

The St John's Journal



Issue No: 03

Friday 11th March 2022

'Together we have the roots to grow and the wings to fly!'

THANK YOU!

For supporting our non-uniform day...

Thank you all for your generous donations during our non-uniform day for the Red Cross, supporting the crisis in the Ukraine. I know many of you made your contribution directly on line, and we also collected £130 in school, which has been passed on. We have been very sensitive in our conversations with the children; it has not been a major focus in school, but equally has not been ignored and our approach has been to answer children's questions as simply, honestly and sensitively as we can.

Conflict of any kind can affect children and families' emotional health and wellbeing. For some children, they may already be discussing the conflict in Ukraine with friends or asking questions at home and in school, seeking reassurance and understanding. Many will also be feeling unsettled or anxious and some will be struggling to make sense of the events they are hearing about.

The following links provide helpful guidance on supporting children and young people during this time:

- [Talking to your children about scary world news | Mental Health Foundation](#)
- [Help for teachers and families to talk to pupils about Russia's invasion of Ukraine and how to help them avoid misinformation. - The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Ukraine conflict: How to help yourself, your kids, and others - BBC News](#)
- [Home - CBBC Newsround](#)
- [Somerset children & young people : Health & Wellbeing : New Home \(cypsomersethealth.org\)](#)

For supporting World Book Day...

Thank you for the fabulous photographs that you have sent in via Facebook, Seesaw, Tapestry and email. Mrs Alexander has been busy printing them out ready for our Gallery of Fantastic Reads. I had the pleasure of teaching Rowan Class on World Book Day, and I was extremely impressed by the wide range of books they had read, and the clarity of their recommendation – why it was a favourite book.

FAITH WEEK!

Last week, we all explored the theme of love across different beliefs and faiths - Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Humanism and also non-faiths, to discover

what love truly is, and why it is so important.

We explored what love means to us, as well as learning what it means to people of different faiths and non-faiths, by asking ourselves a question a day on the theme of love:

- Monday - What is love?
- Tuesday - Who or what do I love?
- Wednesday - How do I show love?
- Thursday - Why is love important to me?

Children created maps of their hearts containing the people and things that they loved; wrote poems about what love is; wrote letters full of love to their future selves and to their families, and created 'worlds of love' artworks together. They also created love-themed windows in the upstairs classrooms for this year's 'Frome Window Wanderland'.

We all talked about how we can show love to each other and to ourselves. We also talked about how we can show love to people we don't know, using the parable of 'The Good Samaritan'. On Friday we were able to put this into practice ourselves, joining other Somerset schools, and having a non-uniform day to raise money for the Red Cross and the people of the Ukraine.

We ended the week with a Collective Worship in church, led by Janet Caudwell, during which we shared all the wonderful things we had been doing, sang 'Father, We Adore You' as a whole school and then, back at school, created our amazing heart - full of love!



THIS TERM ALREADY!

We have only been back in school two weeks, but we have already been extremely busy! As well as World Book Day and Faith Week, we have also had football coaching for reception children and Bath Rugby working with our Year 4 classes.

I have met with the House Captains, and we all agreed that we should reconvene the School Council. Classes have started holding their elections, and we will announce the new School Council next week. The children are really pleased with the new table tops that have arrived and been fitted – thank you Marc! We now need to organise some Play Buddies for each class who can make sure that all of the pieces needed for each game are outside each day.



Last week, we also managed to offer additional 'Share My Work' sessions for those parents who missed them in January due to COVID. We will be offering something similar after Easter, at the start of the Summer Term, where you will be able to come in and do something alongside your child. We have also been holding our Parent Consultation Meetings. I know that there have been some technical issues for some appointments, and if that did happen to you, you should have been offered a new appointment; please do contact us if you feel you have missed out on an opportunity to talk to your child's teacher, and we will resolve this for you.

PARENT SURVEY

As many of the COVID restrictions have been lifted, we have been reflecting on whether we need or want to make any changes to our school day. In particular, we are thinking about reducing the staggered starts and ends to the day and also whether to restart Headteacher Awards live in the school hall. We would value your thoughts on some of this, and we would also value some feedback about the Parent Consultation Meetings. Early next week, we will send out a short survey to gather your views.

STAFFING UPDATES

I am pleased to say that Miss Brimson is on the road to recovery and is back in school; to aid her recovery she is currently teaching part time, and Mrs Willis, Mr Jackson and I are continuing to cover those times when Miss Brimson is not in.

Sadly, Mrs Moss remains off unwell, and as always we send her our very best wishes. I am extremely grateful to Mrs Budd who has been covering Mrs Moss' days in Ash Class.

THIS HALF TERM: STILL TO COME

Friends of St John's

We have a meeting on Tuesday 15th March, straight after school. If you feel you can offer some time or have ideas, please do come and join us. Children will be able to access Twilight at no cost, so that you can stay.

Comic Relief

Friday 18th March is 'Red Nose Day' or Comic Relief. The House Captains have asked if we can have another non-uniform day to support this charitable event, with the theme of 'Heroes' for those children who wish to dress up. The House Captains' suggestions were superheroes, everyday heroes such as doctors, nurses, firemen, heroes from the past and heroes from books. There is no requirement to dress up, but is an option for those who wish to, otherwise they can just come in non-uniform; after all, there are many heroes in the world who do not have a fancy costume or uniform!

World Down Syndrome Day

Monday 21st March is World Down Syndrome Day. We would like to recognise the day to raise awareness of Down Syndrome. Please can your children wear their brightest, jazziest socks to school on that Monday? We will spend time looking at our different socks, and talk about diversity, uniqueness, equality and inclusion.

World Maths Day

On Wednesday 23rd March it is World Maths Day, which involves children competing online with children of similar ability from anywhere else in the world. We will send out further information about this event next week, as children can participate in school, and we will give them time in school, but they can also play from home.

Y4 Residential

On Wednesday 6th April most of our Year 4 children will be heading off to Kilve Court on their residential trip. We are all very excited, and I am sure there will be lots of marvellous pictures for us to share when we return.



Easter

Again, we will send out further details, but the House Captains are helping me to organise some special fundraising Easter events including Egg Hunt, Easter Hat Competition, Easter Egg Competition and Easter Colouring Competition!

We also have some interesting learning ahead of us:

Reception	'Terrific Tales'
Year 1	'Marvellous Me'
Year 2	'The Wonderful World of Roald Dahl'
Year 3	Continuing 'What did the Romans Leave Us?'
Year 4	Continuing 'Journeys'
Acorns	'Hope and Dreams'

Our Christian Value for this half term is a value shared with other faiths and non-faiths and is 'Self-Control'. In Collective Worship, as we head towards the end of term, we will also explore the Easter Story.