



St John's School wonderful place to be a pupil and member of staff.

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February 2021

Welcome to another St John's School newsletter.

I open this letter with the exciting news that after many years of persistence, St John's School will have its own green space, adjacent to the school. This will provide space for sport, play activities, science investigations and other exciting learning opportunities. We are looking forward to having this much needed space. Meetings are being planned with Property Holdings and the Department, as we reflect on how to make the space safe, ready for use and easily accessible. Recently, the Planning Department informed me that the Minister has approved the decision; however, it may be a while before this becomes formal...so don't expect to see children running on to the new play space just yet,...but that time is coming!

Since our return this term, we have been thinking about our "Core Purpose", which is of course - "*Thinking, Learning, and Caring*". It is good to remind ourselves of these three words and why they are so important. I am *never* surprised at the depth of understanding our children display, as they talk about *Thinking, Learning and Caring*. I feel heartened to hear them talk so confidently and sensitively about their meaning and how we can support each other in living out these qualities. There is much laughter and positivity at St John's School. It is a

wonderful place to work, learn and attend each day.

At the beginning of the **Spring Term 2021**, we thought about what it means to be a caring, responsible, resilient, global citizen and how to engage in thinking about this concept through practical, meaningful ways. We began the term by exploring the book "**The Magic is inside YOU**," by Cathy Domoney, and shared and discussed what makes a "can-do" mindset, which in turn, paves the way to confidence, resilience and success. Negative self-talk can have a defeating effect on children and this story supports them in transforming negative thoughts into positive affirmations and build a strong self-esteem. With the stresses, uncertainty of COVID-19 and the effect this virus has had on our lives, it seemed appropriate to pause and reflect on the message of this book and supply our children with strategies, that would help with the current situation and further future challenges. This is a clear example of **Thinking, Learning and Caring**. Mrs Loveless has taken some of the children's thoughts from this book and created a lovely display in our front entrance. The children are enjoying looking at this learning; hopefully, you will be able to see it soon too.

We are well into the term and time is flying by because there is so much going

on at school! I have been taking stock in recent weeks, reflecting on what is happening in every year group. It probably will not surprise you to know, that there is **real quality learning** going on everywhere. Just walking through school and looking at the wonderful work on display in every room and in each Piazza area demonstrates this; but, I also spend a lot of time **talking with our children** and they are so **enthusiastic and engaged** with everything they are learning. This is being achieved in our strange COVID world and I believe demonstrates pupil and staff resilience, determination and "can do" spirit.

Staff have been busy writing reports. We have managed to conduct performance management meetings and evaluate our individual targets. We are having regular PCR and weekly Lateral Flow tests, to make sure we are fit and well. We engage with much on-line training and Department meetings. **I have 2-3 TEAMS meetings most days**, keeping up with new events, trends that are happening and central guidance. This past year has certainly opened up a new "technological world" to us all. We have continued with self-evaluations in science, PSHE and Literacy and all subjects have very clear actions planned and monitored by subject leads. We challenge ourselves continually, in order to provide the best possible education for your children. We have managed to have a couple of celebration assemblies on TEAMS, where the entire school watched pupils receiving rewards for handwriting, reading, Art, PE and actions that are "Above and Beyond".

Thank you to Pizza Box Jersey and the Matthewson family, for their "special offer family pizza" selection being delivered on February 12<sup>th</sup>. A donation from these pizzas will be given

to the PTA.

Coming up after half term, we have World Book Day/ Week, where Mrs Paul will inspire us with a bedtime story theme and related learning activities. We have our pupil survey, Literacy Learning Walk with external reviewers (hopefully) and an internal science mini review. We break up on **Friday, April 1st**. On the last day of term - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April, we hope to have an **Easter bonnet/hat parade, with designer hat wear created at home and celebrated in school**. (This was a great suggestion from a parent at school. Thank-you). The PTA will be providing an Easter egg for each class winner. We have the seed planting challenge (a "School Community Grow") - to grow a seed in a pot to sell or plant. Collection of resources can be found in the Honesty Box. Thank you for this idea Gardening Club. Thank you to the team who are organising the half-term PTA Scavenger Hunt in and around St John's. This looks a fun half-term activity.

The Summer Term will begin on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April (after our staff inset day on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April)**.

Please remember not to cross the road at the beginning and end of the day until Mr Fallaize instructs. Some children are choosing to cross independently and before they are invited to. This is a dangerous road, so please remind your child **to wait until Mr Fallaize tells them that it is safe to cross**.

If dogs are brought into the school grounds at drop off and pick up, please ensure that they are under control, on a lead and do not approach children. Some children are very anxious around dogs and whilst our four-legged friends may be playful and friendly, some children can

become distressed by their interest - particularly with larger sized dogs.

We are saying "goodbye" today to Florence, Abigail and David Taylor, who are moving to a new school after half-term. Thank you to entire Taylor family for your commitment, support and enthusiasm for the school. We will miss you all. After half term we have a new pupil, Jessica, starting at St John's.

Have a wonderful half-term break. Thank-you for your continued support and encouragement during these challenging times. We look forward to welcoming the children back on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February** at the usual timings for our staggered starts (and ends) of day.

Stay well: stay safe,

Mrs. Trudie De La Haye.

### **News from Foundation Stage**

The Foundation Stage have been really excited to embrace our learning making a fabulous start to 2021.

The Nursery Class have been focusing on Mindfulness and our Rosy Glow initiative has really enthused the children. We are seeing some lovely examples of 'Thinking, Learning and Caring' in our class.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to go on our planned visits yet due to the current Covid guidance. We have, however, maximised opportunities to enjoy our School Grounds. Lighting the big Fire Pit to have a class barbecue was a wonderful community event. The children took ownership helping us to come up with the Shopping list and everyone agreed the Burger Buns were really tasty!

In Reception we have begun our exploration of dinosaurs using information

books to learn about the different types. We completed a team challenge where we planned, built and decorated junk modelling dinosaurs. We will be evaluating these in the next few weeks. In phonics we have been applying our understanding of sounds to have a go at independently writing simple sentences. In our mathematics we have been exploring the value of the teen numbers. For example, we know that 13 is one full set of ten and three more of the next set.

We will keep up the good work and look forward to all the learning opportunities that the spring term will bring.

### **News from Key Stage 1**

Key Stage One has had a fantastic start to the year. We began the term thinking about our well-being by exploring the text 'The Magic is Inside You' (by Cathy Domoney.) Year One created beautiful dreamcatchers with positive affirmations such as 'I am calm, I am happy, I am brave.' Year Two talked about their personal strengths and told a friend to boost their self-confidence. They then created a poster of themselves celebrating their self-qualities. Using the story 'The Snail and the Whale' (By Julia Donaldson) Year One are creating a woven tableau of the stormy sea from the story, using a variety of different materials. This will provide opportunities to enhance the children's creative writing, by broadening their use of descriptive vocabulary. Year Two have started their adventures across the oceans and far away in Madagascar! They have been learning all about the different animals that are indigenous to Madagascar, their habitats and researching lots of information. In addition, they have

created a Madagascan starry night to provide a stimulus for their writing. They are focusing on using a range of openers, adjectives, and adverbs. We look forward to many more exciting curriculum opportunities to engage and enhance the children's learning experiences.

## **News from Key Stage 2**

Despite the late start to the term, KS2 have worked at a cracking pace and are producing quality work. The atmosphere in classes is settled and purposeful. We have had a special focus this term on PSHE and Well-being after Mrs De La Haye shared a wonderful book called 'The Magic Is Inside You' in our first Teams Assembly of 2021. Following this reading, each class completed activities to support well-being and positive mindset. We have created opportunities for children to express their feelings and share any concerns they might have especially during these challenging times.

Building on the investigative skills we developed last term, each class has taken this further within their curriculum. Year 3 have been learning about how to recognise and measure forces and how different forces are used in sports. Year 4 have been exploring sounds through a range of practical activities, the dancing flame was particularly well received. Year 5 have been challenged to independently plan, execute and record investigations about materials and their properties. Year 6 completed their learning about electric circuits with a range of investigations exploring the effect of adding or changing components.

Everyone is enjoying Brazilian Soccer this term. This has encouraged all the children to develop their co-ordination, balance and close ball control. It involves a combination of dance skills, fancy

footwork and lively music which energises the whole community!

Awesome Art continues to be created throughout the Key Stage. With a focus on the work of ceramic artist, Clarice Cliff, each year group has started to produce work in her style using printing techniques, sketching, clay and paint.

We hope that everyone enjoys a well-earned break over half-term - keep your distance and stay safe!

Key Stage 2 Team