



St. John's C E Primary School

NEWSLETTER

A member of
The Spire
CHURCH OF ENGLAND LEARNING TRUST
collaborate • learn • achieve

SPRING 2022

*Shaping Lives. Shaping futures.
Start children off on the way that
they should go and even when they
are old, they will not turn from it.*

Proverbs 22:6



As the Spring term draws to a close, we reflect upon all the fantastic achievements of the pupils of St John's C.E Primary School. Over this term the children have continued to work extremely hard in all areas of the curriculum and have produced some outstanding work.

Our curriculum continues to provide an engaging range of learning opportunities. Alongside writing, maths and nurturing a love of reading, the children have also been able to develop and deepen their understanding of different faiths through RE with some year groups visiting different places of worship. This was a valuable and enjoyable learning experience for all of our children. Science week was held in March and budding scientists across the school set to work on a range of scientific investigations. On the 6th April the whole school participated in an Eco day which was enjoyed by all.

Learning doesn't end at 3pm!

We continue to run a range of afterschool clubs: sporting, musical, homework and cookery. Next term we look forward to launching our art and STEM clubs!

There have been two external reviews this term, both with extremely positive outcomes. A particular highlight was the external validation of the high quality reading provision taking place across the school. The children were observed thoroughly engaged in their learning and they enjoyed telling our visitors all about it.

Pupil voice plays an important role at St John's. We have representatives from across the school for: School Council, Mental Health and Well Being, Worship Reps, Eco Reps and Online Safety Reps. These children are democratically selected and represent the opinions and ideas of their peers in helping to shape and take our school forwards. You all do an amazing job!

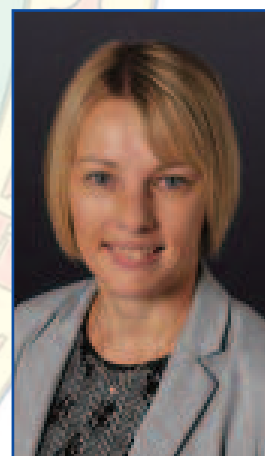
Our values of friendship and respect this term, have been lived out day to day by our children. Every Monday morning our value champions are celebrated through worship; they are outstanding examples to us all.

Mental Health and Well-being continues to be an integral part of our daily work, providing support for pupils, families and

our staff. Our pastoral team continue to provide a range of support to enable our pupils to thrive and achieve. Look out for our Mental Health newsletters, packed full of advice and support.

Good attendance is vital to academic success and enabling pupils to flourish socially and emotionally and developing friendships which in turn nurtures self-confidence and self-esteem. Thank you to parents for ongoing support.

Thank you to our parents and carers in supporting us with this work. On behalf of all of the staff and Governor's at St John's, we would like to wish you a Happy Easter. Thank you to our hard working staff for their dedication and commitment to the education and welfare of our children and thank you to parents, carers, families and the St John's community for your continued support.



Mrs
Caroline Lowe
- Headteacher



RECEPTION

What a busy but fun time we have all had this term! We started the term with the topic 'Jump into Spring' where we looked at changes and growth in ourselves, animals and plants. We planted lots of seeds and have been looking after them, ready to plant outside. We also celebrated the Chinese New Year by taking part in food tasting, dragon dancing, storytelling and Chinese lantern making.

We came back to school after half term to find a crime scene in our role play area. We had to investigate who had made the mess and written messages to us. There was porridge on the floor, a lock of blonde hair and a blue bow. We decided that it must have been Goldilocks. That started our topic of 'Once Upon a Time.' We have made story maps, acted out the stories and made props for the stories.

We are enjoying exploring the value of numbers and finding out our number

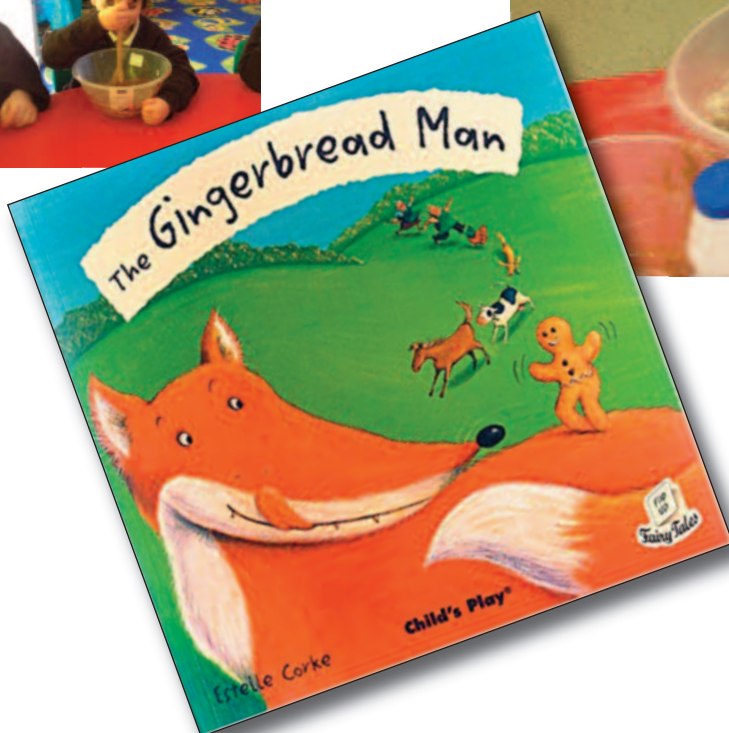


bonds. We have had lots of opportunity to explore shapes, space and measures too.

After hearing the story of 'The Gingerbread Man' we had a science day to explore the changes

that happen in food.

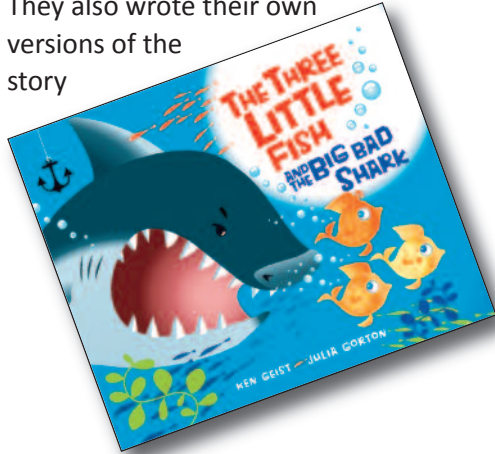
It has also been lovely to welcome our parents back into the classroom this term. We have held some 'come and read' sessions for our parents and children to share together.



YEAR 1

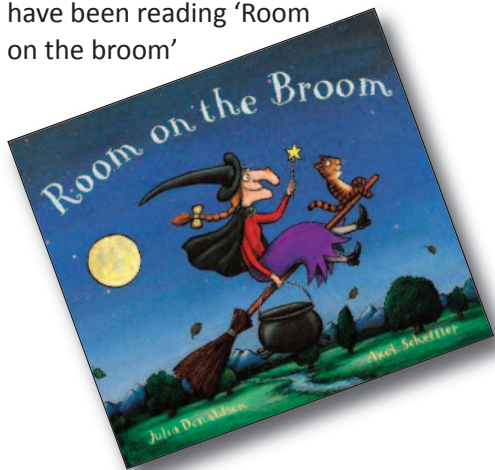
The children returned in January well rested and ready to learn and have worked extremely hard this term. In English we began with fairy tales and the children had fun acting out the story of the three little pigs.

They also wrote their own versions of the story



with the title 'The three little fish and the big bad shark' and these were fabulous! We have some budding story writers in year 1!

During the second half of the term we have been reading 'Room on the broom'



which the children have really enjoyed. They have described the main characters using adjectives and written some excellent sentences. We are very proud of their hard work in English!

We incorporated our D.T moving pictures topic with fairy tales when practising slider, pop-up and pivot mechanisms, before designing our own moving picture scenes.

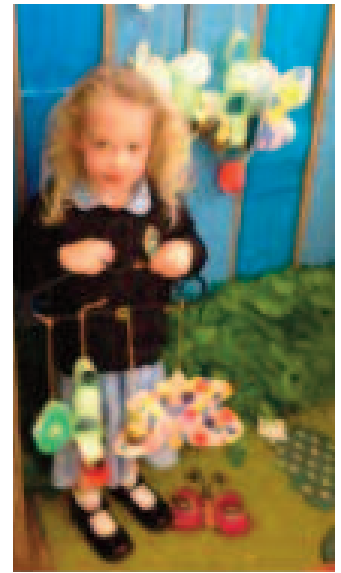


During this term we have also looked at pattern in our Art lessons and have learnt how to use the technique of 'rubblings' to trace patterns from the natural world.



During our Geography lessons in the first half of the spring term, we began by learning about the local environment and went on a walk of the local area to find human and physical features. The children then learnt the names of the countries in the UK and found out their capital cities.

In our Science lessons during the second half of the spring term we have been learning about growing plants. We have planted bean seeds and are looking forward to seeing how big they will grow – maybe we will have our own beanstalks soon!



We also took part in a whole school science week where we found out about different life cycles, with a focus on the life cycle of a butterfly. The children made some amazing mobiles to show the different stages of the butterfly life cycle.

Our PSHE learning has focussed on the topics 'Dreams and Goals' where the children learnt about resilience to support them in achieving challenging tasks, and 'Healthy me' where they have found out about the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

In our RE lessons, we have been finding out about the Jewish faith and what it means to be Jewish. We have learnt about the Jewish celebrations of Shabbat and Chanukah.

We wish you all a very restful and Happy Easter!

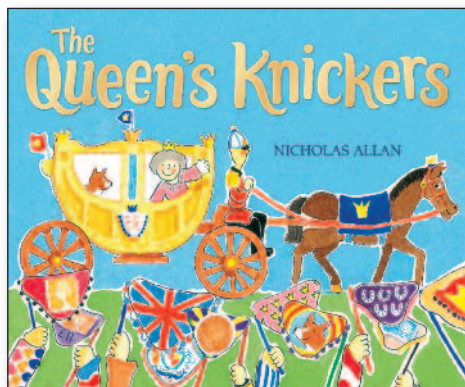


YEAR 2

The spring term has flown by, with plenty of fun alongside an incredible amount of learning! We began the term with Hansel and Gretel



and the children created a beautiful display in each classroom showing the words they had collected to describe the characters and the setting. The children's vocabulary and understanding has really begun to develop and they are so enthused by learning new vocabulary. Next, the children were immersed in a text called The Queen's Knickers and



the children were treated to a visit by Her Royal Highness and showed what superb manners they have by bowing and curtsying to welcome their special visitor. Part of their learning involved writing a recount of Her Royal Highness's visit and it was great to see how the children's handwriting has improved for so many as well as to read their great ideas.



We loved seeing the children dress up in Harry Potter costumes or nightwear for World Book Day!

Children have worked hard in maths and their confidence in using the four operations to solve problems has grown. We are beginning to tackle the more practical elements of maths now by learning to tell the time and solving money problems with addition of amounts and working out change.

In our Design and Technology lessons, the children had the chance to make a small bag using their sewing skills. There are definitely some future dress designers in the making!

During History, the children have been learning all about Kidderminster and produced a tourist information leaflet about our town.



We have looked at Sir Rowland Hill and made our own ink from berries to experience writing with a quill! We have also looked at the carpet trade and the children in 2FS had a highly engaging trip to Kidderminster Carpet Museum.

The behaviour of the children was praised by museum staff and they were a credit to the school. 2GS's trip was unfortunately postponed but they can look forward to an amazing trip after Easter. Science has been full of investigations! The children have had opportunities to become mini scientists, making predictions and giving their reasons as well as carrying out their own experiments thinking about how to make it a fair test. They have observed cress and bean seeds to see how they grow in certain conditions. During science week, they grew crystals that would not look out of place on the crown jewels! We would like to thank parents for their continued support and we wish everyone a restful Easter holiday! We look forward to seeing all the children back for an action-packed summer term.

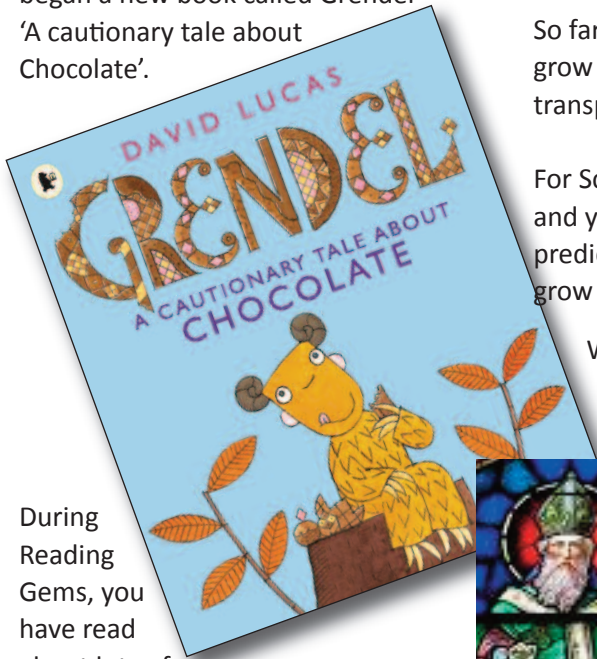


YEAR 3

In English, we started the term off looking at a wonderful book called *The Journey* about a girl who uses her



imagination to have fun by drawing items with a red crayon. It was superb to see you all use your imaginations to write some beautiful descriptions and story endings. We also wrote diary entries, Mother's Day poems and began a new book called *Grendel* 'A cautionary tale about Chocolate'.



During Reading Gems, you have read about lots of different Saints! St Valentine's, St David and St Patrick, along with cats,

fossils and finally Easter. It was amazing to see you dressed up for World Book Day as Harry Potter characters or in your comfy PJ's!

In Maths, we spent a lot of our time on dividing, where you needed to use your multiplication knowledge to solve the divisions using the 'bus stop' method. It was hard work! Then we moved onto measures (perimeter) and finally fractions (more division)!

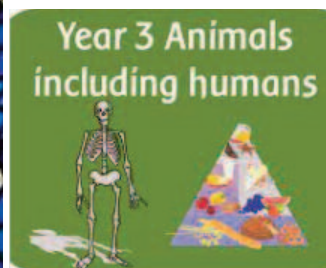
For Science earlier on in the term we were learning about animals including humans; this included, looking at the importance of a healthy diet, carnivore, herbivore and omnivore diets, skeletons and how muscles work.

For the second part of the term we began our new topic on Plants.

So far, we have discovered how plants grow from seeds and how water is transported through roots.

For Science Week we also planted red and yellow sunflowers and made predictions about which one would grow the tallest.

We are still waiting to see what happens here.



Our Geography topic has been all about Coasts. You have used words to describe different coasts such as human and physical landmarks. You have also looked at a range of seaside locations including Blackpool, Weymouth, Skegness and Weston-Super-Mare. You have also started to learn about the impact the sea has on the coast (erosion).

In RE you have studied two different world religions – Islam (including The Mosque and Prayer) and Judaism looking specifically at festivals and celebrations such as Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We had a fantastic day when we visited The Synagogue, it was lovely to see

how it was set out, learn more about Jewish beliefs and see the beautiful Torah scrolls.



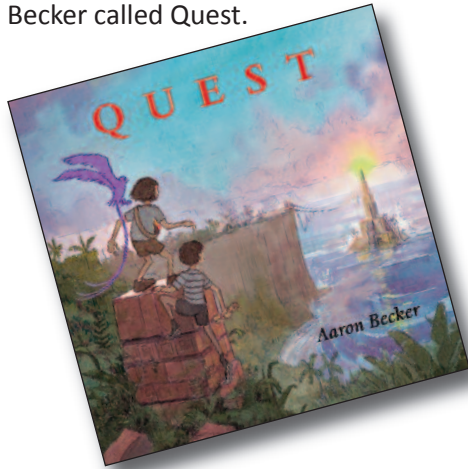
In D.T. you looked at how different mechanisms work, such as levers, and then you designed and made your own superb puppet shows with moving parts!

We all wish you a relaxing break and look forward to seeing you back in school for the Summer Term.



YEAR 4

We began the term by looking at the second book in a trilogy by Aaron Becker called Quest.



The children used their imaginations and creative writing skills to produce their own narrative for the picture book based on the adventures of Rosie and Tom. We then moved onto the book 'The Iron Man'.



On our first day we looked at the first page description of the Iron Man and created some art work to show what we thought he looked like. We then created our own Iron Man out of cardboard boxes and recycling materials. In the book, it talks about the Iron Man falling off a cliff. We recreated this outside and took pictures. We used these pictures to write our own descriptions. We have also written letters, stories and a newspaper report about the Iron Man.

In Maths, we completed our work on fractions before moving on to decimals, area, perimeter and finishing with statistics. What a busy time you had with Maths!

Our History topic was looking at a local wartime hero John Francis Young. We researched about his life and his bravery which led him to be awarded the Victoria Cross.



In D&T, we used our sewing skills to make a felt pizza.



In RE, we continued our learning about the life of Hindus in Britain, studying their lives as well as communal and private worship. After the half term, we moved onto looking at the Easter story. This topic has seen us revisit the Easter Story where we have empathised with Mary's character and created posters celebrating the importance of the special days during the Easter Season.

Our Science topic enabled the children to use their investigative skills while exploring ways of altering sound vibrations. It was lovely to see the work produced and some of the ways that the children extended their learning by developing their own investigations.

We then moved onto States of Matter and how materials can be changed by heating and cooling.



Finally, in Art, we have been looking at manmade and natural patterns and using the work of Owen Mortensen as inspiration to create our own picture using printing.

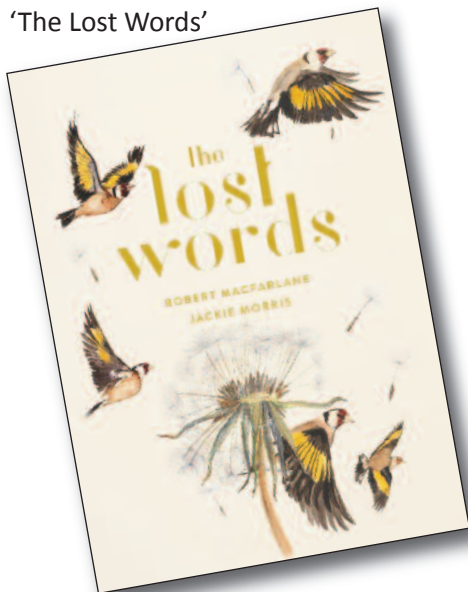


YEAR 5

Year 5 have had a very busy spring term full of lots of exciting activities and with lots of learning taking place. During the first half of the term, the children went on their first trip since lockdown to Birmingham Central Mosque which linked with our RE lessons. It was lovely to see the children so engaged in the trip and finding out more about Islam.

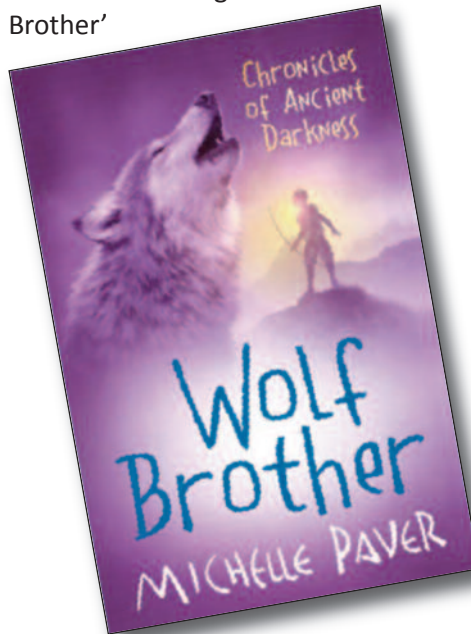


In English, the children looked at 'The Lost Words'



by Robert Macfarlane which is about words that have disappeared from children's dictionaries because they are no longer being used.

They analysed several of the poems and then wrote their own, producing some outstanding pieces of work. We finished off the unit of work by going to Forest School where the children had to find their own 'lost words'. During the second half of the term, we have been reading a book called 'Wolf Brother'



by Michelle Paver which is set in 600 B.C. and full of descriptive vocabulary. As part of this unit of work, we visited Forest School where the children learnt how to build shelters and create a fire. So far, they have written their own survival guide, diary entry and descriptions of a character and setting.



In Maths, at the beginning of the term, the children explored shapes and angles and this half term we have focused on fractions. They now know all about equivalent fractions and how

to add and subtract proper fractions and mixed numbers.

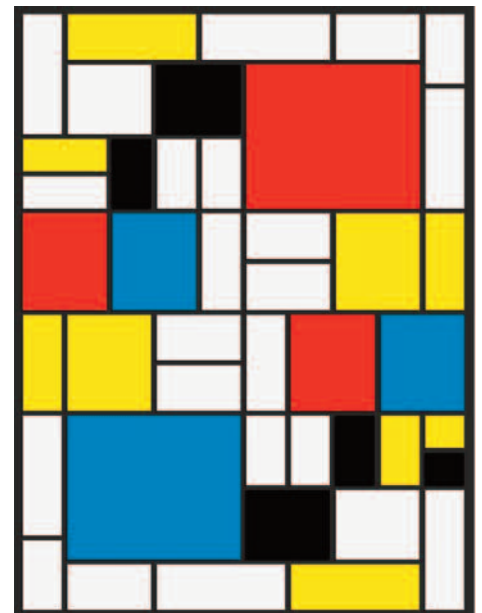
The children have also been working scientifically during our science lessons and investigating properties and changes to materials. Amongst other things, they examined changes to materials due to heating and cooling and looked at reversible and irreversible changes.

This half term they have been looking at life cycles and were very excited to observe how our very own monarch butterflies developed.



In DT, the children designed and created their own moving toys and in art they have been studying Piet Mondrian and creating their own version of his art.

As you can see, it has been a very busy term and the children deserve a well earned break. The Year 5 team hope you all have a lovely Easter and we look forward to seeing the children again next term.



YEAR 6

Year 6 have worked incredibly hard throughout the Spring term.

The children have been looking at fractions, decimals and percentages in maths.

Year 6 also had an exciting D.T. project where the children needed to research, create and evaluate their own pizzas. The children did amazingly and really used all their skills to perfect their pizzas.

All the children had a fantastic day baking and were thrilled with their end product.

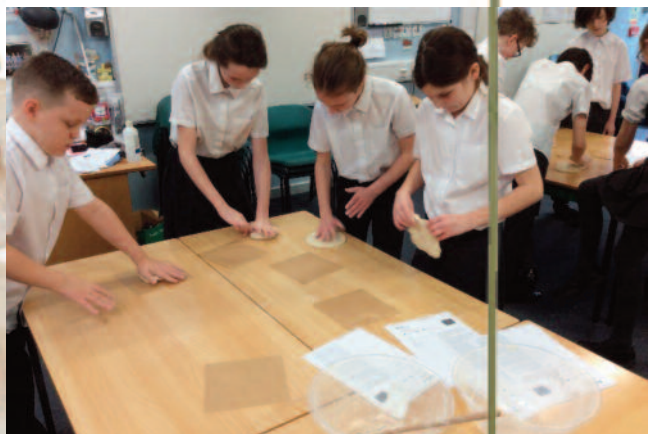


Our English lessons were focused around a video stimulus called 'The Black Hole'. The series of lessons led the children to write about their own world where they came across a suspicious character to try and get back home.



Within the Spring term, we also had Science Week. The Year 6 children planted a yellow and red sunflower per class, discussed the conditions in order for the sunflower to grow and have set up the continuous experiment.

Each class is determined to win with the hope to win the whole school competition in the Summer term by growing the tallest flower.





Spring is always a great time to celebrate creativity and appreciate the wonders of nature that are all around us.

In Reception and year 1, we've been enjoying the amazing growth at the Forest School site: plenty of leaves on the trees to camouflage us in hide and seek, beautiful flowers to spot and identify, mini-beasts to find and butterflies to admire.

The bees have been busy pollinating the flowers and we've seen lots of ladybird larvae and pupae. A little bit of tree climbing and the rope bridge and swing are always popular too!

Year 2 have also enjoyed observing the incredible changes as we've moved from spring to summer. We celebrated spring by making some clay 'Green man' images and the children have learnt to identify common trees by their leaves, creating some beautiful leaf rubbings in the process. We love watching the ladybird's life cycle as the larvae become pupae and then hatch into adult ladybirds – we have lots of ladybirds at Forest School and the children have practised using a tally chart to record how many they find.

As well as playing many team games and independent activities, both classes have had the opportunity to enjoy toasting marshmallows – a firm favourite at St John's!

We've loved seeing Key Stage 2 classes on Wednesdays for a well-being outdoor afternoon. As well as having a go at bug hunting, ladybird spotting and a few crafts, some groups have also been able to toast marshmallows over the fire and enjoy a few smores.

The year 5's got creative and based their afternoons around their class reading book 'Wolf Brother'. They built shelters for their clan group, created clay amulets, followed tracks and tried lighting their own fires using a fire-steel.

I hope that you all have a lovely summer holiday and that you get the chance to enjoy some time outdoors in the fresh air. Happy exploring! – Mrs Lomas & Mrs Pugh



PE

Spring Term has been very busy for PE.

We have run 11 After School clubs and had a total of 231 children participate. This has been a record for the school, but we hope to beat it in the summer term. Please look out for the next list of clubs we will be offering.

81 children have represented St Johns at various competitions across the Wyre Forest and all the pupils have performed to a very high standard.

Year 6 came 4th out of 22 schools at the indoor athletics festival whilst year 3/4 children made it to the semi-final of the Quick Sticks Hockey tournament. We have sent dancers to compete against 15 other schools and Year 1 have been to Baxter to take part in a multi skills event.

We have a lot more exciting things lined up for the summer term! If you have any suggestions for clubs then please come and speak to me.
Many thanks – Mr Smith

R. E. & WORSHIP

‘Religious Education explores big questions about life, to find out what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live.’ This term has seen us returning to visit places of worship to enhance, embed and help us understand the teaching of world religions to develop our religious literacy. Year 5 visited the Central Mosque in Birmingham. The children gave their responses after the trip ‘good because it was calm,’ ‘I loved the trip it was really fun and interesting,’ ‘it made me feel intrigued to find out more’ ‘I enjoyed it because I liked learning about their religion.’



Year 3 visited the Birmingham Progressive Synagogue and Year 4 have visited a Hindu Temple.

Our worships are now gradually returning to the hall and the worship rep's have commented about how they have been looking forward to this and being able to share this time together, rather than by Zoom. We have been able to welcome the team from St. John's Church back into school to deliver our Wednesday worships too.

This term has seen us explore the values of Friendship and Respect. As the weather improves we are hoping to take our worships outside too. The children have been writing their own prayers which are also being included in our worships.

MENTAL HEALTH

As we break up for Easter I wanted to share a few helpful websites with you.

CAMHS online

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service have launched a website for children. This is well worth a visit to help children with anxieties and feelings.

<https://camhs.hacw.nhs.uk/>

Starting Well Partnership

The starting well partnership offers support for families – they have a ‘Fussy Eaters’ Webinar taking place on 25th April via zoom at 10-11am.

<https://www.startingwellworcs.nhs.uk/>

Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families

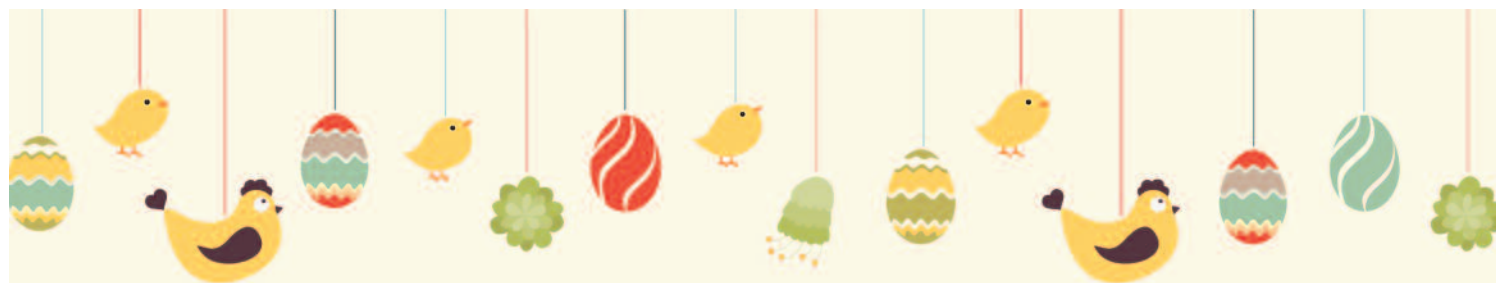
<https://www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind/youth-wellbeing/>

Wishing you a safe, healthy and relaxing Easter break
Mrs Taylor – Pastoral Lead



Starting well Partnership
EVERY CONTACT SHAPES A LIFE





*Well done everyone for working really hard this term !
We hope you have a lovely Easter and look forward to
welcoming you all back to school for the Summer term*



School contact details



St John's CE Primary School, Blakebrook, Kidderminster, Worcestershire DY11 6AP

Tel: 01562 745558 Fax: 01562 861765

E-mail: office@stjohns.worcs.sch.uk Web: www.stjohns.worcs.sch.uk