

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 26th February 2021

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Let Your Light Shine as You Grow Matthew 5: 15-16

Welcome back everyone... very, very soon!

We are extremely excited to soon be welcoming back the whole school community on Monday 8th March - and we really cannot wait to see all of our wonderful pupils back at St Mary's once again. It is also great to see that the weather is starting to show significant improvements and you can see that a bright and sunny day really helps to put a smile on everyone's faces!

Parents and Carers consultations:

With this imminent return in mind, we have now set a firm date for our Spring Term Parents and Carers Consultations. The date for these will be **Tuesday 23rd of March** and **Thursday 25th of March**. Mirroring our timing arrangements from our last Spring Term Parents/Carers Consultations in February 2020, both of these consultation sessions will start in the early afternoon (towards the end of the school day) and continue until around 6.30pm - times to be confirmed over the next week. We have carefully chosen these dates, so that the class teachers will have around two weeks with their pupils to reintegrate them into the classroom and to fully gauge where they are academically as well as socially, before they take the opportunity to meet with each pupils' parents/carers.

I am also extremely excited to reveal that we will be using a new system for these meetings, which is called School cloud Parents Evening (which is an online meeting platform). This exciting new system will allow teachers and parents/carers to meet remotely and it will also allow multiple parents to meet from different devices with their child's class teacher **at the same time**. We feel this new system will enable us to provide this vital opportunity to meet and discuss your child's progress whilst keeping all members of the school community safe during these challenging times. **Further information, including timings, and reminders of how to book into your child/ren's appointment/s will be sent out over the next week.**

Some sad and happy news...

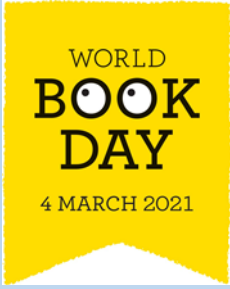
Wednesday the 10th of March will be the last day at St Mary's for Miss Donnelly, one of our lovely teachers in our Ladybirds class. As you will be aware, Miss Donnelly has been job-sharing with the wonderful Miss Nicholson whilst the equally lovely Mrs Potter has been off on maternity leave. Now, the year is up (and what an eventful year it has been!) and Mrs Potter will be returning to partner with Miss Nicholson in teaching the Ladybirds class and she can't wait!

Although we are very excited to welcome back Mrs Potter we are very sad to be losing Miss Donnelly who has been an outstanding addition to the St Mary's teaching team. We will especially miss her cheerful and positive attitude to everything she does, as well as her incredible video producing capabilities. She has certainly left a lasting legacy on the school and her class will really miss her. Miss Donnelly will be returning back to South Africa in March where she will be spending some well-deserved time with her family.

I am sure you will join me in wishing Miss Donnelly all the best for the future and warmly welcoming back Mrs Potter to our excellent teaching team here at St Mary's.

Mr C. D. Jarmain

Headteacher at St Mary's



World Book Day Celebrations

We are all so excited to welcome back all children on Monday the 8th of March. As you already know, on Friday the 5th, we have an Author called James Campbell doing virtual activities for all year groups; we will send out a timetable for each year group soon.

Please note Instead of doing a virtual dress up on WBD, we thought it would be a good idea for the **children to dress up** as their favourite book character on the first day back, **Monday 8th March**. We hope that this will be an exciting way to welcome everyone back to school!

ESafety

TikTok Family Safety Toolkit –

The [DQ Institute](#) is an American-based charity and, along with TikTok, have created a comprehensive TikTok Family Safety Toolkit which I'm sure many parents would find really helpful. It's quite a large guide (26 pages) and throughout there are links to digital citizenship tips and more in-depth subjects.

You can download the guide (PDF) [HERE](#)



Omegle Information For Parents –

Omegle is an app and a website and last week there was a lot of reporting in regards to a surge in usage, particularly teens and younger children. The BBC have reported that they carried out an investigation and found a significant amount of disturbing content.

Omegle is, essentially a place which openly advertises 'come in and talk to a stranger'. You simply click a button and you are randomly placed in a video chat room with a completely random person. There's no age verification, no warnings and it's doubtful whether there is any meaningful moderation.

Why has it increased in popularity? Because certain high-profile influencers have been talking about it on TikTok, cross-posting Omegle content and thereby raising interest/curiosity. According to the news report, videos tagged with Omegle have been viewed on TikTok more than 9.4 billion times.

You can view the BBC news article [HERE](#)

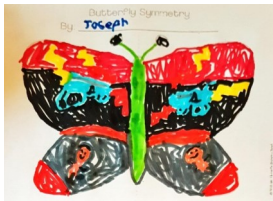
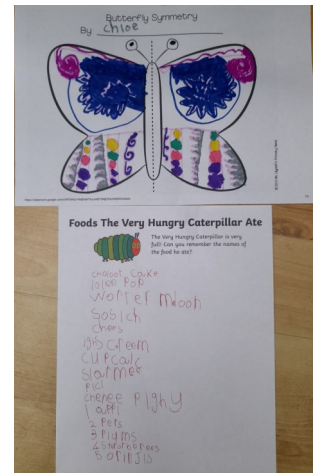
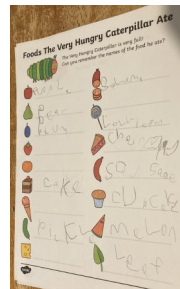
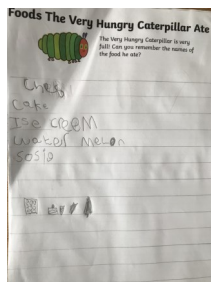
Hayley Bloxham

Welfare & Support Officer

Reception Class Update



This week Butterflies have come back to school and home learning eager to learn. The children have begun working on their new Topic '**Marvellous Minibeasts**' with lots of enthusiasm! We have read several books about caterpillars and butterflies including The Very Hungry Caterpillar story and the children have: made lists of the food that the hungry caterpillar ate; found out about the lifecycle of a butterfly; learnt new vocabulary such as 'proboscis' and 'chrysalis'. Butterflies have also continued learning some new sounds and tricky words, and how to create their own symmetrical butterflies in Maths. Here is a snapshot of their wonderful writing, symmetrical butterflies and a photo of Layla-Mae with a real butterfly after she had taken care of some real very hungry caterpillars! *Mrs Jeewan*



Year 1 Update



Welcome back from half term Ladybirds! The Year Ones have started the new term with energy and enthusiasm for their learning. We are continuing with our topic of 'My Place in the World' looking at our community and the people that help us within it. In English, we have immersed ourselves in the world of Fairytales, looking at the settings, characters and themes of traditional tales. The Ladybirds are tackling tricky Maths problems looking at numbers up to 50 and researching everyday materials in Science. They have created beautiful wax resist pictures in Art and are keeping active with different PE challenges. In PHSE we are talking about how to keep a positive attitude and look after our mental health even when times are challenging. Well done Ladybirds at home and school for your continued hard work and perseverance!

Miss Donnelly & Miss Nicholson

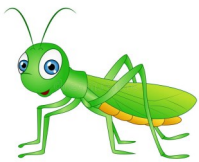
Year 2 Update



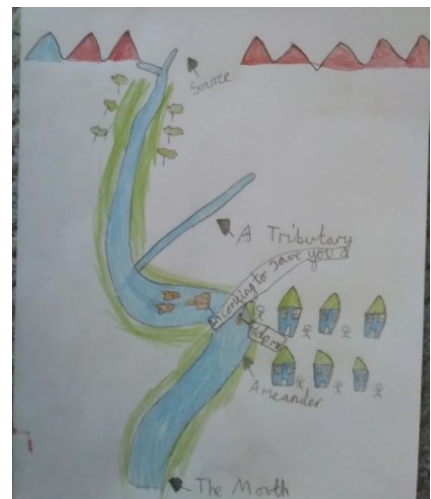
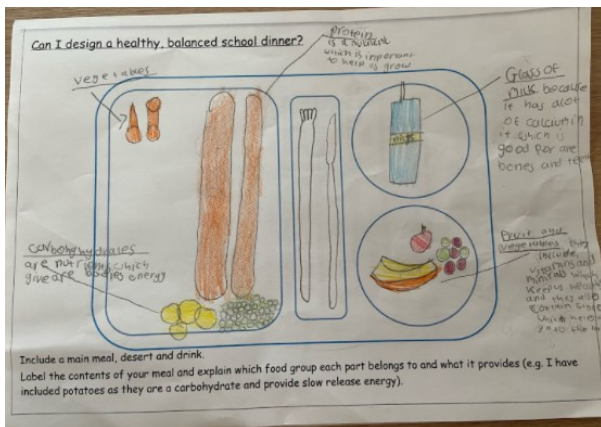
Well Caterpillars have certainly started their term full of energy! They loved their science challenge this week, which was to come up with lots of different exercises and then time themselves for a minute to see how many they could do. We were so impressed at how hard you worked on this, how fit you are and how well you explained how exercise helps your heart, muscles and mind. Well done all! We have also been thinking creatively, designing our own t shirts to reflect our different interests and talents, and even creating a scary monster! You had better watch out - they were a terrifying bunch! *Mrs McInnes & Mrs Robinson*



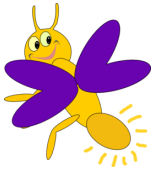
Year 3 Update



The Grasshoppers have had another fantastic, hardworking week this week! They have worked on their statistics skills in maths lessons and have produced some excellent bar graphs and answered some very tricky questions about various tables and graphs. In English, they have carefully researched a famous person of their choosing and produced fantastic biographies. I am so impressed with all of the effort you have made with these! I loved seeing the range of healthy meals you created when learning about food groups and how to keep our bodies healthy in science this week too. Well done for all your hard work again this week, Year 3. Not long now until we're all back together! *Miss Allin*



Year 4 Update



Fireflies,

Well done on another positive week with your online learning. I have been so impressed by your approach and attitude towards this challenging time. Throughout this week in maths, you have tackled the tricky subject of time very well. You have also continued to revise your times tables and solving reasoning style questions to a very high standard.

In Art, we looked at Le Corbusier's work and the types of houses that he created. You then created your own house design with lots of different shapes. I loved seeing some of the unique designs and how creative you were.

In our RE lessons, we looked at the Hindu Religion and the Mandir's importance, as always; you came up with some fantastic answers for the questions I gave you.

Finally, you continue to amaze me with how mature you are with the topics we have covered in PSHE and looking after our mental health.

I am so excited to see you all on the 8th of March! One more week to go!

Have a great weekend,

Mr Brown



Year 5 Update



The Bees class came back and hit the ground running by taking on the very tough concept of BIDMAS. It was hard but I have been really impressed with how many of the children gave their absolute best effort, even when they found it tough - fantastic Growth Mindset on show!

The class also consolidated knowledge over the week in their English, revisiting writing speech and using techniques such as fronted adverbials (though they did also manage to squeeze in learning about prepositions too!).

In RE, the children learnt about the Last Supper, and then created their own stills of a scene in the story—some were really inventive and a big well done to Alfie who made a stop-motion video of the story using Lego! *Mr Clarke*



Year 6 Update



We are finally nearing the end of home-schooling year 6 (hopefully for the last time). As I have said before, so many of you continue to amaze me with your enthusiasm and dedication to each task everyday. I am continually impressed with how much maths knowledge you have retained from Autumn term especially rounding decimals and interpreting negative numbers. You have also taken the 'new' maths on confidently and with eagerness. If there have been areas you have found tricky, then don't panic as we will revisit all the new areas when we return to school. I was most impressed with your 'show not tell' descriptions in English this week, you really showed your understanding of how to convey an emotion or feeling through an action and how it can make your writing so much more interesting and suspenseful.

Your 'diversity' poems were mature, powerful and interesting to read. You, once again, have shown me how caring and compassionate you are as a class and how you really understand and value the importance of inclusion. I sincerely hope you continue this positive attitude in your future lives as it will make you so successful in anything you choose to do.

Well done on sharing your knowledge of electricity in science, it clearly showed what you had learnt during our electricity unit had gone in and stayed, which is always a positive thing!

Keep going, keep working hard, keep getting out and getting fresh air and I look forward to us all being back together in just over a weeks time! *Mr Pike*

Home Learning & Wellbeing Survey



Thank you to everyone who has completed our Home Learning and & Wellbeing survey so far. We would like to encourage as many parents as possible to complete the survey, as all your feedback will help us to support parents and children during this difficult & challenging time.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=rk4Wt-](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=rk4Wt-wmmEy_vGdsh5b2nnTRX5eaKFZOrfe9kU2WJpJURDhTSFRXMU5LWVVIKTUE3SDIPQIJEUDRSVi4u)

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Diary Dates



Friday 5th March	-	Virtual Activities by author James Campbell to celebrate World Book Day
Monday 8th March	-	All pupils return to school- to celebrate World Book Day Pupils can dress up as their favourite book character
Tue 23rd & Thu 25th Mar	-	Virtual Parent Consultations (Details to follow soon)
Mon 29th Mar - Fri 9th Apr	-	Easter Holidays
Monday 12th April	-	INSET Day (non pupil day)
Tuesday 13h April	-	First Day of Summer Term
Monday 3rd May	-	Bank Holiday- School Closed
Monday 31st May	-	Bank Holiday- School Closed
Mon 1st - Fri 4th Jun	-	Half-Term
Friday 25th June	-	INSET Day (non pupil day)
Wednesday 21st July	-	Last Day of Term - Finish at 1.30pm