

NEWSLETTER

29th January 2021



St. George's
C of E School

NURTURE, LEARN, SUCCEED

OUR WORD OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY IS 'VACCINATION'

Our value this half-term is 'Caring'

'And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them' Luke6:31

Tel: 01562 824206

Email: office@stgprimary.org

Website: www.stgprimary.org

Message from the Head

Dear Parents/Carers,

On the first newsletter in the Spring term, I always welcome the children back to school with a 'Happy New Year'! January seems to have flown by but it has been wonderful to see a percentage of our pupils back at school.

Things changed pretty quickly on the eve of Monday 4th January and all the staff came together to organise how we would manage and deliver our 'remote learning offer' during school closure. I am immensely proud of our team of dedicated staff who once again rallied around in support of all of our pupils at St George's.

Our 'blended' home learning offer has been a huge success throughout January. We have been able to set up all the year groups on Teams for Year1-6. All our pupils have been provided with hard copies of learning resources with the main focus on reading, writing and maths and now we are planning a wide range of other foundation subject activities to ensure that all our pupils receive a broad and balanced curriculum offer.

All the teachers are responsible for monitoring remote learning engagement for learning and attendance at live tutorials. As Head of School, I have a duty to ensure that all the children are able to continue their education whether they are at home or at school. As a whole school, the percentage of children who are engaging in their learning is pleasing. In week one of our full home learning offer, 79% of children were engaging and this has increased in week 2 to 86% of children who are accessing their learning. These figures include children at home and at school. I believe we have seen this increase due to many factors; some families were limited with their IT devices at home, some vulnerable children have been invited back to school who had previously struggled with their home learning and a huge amount of credit must lie with staff and parents/carers who have worked together to ensure that children are completing tasks/assignments, uploading them back to their teachers and attending live teaching tutorials.

We have delivered a small amount of IT devices that were donated to school from the DFE and some IT devices have been provided by school. These are loaned to families who have no other devices within their home and will be used safely for children to continue their education. All devices will be returned to school when we are fully open to all pupils.

As from next week, the staff across the Trust have decided to turn their cameras on so that children will be able to see their teachers and use their listening skills to -look at the person who is talking, listen to all the words, sit still, and stay quiet whilst the teacher is speaking. We feel this will support some children with their engagement and their understanding.

Whilst the children are at school, please ensure that they are in full school uniform, have their PE kit in school and bring a clean water bottle to school each day. During lessons, either at home or at school, the teachers are mindful that the children need to have regular breaks, with water and fresh air to help them to focus and stay alert. Teachers are using a range of strategies in school and during their live tutorials, to ensure all the pupils are participating and focused. All the teachers have been provided with a super book 'A Toolbox of Wellbeing' by Tina Rae. This contains a wonderful collection of helpful activities and strategies to enhance emotional wellbeing.

Even though some of our children are at home, teachers are keen to continue with promoting our school rules and using the zone board and our whole school gem stone reward system. Certificates and badges will continue to be sent home in the child's learning packs if they feel that children should be rewarded for their efforts.

I have secured a grant from Worcestershire Children's First for an exciting February half term project for all our families. Throughout the half term week, we are challenging all our families to engage in activities which focus on wellbeing, health and fitness and cooking. The staff are busy producing resources with videos to support these activities and all families will be gifted a voucher to be spent on ingredients to plan and cook a hearty/healthy lunch and dinner. Details regarding this will follow nearer the end of this half term.

If you are struggling in any way and would like to contact the class teacher or myself, do not hesitate to do so.

Once again, a huge thank you for all your kind wishes and support.



Mrs Clare Snape
Head of School

IMPORTANT DATES and REMINDERS

During school closure-soft start from 8:30am-8:45am

End of the school day 3:00pm

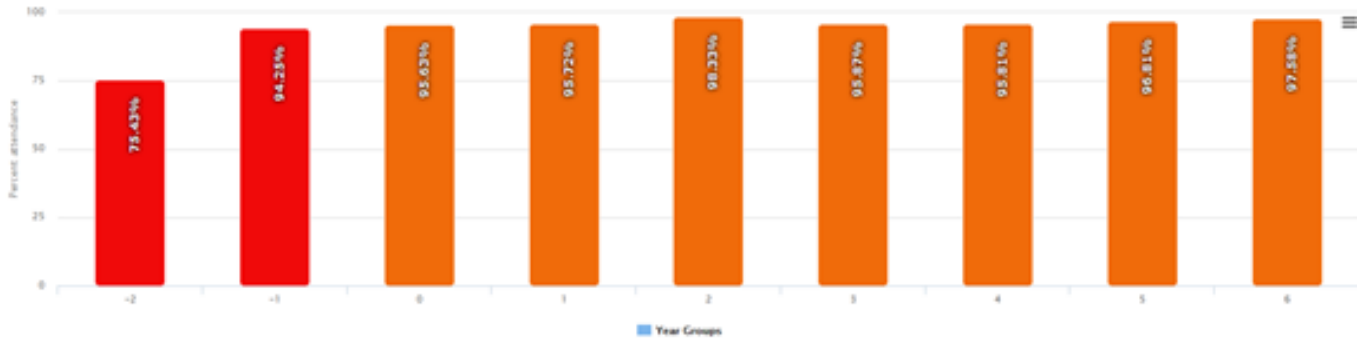
THURSDAY 11th FEBRUARY – BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM

FRIDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2021 – TEACHER TRAINING DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

NEW TERM BEGINS ON MONDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2021

ATTENDANCE

Attendance by year group from 03.09.20 to 18.12.20



The target this year is to ensure all children have at least 96% attendance.

Current attendance is 96.63%

Thankyou to all Parents and Carers for ensuring that their child/ren attend school and are punctual for the start of the school day. Good attendance has a positive impact on your child's well-being and educational outcomes.

We do know that from time-to-time children are really too poorly to come to school. If this is the case, please ring the school office by 9.15am on 01562 824206 or email, if you prefer, office@stgprimary.org. Phones are manned from 8.00am but an answerphone service is available before this time. It is important that you inform school if your child is unwell.

Important Information

To ensure the safety of our community it is vital that we remain in contact during school holidays. If a member of your household tests positive for Covid-19 during HALF TERM you **must** inform the school. Please email the school office immediately: office@stgprimary.org This is so that the school can inform the Local Response Team and then take any appropriate actions. As soon as a member of your household displays symptoms, you must isolate for **10 days** or until a negative result.

NURSERY

In Nursery and Tots we have been thinking about Our World.

We started learning about Winter and have had lots of fun exploring the snow, ice and frost.

We have been learning about the concept of melting. We brought ice in to the classroom to watch it melt and melted chocolate to make snowmen biscuits.

One of the favourite activities this term was running, jumping and splashing in a large puddle made by the ice melting. We have learnt about animals who live in polar regions and are now learning about animals which live in our oceans.

The children in Nursery are being introduced to the letter sounds in preparation for reading and writing.

Nursery & Tots

Mrs Thomas

RECEPTION



Thank you very much to everyone who has been completing Home Learning, Mrs Ashbourne and Mrs Tidmarsh are really proud of all of you!

A big thank you to all of the grown ups too! 😊

In Reception we have been trying really hard to learn new sounds and Fred talk words independently. We have been enjoying learning about winter and have shared the stories Jack Frost, The Polar Bear and The Snow Cloud and The Gruffalo's Child. In maths the children have been enjoying ordering numbers, looking for 2d shapes and beginning to add using practical resources.

Thank you for all of the wonderful photo's you have been sharing on Tapestry. It has been fantastic keeping in contact with all of the children at home and reading with them on the telephone.



YEAR 1

Happy New Year!

Year 1 have had a fabulous start to the new term both at home and in school! I am SO proud of how everyone is getting on with their work even though things are a little bit different at the moment!

We have been learning all about 2d and 3d shapes in Maths which we have really enjoyed! We are now moving on to developing our addition and subtraction skills.

In English we have become poets! We have been finding rhyming words, using our senses and even writing our very own poems! We are now moving on to completing work around our new story - 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers 🏠

In Phonics we are learning and using lots of sounds both to read words and to write them! Don't forget you can swap your reading book at the school office but there are lots of books available to read on Oxford Owl too! The Year 1 login is year1stg and the password is Books.

We are just starting our new science topic which is called 'Everyday Materials'. I know Year 1 are going to love doing this work as they love our science lessons so much!

If you are learning at home please keep sending me photographs of the work that you have completed which is now four pieces a day - phonics, writing, maths and afternoon work. 😊 Keep it up! children you are all doing a fabulous job! You too grown-ups! I know it is not easy home schooling and you are all doing a fantastic job! Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all of the support you are giving your children with their learning and embracing all this new technology! If you need any help or support please email me at year1homelearning@stgprimary.org

Stay safe and I'll talk to you all really soon at your next tutorial!

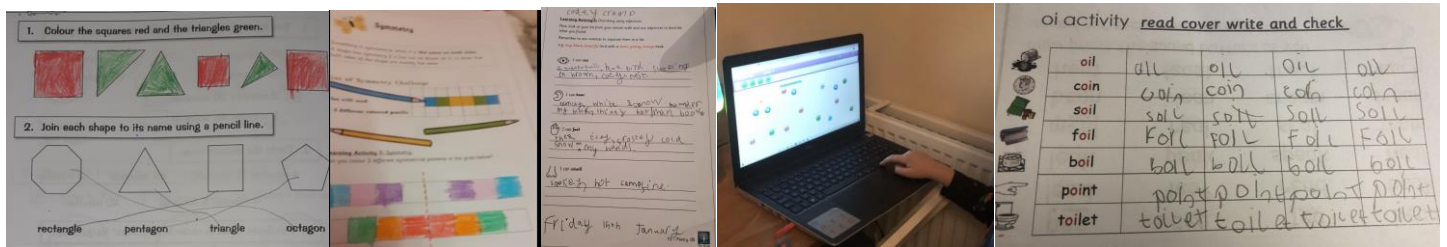
Miss Mills 😊

YEAR 2

Happy New Year!

I would like to begin this by saying a huge 'Thank You' and 'Well Done' to all of the children and families in Year 2.

Whether you have been in school; or working from home, you have been doing a brilliant job and I love seeing the work you have produced.



Learning new computer skills has been tricky (for all of us) but we are getting there! So well done.

I can't wait to have you all back in our actual classroom.

Keep safe, Mrs Short, Mrs Hall, Mr Del Monte and Miss Moraity

YEAR 3

The strange times moved to even stranger times with the school having to close fully because of the snow and ice recently.

I hope that you managed to get out and enjoy the snow, unless you opted to stay inside with a nice hot chocolate of course, which is equally as satisfying!

I have been very impressed with the work that I have received from everyone, I have read some really beautiful poetry with some amazing alliteration and spectacular similes. Keep up the great work and a huge thank you to all the adults at home that are supporting you too.

We have welcomed Miss Edwards, who is a trainee teacher, into our bubble at school and she is going to be with us until Easter. She has already been giving lessons and assemblies in school and she will be talking to you during some of your feedback sessions over the next few weeks.

Keep up the great work and we hope to see you all again soon.

YEAR 4

Year 4 have steadily been getting used to working online and we are delighted at the effort and engagement of so many of the pupils. Whilst we know there are still some 'niggles' to work out regards technology, we are getting there! Our Writing focus over the last two weeks was on poetry and in their Live Feedback sessions, every group worked together to share their knowledge and understanding of what a Haiku was, before collectively writing some. We had to keep in mind that a Haiku has three lines; a strict syllable count on each line of 5, 7, 5; and is generally about nature or the seasons. First, we came up with a theme for our poems, then we generated some ideas for content by thinking of descriptive words and phrases. We then looked to improve these words and phrases by up-levelling our choice of vocabulary and by using similes, metaphors or even alliteration. Once we had done that, we looked at choosing words and phrases to fit our line and syllable count. Finally, we had some more thoughts about changing the order of lines or words to make it the best we possibly could. We are really proud of our work. Enjoy!

Group 4: Oceans

Icy deep blue sea
wind moves the splashing wild waves
like freezing showers
Indigo deep depths
crashing like angry boulders
thundering oceans

Group 1: Mammals

Warm blooded liquid
pumping through their mighty veins
a thick coat of fur
Miniature mammals
warm liquid pumping through veins
with thick coats of fur

Group 2: Autumn

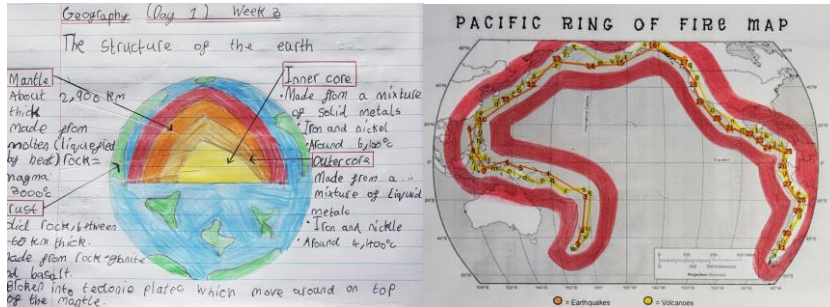
Multi-coloured leaves
floating like snowflakes through air
blanketing like snow

Group 3: Winter

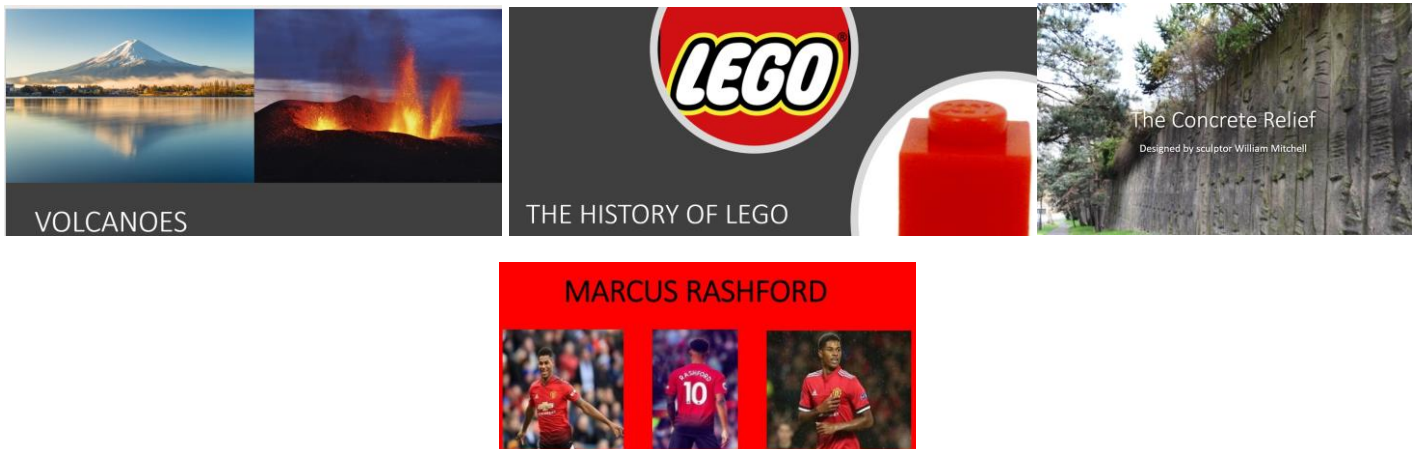
Ice is glacial
fluttering ice crystals fly
roaring fire inside

YEAR 5

We are so proud of our Year 5 children! Over the last few weeks, the children have been absolutely amazing with getting to grips with our new platform for remote learning, uploading work and attending our fabulous tutorials. Thank you so much to all of our parents and carers who have been so supportive with this move to on-line learning. This week we have been finding out about volcanoes and one of our lessons was all about how the earth is structured:



In English, everyone has been having a go at multi-clause sentences and practising using different sorts of conjunctions. This will all work towards our descriptive writing about our space clip: Gravity. In the first two weeks, we had some great ideas for projects, here are some of the topics they chose:



YEAR 6

Year 6 have been busy completing their Remote Learning for the past 3 weeks. Mr Modley has been proud of the work completed so far and the attendance to the live feedback sessions. Over the past few weeks, the children have been refining their poetry skills by looking into the key skills related to poetry and applying them to completing narrative poetry and Haikus (a 3 line poem using a specific syllabic pattern). In addition to this, the children have been using the story of 'Pinocchio' and the poem 'The Owl and Pussycat' to complete comprehension based questions. In Maths, the children have been working hard to calculate angles on a straight line, around point, inside a triangle and inside quadrilaterals; they have also begun looking at their next unit of fractions. The Science focus has been light and how we see. Please keep sending in the work and ensuring that the children access the live feedback sessions! Stay safe and keep smiling everyone!

Internet Safety

With the possibility of the children having new technological devices over the holiday period, we would like to remind you about keeping your child/ren safe on line. Please visit the link below for some ideas to support you with this:

[Information, Advice and Support to Keep Children Safe Online \(internetmatters.org\)](http://internetmatters.org)



If anyone finds themselves struggling please contact Kidderminster Foodbank.

<https://Kidderminster.foodbank.org.uk/>

Baxter Church Hall
The Bull Ring
Kidderminster
DY10 2AA





How do I try to stay mentally and physically healthy?

Here are some suggestions which may help families to stay fit and healthy:

Routine:

Royal Society of Psychiatrists inform us that it is important to try and create a routine for yourself while you're at home and stick to it as much as you can. Your routine should be different for weekdays and weekends, and could include things like school or study time, exercise, catching up with friends, or doing other things you like such as art or watching TV. Setting a daily routine can help give structure and balance to your day.

Focus on activities you enjoy

Focus on doing activities that you enjoy and make you feel calm, making sure you fit some of those into your daily routine. Find a relaxing activity, like yoga, mindfulness, meditation, listening to music or art. You might even want to think about learning something new – there are lots of opportunities online for learning new things.

Take care of yourself

Try and eat a balanced diet, stick to a regular sleep pattern (getting up and going to sleep at the same time each day), and get some regular exercise, including going out once a day for fresh air.

Keep in touch with friends and family

Make sure you keep in touch regularly with friends and family, through messaging, video calls or phone calls. You can be creative with others by doing things like quizzes, cooking or artwork at the same time, even if you're not with them in person. This is a good way to catch up with people you might not see as much, and to reach out to those you think might be feeling lonely or who live on their own, like grandparents or older neighbours.

Use social media positively

Social media can be a great way of keeping in touch during the COVID-19 pandemic, but if you are finding that some of what you are seeing or reading is getting you down, then you may need to change what you are doing. Find sites and online communities that make you feel better and share your interests.

Get support

You may need more emotional support during this time. Many people are worrying about their friends and families, particularly when they can't be near them. Keep in touch with people you are close to and let them know if you are worried or feeling down.