our phonics sessions on Google Meets. Well done!

Nathan ~ (St Therese) ~ Nathan has impressed every day with his smiles and enthusiasm in every activity. Not only has he worked, researched and created imaginatively he has been keeping fit with his daily laps too. Great work Nathan!

Katarina ~ (St Elizabeth) ~ for showing outstanding engagement in all aspects of remote learning & completing all of her work to the highest standard, especially her rocket which was... 'out of this world!!'

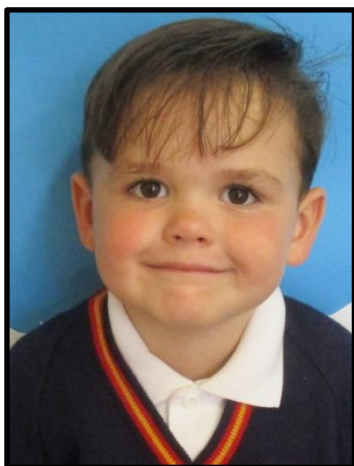
Oliver ~ (St Bernadette) ~ Oliver has wowed me with his hard work over the last few weeks, particularly in his maths. I have also been impressed with how confident he has been sharing his ideas and work in our live lessons. Well done Oliver, keep up the enthusiasm!

Aubrey ~ (St Joseph) ~ for showing outstanding enthusiasm and engagement in all subjects. Aubrey is fantastically motivated and is consistently producing excellent pieces of work. You're a superstar - well done!

Mitchell ~ (St Anthony) ~ for working so very hard in his English tasks every day and for reciting the poem 'Snow' so beautifully to his class friends this week.

Harry C.~ (St Anthony) ~ for being so engaged with his online learning and Google Meets every day. Harry's work is demonstrating great understanding in all subjects and is presented to a very high standard. Keep up the great work!

Harley ~ (St Peter) ~ for his fantastic engagement during all of our Google meets, he is enthusiastic and contributes daily. Keep up the great work Harley.



Birthdays



Congratulations to **Ellie** (St Bernadette) who celebrates her birthday today!

Home Learning update

EYFS



Reception have really engaged well with home learning this week. Our focus has been a 'Winter Picnic' story with the main characters being teddy bears. This has led to many teddy bear picnic style activities. We have been designing and writing picnic invitations, making food out of playdoh for the picnic and setting up our own teddy bear picnics at home with our toys! On top of this, the children have been making observational drawings of their own bears and completing a teddy bear colouring and number activity. Well done for sharing all of your

wonderful work with us. Our Google Meets continue to focus mainly on phonics and high frequency words, and we have had some great responses during these sessions. We have also been continuing with our daily 'quick fire' maths activities. Purple Mash has allowed the children to be creative by making their own winter scene using the art tools, as well consolidating phonics work. You have worked so hard and you are all superstars!



From Mrs Lawrence and Mrs Philips


Year One



This week has been another busy week in Year One. We have all enjoyed our Google Meets where we are becoming very confident with our phonics, reading and writing them and playing games too. I have been really impressed with the effort and beautiful writing and handwriting that I have seen on work on Purple Mash.

A chilly theme continues in Year One where the children have been finding out more about the Antarctic and deciding what they might need to take with them if they were to visit. They have been watching PowerPoints to research where it

Mae Jemison	
Name:	Mae Jemison
Nationality:	American
Occupation:	Astronaut
What is she famous for?	Being the first African American woman to go to outer space
Would you like to meet her?	Yes
What would you talk about?	Ask if she was scared? what is space like? what did you eat?



is, the temperature and what scientists do there. We have even had children looking at their encyclopaedias to find out more information! Great work everyone!



Our Science this week has involved more research about the American astronaut Mae Jemison. The children have found that she was the first African American woman to go to outer space. They have thought about lots of questions they would like to ask her too! As well as being great scientists, mathematicians and writers this week our children have also been busy

keeping fit and healthy and super bakers! They've practised their running around gardens and on the seafront and used their measuring skills to weigh out ingredients to create scrumptious fairy cakes.



Another super week has been had in Year One. A big well done to everyone and we look forward to doing it all again next week! **From Mrs McLoughlin**

Year Two



I have been so impressed with the range of activities happening at home this week in St Elizabeth's Class. The children have enjoyed learning about recycling materials in Mrs Beale's Science lesson on Monday.

Later in the week they used things from their own recycling bins to produce amazing rockets! Some of which were almost big enough to fly to the moon in! The children really impressed me with their creativity.

Some of the children had great fun playing around with the latest Augmented Reality experience on an App called, 'Twinkl LeARn & Explore' where they 'walked around' the solar system, 'held planets in their hands' and discovered facts. Our creative writing this week has been on the theme of letter writing and

the children wrote replies to an alien called Sporkle from outer space. They told him all about our local area and their hobbies. Mrs Beales Google Meet session, focused on using adjectives to describe a creepy forest. The results were so detailed that I could really imagine myself walking through the forests!



Harry S has also been very busy with some home baking and made a delicious Victoria sponge cake covered in chocolate! Brooklyn has also been baking some buns at home.



Congratulations to Padme who managed to learn how to ride her bike without stabilisers this week!

Once again, well done to all of our Year 2 parents who have helped the children with their home learning this week and well done to the children who turn up every day for our Google Meet sessions and continue to work incredibly hard. **From Mrs Gillett**



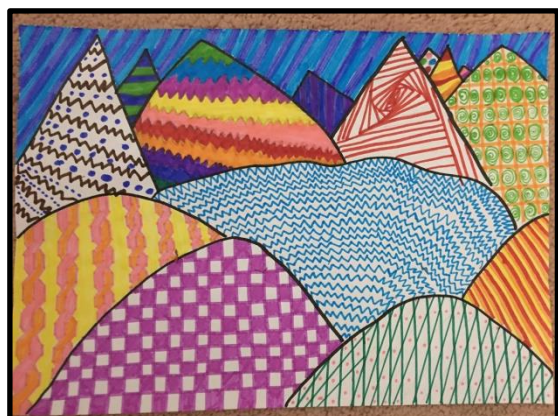
Year 3



Wow, time flies when you're having fun! I can't believe another week has passed and it's been jam packed full of learning and fun. Last Friday we ended the week with a pet show and tell and we had all sorts of animals join us in our google meets, from cats and dogs to guinea pigs, chickens and even snails. I loved meeting all your furry and slimy friends, our pets are definitely forms of comfort at the moment.

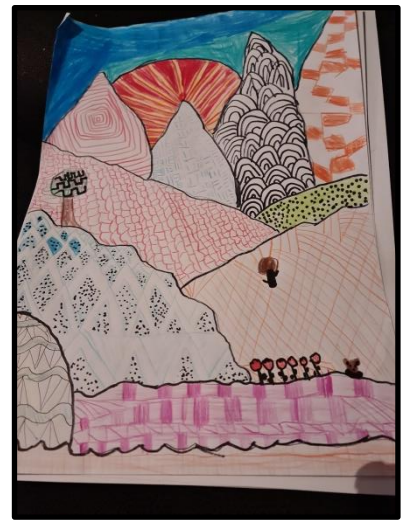
This week we have launched our "Masked Singer" competition and we have had lots of entries of children singing and dancing wearing very mysterious disguises so we have been

trying to guess which of our friends are behind the masks. It's certainly put a smile on everyone's faces!



We have also been continuing learning about mountains and volcanoes this week and we have created some beautiful and vibrant artwork using zentangles and patterns. It is very clear to see that the children have spent a long time perfecting their artwork.

In RE we have seen the end of our "journeys" topic. The children really summarised how we are all on a journey right now where things are changing all the time. They have shared things in their own journeys that they hope to do soon and things they are looking forward to like birthdays and seeing each other again. Together we also discussed how we have "radiators" in our lives which give us warm and happy feelings and shared lots of things that we do to make us happy whether it be getting a cuddle and cosying up with a

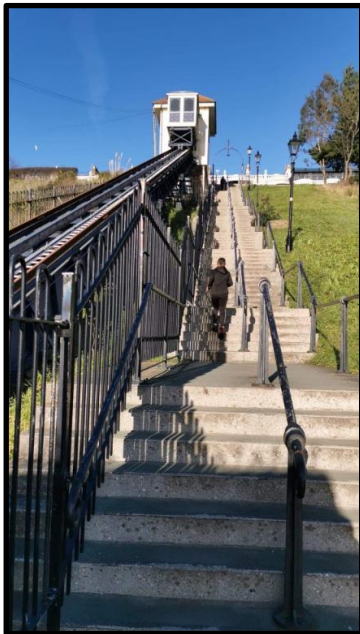


family member, playing a sport or watching a favourite film. It's important to have things to look forward to doing in order to look after ourselves.

Well done for your continued enthusiasm and hard work year 3, now go and enjoy a well deserved rest full of radiators and your favourite things! **From Miss Rusz**



Year 4



Year 4 have been working hard again this week. As a result, our daily video calls have included some fun games, including a version of the TV show, Catch Phrase, with the pictures linked to children's literature. Maths this week has been based on area, and in English, we have been reading

'Animal Boy' – a story about a child who hits his head and finds he can talk to animals. The children have been honing their comprehension skills in their topic work this week, answering questions linked to a text on tsunamis. In science, we have been

researching a variety of different invertebrates, and our R.E has seen us begin our new topic on 'Giving and Receiving'.

On top of this, the children have continued to find time to complete extra work in a range of different subjects, with time for baking, P.E and activities that encourage health and well-being, such as enjoying a walk in the fresh air – very fresh in Thomas's case! Keep up the enthusiasm – you're all superstars!

Thank you for your continued efforts. Stay safe. **Mr Sims**



Year 5



It has been another busy week for all the children in St Anthony's Class. We have been learning about the Scottish designer Charles Rennie Mackintosh, how to draw the famous Mackintosh Rose and taking inspiration from his work to design our own pieces. The results have been wonderful. We have continued to experiment with insulators and conductors in Science and have enjoyed completing this week's STEM activity.

In Maths, we continue to improve our understanding of fractions. I have been delighted with the progress the children are making. Our new topic in English is poetry. We started the week by analysing 'The Hill we Climb,' performed at the recent US Presidential Inauguration ceremony; a poem of hope for our future, which linked



very nicely to our RE work about Christian unity. We have been revising and learning new poetic techniques in our Google Meets this week and have also been choosing our own poems to practise and perform. I was delighted to watch all the children perform such a wide range of poems yesterday; some funny, others thought-provoking, some rhyming, others full of hopes and dreams. It was

a joy to see the children perform to myself, Mrs Heal and their friends using clear, strong voices and with such confidence. They gave each other lovely positive feedback and praise too. We will continue the topic next week, planning and writing our own poems. I shall be excited to see their results. Thank you St Anthony's Class for always trying your best, keep being fabulous! Take care, stay safe. **From Mrs Howell**



Year 6



Another week of hard work for Year 6! This week we have been learning all about percentages in Maths and making sure we can see the links between percentages, decimals and fractions. In English we finished our unit on biographies – Mrs Bracknell & I both really enjoyed reading the biographies about famous Americans; the people chosen ranged from historical figures such as Abraham Lincoln to modern day pop

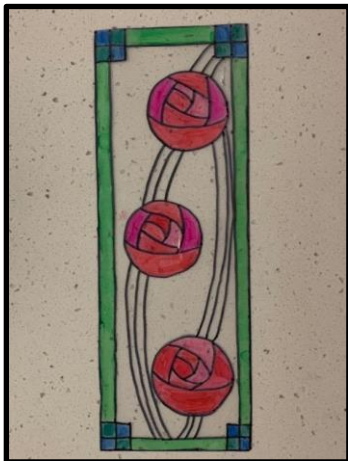
stars like Ariana Grande. We certainly learnt a lot from reading them! In RE we finished our topic of Books by reflecting on how Scripture brings us into the presence of God, the importance of the





Bible and the part we play in the story of God's people. In Science we have started a new unit learning all about the systems of our body, this week the focus was on the circulatory system and it was great to see what you had learnt by the end of the lesson. We have continued with our pop art lessons focusing on the artist Julian Opie who uses a simplistic style when drawing portraits, we've learnt this week about his use of colour. In other news, Zofia has been busy cooking up a Chinese feast for her whole family, we're very impressed Zofia! Wishing you all a restful weekend. Take care, Mrs Sayer & Mrs Bracknell

Mrs Gillett's Artist of the week



The artwork has been amazing on the Blog this week and it has been very difficult to choose a winner, however this week's winner goes to Edie for her beautiful drawing of roses in the style of Charles Rennie Mackintosh. She decided to draw on a laminating sheet to create a stained glass window effect and bold black lines and beautiful shading for the roses. Congratulations Edie!

Mrs Gillett

Mrs Philips Reading Awards

Well done to our readers this week.

Congratulations to **Anina & Amaya** (St Therese), **Oscar** (St Elizabeth) and **Joseph** (St Anthony) who have earned their BRONZE reading certificate this week

And to the children who have earned their SILVER reading certificates this week:

Ellie, Sophia & Sophie (St Francis), **Harry S., Lily & Rosie** (St Elizabeth),
Matthias (St Bernadette) and **Julia** (St Anthony)

Mrs Philips

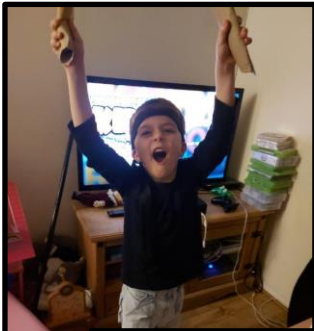
Sports News

Last week, Miss Rusz encouraged all the children to compete in to a local 1km time trials competition organised by the Southend School's Partnership. We had some fantastic results which were celebrated in the Sports Awards. A couple of days ago we received the overall results for the competition and saw that some of our children had made it into the top 10 for their year group against other schools in Southend. In the Year 3 boys category, **Jack** topped the table, coming first with a time of 4m 50s, **Archie** came third with a time of 5m 18s and **Oscar** came seventh with a time of 6m 42 s. **Freya W.** came ninth for the Year 3 girls in a time of 10m 30s. In Year 5, **Harry C.** came fifth in a time of 5m 25s.

Well done to all of you, we are all very proud.

Miss Ruz's Sports Performer

Another great week for activity and Sports! The challenge for this week was all about fun and being happy. You were invited to send in a video or photo of you dancing to your favourite song and either make up a dance, or use one you know. Well done to everyone who took part!



The performer this week is Isis (St Anthony's Class). I really enjoyed seeing Isis's dance to such an uplifting song and one special to her class. It looked like she was having a wonderful time which is what dancing is all about. Well done Isis!

This week's improver is Padme (St Elizabeth Class) for her huge improvement in cycling skills this week.

Miss Ruz

Mrs Bracknell's STEM challenge

This week the children had the task of creating a rainbow solution made from sugar, water and food colouring. It was particularly challenging - even I had to do multiple attempts to get it right!

Although there have been many successes, there was one that really stood out. They attempted this practical a number of times, in order to improve their result - an important STEM skill!

Therefore, this week's winner is Harry H. from St Elizabeth's class.

For the next STEM challenge, click on the following link: <https://stgeorges-cps-southend.primarysite.media/media/stem-challenge-29121>

Closing date for entries is Thursday noon.

Prayers



We continue to pray for our family, our friends and our community.

God Bless,

Mrs Delgado



Mrs Bracknell