



### OUR WORD OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH WAS 'GROWTH'

Our value for next half-term is 'Responsibility'

**'For God so loved, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him will not perish but will have everlasting life.'** - John 3:16

### Message from the Head

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been lovely having all the children back at school and they have settled so well into their daily routines.

As a school, we are having a huge focus on reading and with your support we can continue to encourage a love of reading amongst our children. Mrs Short, our Reading Leader is monitoring the reading in each class on a weekly basis. Last week the Year 5 children had read the most across the whole school. We have a 'Reading Champion' board to record our reading. You can play your part by reading with your child at least three times a week and then their efforts will go towards the whole class achievement. Each half term the class that has read the most will receive a reward.

During lockdown, I appreciate that some children may have got out of the habit of organising themselves for school however, it is an expectation that all our children should come to school in full school uniform. This includes a school tie and a full school PE kit. If you are waiting for some uniform, please keep in contact with Mrs Jones who is liaising closely with the suppliers. If your child has not received their PE kit, please ensure your child has appropriate clothing for their lesson eg. A pair of shorts and a T. Shirt. They will need a pair of pumps for PE as the children will be using the outdoors for PE during the summer term. I do appreciate that non-essential shops have been closed and some children have been wearing leisure footwear, however, when the children return to school after Easter, children are expected to wear sensible school shoes.

Today, the children are bringing home some of their exercise books from last year. We have been storing these books to support moderation and curriculum expectations for learning but feel the time is right to send them home. Please enjoy looking through these books with your child and celebrate their successes from last year.

Throughout the year, a local charity, The DY10 Project has been supporting the school in so many kind ways. They have donated a range of art and craft activities to some of our children. Unfortunately, they are not able to donate resources for all our children, but we have considered the needs of individuals and shared these resources amongst the children. A big thank you to the Charity for their donations.

Some of our children during this challenging time have become quite anxious and parents and teachers have worked tirelessly to reassure and support their wellbeing. For some, 'Fidget' toys have helped. These toys are designed to calm and lower levels of anxiety. If your child has a 'Fidget' toy, we expect them to be kept safely in their pockets or in their trays and not to become a distraction during learning time.

On Tuesday, we enjoyed our virtual Easter Service at school. Reverend Hildred led the service and all the children participated in retelling the Easter story in their unique way. The children in Reception had recreated the tomb as part of their outdoor learning when Jesus was taken from the cross. They had used grass, wooden blocks and stones in their creative play. The children in Year 4 retold part of the Easter story through the eyes of Mary, Jesus' mother. It was a lovely service and the children used loud and proud voices.

Our 'soft start' to the school day has been a huge success. A polite reminder to all our parents/carers to ensure that children are all in class by 8.45am as the school site will be locked and made safe by 8.50am. It is so important for children's social and emotional wellbeing that they arrive at school and settle in class with their peers. For some children, a late start in the morning will impact on their whole day.

During the Easter break, the whole staff at school will continue with their Lateral Flow testing for covid twice a week. These results are submitted and monitored closely. If anyone in your household tests positive for Covid up until 7th April, you will need to contact school by email: [office@stgprimary.org](mailto:office@stgprimary.org)

Teachers have started to plan for the summer term and our aim is to give the children as 'normal' an experience as possible. We are hoping to offer all the children an end of year school trip off site and will let you know nearer the time. Also, we hope to plan a school Sport's day and Leaver's assembly, however these may need to be organised in a different way in line with Government guidance. I will continue to update you.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support and the fabulous staff at St George's for their dedication and hard work this month. We are saying a fond farewell to Mrs Rumney who has been seconded to one of our schools within the Trust. She has a leadership position and will be supporting school improvement. We wish Mrs Rumney all our very best wishes and thank her for her endless enthusiasm and contribution to the quality first teaching and learning at St George's. She will be missed by her colleagues, parents and the pupils, but we are so happy she is still working within our Trust.

Lastly, I would like to send my thoughts and condolences to any member of our school community who has lost loved ones during this awful pandemic. If you need access to any bereavement counselling, there are three local bereavement support groups in Kidderminster. If you would like any further details do not hesitate to contact us at school.

Have an enjoyable and restful Easter break and I hope you are able to meet up with friends and family and enjoy some sunshine.

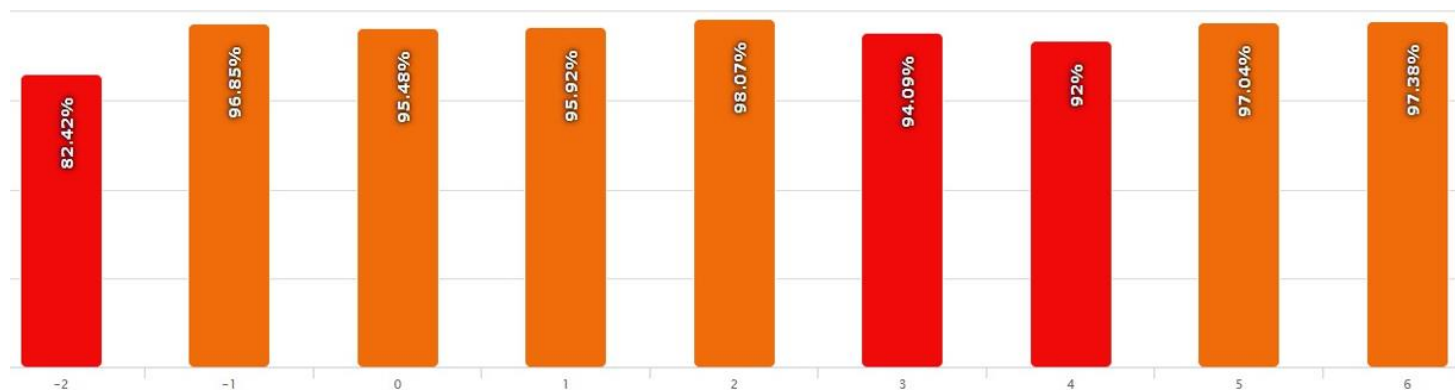
Kind regards



Head of School

# ATTENDANCE

Attendance by year group from January 2021 - March 2021



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

## IMPORTANT DATES and REMINDERS

**THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL** – BREAK UP FOR EASTER

NEW TERM BEGINS ON **MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021**

**MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021** – TEACHER TRAINING DAY – **SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS**

**TUESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021** -CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL

## Important Information

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](mailto: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

It has been lovely welcoming all of the children back to Nursery & Tots and welcoming some new members to the class. This half term we have been thinking about how our world is changing. We have been on a Spring walk and have seen wild and Spring flowers, buds, seedlings and blossom. We have planted dwarf sunflowers and broad beans and are enjoying watching them grow. We will continue to go to the forest each Tuesday morning. We have enjoyed sharing stories and learning the nursery rhyme, 'Old MacDonalld had a farm' to help us learn the names of baby animals.

We are all learning to write our name, thinking about the correct letter formation, recognising our numerals to 10 and starting to learn our letters (following the Read Write Inc scheme for Nursery). Remember reading diaries need to be brought to school each Friday.

The Nursery team would like to wish everyone a very Happy Easter!



# RECEPTION

We were very **excited** to have all the children returning to school and we are now so **proud** of how well they have settled back into Reception. We would like to thank all the parents who have worked so hard during lock down, it has benefitted the children's confidence and skills.



This term we have been learning all about different vehicles and have enjoyed exploring different types of transport and the roles of the people who drive them. Reception loved the story Naughty Bus! He is so mischievous! We made our own buses using chairs and we also made tickets to allow us on a bus ride. The children at home did this too. We also liked the story Mr Gumpy's Motor Car and the children used their imagination to make their own cars outside as well as making masks to role play the story.



During the last two weeks of term, we have been learning about Easter and its importance to Christians. The children have been amazing at recalling the events of the Easter story and have thought very hard about the symbol of the cross. They have answered the question "Why do Christians use a cross in an Easter garden?"

Just before we break up, we are very much looking forward to going on Easter egg hunts as well as making chocolate Easter nest cakes.



The children have amazed us all with P.E, which they thoroughly enjoyed! We are learning how to get changed independently, however the buttons on the shirts were super tricky! We have learnt how to move in different ways as well as how to run in different directions safely. Thank you to everyone who has sent in P.E kits, if you have not could you please make sure your child has a full P.E in school for after the Easter holidays. Children will need blue shorts, school maroon P.E t-shirt and pumps or trainers in a named bag. Please make sure everything is labelled as things can get easily get mixed up when 29 children are all changing for P.E at the same time.

# YEAR 1

Since returning to school Y1 have been super busy! We have welcomed Miss Pountney into our class who will be working with us for a few weeks after Easter too! In English we have been doing some fantastic writing using our text 'The Gingerbread Man' and have created some fabulous story maps too! In Maths we have been looking at money and now we are looking at place value to 100! We are getting really good at recognising 10s and 1s using base 10 and we are getting super speedy at knowing our number bonds to 10 and 20 too! We are learning and using lots of new sounds in phonics and we are trying to read even more speedily!

Have a fabulous Easter if you are celebrating and if not have a fabulous two weeks off!

Miss Mills 😊

## YEAR 2

It has been so lovely to have you all back in the classroom together and you have worked super hard! This term, we have said goodbye to Mrs Hall but we are lucky to have Miss Baig remaining with us until the end of April.

We look forward to welcoming you back in the Summer Term where we will be growing plants, creating clay sculptures and trying out our athletics skills on the field! Until then, have a very happy Easter!

Mrs Short, Miss Baig and Miss Moraity



## YEAR 3

We have been busy doing lots of active learning since returning to school on March 8<sup>th</sup>. We have been using resources with our table partners to help us with our multiplication, division and fractions – including the use of biscuits!! We have done some great descriptive writing and written a persuasive letter. In science, we have set up some experiments to explore what conditions a plant needs to grow and how water travels through a plant. We have also planted some runner beans and sunflowers to see how they grow over a longer period of time. We are planning to leave an avocado seed over Easter to see if we can grow an avocado tree to look at its roots and then look what soils are made of. It has been a very busy few weeks and we hope that you all have a super break and return to school refreshed and ready for the summer term. Thank you for your continued support, from the Year 3 team.



## YEAR 4

We have had a very Science focused return half term, exploring living creatures and their habitats. We all enjoyed investigating our Forest School, and using appropriate equipment and a classification key to carefully and safely identify the many and varied invertebrates living in that habitat. We certainly have a better appreciation for the smaller living organisms that coexist around our own environments now. Back in the classroom, we began to explore the different ways in which habitats can be impacted by various forces. To this end, we explored the impact of humans cutting down the rainforests for palm oil; the reintroduction of wolves into Yellowstone National Park, in America, park (which actually changed the course of the rivers); as well as some natural disasters including the Boxing Day tsunami of 2004 and the 2011 volcanic eruption of Grimsvotn in Iceland. Some changes were positive to the different environments and ecosystems in their vicinity, others less so. We are now looking forward to finishing our term off with an investigation into the most effective way of cleaning up an oil spill, whilst giving consideration to both the short and long-standing impact of such an event.

## YEAR 5

We have been working hard on decimals and have been applying their number skills to add and subtract. They are very good at remembering to keep their decimal points in line! The children are also becoming experts at using spreadsheets and they have busy planning a party. With Easter on the horizon, we have been learning about the significance of the special events which led up to this important time. Look out for their beautiful Easter art, which will be coming home very soon. Each of the illustrations have a particular meaning to do with Jesus. Here is a little taster of some of their work:

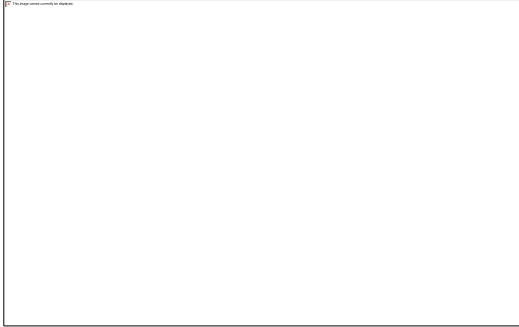


Words of the week include **prove** and **disprove**. Ask them to tell you what they mean!

## YEAR 6

We have been working hard upon their return to school. They have been improving their percentage skills and fluency; writing narratives based upon the film 'Up' and 'The Fox and the Mouse'; and learning about UK Geography through Reading. They have been able to discuss various key concepts of society in PSHE, develop their language skills by talking about playing different sports in French and developing different sketching techniques in Art.

For World Book Day, the children were tasked with decorating a potato as their favourite book character. Our class winners were Ruby who created a great Harry Potter and Josh who created a Captain Underpants. Well done both of you- you are the proud winners of an Easter Egg!



### Live Daffodil Drawing Competition

In Art, the children have drawing daffodils for their Easter Art lessons. They discussed Art techniques and decided that hatching would be the most appropriate and effective method. The winners of this class competition were Faith and Kyan who showed some great art skills and tried extremely hard!





# HOME READING

*'Reading stimulates part of a child's brain to grow and be more active. Reading can widen a child's vocabulary and comprehension ability. Through reading, children develop their empathy, build confidence, and expand their imagination'.*

We want to achieve all of the above for our pupils at St George's, so we have launched a weekly reading initiative to encourage our pupils to **read more frequently at home.**

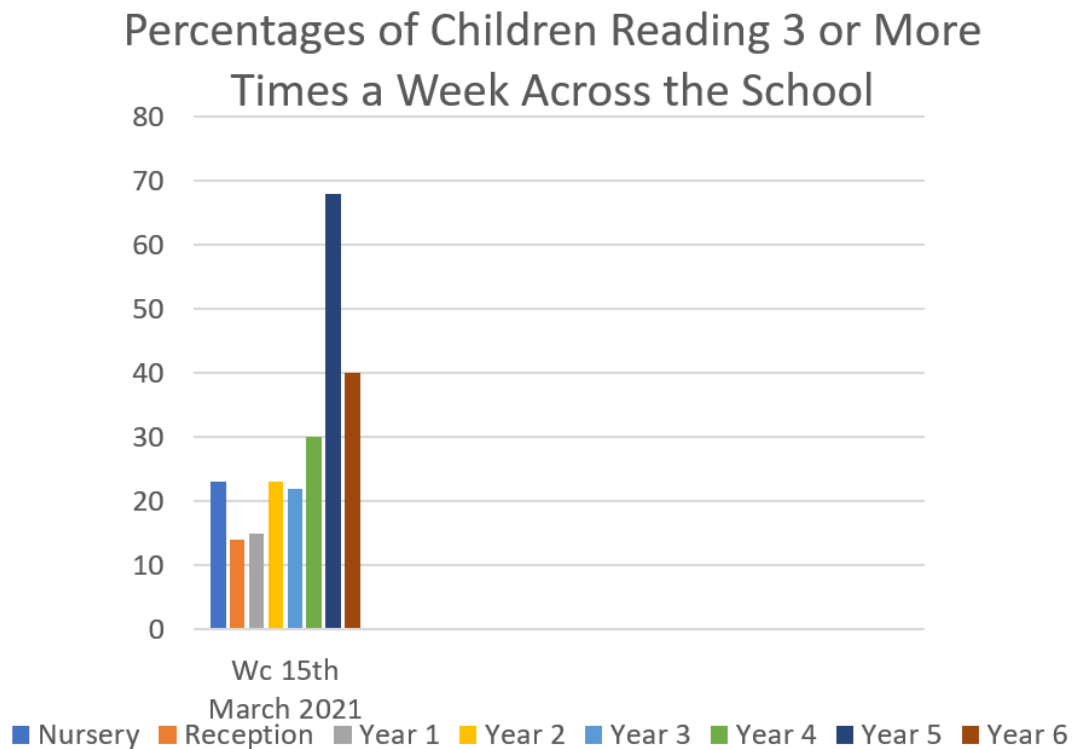
## Currently

Each week, Home School planners will be collected and the number of times your child has read will be monitored. The expectation is that the children read at home **at least 3 times a week** so that they can move up on their class reading challenge.

## Moving Forward

Every week, the percentage of children in each class who have read 3 or more will be collected and announced in Friday's 'Successful Learner' assembly. The class with the highest percentage collects a 'token'. At the end of each half term, the class with the highest number of tokens win a **whole class prize!** This could be time at the park, a special class tea party or something equally exciting!

Well done to **Year 5** who took the lead this week...



...but there is vast room for much improvement across the school. Let's see who our champions are next week!



## **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.