

OUR WORDS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL WERE 'PRESENTATION AND PRIDE'

Our value for this half-term is 'Responsibility'

'Live in harmony with one another.....'Romans V12-16

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Message from the Head

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a pleasure getting back to some normality at school and the children have been engaged in a variety of exciting learning activities in their year groups. Please take time to read through the messages from the teachers at school and do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you need any further information or support in relation to your child's learning.

We have had four fabulous teaching students from the university of Worcester, who have been completing their teacher training at school. These students have shown dedication and flexibility as they have been with us through some challenging and unprecedented times since school closure on January 4th. With the support and coaching from our teaching team, we have seen these teaching students gain so many new skills and they have flourished. We would like to say a huge thankyou and a fond farewell to Miss Wellman in Year 6, Miss Edwards in Year 3, Miss Baig in Year 2 and Miss Pountney in Year 1. We look forward to hearing about their future teaching experiences.

Below you will see that Mrs Short our school Reading Leader is promoting a whole school focus on Reading. We appreciate that we have relied upon parents and carers supporting their child/ren at home during school closure and once again I would like to congratulate you for your efforts. Since the children have returned to school, we have seen levels of support for home reading have decreased. Understandably, we are all so thankful that schools have opened to all children, but we still need you to continue to read with your child at home. The expectation is that all children read at least three times a week and an adult should sign their home school link book to evidence this. During the week these books are checked and children that meet this expectation are able to move through their class reading challenge. Rewards are given to these children and Mrs Short collects data from each class each week to showcase the class that have read the most. It has been shocking to see that as few as 10% of children in some classes have read three times. Reading is the tool for all areas of the curriculum, and we have high aspirations for all our children, that they are able to read fluently and with good comprehension skills by the time they leave primary school.

Today we organised a socially distanced phonic workshop for our Reception parents and carers. It was well attended, and teaching strategies and resources were shared. We hope that you feel more equipped to support your child. We have another workshop planned for next Friday, on the playground and future workshops are being planned for other subject areas.

We will keep you updated.

As you are aware, we are in communication with a company trying to source some bespoke material for our new summer dresses. The fabric samples which have been sent to school have not been up to the standard that I want for our children. We are waiting for more samples to arrive, but due to the pandemic this has been a real challenge. Can I assure you that this was planned many months ago but the samples have only just arrived at school.

Many well-known supermarkets stock school summer dresses but the reasoning behind ordering bespoke dresses for St George's is that the fabric will always be available and will not vary in colour or design. It is becoming more apparent that we will not be able to get what we want for this year but will endeavour to source the best quality design that is value for money. The dresses will be more expensive than well-known supermarket brands but they will be bespoke to our school.

For this summer term I would be happy if you want to purchase a dress in our new maroon colour. We have sourced one from Sainsbury's that is value for money and will not break the bank. They are currently in stock and a child in Reception has worn one to school and it looked really smart. Please see the details below.

[Kids Dark Red Classic Gingham School Dress \(3-14 Years\) | Tu clothing \(sainsburys.co.uk\)](https://www.sainsburys.co.uk/Products/Kids-Dark-Red-Classic-Gingham-School-Dress-(3-14-Years)-|Tu-clothing)



This dress is in stock and is available for 3-14-Year-olds from £4.50

We are aware that it is the month of Ramadan and a time of fasting. May I take this opportunity to wish you 'Eid Mubarak' for next Wednesday or Thursday.

Please continue to talk to your child/ren about their learning each day.

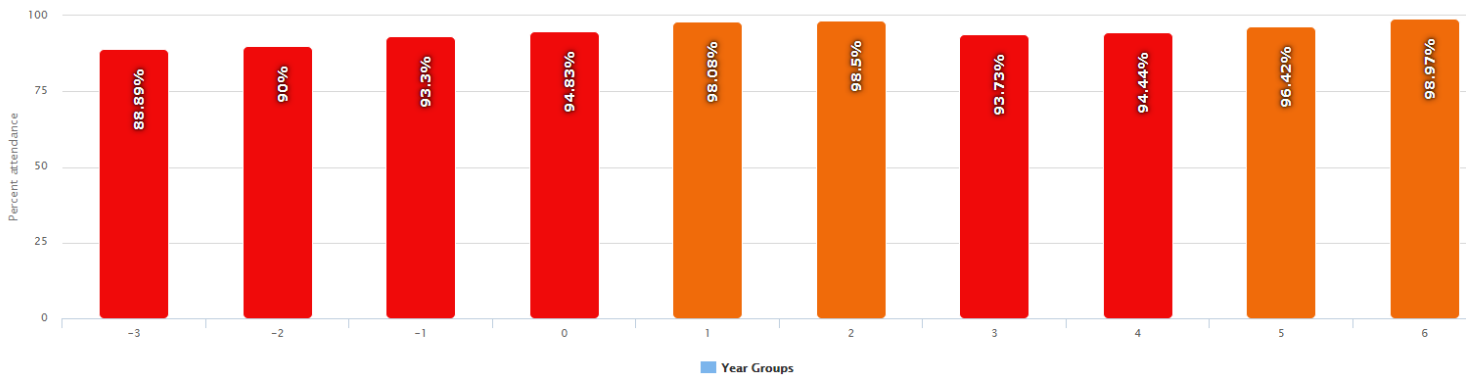
I do hope you enjoy the bank holiday weekend and I hope the sun shines for us all.

Kind regards



ATTENDANCE

Attendance by year group from April 20th – April 30th 2021



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

Current attendance is 96%

Thank you 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.

IMPORTANT DATES and REMINDERS

MONDAY 3rd MAY – MAYDAY BANK HOLIDAY

FRIDAY 28th MAY 2021 – TEACHER TRAINING DAY – **SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS**

MONDAY 31st MAY – FRIDAY 4th JUNE – HALF TERM HOLIDAY

MONDAY 7th JUNE 2021 - CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL

To ensure the safety of our community it is vital that we remain in contact. If a member of your household tests positive for Covid-19 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 + TOTS

We have started thinking about what lives at the bottom of our garden. We have enjoyed looking for minibeasts in our outside area and at Forest School. We have made homes for minibeasts and used different media to represent known minibeasts. The children have enjoyed designing and making their own minibeasts in the box modelling area. They used plasticene and other materials to make bugs and then they enjoyed playing with them with their friends. They have even made food for the minibeasts in the mud kitchen. A particular favourite activity was looking for minibeasts in the jelly!

RECEPTION

This term we are learning all about Traditional Tales. We are having a big focus on phonics to help support children in their independent reading and writing. We are very proud of the children and how well they are recognising their sounds and now writing sounds, 'Fred talking' words and beginning to write simple sentences.

We started our topic with a visit from a giant! Fee fi fo fum!!!! We have read the story of Jack and the Beanstalk, ordered events and even thought about words to describe the giant. We have also been planting magic beans and learning about what seeds need to grow.



We are very excited to start our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) project on Monday 10th May. We are going to be basing this on the story of The Three Billy Goats Gruff and are going to become problem solving experts. For the STEM project we need lots of recycled materials to build bridges. If you have any clean and empty cardboard boxes (big or small), cardboard tubes and plastic containers could you please send them into school (all donations will be quarantined for 72 hours). Thank you in advance.



Reading in Reception is really important and books are sent home on a weekly basis, **PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE** could you read with your child at least 3 times and week and record this in their reading record. We have less than 10 children in the class meeting the reading challenge at this moment in time.

YEAR 1

What a busy few weeks in Y1!

We have started our mini topic of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and we are really enjoying reading the story! We have been looking at beans really closely and have done some fantastic drawings!

In English we have been doing some fabulous writing based on our book including writing instructions for planting beans! We have been looking at measuring length and height in Maths and we have used lots of things to measure both outside and inside the classroom. We are learning and using lots of new sounds in phonics and we are trying to read even more speedily!

I can't wait for all the fabulous learning to come in the next few weeks!

P.S. Please remember that the school expectation is that the children read at least three times a week and this is recorded for us to check on a FRIDAY. Please remember that books and bookbags should be in school every day along with a clean, fresh bottle of water. Thank you.

Miss Mills 😊

YEAR 2

The children have been working hard and have already produced some fantastic writing about Fantastic Mr Fox. In Maths, we are continuing to develop methods for addition and subtraction; before re-visiting the tricky topic of multiplication and division next week.

This term is a busy one as we continue work on plants and habitats before starting our exciting project for **STEM**.

At the moment, we are really encouraging reading at home; as the class with the most home reads wins a prize! To help us win, please could you record any reading you do with your child (a minimum of 3 reads a week) in their Home School link book.

We can do it Y2!

YEAR 3

Unfortunately, Y3 have had to bid a tearful farewell to Miss Edwards this week as she has finished her time with us at St George's. We wish her well in her future teaching career.

This month Y3 have been looking at the "journeys we take" and in Science we have delved down into the soil and made our own soil.

In English we have written a newspaper report about a journey we have taken and in Geography we have looked at the human and physical features of holiday resorts both here and abroad.

We have completed our work on fractions in Maths this week and so the children should be able to share any pizza and cake into equal slices!

We are really pleased with the response regarding the need for stiff cardboard, please keep it coming!

Thank you for your continued support from the Y3 team.

YEAR 4

This week, the children have been working hard to create their own dragon in their writing. We have looked at stealing a dragon's egg, key features for our writing, and we have started to draft ideas to plan where the dragon might live including its diet and its personality.

In maths, we have been exploring fractions in great detail e.g. tenths and hundredths, equivalent fractions, simplifying fractions and fractions greater than 1.

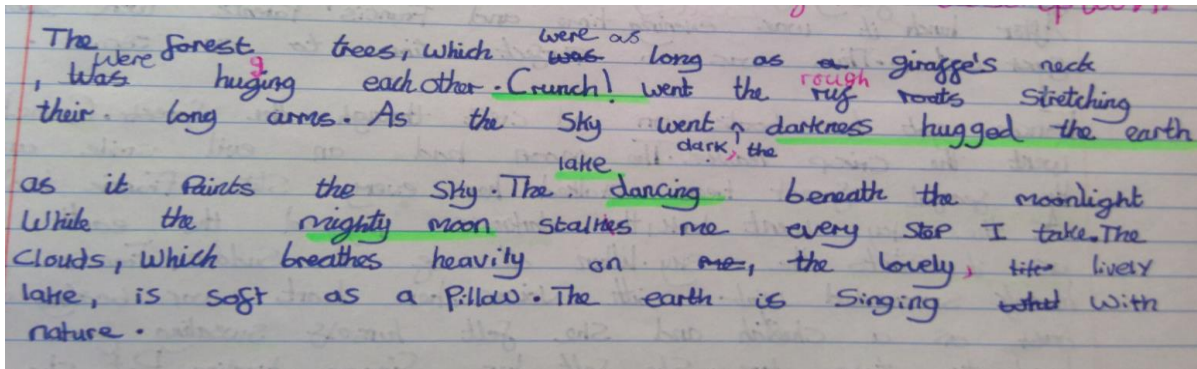
We have discovered that our spellings and our reading need a bit more practice.

We have started looking at Vikings in history which links to our current narrative, 'How To Train Your Dragon'.

We have also been completing our science work, looking at circuits and what we need to turn on a light bulb.

YEAR 5

We have been immersed in our theme of 'Goosebumps' especially in reading and writing. In reading, we have been using the poem 'The Listeners' by Walter de la Mare to explore the ways in which setting has been used to create suspense. In Writing, we have enjoyed watching the video clip of 'Francis' and using this to inspire us further with our suspense writing. There have been some impressive language choices being used in Year 5 this week and we have been bringing our settings to life by using figurative language. We cannot wait to write our own suspense stories next week and share some extracts with you.



In PSHE, we have been looking at the importance of Mental Health and Wellbeing. As a class, we have been exploring strategies which could help us, if we are finding things difficult. Year 5 have also been using these strategies in order to give advice, when given different scenarios.

Helpful for Metal Well Being list

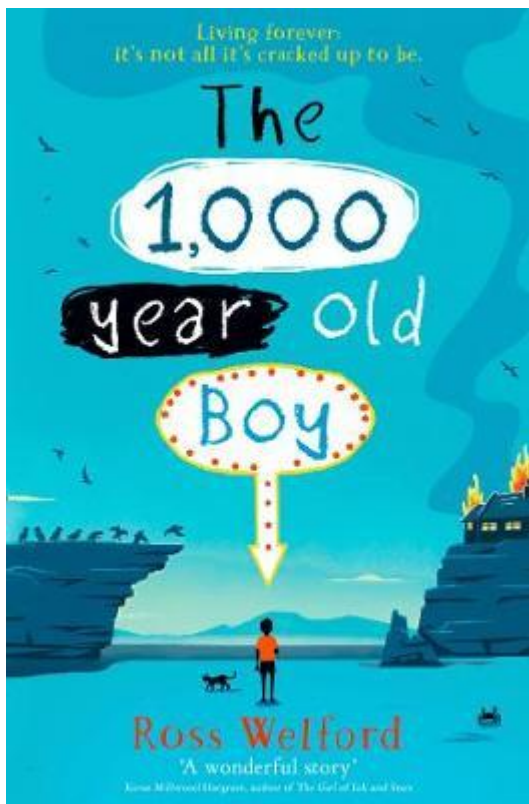
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- ✓ Drinking water
 - ✓ Smiling
 - ✓ Advice website: www.childline.org.uk
 - ✓ Writing or drawing about the feelings
 - ✓ Eating a balanced diet that includes plenty of fruit and vegetables
 - ✓ Taking deep breaths
 - ✓ Reading
 - ✓ Recognising things can feel better
 - ✓ Making a memories box
 - ✓ Listening to music
 - ✓ Thinking positively
 - ✓ Advice text/phone line: ChildLine 0800 1111
 - ✓ Talking about problems to a doctor, nurse or counsellor
 - ✓ Taking rest, relaxing, quiet time
 - ✓ Being honest about your feelings
 - ✓ Accepting that change happens to everyone
 - ✓ Writing to a friend
 - ✓ Punching a pillow
 - ✓ Hugging a pillow
 - ✓ Going outside - fresh air
 - ✓ Doing something physically active
 - ✓ Writing a diary or journal of feelings
 - ✓ Getting enough sleep
 - ✓ Taking your mind off it
 - ✓ Spending time with friends
 - ✓ Being kind to others
 - ✓ Helping someone else
 - ✓ Thinking of happy times
 - ✓ Stroking a pet
 - ✓ Talking to a trusted adult
 - ✓ Squeezing a stress ball
 - ✓ Chatting to a friend
 - ✓ Imagining the feelings drifting away

YEAR 6

We have been busy working hard since coming back after the Easter holidays.

In writing, we have been analysing non-chronological reports and have designed and planned a non-chronological report based on a hybrid animal of their choice. The writing has linked well to evolution and adaptation, and we have given the children greater ownership over what they produce! In Reading, we have been busy completing our Comprehension Express scheme and have now started our new class book called 'The 1000-Year-Old Boy' by Ross Welford. The children seem really enthused by this book and has so far posed lots of questions whilst they have been reading. In Maths, they are completing a unit based around measure to include area and perimeter. This has been tricky especially when measuring with imperial units and converting them to metric. Science has been an Evolution focus and we are now moving onto looking at a book called Amazing Evolution which we will use as our stimulus to Science lessons. We have been having a huge push with presentation recently and the children are now starting to take lots of pride in their work. Overall, it has been a productive two weeks where they have made lots of progress in a short period of time.

We also say goodbye to Miss Wellman who has worked with the children since their return to school. She has really gained the respect of the children and has done an amazing job supporting them in their learning. We would like to wish her the best as she enters the teaching profession!



HOME READING

Reading

Year 5 are still in the lead on the reading challenge for the highest number of pupils reading three or more times a week in class. There has been an improvement across the school in all classes but we still have a long way to go. Please support your child by reading with them and logging it in their Home School link book.

Date for your diary- **Pyjamarama Day** 14th of May.

Join with us, as pupils across the country celebrate their love of a good book and the importance of reading! Children can come to school in their pyjamas with a donation of a £1. The money raised goes to the Book Trust- a trust that helps those who cannot afford books, enjoy some lovely books of their own.

World Book Day Competition Winner

@neilhimsel I thought you might like to read this review my 11 year old wrote for his primary school World Book Day Competition which he won! #NeilGaiman #NorseMythology #Thor #Bard

The character I have chosen is Thor from the book Norse Mythology (by Neil Gaiman) While my favorite deity would be Loki - the trickster god, Thor is arguably more memorable and also has the coolest aesthetic look (and the whole 'only the worthy can lift it'). His hammer is called Mjolnir and only a chosen few can wield it. I think it is a fabulous book as it combines Gaiman's good sense of humour and a good retelling of the myths into one single, excellent book. It is also a good book because Gaiman tells it like he is a bard by the fire, telling stories that draw you in.

06:40 · 28/04/2021 · Twitter for iPad

|| View Tweet activity



Neil Gaiman  @neilhimsel · 4m

Replying to @Ann_MarieCee

I love that last sentence! Glad he won!

The winner of our World Book Day Competition was David Chandler who wrote a fantastic book review which was also shared with the author Neil Gaiman on Twitter who actually responded!