



All Saints CE Primary School & Nursery

Nurturing, Resilience and Achievement for all!

Headteacher: Mr Philip Asher, BMus(Hons), PGCE, ARCO, NPQSL, MCCT

Friday, 05 June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are keeping well and safe. Well the weather has really changed this week – but I hope you made the best of it last week.

Did anyone join in with any of the National Days last week? My favourite was Burger Day... but I'm also a bit partial to a paper aeroplane from time to time...

In the week leading up to Half Term, and over half term too, staff have been preparing the school to welcome more children. Our school feels a very different place, with sparsely furnished rooms and individual tables set apart. However, the children have adapted to it well. A few quotes from some of the Y6 children in school this week:

"When I entered school on Monday, I felt really nervous because I wasn't sure what it would be like... but I was excited to see my friends again. Now I feel really positive and happy because it is a one-time opportunity for me because I will be in Secondary School after the Summer" - Lyra

"I was very excited to come back to school, it felt like the first day of school all over again. I knew it would be difference, but I was excited to see my friends." - Sophia

"I thought it might be a bit boring, but after the first day it was fun." - Isaac

Home learning & School Support

We have continued to provide a range of activities, learning materials and support for families at home. We've tried to provide a good balance between the amount and the need in many cases for parents to continue their own work at home. There is no ideal, and each individual child or family will have their own situation.

After next week, we are looking to increase some of the Maths work that we are providing and provide additional reading activities for children to complete. Do also look at the links on the school website ([click here](#)).

Since the Government has shared so much data related to the COVID-19 pandemic, I thought it would be interesting to share some school statistics:

- The teachers have responded to over 3250 posts from children (and parents!) on Google Classroom and Tapestry since we started using it on 25th March
- More than 7200 pieces of work, activities, suggestions, and support documents have been published by school on Google Classroom and Tapestry for the children to use/explore since we started using it – many of these have also been emailed out
- Over 800 pieces of work and collections of work completed by children have been 'returned' or uploaded to Google Classroom for teachers to comment on or share with their class since the beginning of May
- More than 2250 books have been shared by teachers on Bug Club for children to read at home (that's more books than we have in our library!)
- We have responded to over 450 individual emails from parents asking for help and support with home learning
- We have made an average of 30 calls per week to individual families when this was better than responding by email or to keep in touch with those children and families who needed our support most
- 4+ hours of video messages (including nearly 2 hours of me!) and home-learning support videos over the last 10 weeks have been shared

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- Our Newsletter/updates are now sent out weekly, alongside the weekly Video Messages from me – to ensure parents and children still feel part of our school community.
- We've provided more than 300 hrs of childcare for children of Critical Workers and our most vulnerable children since 23rd March
- Our staff team have collectively completed over 420hrs of training and school development activities since the beginning of April
- The Governors have met (virtually!) 4 times and approved the new school budget, 4 development projects and completed the complicated task of approving revised policies and procedures (as well as lots of moral support for me as the Headteacher!)
- We've installed a new Solar Panel array and now generated more than 7 Mega Watts per hour of electricity, saving the equivalent of 83 trees' worth of Carbon Dioxide

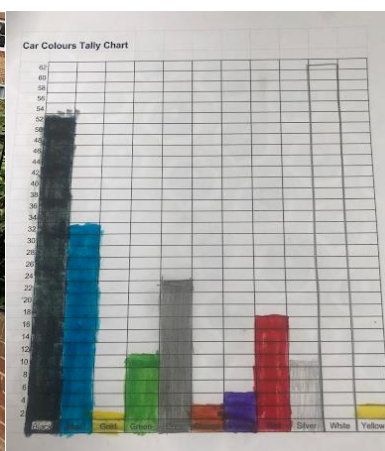
And we're not finished yet...

I would just like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone in our school community (parents, staff, Governors and children) for enabling all of this, and so much more that we simply can't measure. You have **ALL** achieved so much!

Y2 Data Gathering

Speaking of statistics, in Y2 this week, the children have been asked to compile a tally chart and analyse their findings as part of maths work. Some of the children found an ingenious way to do this together and still maintain social distance!

Car Colours	Tally	Totals
Black		5
Blue		3
Brown		0
Gold		1
Green		4
Grey		5
Orange		2
Pink		0
Purple		4
Red		5
Silver		5
White		5
Yellow		2
Black		5
White		5
Blue		5



Y5 and Y6 Graffiti

The children have been inspired by Banksy to learn about Graffiti and created a pop-up display of their artwork:



School Fencing

We have been able to make some progress in solving the 'bee' problem we have each year along the footpath to Nursery. The hedgerow is being cut right back and a new solid fence installed to ensure that the ivy the bees love so much is firmly behind a solid fence. It will make the footpath much more pleasant to walk along when we return to full strength (although we are sad to lose the greenery from view).

Opening to more Children?

The Government has not released any further information to schools about increasing the opening of schools to include other year groups before the Summer Holidays, so I'm unable to share more at the moment. Sorry!



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September...?

No doubt, many of the children (and parents!) will have an increased level of anxiety and worry about the situation in schools, especially about their class, next year and so on. You might find some of the activities and suggestions on this page helpful to help them with these:

<https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/media/2025/coronavirus-anxiety-toolkit.pdf>

We are currently unable to say what next September will look like, since the Government have not disclosed anything about their plans for how schools will move forward after the summer. But we are thinking about transition for the children and ways we can ensure they are as prepared as possible for next year. However, until we know more about what September might be like in school, it is difficult to form a suitable plan, nor share what this will be like with the children/families!

We will publish details of the teaching arrangements for September later this term, as we would normally and as soon as we can.

And Finally...

It is lovely to have more children back in the school building, and to hear the laughter and smiles through the day. Just as returning home to my own children and seeing that they are enjoying playing and having fun at home school (never mind the battle that went into getting them to start it in the first place...).

As I'm sure is the case for many of you, children develop little habits at home that are somewhat annoying but very occasionally lead to pure moments of joy – such as insisting on going outside in just their socks. Normally white or pale coloured socks.

Earlier this week, my daughter did exactly this – and for the umpteenth time I reminded her to put on shoes. My wife then said; "Or just take your socks off!" She did this, and then spent the next five minutes running round the garden shouting "I feel so alive!!" in bare feet. Oh, to be five!!!

In all the busyness and frenetic whirl of the world – the chaos – it is easy to spend a lot of energy worrying about the future and forgetting about the now. And there is such a lot that can get in the way of 'now' at the moment.

Jesus taught of this in the bible: "Don't worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will take care of itself. You have enough to worry about today." (*Matthew 6:34*)

Easier said than done, but still – we must strive to enjoy the now. We miss so much if we don't.

Take care, keep safe. Wash your hands!

Yours sincerely,

Mr Philip Asher
Headteacher

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