

# Newsletter

St John's C.E.V.A First School Frome



"Learning together... aiming high"

Website: [stjohnsfrome.co.uk](http://stjohnsfrome.co.uk)

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Issue 28

Friday 24th April 2020

## WELCOME

Welcome to all those new families who will be joining us in September! We hope you enjoy reading our weekly newsletter, 'meeting' the staff as they read stories online, and joining in with our private facebook page.

We hope all these ways of staying in touch will help you get a feel of what St John's is all about, and we look forward to meeting you all in person very soon.

## FROM MRS MARSLAND

Thank you for all the positive feedback we have received for this message sent home this week. We feel it is worth repeating, in case anyone missed it:

"Our priority during this time, is to support you all in keeping your children well and occupied. The learning we are providing on the website each week offers some structure and activities for your children to participate in. Please use these learning resources in the best way for your child(ren) and your family. If the learning for your child's year group is too hard, look at younger year groups, or the Acorn learning. The ELSA and Nurture activities provide wider options for all children too. If the online learning is not working for your child(ren) and you need to be active, cook, garden, create... then that is what is best for your child.

Please do not worry that your child will 'fall behind' at this time if they do not complete all or any of the activities. I believe that there just may be some significant gains for our children – more empathy, enjoying family connection, more creativity, enjoying the simple things around them, learning to cook, gardening, helping with the household chores, valuing the key workers: truck drivers, postmen, refuse collectors, grocers, cashiers, health care workers, nurses, doctors, teachers... and the list goes on.

Yes, life is at a slower pace, but it does give us all time to reflect on what really matters. The wellbeing of your children is what really matters at this time!"

## COMPETITION SUCCESS!

Well done to Patrick in Fir class who found out this week that he has won a competition to write a 'My Flying Car' adventure story for Haynes Motor Museum. Patrick's funny story had a flying car that had a pizza oven and a shower in it! We also loved this part:

*"The road tax people were worried because the roads disappeared. Flying cars don't pay tax and they had no money to fix the roads. So the road tax people had to buy a flying car - and there was a new rule 'Flying Car Tax'! They put nets up in the sky, they had to otherwise people didn't pay. Everybody had to pay £65.99 every two years, or their wings were clamped."*

## FANTASTIC STAFF NEWS!

I am delighted to share with you all some really exciting news; Mrs Dayman-Johns has announced that she is expecting Baby DJ in October. Staff were delighted to hear her news yesterday when she announced it during an 'outtake' recording of the book 'Five Minutes' Peace'. I am sure you all join me and the rest of the team in congratulating Mr and Mrs Dayman-Johns.

## MORE STAFF NEWS

Welcome to Mrs Catherine Whitmarsh, who has joined the staff team as our new Higher Level Teaching Assistant. She will be working with classes in all Year Groups.

## FACEBOOK

Please remember that when you are submitting a request to join the school page, your request cannot be approved unless you answer **ALL FOUR** of the questions!

## LEARNING IN SCHOOL

This week children at school have had lots of fun learning about sea creatures. They have researched sea creatures, written fact files and created a wonderful underwater display.

They have also painted some rainbows for the staff to display in the windows of the doctors' surgery in Coleford.



## LEARNING AT HOME

Egg alien building, nature art creating, word searching, map labelling, volcano erupting, number matching, rainbow painting, pizza baking, horse grooming, moonscape making, story writing, number sorting, news making, rubbish bin decorating, upside-down hanging, history researching, shape sticking, lamb feeding and trampoline calculating!



### SHORT STORY COMPETITION

Local charity We Hear You are running a short story competition, open to children aged five to 14, judged by Tina Gaisford Waller, manager of Frome's Hunting Raven Books and acclaimed children's author Michelle Robinson. The closing date is Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May, with winners announced a couple of weeks later.

A message for entrants from Michelle:

*"Writing really helps me to relax and shut the real world out for a bit. Right now, so much is happening that's beyond our control, but when we write, we get to choose exactly what happens, and we get to decide how things work out in the end. There's no better place to go right now than your imagination, so why not give the competition a go? I can't wait to read your story."*

There are two judging categories: age 5 to 9 and 10 to 14. Entries can be on any subject, up to 500 words in length and should be sent by email to [fundraising@wehearyou.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@wehearyou.org.uk) (a photo or scan of a handwritten story is fine) or posted to We Hear You, Frome Town Hall, Christchurch Street West, Frome BA11 1EB by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May. Winners will get a book/book token donated by Winstone's Books. Good luck!

## LEARNING TOGETHER

We would love to see what you are doing at home so that we can include updates each week. Please send stories, photos, drawings, quotes etc. to the school inbox:

[stjohnsfrome@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:stjohnsfrome@educ.somerset.gov.uk)