



St John's School
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April 1st, 2021

Dear Parents,

I would like to thank everyone for making this a happy term. It has been a term with many varied learning opportunities for our pupils. Even though the Covid -19 pandemic has continued to hover over the school and Jersey, we have made sure that our children have experienced breadth of curriculum and great consistency. We have been able to achieve this through the dedication of all our staff, who plan and work so hard to develop and create varied experiences and opportunities. I would like to thank our St John's pupils for their enthusiasm and readiness to get involved. Also, thank you parents. You always go that extra mile to support the children and the school.

Our Rights Respecting School Ambassadors, under the guidance of Mrs Loveless, have been **very proactive** in providing a pupil voice in school and they have shared their thoughts and discussions with their peers. They have produced a pupil version of our School Development Plan which ensures all children understand our goals and priorities each term and they have reflected on the importance of e-safety, working with Mrs Loveless and Mr Le Rossignol. They communicate key messages from these discussions with their friends in class.

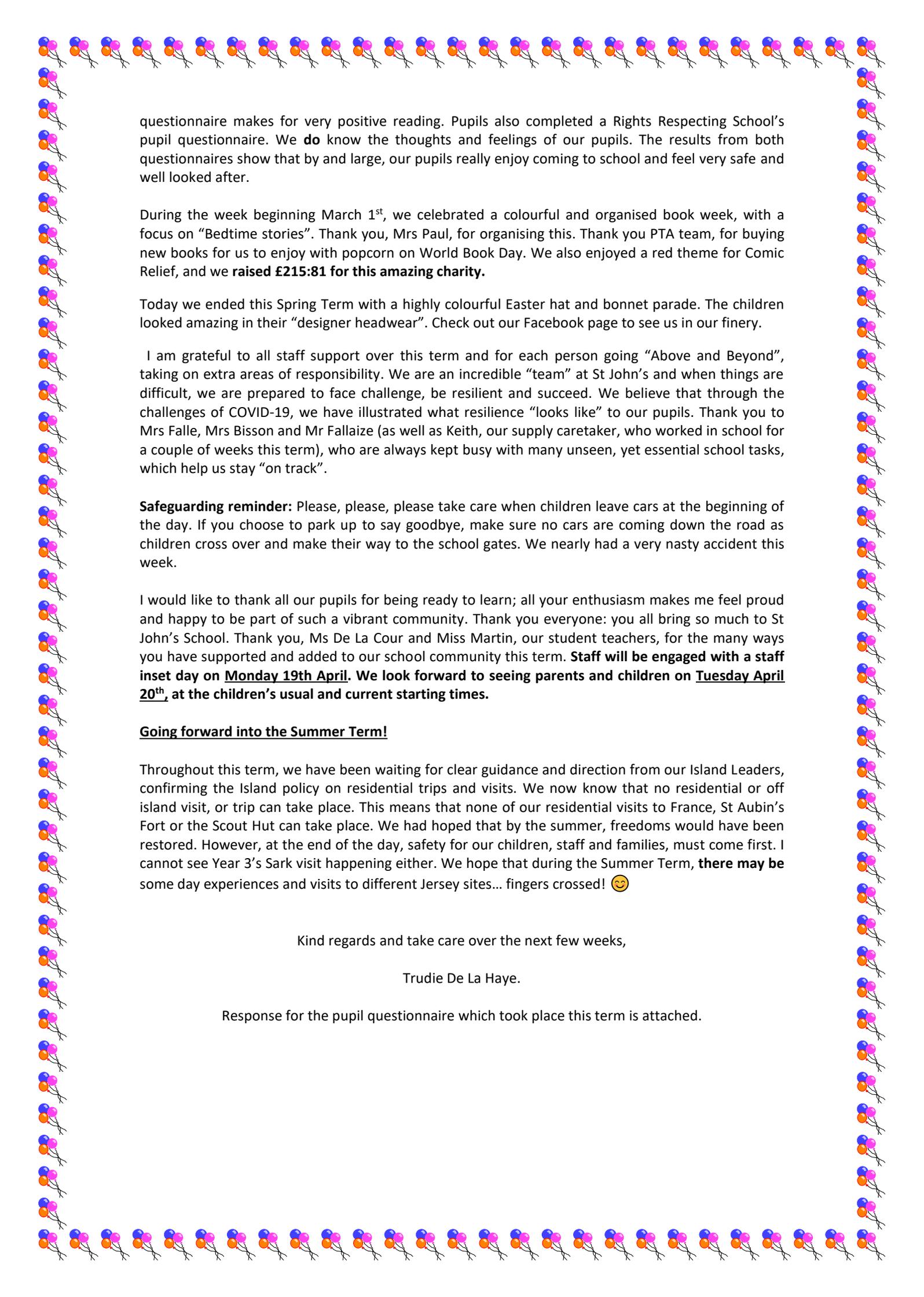
Our Eco Team have been working with Mr McBrearty, Mrs De Prey, Miss Walker and the Gardening Club, in completing our plans for our Outdoor Classroom (the Sensory Garden), by spending the remainder of our funding from the Charity Commission and ECO prize awards. Families have been planting a range of plants for the friendly wildlife in this area, planting vegetables for the spring and summer and adding a new lawn, which can be used all year round. A new bug hotel is on the agenda too. Reception has new planters in their garden area. So, all in all, our outdoor space is improving year on year. Wait until our field is properly developed. We cannot wait. We look forward to watching our gardening club's produce develop over the summer months. I believe Jersey Royals are on the agenda!

I hope you all saw the wonderful coverage from our Scavenger Hunt, organised at half term by the PTA and the write up about our ECO School news in L'Etoile du Nord – Star of the North ... the Parish Magazine.

We have had a Science evaluation, evaluating the breadth of investigative learning in science. The findings from this evaluation, have been positive, as well as providing clear targets to continue and support progression of learning.

Mrs Paul has conducted regular, rigorous learning walks, looking at phonic teaching and spelling. We are delighted with the high-level teaching within these areas. In March, Mrs Paul's internal evaluation was validated by an outside team of reviewers. They were very impressed with our consistency in phonic teaching, spelling and reading/writing strategies and our teaching of reading and writing in school. Writing is a considerable strength at St John's School. Listening to pupils sharing their writing and enthusiasm for reading, was a very proud moment for me. Our pupils can articulate their thinking/writing, very confidently.

We have also completed an intensive Pupil Questionnaire. The results are attached to this Parentmail. We completed the same questionnaire with pupils from Year 1 – Year 6. We believe the results of this



questionnaire makes for very positive reading. Pupils also completed a Rights Respecting School's pupil questionnaire. We **do** know the thoughts and feelings of our pupils. The results from both questionnaires show that by and large, our pupils really enjoy coming to school and feel very safe and well looked after.

During the week beginning March 1st, we celebrated a colourful and organised book week, with a focus on "Bedtime stories". Thank you, Mrs Paul, for organising this. Thank you PTA team, for buying new books for us to enjoy with popcorn on World Book Day. We also enjoyed a red theme for Comic Relief, and we **raised £215:81 for this amazing charity.**

Today we ended this Spring Term with a highly colourful Easter hat and bonnet parade. The children looked amazing in their "designer headwear". Check out our Facebook page to see us in our finery.

I am grateful to all staff support over this term and for each person going "Above and Beyond", taking on extra areas of responsibility. We are an incredible "team" at St John's and when things are difficult, we are prepared to face challenge, be resilient and succeed. We believe that through the challenges of COVID-19, we have illustrated what resilience "looks like" to our pupils. Thank you to Mrs Falle, Mrs Bisson and Mr Fallaize (as well as Keith, our supply caretaker, who worked in school for a couple of weeks this term), who are always kept busy with many unseen, yet essential school tasks, which help us stay "on track".

Safeguarding reminder: Please, please, please take care when children leave cars at the beginning of the day. If you choose to park up to say goodbye, make sure no cars are coming down the road as children cross over and make their way to the school gates. We nearly had a very nasty accident this week.

I would like to thank all our pupils for being ready to learn; all your enthusiasm makes me feel proud and happy to be part of such a vibrant community. Thank you everyone: you all bring so much to St John's School. Thank you, Ms De La Cour and Miss Martin, our student teachers, for the many ways you have supported and added to our school community this term. **Staff will be engaged with a staff inset day on Monday 19th April. We look forward to seeing parents and children on Tuesday April 20th, at the children's usual and current starting times.**

Going forward into the Summer Term!

Throughout this term, we have been waiting for clear guidance and direction from our Island Leaders, confirming the Island policy on residential trips and visits. We now know that no residential or off island visit, or trip can take place. This means that none of our residential visits to France, St Aubin's Fort or the Scout Hut can take place. We had hoped that by the summer, freedoms would have been restored. However, at the end of the day, safety for our children, staff and families, must come first. I cannot see Year 3's Sark visit happening either. We hope that during the Summer Term, **there may be** some day experiences and visits to different Jersey sites... fingers crossed! 😊

Kind regards and take care over the next few weeks,

Trudie De La Haye.

Response for the pupil questionnaire which took place this term is attached.