



# 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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**Headteacher: Mrs A. Delgado**

newsletter no. 367 ~26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

To our wonderful community,

## **See you soon!**

I imagine that many of us were glued to newsfeeds, social media and the TV on Monday in expectation of the Prime Minister's announcement regarding the roadmap out of lockdown. I am sure that all of us felt a sense that things will be changing, for the better, over the next few weeks and months, and that as restrictions lift, our lives will return to, and resemble, a more familiar and happier time.

I was elated that schools reopening was step one of this 'map'. I was also pleased, as a Primary Head, the decision was made to welcome back all year groups. By the government staying true to their promise of giving schools notice, we have been afforded the time to prepare and organise the school for the children's and staff's safe return.

In order to facilitate this full reopening, staff will host their Google Meets from Monday to Thursday next week. Friday will still be a remote learning day, but practical activities will be set, rather than online, and staff will respond to any pupil interactions when **ALL** the children return on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Staff will be on site for the day in preparation for welcoming and transitioning their class back to school.

As I said in my letter earlier this week, there will not be a great deal of change to the procedures that were in place in September. The focus remains on personal hygiene (washing hands, use of sanitiser, tissues etc.) and continuing to minimise contacts (use of class bubbles). Other things that remain in place are:

- Well ventilated areas
- Enhanced cleaning
- Isolation for any person displaying symptoms of COVID-19
- Social distancing between adults where possible



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- Staggered drop off and pick up (drop off times will be 8.40/8.45/8.50, pick up 3.10/3.15/3.20) –Parents will not be on site for drop off, but will be for collection. They will be expected to wear masks unless exempt. I will email all parents with their drop off and collection time next week.
- Individual stationery packs for every child
- Children only bringing essentials into school (i.e. lunchboxes, coat, reading book)
- Children to wear school uniform (or P.E. kit on P.E day)
- Breakfast and after-school clubs will continue

There will be additional procedures put in place that will further minimise any risks. These are:

- Weekly testing for staff
- Encouragement of regular testing of households. This can be done at a walk in centre or by ordering a test online, if you prefer.
- Use of face coverings, for adults only, where social distancing is not possible

The effort that all of our community, staff, families and children, have put in during the last seven weeks has been truly remarkable. Everyone has played their part.

It is clear that the government and scientist are very cautious about reopening all schools, and I think we must be cautious too. During these first three weeks before Easter, I need your help.



I know it will be wonderful to see friends and other parents after such a long time, and all of us will want to take time to catch up, including me! Could I request that a wave, smile, thumbs up, virtual hug or 'blown' kiss be the main form of communication? It will mean that we can safely get all our

children in school and parents will be able to keep their contacts to a minimum during this crucial time. If we could keep the pathways outside the school clear, it will mean there's no need to dance, dodge or pirouette around adults to keep safe!



When we return after Easter, there will be further limited changes. If everything continues in the right direction, outdoor gatherings of either 6 people or 2 households will be allowed, which provides greater flexibility for families, or friends, to see each other, 'walk and talk' after school drop off, or arranging to go to the park with another family at the end of the day.

I know there may be some parents, carers and children who will be anxious about returning to school. Please be assured that we will be doing everything we can to minimise risks for everyone in our community and all the staff will be supporting the children in the first few weeks back. If you feel that your child may need addition emotional support, after returning to school, please do not hesitate to contact me, or your child's class teacher.

See you in 10 days (and counting...!)

Take care and stay safe,  
Much love, Annabelle Delgado



## Birthdays



We only have one birthday to celebrate this week! Congratulations to Mrs Harris - we hope you had a lovely day.

## Mrs Philips Reading Awards

Congratulations to Maddison (St Francis), Freya F. (St Bernadette) and Daisy (St Peter) who earned their BRONZE reading certificate this week and to our SILVER award readers: Vince (St Elizabeth), Jack (St Bernadette), Lilah, Chloe & Isabelle (St Anthony) and Keavy (St Peter)

...And to our FIRST GOLD award recipients

Freya W. & Kieran (St Bernadette), Daniel, Florence R-F., Thomas & Joshua (St Joseph), Harry C., Samuel, William, Isis & Jasmine (St Anthony)

*Mrs Philips*

## Mrs Bracknell's STEM challenge



As this is our last week of STEM challenges before returning to school, I would like you to choose your own STEM challenge! There are many simple challenges that you can attempt such as, building a bridge that can hold 5 reading books, racing a car without touching it or making a cube using toothpicks and sweets. The choice is endless! For more inspiration, watch the following [video](#)

Once you have completed your STEM challenge, please post a photo on the STEM challenge blog, which you can find on

Purple Mash. Good luck!

*Mrs Bracknell*

## Mrs Gillett's Artist of the week

There has been such a variety of art work this week it has been very tricky to pick just one winner, so this week there are two winners!



*Corey* ~ for his brilliant drawing of a train. I loved the attention to detail in his artwork and the bright colours he used.

*Beatrice* ~ For her excellent astronaut costume based on her topic about space and Neil Armstrong. She even designed an oxygen tank on her back and a digital map on her sleeve!



*Mrs Gillett*



### Head Teacher Awards

*Sebastian ~ (St Francis) ~ for working really hard with all of his home learning and during our Google Meets. Well done!*

*Ronnie W. ~ (St Therese) ~ Ronnie has a go at everything from trying hard in his phonics and English to keeping up his exercise and being a super scientist with exciting experiments. Great job Ronnie!*

*Katie ~ (St Elizabeth) ~ for working incredibly hard with her home learning since the start of lockdown. She has continued to challenge herself with every task from the timetable and maintain fantastic enthusiasm and effort. Well done Katie!*

*Jacob ~ (St Bernadette) ~ Jacob's positive energy and enthusiasm during remote learning has been outstanding. He consistently works hard and has continued to make excellent progress, particularly in his maths. Well done Jacob!*

*Joseph ~ (St Joseph) ~ for producing a number of absolutely outstanding pieces of written work and generally being a superstar. Well done and keep it up!*

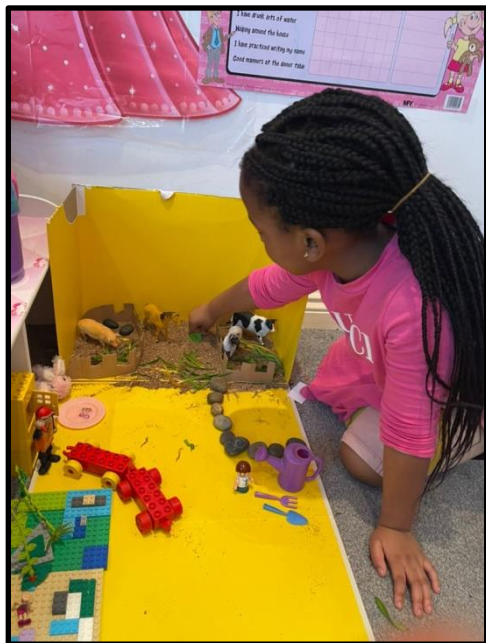
*Samuel ~ (St Anthony) ~ for consistently working hard on all of the activities set for him on the weekly timetable. Well done Samuel, keep up the good work. You are a superstar!*

*Loui ~ (St Peter) ~ for his engagement in our most recent poetry unit, in English. He has come up with some fabulous ideas for personified emotions. Keep up the great work!*



## Home Learning update

### EYFS



A new half-term and a new class topic! This half-term our theme is 'Transport' and the first story we have been looking at this week is 'Rosie's Walk'. The children have been sharing and retelling this story and then creating their own story maps, sequencing the events in the story. Rosie's Walk includes lots of positional vocabulary and the children have been creating their own mini obstacle courses for their toys and practising using this vocabulary in their play. Our creative work has included making farms from a range of materials and resources and completing a farm Purple

Mash activity. Our maths focus has been measures and the children have been completing different activities to support this as well as continuing with our 'quick fire' maths to consolidate previous learning. We have also seen some super R.E work linked to Lent. During our Google Meets we have been learning some new sounds and well as consolidating some 'tricky' words. Well done to everyone for working so hard this week!

From Mrs Lawrence and Mrs Philips



### Year One



Another week has whizzed by and Year One have not disappointed with their attitude and commitment to learning this week. Our week has been filled with an array of interesting activities.

Our R.E. topic is all about Special Meals and we have learnt all about The Last Supper this week. The children have watched a video, talked through some stretching questions and created their own Last Supper artwork.

Fabulous! Mrs Cracknell set the children a task of experimenting with

Gummy Bears this week and they had to find out what happened to the bears when added to different liquids of water, salt water, vinegar and baking soda. The children donned their goggles, measured, predicted and thought through a conclusion from their results. What super scientists we have!







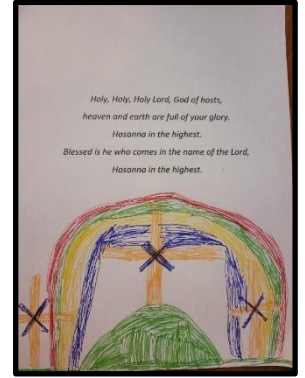
On Wednesday, we had our non-screen day and it was lovely to see the children taking advantage of the finer weather we have been having this week. Jake was very productive whilst out getting his daily exercise as he decided to collect litter from his local area.

In R.E we have been studying the Eucharistic Prayer and trying to learn the words. The children decorated the prayer with beautiful images of how we see God's

glory in His creation. Here is Max's beautifully illustrated prayer.

Once again, a huge well done to the children for their ongoing hard work.

From Mrs Gillett



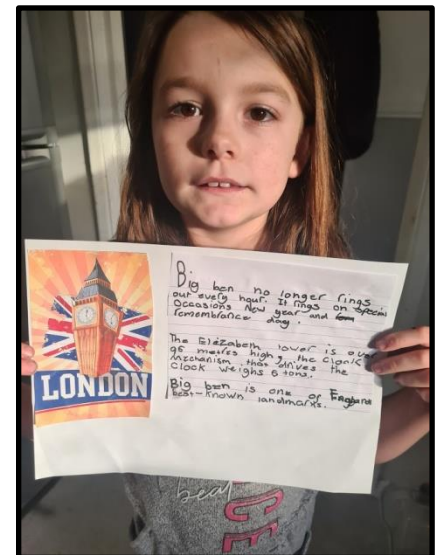
### Year 3



Knowing we can be back together in the classroom soon has definitely made the start to this half term easier. I know the children are all looking forward to seeing their friends again soon and being back in school but this hasn't stopped their motivation to work hard this week.

A new half term also sees new topics! In geography we have started to learn all about The UK and have been thinking about what each of the UK nations is famous for as well as famous

landmarks. In English we have started looking at fairytales and everyone shared their favourite story. We also started looking at fairytales from different points of views and found that sometimes things aren't always as they seem!



Friday is our no screen day so our challenge this week is to learn a new skill around the house such as putting on the washing machine, making toast or maybe a cup of tea. We are also going to take advantage of the glorious sunshine and find objects each colour of the rainbow.

From Miss Rusz

## Year 4



Year 4 have had another great week. In maths, we have continued our work on fractions, and in English, we have completed a range of written tasks and started another new text, 'The Sleeping Volcano' – a story about some school children who go on a trek with their teacher to learn about volcanoes. This text links particularly well with our 'Extreme Earth' topic. Our Google Meets have once again enabled us to see each other, and we were delighted to hear that we'll be back in class in just over a week. In our topic work, we have continued to look at earthquakes and we have answered a range of questions about them. In science, we have

been learning about classification keys and how to use them, and our R.E has seen us begin our topic on 'Self-Discipline'. We have continued to choose from a variety of activities on Fridays, when we have had time away from screens and devices. This has given us the chance to use a vast range of skills, from baking to building towers. Thank you for your continued efforts. Stay safe.

Mr Sims



## Year 5



From what I have been hearing in our Google Meets sessions, the children of St Anthony's Class had a much-needed, well-earned rest over the half term break. They have come back this week with their wonderful attitude to remote learning and continue to impress me every day. This week, they have been showing great understanding in Maths, recognising lines of symmetry and reflective patterns. In



History, we are working on the Industrial Revolution and thinking about the key factors, giving opinions on which have had the most effect on life in the Victorian era and beyond. In Science, discussions have been taking place about whether Pluto should only be recognised as a dwarf



planet. The children have demonstrated excellent critical thinking skills. As the snow and ice melted away during half term, we have been thinking about Spring awakening. We have been observing signs of the season on nature walks; listened to a range of well-known classical music around the same theme and written Spring poems.





I have seen some lovely poetic techniques in the children's work. Year 5's English writing has continued to blossom. They have the most wonderful imaginations and have produced some delightful story ideas this week, as well as designing their own imaginary world maps, having watched a short video presentation by our Class Read author. I know many of the children, like me, love to read and I have been so pleased to hear that

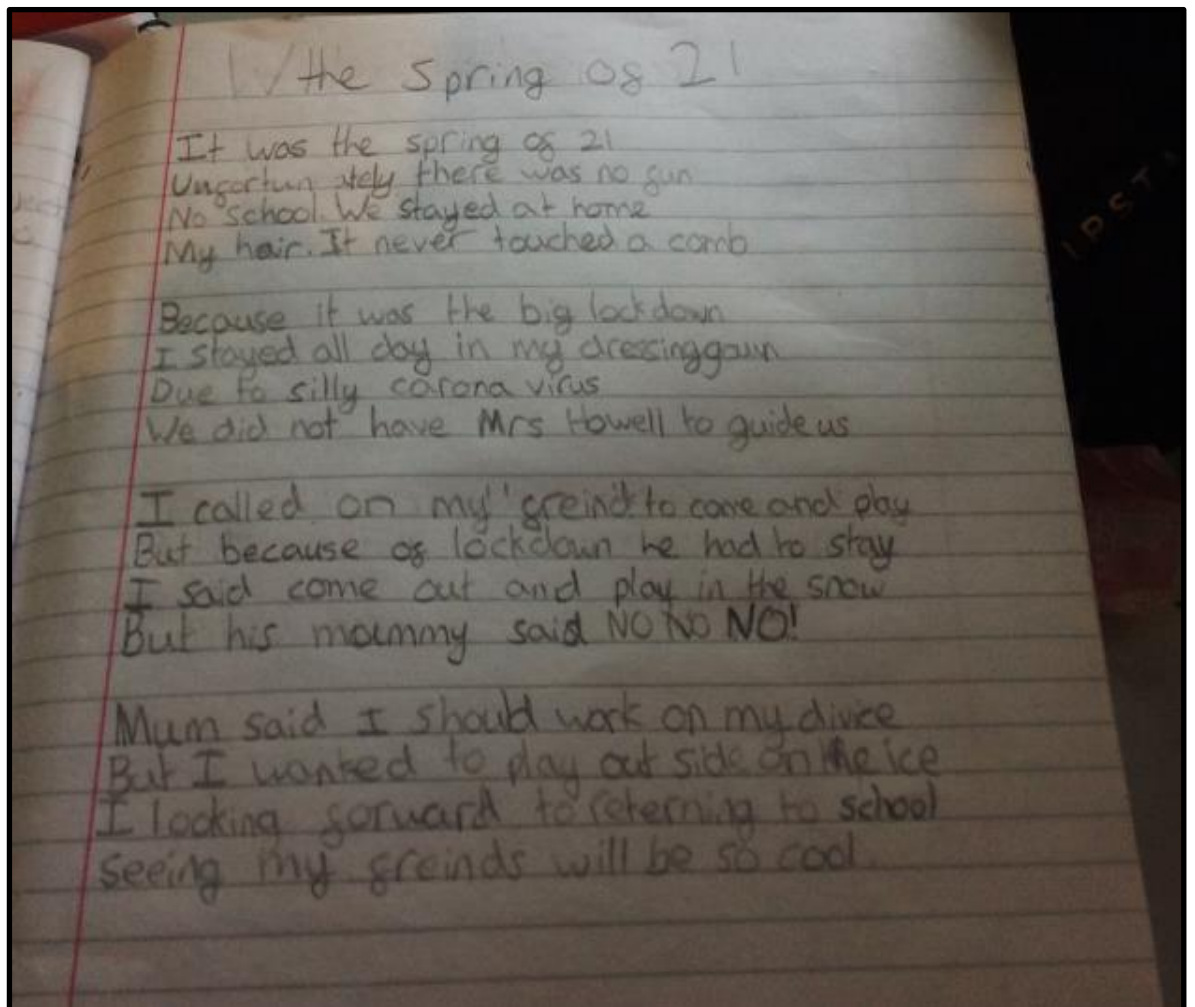


they are continuing to read regularly at home, some reaching the next award level, which is always a joy to hear. Reading very much supports creative writing and I continue to see good evidence of this in Year 5. Next Thursday is World Book Day; we will definitely get involved in St Anthony's Class!

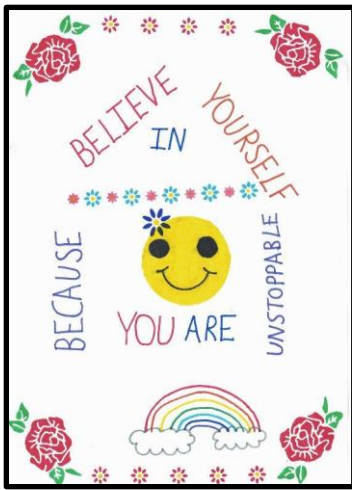
From Mrs Howell



The Spring of 21 by James



## Year 6



I have thoroughly enjoyed sharing the poem, 'The Tyger', by William Blake to the children this week. They have been planning their own poems about tigers and have already come up with some inspiring ideas, ready to use in their own interpretation of what a tiger is like. We have stuck with the tiger theme in art this week and we have discussed the famous painting of a tiger in a jungle, by Henri Rousseau. They have imagined themselves



walking into the painting and came up with some lovely narratives, inspired by the clues in the painting. For our screen-free day this week, I have asked the children to produce a piece of inspirational work to adorn the walls of Southend Hospital's ITU, to boost morale amongst staff.



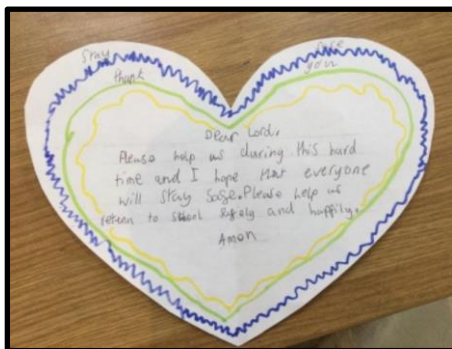
Some of the children have found positive quotes and decorated them with lots of colourful patterns. I look forward to sending their work to ITU very soon!

As always, thank you for all the work you have submitted and I look forward to reading more of your fabulous writing next week. Mrs Bracknell



### Mrs Lawrence's Prayer Corner

This week's prayer is written by Jacob R. from St Joseph's class.



Dear Lord,

Please help us in this hard time and I hope that everyone will stay safe. Please help us return to school safely and happily.

Amen



There are also two prayer intentions this week for families in our community. William from St Anthony's class is praying to keep his Auntie safe who is battling against cancer and Oscar from St Bernadette's class and Amaya from St Therese are looking after their great Grandad, as their great Nanny is in hospital. We will continue to pray for these two well-loved family members.

God Bless and wishing you all a lovely weekend,

*Mrs Delgado*