



# TALK OF THE TERM



## HEADTEACHERS WELCOME

As we come towards the end of the Spring term, we reflect upon all the fantastic achievements of the pupils of St John's C.E Primary School. What a busy yet successful term it has been!

In January we had our OFSTED Inspection and in February underwent our SIAMS Inspection. Details on both, including our given mark, can be found on the following page.

Over this term, it has been lovely to welcome our parents and families into school for Book and Breakfast and also for an Easter Fayre. Both events were well attended and much fun was had by all.

On behalf of all of the staff at St John's C.E Primary School, we would like to wish you all a Happy Easter. Thank you to parents, carers, families and the St John's community for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 17th April.

BY MRS C. LOWE - HEADTEACHER



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# OFSTED AND SIAMS

In January, an Ofsted Inspection of the school took place and we were delighted to announce that we had been graded 'Good'.

- Overall effectiveness  
GOOD
- The quality of education  
GOOD
- Behaviour and attitudes  
GOOD
- Personal development  
GOOD
- Leadership and management  
GOOD
- Early years provision  
GOOD

Here are some of things that Ofsted highlighted as a strength of the school:

- 'Leaders have set high expectations for what pupils should learn and how they behave.'
- 'The school's Christian Ethos plays a central role in school life.'
- 'Leaders have significantly strengthened the school curriculum.'
- 'Leaders are highly knowledgeable about pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).....Pupils with SEND are well integrated into school like and have full access to the curriculum.'
- 'The local governing body provide effective support and challenge for leaders.'
- 'The arrangement for safeguarding are effective.'

In February, a SIAMs (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) Inspection also took place. Again, we are delighted to announce that we achieved a Good rating from this inspection as well!

Here are some of the highlights:

- 'The curriculum, shaped by the Christian vision, provides rich learning experiences.'
- 'The school is committed to the wellbeing of everyone in the school community and there is a strong focus on promoting mental health. The school is addressing the needs of all, including the most vulnerable, well.'
- 'The four school values of love, truthfulness, forgiveness and friendship encourage pupils to practice reconciliation and enable all to live well together. This has created a culture of respect and dignity demonstrated through positive relationships and behaviour of pupils.'
- 'Parents talk passionately of the school and how leaders and staff enable children to flourish academically, morally and spiritually.'



## RECEPTION - SPRING TERM 2023

What a busy, fun time we have all had this term. The Spring term began with our new topic 'Jump into Spring'. Through stories such as The tiny seed, Jasper's beanstalk and The Hungry Caterpillar, we looked at changes and growth in ourselves, animals and plants. We planted beans and talked about what they needed to grow tall and strong, some of them started to turn into beanstalks! We also celebrated the Chinese New Year by tasting foods, dragon dancing, storytelling and Chinese lantern making.



When we came back to school after half term, we found a crime scene in our role play area! We had to investigate who had made the mess by looking at the clues; porridge on the floor and walls, a lock of blonde hair and a blue bow. The clues pointed to Goldilocks!

This was a great beginning to our topic 'Once Upon a Time' where we have listened to different fairy tales and based our learning around these. We have looked at maps using the settings from the story, taken part in role play using props from the stories and have discussed the different character traits. We built bridges when reading The Three Billy Goats Gruff, and made gingerbread men when reading The Gingerbread Man.

We also explored changes of state in relation to foods both cooked and uncooked while reading The Gingerbread Man.



In Maths we have been exploring number bonds through addition and have learnt to solve simple addition calculations. We have also begun to learn about doubling.

Our RE has focused on the Easter story and why Easter is a special time for many Christian people. We used role play to tell the story of Palm Sunday and learnt about how hot cross buns can symbolise Easter.



# YEAR 1 - SPRING TERM 2023

The children returned in January well rested and excited for the new term. They have worked really hard this term and completed lots of different learning activities.

In English we began with fairy tales and the children had fun acting out the story of the three little pigs and discussing the good and bad characters before retelling the story in their own words.

They also wrote their own versions of the story with the title 'The three little fish and the big bad shark' which were fabulous!



During the second half of the term we have been reading 'The Storm Whale' which the children have really engaged with. They have completed lots of different pieces of writing from a diary explaining the main character's feelings to descriptions of a raging storm, a letter to the whale apologising for having to let him go and a non-chronological report about whales. The children have really enjoyed their work on this text and we are very proud of their hard work in English!

During this term we have looked at pattern in our Art lessons. We explored the different patterns that we could find in our local environment and have learnt how to use the technique of 'rubblings' to trace patterns from the natural world which the children then used to create their own landscape pictures.



We incorporated fairy tales into our D&T lessons when practicing slider, pop-up and pivot mechanisms before designing our own moving picture scenes around a theme of the children's choosing. We had some wonderful creations using moving mechanisms to make beach scenes, goalkeeper pictures and even underwater shark chases!

Our PSHE learning has focused 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 this term we have been learning about the Jewish faith and thinking about 'Who is Jewish and how do they live?' We have thought about three Jewish celebrations: Shabbat, Chanukah and Sukkot and are relating these celebrations to the way many Jewish people live their lives.

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 the names of their capital cities.



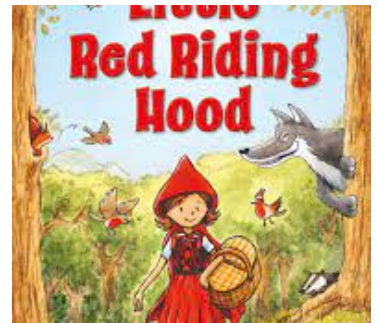
In our Science lessons during the second half of the spring term, we have been learning about growing plants. We have learnt names and functions of the parts of a flowering plant and we have planted bean seeds and are looking forward to seeing how big they will grow - maybe we will have our own beanstalks soon!



## YEAR 2 - SPRING TERM 2023

We have had a very busy term in Year 2.

In our writing we started off reading the fairy tale Hansel and Gretel. We then wrote about Hansel and Gretel as well as creating a recount of the story and character descriptions. We then moved on to Little Red Riding Hood, where we wrote some instructions telling the Wolf how to eat Grandma successfully!



In History we have been studying the local area. We have found out about Roland Hill, looked at different methods of transport over the years and we've even had a go at weaving our own carpet! We have also looked at how Victorians in Kidderminster lived and how they wrote. We then created our own ink and quills and had a go. It was great fun!



We have also been creating pictograms on I pads in computing, learning about the works on Monet in Art and investigating how plants grow and develop in science.

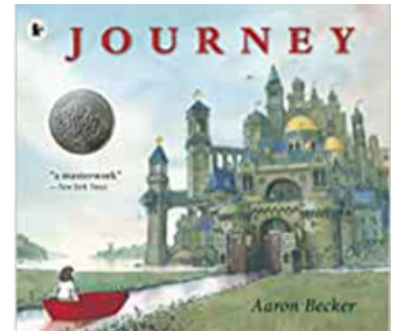
In Maths we have been looking at graphs, data and fractions and in PSHE we have looked at how we can keep ourselves healthy and happy.



It's been a great term and the children have all worked so hard. We can't wait for the Summer Term to begin!

# YEAR 3 - SPRING TERM 2023

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 the children use their imaginations to write some beautiful descriptions and story endings. We also wrote some fabulous Haiku Poems – taking care to have 5 syllables for the first line, 7 syllables for the second and 5 for the last! We wrote non-chronological reports on Venice too.



During Reading Gems, we have read about lots of different Saints! St Valentine's, St David and St Patrick, we have also read about Garden birds, Cats, Fidget Spinners, European Landmarks and finally Easter.

In Maths, we spent a lot of our time on dividing. We needed to use our multiplication knowledge to solve the divisions using the 'bus stop' method. It was hard work! Then we moved onto measures (perimeter) and finally fractions (looking at tenths, then finding fractions of amounts).

For Science earlier on in the term we were learning about forces and investigating magnets. This half term we have studied 'Animals including humans' which included, looking at the importance of a healthy diet, carnivore, herbivore and omnivore diets, skeletons in and how muscles work.



In Computing we have all used Scratch to sequence a set of instructions for movement and sound of a Sprite. Within this unit we have also discovered how to change and add more Sprites and compose notes for a tune.

For Geography, we have spent a lot of time map reading, particularly paying attention to how a key is used to show landmarks, cities, roads etc. We also practised drawing our own map of Italy and compared the locations of Snowdonia and The Alps.

In PSHE, we created gardens for different groups of people e.g. visually impaired and stuck to a budget to create it. We have also looked at how to keep healthy in our 'Healthy Me' unit focussing on the foods we eat and exercise.

In PE we have developed the skills for Volley Ball, Basket Ball and Orienteering.

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



In RE we 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.

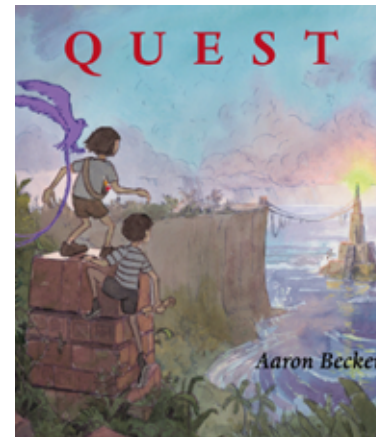




## YEAR 4 - SPRING TERM 2023

We began the term by looking at a book called Moonshine Dragon. The children's imaginations were amazing and they created a follow-up story for Patrick and Dragon.

During the second half term, we looked at a book called 'Quest' which was the follow-on book from Journey (which they looked at in Year 3). We have written in first person, diary entries and non-chronological reports using the story as our base. They have really enjoyed being Rosie and Tom and visiting new places with their crayons!



In Maths, we have been learning about decimals and fractions and used these to work on number problems. We also used our four operations and our knowledge of decimals to complete one and two-step problems using money.

Our History topic was looking at The Romans. We combined this topic with D.T in order to create a biscuit suitable for Julius Caesar. The children could only select ingredients that could be found during Roman times- which proved difficult when they didn't have sugar! They had a fabulous day but most of them found the biscuits a little cardboardy and lacking in flavour!



In RE, we continued our topic of Hinduism and found out how Hindus practise their worship in Britain today. The children were fascinated by some of the rituals that they follow and really enjoyed the story of Rama and Sita.

Our Science topic enabled the children to use their investigative skills when learning about sound. They learnt about how sound travels through the ear and how volume and pitch effect their hearing. Some of them now realise the impact of their volume! We then moved on to states of matter where we categorised solids, liquids and gases. As part of our studies, we tackled the question 'what is air?'- a topic many of the children had never considered before. We finished by experimenting with Ketchup! They had to choose which ketchup had the best viscosity for a hot dog- not too runny and not too thick.

We were very lucky to be able to have some Forest School sessions this half term where the children got to weave with natural items such as leaves and bamboo. They were fortunate enough to be able to toast marshmallows over an open fire after creating a den. Pond dipping was a particular favourite and they found creatures and categorised them using Mrs.Lomas' help sheets. Most of them came back into the classroom very muddy but they had a fantastic morning!

In P.E, we have been doing orienteering and the children have been learning to work as a team. They built their own obstacle courses and led their team around it blindfolded which needed a lot of good communication skills!

Finally, in Art, we have been looking at the life and work of William Morris. The children have been discovering how, during the industrial revolution, Morris returned to the natural environment for his inspiration. He was an early environmentalist and they were fascinated by the fact that this topic was being discussed in the early 1800's. They got to create a Mother's Day card using Mono printing and block printed a small piece of wallpaper in the style of Morris.

The children looked amazing on World Book day with their various costumes and a big thank you to those that attended the book and breakfast event- it was really lovely to have you all in.



## YEAR 5 - SPRING TERM 2023

Year 5 have had a very busy spring term full of lots of exciting activities and with lots of learning taking place.

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. We started the unit of work by going to Forest School where the children had to find their own 'lost words'. They analysed several of the poems and then wrote their own, producing some outstanding pieces of work with some of them being selected to be published in a book by the 'Young Writers' which was a fantastic achievement and something to be very proud of. 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 and used this experience to write their own survival guide.

In Maths, at the beginning of the term, the children looked at division and then moved onto exploring shapes and angles. This half term we have focused on fractions. They now know all about equivalent fractions and how to add and subtract proper fractions and we will continue to look at fractions next term



During the first half of the term, the children went on a trip to the Worcester Mosque to help them answer our RE unit question: What is it like to be a Muslim in Britain today? It was lovely to see the children so engaged in the trip and finding out more about Islam, asking really thoughtful questions.

The children have been looking at life cycles in Science and more recently we have started electricity where they will be designing and creating their own electrical circuit.

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



# YEAR 6 - SPRING TERM 2023



The spring term has been a very busy time in year 6 and it has flown by! We began the year with a brand new text to inspire our creative juices in our writing lessons. The Boy at the Back of the Class, about a refugee who had run away from war, got the children thinking deeply about a range of current issues.

Our maths lessons have seen us consolidating a range of different knowledge and skills, including fractions, shape and problem solving. With SATs around the corner, the children have practised their arithmetic on a regular basis and they have grown in confidence, which is great to see!

Our geography topic during the spring term was called 'What's so amazing about the USA?' We have found out and remembered loads of interesting facts relating to the size, population and climate of the USA (if you ask the children you'll be amazed!). We also looked at how humans have adapted physical features of the landscape to their advantage, such as Alcatraz and the Hoover Dam. We also studied some of the National Parks and made comparisons with the Cairngorms in Scotland.

We've especially enjoyed our DT lessons this term, and have designed and made delicious pizzas (apparently even better than Domino's!). We have also created clay sculptures of birds and painted them in our art lessons, after spending some time researching the incredible species there are in the world.

The final hurrah for year 6 was the Easter Fayre, which the children planned as part of their PSHE lessons. They really enjoyed organising and running their own stalls and we were proud of the way they managed this.



We are steadily increasing our French vocabulary and we have learnt about the weather and clothing, ready for any conversations that may be needed in the future. The children really enjoy the opportunity to practise their accents and are improving them all the time.

Our computing lessons have seen us working with some software called Scratch. We were able to work on programs, include variables and think about how we would improve them for our own games. The children really loved being creative and thinking outside the box.

The highlight for many children this term was our 3-day residential visit to Blackwell Adventure, which saw the children participating in a whole range of different activities such as zip wire, laser tag, climbing and teamwork challenges. The children got a lot out of the residential in terms of developing their ability to work in teams with different children.



The children who remained in school took part in a project to design and build a board game for the children in reception to play. This involved an initial visit to establish ideas, and culminated in a chance to play the games they created with the reception children. Well done everybody!





# FOREST SCHOOL - SPRING TERM 2023

We've had some quite extreme weather at times at Forest School since Christmas: when it was really cold we marvelled at the beauty of the frost and the ice; the dense fog transformed the site into a land of magic and mystery; and the plentiful supply of rain has filled the pond and helped the early spring flowers burst into life.



In Reception and Key Stage 1 we began the year by learning how to identify common species of birds and thinking about the different foods that birds like to eat. We enjoyed listening to bird calls and beginning to recognise the songs of our resident birds; such as the Robin who serenades us every session or the 'squeaky wheel' call of the Great Tit, (thank you to Mrs Finlay for helping us to remember that one!)

We've made bird feeders for our feathered friends and taken part in the RSPB Big School Bird Watch. Which species of bird did we spot the most? The large flock of gulls that circle the school at lunch time!

We've enjoyed seeing new life emerge after the cold winter months; first the Hazel catkins, Snowdrops and Blackthorn blossom, and then the daffodils and crocuses appearing. We've been having a close look at the flowers and blossom and learning their names. As Easter approaches, we're celebrating with a colourful egg hunt activity and some eggciting team games.



This term we've had some amazing topics for our Key Stage 2 curriculum focused outdoor learning sessions on Monday mornings.

Year 3 created their own 'mini worlds' to inspire their in-role writing for their work on 'Journey' by Aaron Becker and Year 4 chose natural weaving for their first session, with fantastic results.

We managed to fit in a couple of campfires and some toasted marshmallows too.

Year 5 chose a literature focus for their sessions; firstly searching out the hidden 'Lost Words' and natural inspiration for their Robert Macfarlane poetry topic, and then developing their survival skills to inform their writing activities for 'Wolf Brother' by Michelle Paver. This was followed by a skills and crafts session: archery skills for hunting; a colourful shaman stick for communicating with the spirit guardians of the natural world; and clan amulets made from clay - their designs were really imaginative.

I hope that you all have a lovely Easter break and that we will have some nice spring weather to help us enjoy our time outdoors.

Happy exploring!





## PE- SPRING TERM 2023

It has been a very busy term for the PE department. We have run 11 after school clubs with over 200 pupils attending. We have linked up once again with Kidderminster Harriers to run after school football clubs and we have entered a football team into the Harriers 7 a side league. We have sent pupils to Hockey, Basketball and Dodgeball events and have a number of other competitions coming up for the next term.

In PE lessons we have been looking at martial arts in our dance lessons and we have been teaching Volleyball, Hockey and ball skills across the school. Year 2 have been swimming all term and their progress has been amazing. Next term it will be year 3's turn.

We were so proud to send Przemyslaw to the County Cross Country Finals where he represented St John's and the whole of Wyre Forest against other very talented runners. He was amazing and finished in the top ten! We have more after school clubs planned for next term so please sign up



## MUSIC- SPRING TERM 2023

This term reception have had lots of fun in music lessons firstly learning songs and making up rhythms about caterpillars, butterflies and cocoons and then singing songs about a variety of fairy stories.

Year 1 sang songs about the seasons and created their own music for different types of weather. This half term they have been learning to read music notation and play tunes on the chime bars.

Year 2 have played a variety of tunes on chimes bars and composed their own tunes too. They have also started to learn the recorder and can now play the notes A and B.

Year 3 studied the pieces "Carnival of the Animals" and "Peter and the Wolf".

They have all passed their white and yellow Karate recorder belts. They have been working hard practicing the Easter Service for their performance in church.

Year 4 have been learning about the Romans and fanfares and will be performing their Roman play to parents on the afternoon of Wednesday 26th April. They have also been working through their karate recorder belts.

Year 5 listened to pieces from "Pictures at an Exhibition" and then composed their own sound picture pieces. They are now learning about spooky music from the Romantic era of music history.

Year 6 have learnt about American blues music and writing lyrics for their own blues songs.

They have also studied "The Planets" by Gustav Holst and are composing their own space pieces.

The instrument lesson pupils all continue to make great progress and nearly all pupils have successfully completed music medal exams. Well done all! School choir are working hard towards a summer concert. Finally a big thank you to Stourport-on-Severn Brass Band who have bought the school some glockenspiels as a thank you to the school choir for performing with them at a Christmas Concert at St. Johns Church.



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND WORSHIP - SPRING TERM 2023

In RE this term we have continued with various topics following the locally agreed syllabus. The children have worked towards a final piece of work that will explain what they have learned towards answering their 'big question' focus.

Year 5 went to visit 'Worcester Central Mosque,' as part of their unit that asked the big question, 'What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today?' The children were able to apply the knowledge that they had learned in school to asking and answering questions while at the mosque.

Year 3 went to visit 'Birmingham Progressive Synagogue,' as part of their unit that asked the big question 'How do festivals and family life show what matters to Jewish people?'

These trips are such a valuable experience where it helps children to see the importance of developing tolerance, respect and understanding of different religions and cultures so that pupils can promote good relationships in the years to come.

*'The guide answered all of our questions and taught us new things.'*

*'The Mosque made me feel protected, comfortable, curious, interested and happy.'*

*'I felt very calm and peaceful.'*

*'I really enjoyed it because it is interesting learning some things that I don't know.'*



Our Worship Rep's are taking on more and more of a role in our worships. They are leading the prayers, introducing visitors and helping to tell any stories that we read.

Our Easter Service will be led by our Year 3 children at St. John's Church and all of the children will take part with songs that they have been learning.

The Children led a beautiful service sharing the Easter Story.

After Easter we will be having a 'Creative Worship' after school club to encourage the children in helping to plan the worships too.



We wish you all a happy and relaxing Easter Break!