



JOINT NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2020
SUNDAY 16th FEBRUARY- 6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Safeguarding Statement: This school takes notice of and adheres to all the national and local policies and guidance in regard to Safeguarding Children and Young People.

Lead Safeguarding Person Junior School: Mrs S Hulme **and Nursery & Infant School:** Mrs. M Quinn.

Safeguarding Deputies: Mrs H Nicholls, Miss F Sullivan and Miss E Bryant **Safeguarding Governor:** Mr. T Richmond
Although the sharing of photographs with family and friends is a great thing to do, please be reminded of the schools safeguarding procedures and refrain from taking pictures at school events. Thank you for your support regarding this as we all need to work together to look after our pupils.

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of the staff and governors, we wish you all a restful half term with the anticipation of the children recharging their batteries in preparation for the completion of the spring term. We also hope for some dry weather too for a change with greater opportunity to enjoy some outdoor activity.

It was really pleasing to see so many parents attending PAR evenings. Review of pupil progress obviously goes alongside the preparation for PAR meetings and informs teacher planning for the next half term. We have seen significant progress alongside more frequent attendance for a number of pupils too. Thank you for your ongoing support and positive responses including the completion of parent surveys. Don't forget to look out for the year group Curriculum Map for Spring 2 on Google.

Spiritual

Infants



In their Chaplaincy sessions this half term, Y1 have been reflecting upon Jesus' parable of the mustard seed and how the smallest things can have a positive impact on those around us. Just as the mustard seed grows into a bush, we are all called to grow strong in faith, sharing Jesus's love with those around us.

Juniors

In Chaplaincy this half term, Y4 have been reflecting upon our life's journey and that, our passing from this world, far from being the end, is actually, when we enter into the fullness of life.



In their Chaplaincy sessions, Y5 have been thinking about the importance of being truthful, even when the consequences of telling the truth may be unpleasant. Meditating upon Peter's denial of Jesus, they spent time in prayer asking for forgiveness for themselves and for the courage to forgive others.



Chaplaincy sessions are an opportunity to hear the Scriptures read aloud and a space in which to reflect upon them, listening to what the Word who is Life wishes to say to each one of us.

NURSERY & INFANT SCHOOL

News from Nursery

Our topic 'Fairytales' has helped us to learn lots of new story language and signs as we read many traditional tales. The children had lots of fun being bakers for the Gingerbread man, builders for the 3 Little Pigs and trying porridge while enjoying the story Goldilocks and the 3 Bears. During RE we learnt about the different celebrations that happen at Church and used 'Godly Play' (a way of storytelling) to learn the 'Presentation story'. In Math's the children have had fun investigating shape and prepositions as well as matching objects to numerals. The children were very proud of the new songs they learnt in music, a recording of the children singing is on Google Drive for you to listen to. Next half term our topic is called 'On the Farm' we can't wait to hear your children's experiences and use their ideas to shape our learning.



News from Reception

We started our Dinosaur topic by making a mind map of what we already knew about dinosaurs and what we wanted to find out. We found some mysterious footprints along the corridor so we went to investigate them and found that they led us to the music room where Tina the T-rex was waiting to share some of her dinosaur eggs with us to look after in class. The children made predictions about what would happen to the eggs and discussed how we could look after them. The children had great fun making their fantastic dinosaur models at home to bring to our dinosaur party. We made sandwiches for the party and had fun doing lots of dinosaur dancing and musical dinosaur statues before we ate our delicious party food. The children have been working hard to do lots of math's learning for 'Mathuary', thank you to all of you that have posted the children's learning at home on Tapestry and returned their homework back to school.



News from Year 1

We began our topic on "Bright Lights, Big City" with a guided tour of London with "Taylor Tours". The children imagined they were on a bus tour around the City of London with Paddington Bear. Our day continued with making our own Paddington's. In English, we continued to learn how to write sentences, we wrote postcards from London and described Paddington and London landmarks. In math's we investigated addition and subtraction. We used our number bond facts to help us solve number problems. January and February have been renamed Mathuary and the children are working on math's in their early morning work. Our RE topic was on Special People and we all enjoyed making our own version of our Parish Church. The children have been learning about The Great Fire of London and will be making houses and carts as part of their D & T and History topics.



News from Year 2

This half term we have had our topic of Beat Band Boogie, which we started with by designing and making our own musical instruments. We explored which sounds could be made with each instrument. Over the past few weeks, we have been working towards our end of topic performance Year 2s Got Talent. Each class learned a song with actions, which we performed to the whole school including staff. Children also performed everything they had been learning in Music lessons on the djembe drum. Blossom from Meerkat class also did a solo piano performance. Well done to all the children for working hard this topic and to the parents for the continued support this half term. See you all after half term. Year 2 team.

Congratulations to these pupils:

Star of the week - week ending 14th February - Bee Class - Anastasia L, Elephant Class - Leon K, Penguin Class - Poppy Q, Reindeer Class - Rocco N, Giraffe Class - Lewis N, Cheetah Class - Oscar S, Meerkat Class - Jack Y, Horse Class - Tiana T, Owl Class - Martinis S. Well done!

JUNIOR SCHOOL

News from Year 3

Year 3 left the ancient world of Egypt behind them after a feast of Egyptian foods and skipped mummification, thankfully, and travelled the dangerous times of Ancient Greece. We journeyed through the layers of soil and rock under the earth's crust and appeared in the time of Perseus and Medusa. We battled the gorgon with adjectives, similes and metaphors and we managed to not lose too many to the sea of statues in Medusa's lair. The children took part in a First Aid course learning about bandages, CPR and putting people into the recovery position. We looked at the artist Matisse and in particular, his work titled 'The Snail' and 'Icarus Plate III'. As a year we practice using his skills and imitated his artwork and have built up to creating our own based upon the story of Perseus and Medusa.



In math's we have journeyed through multiplication and have spent time looking at money looking at adding and taking away amounts and converting pence to pounds. In science, we have experimented with forces and magnets completing different tests to see which surface is the fastest creating bar charts to support our findings. We have had a very busy and exciting half term and we look forward to more incredible adventures next half term as we

prepare for Easter time through Lent. Best wishes to all the families in year 3 and have a lovely well-earned break.

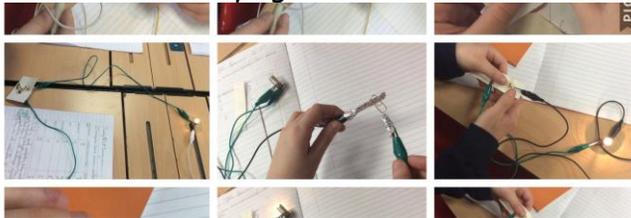
News from Year 4

"Sit up and pay attention!" the Iron man demanded... and so we did! We have been using our class text of *The Iron Man* to anchor our learning in English, Science and DT. Within our English writing we began as newspaper reporters discovering iron man's hand in the school playground and then as we read the story we began discussing dilemma writing and the events of each chapter that develop the story. So after we finished reading we wrote our own version of *The Iron Man*, changing the challenge set and the monster who threatened planet earth - we hope you got to read some during PAR because they are spectacular. We worked especially closely on the grammar and punctuation of speech in writing; this would be a great thing to discuss with your child when they read to you.

Our DT has been our most challenging yet, drawing on our maths skills of 2d and 3d shapes as well as measuring carefully to build a storytelling head, the design ideas are very impressive but the children are most proud of their woodwork skills.

Our science topic of circuits in electricity means that we have been able to light up the eyes of our story telling iron man head, and some groups even managed to design a switch using their knowledge of conductors and insulators.

Next term we look forward to our 'raging rivers' topic so any pre-reading about rivers or water (and the states that water can occupy; ice, vapour) would be very beneficial. We hope your half term is electrifying!



News from Year 5

In our final half term of our *Greeks* topic, we discovered fascinating information about the Greek gods. Reading a variety of myths inspired us to write our own versions of these stories, with gods either rewarding or punishing our main characters. When we were inside the Learning Dome, we found that some of the stars are also connected to Greek mythology. We loved seeing the Moon, Earth and Sun as it helped us understand the seasons and how we get day and night. Back in class, Aristotle (via a video) showed us why he believed, before many others did, that the Earth was spherical.

We welcomed Bishop Paul, Bishop of Southwark, to Y5. He told us about what a Diocese is, and what he does each day as Bishop. It sounded rather busy!

We wish you all a happy half term. If you are sharing a pizza, be prepared for the children to start sharing their fraction facts with you too! We have investigated improper fractions, ordering and equivalence- so you will no longer get away with giving them smaller portions. Sorry!

News from Year 6

We have been learning about the events of the Holocaust within our PSHE, RE and English lessons this half term as it was Holocaust Memorial Day on Monday 27th January. The day centered around the theme 'Stand Together.' In groups, the children wrote and read emotive poetry from different perspectives. In class, we have discussed and understood that the Holocaust was a major event in history, and as devastating as it was, should never be forgotten. Thank you to all the parents and carers that came to support our memorial service.

We have been intrigued by our class driver text of 'Clockwork' by Philip Pullman in our English learning. We have been exploring the range of characters and have just been introduced to a new character in the book, the sinister Dr. Kalmenius... ask us who we think this mysterious character is and what we predict his role in the story is going to be...?

The half term ended on an excitable note, when the year group were told the year 6 production for July 2020 by a special guest. This was none other than the very first Simba played in the West End, Roger Wright! 'The Lion King' was announced as being this year group's end of year production and Roger was able to spend time with the children informing them of his professional journey and even sang a Lion King song to build even more excitement! Roger will be back to do some acting workshops with the children in the build up to their production. Events to support the fundraising of the production will begin earlier this year...keep your eyes peeled for the upcoming events after half term! Have a fantastic break everyone.



E-Safety - Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 11th February



As part of E-Safety day on Tuesday 11th February with the slogan "Together for a better internet".

Classes from Year 1 to Year 6 have all had a talk and workshop given by Steve Welding - Education E Safety Advisor. Thank you to all classes and teachers for taking part. Parents, we hope you discuss with your child what they have learnt during these talks and lessons.

Here are some great E-Safety links -

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

<http://www.thinkyouknow.co.uk/>

<http://www.internetmatters.org/>

<http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/>

<http://www.childnet.com/>

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/>

Awards & Achievements

St Mary's Awards - Spring 1

3 Mulberry - Cristina M **3 Willow** - Filip A **3 Hawthorn** - Ksenia M

4 Ash - Ruby W **4 Poplar**- Leona R **4 Rowan** - Jacob S

5 Birch - Luca M **5 Elm** - Jasmine M **5 Sycamore** - Melisa D

6 Chestnut - Roman M **6 Copper Beech** - Essiama A **6 Oak** - Natalia C

Congratulations and well done to all!

PSHE Association

What a busy term it has been for PSHE at the Juniors! The children have been focusing on the topic of 'Health and Wellbeing' - looking at how we are all growing and changing as well as discovering ways to keep safe. At the beginning of the term, the children have talked about their aspirations and goals for the year ahead. Year 3 have looked at risks that can occur in the home, Y4 have looked at first aid whilst Year 5 have learnt about using the internet safely, focusing on our digital footprint.

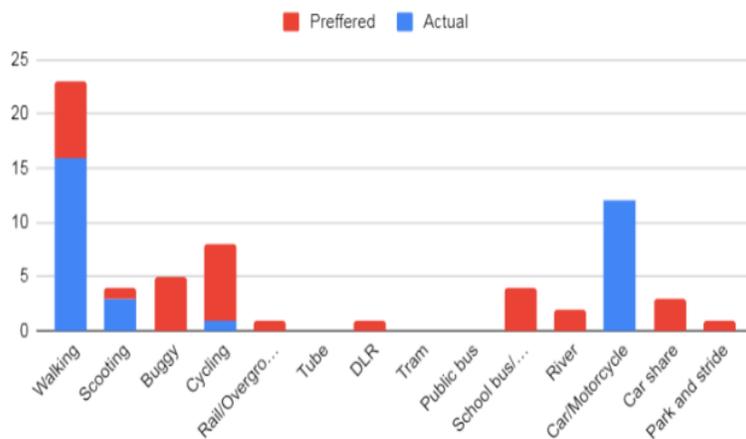
As part of ongoing preparation or secondary school transition, Y6 explored risks that may take place in our local environment thinking about the journey that they will make to secondary school in September. Lastly, as part of Storytelling Week, we had a whole school assembly by Mrs. Nicholls that promoted the British Value of 'Tolerance' which has been our focus this term At St. Mary's we know that we are a part of a culturally diverse society and have opportunities to experience different cultures. All children practiced learning a story to retell in French and we identified different flags that represent all the languages spoken in our school!



School Travel plan

JTA's (Junior Travel Advisors) continue to work hard to make travel to school a healthy, safe and enjoyable experience every day. Thank you to all the Junior Travel ambassadors who had the responsibility of running surveys with their class. After the survey the ambassadors have analysed the data and produced graphs to show trends, which we will compare when the road closure ends to see if there has been an increase in walking. Here is an example of data from 3 Hawthorn.

Actual and preferred transport in 3 Hawthorn



Lastly, one of our ambassadors has written a persuasive letter to Transport for London and received a swift reply along with oyster/zip card wallets for each individual child. Transport for London has agreed to arrange a discussion with the JTA's to talk about methods of transport and promoting it in our school as well as a Q and A session! Thank you to Lily in 4R who enquired about promoting active travel at St Mary's Juniors school. The children will receive the zip card wallets next term.

Thank you for continuously choosing active methods of transport to get to school for example: park and stride, walking, scooting, cycling or public transport. JTA's will meet again on Thursday lunchtime 27th February in Miss Mayanja's classroom at 12.30pm.

At the Infants, after the half term we will be starting a new initiative called "Wonderful Walks" where one child from each class will be chosen on a Friday to take a special book home to record their active adventure with a toy of their choice. This could involve taking their toy on a walk to the local shop, run around the park or as adventurous as you would like! It would be wonderful to see how you stay active over the weekend and inspire others in your class.

News for the week

Next week's upcoming dates

Both Schools – Mon 24th Feb – School starts at 8.45am
Juniors – Weds 26th Feb – Distribution of Ashes Mass
Nursery – Thurs 27th Feb – Phonic / Reading workshop Nursery AM at 9am & Nursery PM at 2.45pm. Enter via gate 5.
Infants – Thurs 27th Feb – Phonic / Reading workshop at 2.45pm (Recp, Year 1 & Year 2) Enter via gate 4.
Juniors – Thurs 27th Feb – Reading Workshop at 2.20pm (Parents welcome)
Juniors – Fri 28th Feb – 4 Poplar swimming at 1.30m and Years 5/6 swimming at 2pm

Sign of the Week

Please check the Parents and Carers room on Google Classroom for this week's 'Sign of the Week'.

Checking uniforms for names

Please could you kindly check all uniform items have your child's name inside, we understand how easy it is to take home clothing items and would appreciate if you could have a quick look to ensure you have your child's correct clothing.

Car Parking in the Surrounding Areas

We continue to ask parents to 'park and ride' to minimise the congestion around the schools at drop off time and showing greater respect to our local neighbours who we have regular correspondence from regarding inconsiderate parking. We also have reports from parents of our families being verbally abusive which makes us all ashamed.

International Celebration Day

Thank you to the PTA for the wonderful work that they undertake. The International Celebration day last week was a great success. We look forward to many more similar events.

We would like to say goodbye and well wishes to Mrs Hanahoe, Mid-Day Supervisor at the Junior School.